

# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Agenda Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Aurora Taylor, Vice Chair Katie Riley, Secretary Erik de Jong

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

**Staff Liaison:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

**Assembly Liaison:** Thor Christianson

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**Monday, July 7, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Harrigan Centennial Hall**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

**III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

Approve the June 2, 2025 minutes.

**IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

**V. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** Discussion/Direction/Decision on the 2025-2026 Work Plan

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**B.** Discussion/Direction/Decision on Aligning Sustainability Metrics with the CBS Strategic Plan

**C.** Approve of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Guiding Principles Definitions

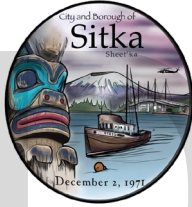
**D.** Consider Contributing to the Alaska Climate Alliance Policy Platform

**VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

**IX. REPORTS** *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

**X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Aurora Taylor, Vice Chair Katie Riley, Secretary Erik de Jong

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

**Staff Liaison:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

**Assembly Liaison:** Thor Christianson

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Monday, June 2, 2025

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 P.M.

**Present:** Aurora Taylor (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

**Public:** Leah Mason

### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the May 5, 2025 minutes.

Riley moved to approve the May 5, 2025 minutes.

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.**

### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

Leah Mason informed the Commission that the Sitka Community Gardens lease had been signed.

### V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the 2025-2026 Work Plan

Gabel provided updates on various projects, including the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority's regional planning project. Commissioners discussed how they could support each project over the summer.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### B. Designate a Commissioner to Present to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Transportation and Community Development Committee

Hope introduced the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Transportation and Community Development (T&CD) Committee and details about the presentation. Riley volunteered to present at the upcoming meeting.

### **C. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Outline**

Commissioners discussed the contents of the draft SCRES outline and how potential audiences might engage with the final document. Riley requested a workforce development component be included and offered to assist with Section 5: Policies and Actions. Bagley requested a focus on civic engagement. The Commission requested the executive summary be distilled into one page, if possible, and contain more information about the outcome of the SCRES rather than the methodology. Hope made recommendations on the public comment timeline. Commissioners recommended that the public comment period focused on meaningful feedback rather than comprehensive review of the entire document.

Mason emphasized the importance of explaining energy rate structures and engaging residents as stakeholders in climate action initiatives.

**Hope moved to approve the SCRES outline sections 2 through 5 as written in the packet, with section 1 modified and amended through Commission discussion.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.**

### **D. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the SCRES Guiding Principles Definitions**

Commissioners spent approximately ten minutes discussing each guiding principle (affordability, reliability, self-sufficiency, and innovation) and how their implementation might shape Sitka's future. Gabel informed the Commission that she would provide a written version of the prompts via email for Commissioners who would like to provide more details and outlined next steps.

Mason spoke about the role of planning in affordability and that more than monetary costs should be considered when discussing whether certain actions should or should not be taken.

### **VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

None.

### **IX. REPORTS** *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

**Staff:** Gabel summarized her experience during the Energy Leadership Accelerator summit cohosted by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). She updated the Commission on the number of SCRES roadmaps, announced the 5-minute survey currently open, and announced that the Electric Department was finalizing their selection for the second summer intern.

**Assembly:** None.

**Chair:** None.

**Commissioners:** Hope informed the Commission that he would be attending the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) mid-year conference.

**X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

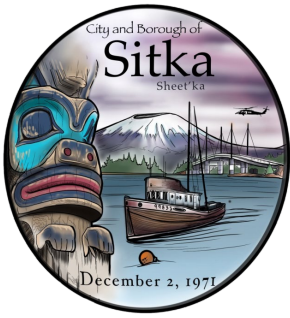
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at approximately 7:54 P.M.

Minutes by: Erik de Jong, Secretary





# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sustainability Commission Members  
**From:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Date:** July 3, 2025  
**Subject:** Discussion/Direction/Decision on 2025-2026 Work Plan

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### **Background**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the [Assembly unanimously approved](#) the [2025-2026 Sustainability Commission Work Plan](#) and included goals. These goals are:

#### **1. Support Sustainable Municipal Operations**

- a. Update the Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory and analyze progress.

**Update:** Amounts of money spent on fuel for transportation and heating have been pulled from previous fiscal year reports. A draft will be included, likely in August with the second draft of the Community GHG emissions inventory.

**Question for the Commission:** What other details would be helpful to include?

- b. Identify sustainability metrics for municipal operations that align with CBS's Strategic Plan.

See agenda Item B.

- c. Develop recommendations and necessary actions to reduce municipal emissions, such as continued support for electrification of the municipal fleet via advisory group.

**Update:** The FY26 year is now in effect and vehicles are now moving forward with the purchasing process. Staff have discussed procedures to support charging municipal vehicles, correctly allocating electrical costs as a "fuel". Requests for more information on best practices for operating EVs have been received and are in early development.

- d. Integrate sustainability metrics into existing and near future CBS projects.

#### **2. Explore Regional Approach to Sustainability**

See agenda item D.

#### **3. Collaborating with City Staff on Strategic Management of Municipal Solid Waste**

- a. Develop the Solid Waste Advisory Group Charter and MSW Strategy

**Update:** Commissioners Bagley and Taylor met with Staff liaison Gabel to discuss options for moving forward while the Public Works Department is unable to consistently engage in the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG).

- b. Facilitate Public Engagement in the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority Regional Planning Project

**Update:** Staff provided feedback via the questionnaire to the consultant group which is finalizing community profiles and are anticipated to be published in July. A story map is being

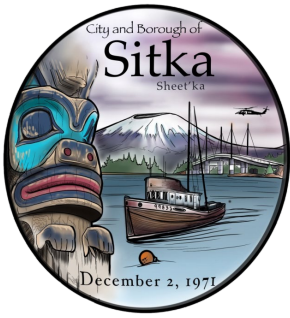
created which will detail the project and the region. Updates about the project can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Supporting and Finalize the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy**

See agenda items C. A 5-minute road mapping survey is [currently open](#).

#### **Recommendation**

This item is intended to allow Commissioners to coordinate the next steps to begin working towards the approved goals. No motion is required but can be made if necessary.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sustainability Commission Members  
**From:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Date:** July 3, 2025  
**Subject:** Discussion/Direction/Decision on Aligning Sustainability Metrics with the CBS Strategic Plan

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### **Background**

[The CBS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) outlines goals and actions for the associated staff to prioritize over five years. The [Sustainability Commission's 2025-2026 Annual Work Plan](#) first goal is to support sustainable municipal operations by creating metrics rooted in environmental, economic, and social equity that can be used to quantitatively track improvements and progress of CBS.

### **Analysis**

This goal will likely require an iterative approach that will need to take place over the next six months. While this deliverable is very open ended, understanding how the Commission would like to approach this goal will inform staff of how to best prepare meetings and/or work sessions to complete this goal.

It is suggested to propose some actions that must be accomplished over the next period of time to help staff and Commissioners coordinate and clarify roles and responsibilities necessary to accomplish this goal.

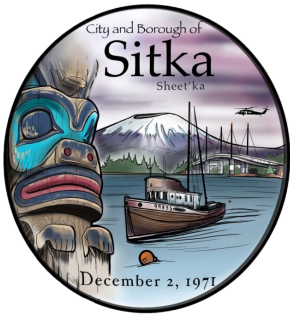
### **Recommendation**

This item is intended to allow Commissioners to provide directions, make recommendations of activities and/or tools that can be used to achieve this goal, and propose preliminary deadlines for various periods of development and review. No motion is required but can be made if necessary. Similar to other tasks, interested Commissioners can form a working group for closer collaboration with staff.

Staff will draft a detailed work plan to help inform future items and actions to be taken to create a useful list of sustainability metrics that can be presented to the Assembly to support the CBS strategic plan.

### **Next Steps**

A detailed work plan will be presented in August for further discussion and/or approval.



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sustainability Commission Members  
**Thru:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator  
**From:** Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Technical Team  
**Date:** July 3, 2025  
**Subject:** Approve the SCRES Guiding Principles Definitions

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### **Background**

To understand the community's energy vision, the technical team has received public input through surveys, public events, and an energy planning game to facilitate discussion. These events, alongside webinars for energy education, have provided many touchpoints to gather community input, with more opportunities anticipated available through public comment periods on the strategy document.

At the May meeting, the Sustainability Commission approved affordability, reliability, self-sufficiency, and innovation as guiding principles for the final document and in June provided additional guidance to inform the definitions of these topics. These principles will be used to analyze collected data and as a narrative device to help Sitka's connect with energy throughout the SCRES. Since energy can be a highly abstract concept that does not always clearly link to what community members may express as their priorities and to ensure that the final document remains focused on community action, these priorities will act guiding principles for the storytelling approach to the final document.

One utilization of this approach is being developed informed by a process called Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) which utilizes storytelling to develop believable scenarios of what Sitka *could* look like in the future. These scenarios are not to serve as predictions or suggestions about what *will* or *should* happen. Instead, they aim to be relevant, challenging, plausible, clear, and used as a tool to facilitate useful conversation to help decide what must be done in an uncertain future. For more details on this process, Spruce Root developed a set of [possible scenarios for Southeast Alaska](#) and [Indonesia has set of possible scenarios specific to energy](#).

### **Analysis**

The technical team have started analyzing qualitative data from the 85 individual responses collected during the Energy Quest game workshops. Additional themes can be loosely categorized into the four approved guiding principles. These sub-themes, if approved, will be utilized to further analyze qualitative data and serve as additional community derived topics throughout the document as needed.

Additionally, these sub-themes have been used to inform the early drafts storytelling scenarios. Draft summary paragraphs of each scenario are included in the table of definitions to provide the Commission insight into the final version of this TSP-inspired tool. The final scenario narratives will be longer, and include details related other areas of community concern, such as housing and how entities collaborate.

Since these topics and themes can be interpreted differently by different energy stakeholders, it is requested that the Commission review these drafted definitions to ensure that they are a realistic interpretation for the community of Sitka. It should be noted that while approval of these definitions will help analysis move forward, it is likely that additional themes may arise or the need to modify approved

themes/definitions. If this is the case, these instances will be brought to the commission for further guidance at an upcoming meeting.

### **Recommendation**

Approve the definitions of the guiding principles and sub-themes as they appear in the packet and/or modified through Commission discussion.

Review the draft summary paragraph of the narrative scenarios and provide feedback and direction as needed. If Commissioners would like to help draft and edit these stories, consider forming a working group.

### **Next Steps**

Approved definitions and sub-themes will be used to analyze data and further inform the final document of the SCRES.

Full versions of the TSP stories and supporting tables and instructions are anticipated for review at the August meeting.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Commission Actions are bolded</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>Complete</b>	<b>Draft outline reviewed/approved</b>						
<b>Ongoing</b>	Approved sections begin development						
<b>Complete</b>	<b>Final outline approved</b>						
<b>Ongoing</b>	Sections are completed and compiled						
<b>Not Started</b>	<b>Draft document reviewed by Commission</b>						
<b>Not Started</b>	Commission feedback incorporated						
<b>Not Started</b>	Draft released for public comment						
<b>Not Started</b>	<b>Commission reviews public comment</b>						
<b>Not Started</b>	Feedback incorporated as directed by Commission						
<b>Not Started</b>	Final document prepared for Commission review						
<b>Not Started</b>	<b>Finalization of the SCRES</b>						

**ENCL:** Guiding Principles and Sub-theme definitions and draft TSP scenario narrative summaries.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION(S)**

**Main Motion:**

**I MOVE TO** approve the guiding principles and sub-theme definitions as written in the packet

**Modify Main Motion:**

**I MOVE TO** amend/modify/remove/reword/replace \_\_\_\_\_ in the definition of *specific guiding principle/sub-theme* definition with \_\_\_\_\_.

**Main motion becomes:**

**I MOVE TO** approve the guiding principles and sub-theme definitions as written in the packet and as amended.

**OR**

**Open discussion occurs;** Mover and Secunder accept discussion points as friendly.

**Main Motion Becomes:**

**I MOVE TO** approve the guiding principles and sub-theme definitions as written in the packet and modified through Commission discussion.

## Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES): Guiding Principles and Sub-theme Definitions and TSP Scenario Narrative Summaries

<b>Affordability</b>	Decreasing the residential energy burden of electric infrastructure through minimal rate increases and reducing consumption in the near term.	
<b>Sub-Themes:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
<b>Lowest Impact to Rates</b>	Focus on implementing renewable energy options that minimize costs for individuals and the community and are perceived as low cost to deploy and maintain.	<i>"I want to electrify our community but in a way that prevents rate payers from increasing rates so they are unaffordable and people move and leave due to cost of living"</i> <i>"Building roads for wind is not cheap or a good idea."</i>
<b>Increasing Utilization of Existing Infrastructure</b>	Prioritizes using existing infrastructure to inform extent of electrification or explicitly limiting generation/consumption options based on existing grid capabilities.	<i>"Variable electric rates to encourage use during spill events"</i> <i>"Electrify based on our hydropower."</i> <i>"No diesel use! Limited or no additional renewables"</i> <i>"improve the opportunity and efficiency for new and existing generation"</i>
<b>Energy Efficiency and Conservation</b>	Strategies for making home energy upgrades to reduce consumption	<i>"We wanted to lower electricity use for houses"</i> <i>"Be efficient with our homes' energy use."</i> <i>"more focus on efficiency less on new energy"</i>
<b>Consumption Diversification</b>	Increasing commercial/industry demand to shift consumption and related cost burden to non-residential sectors	<i>"many costs should be taken on by private industry (cruise port, commercial heating, etc)"</i> <i>"Build another dam to generate electricity for power-hungry industries."</i>
<b>Draft Narrative (Summary)</b>		
<p><b>IN THE YEAR 2050, SITKA SUPPORTS RESIDENTIAL AFFORDABILITY BY USING RENEWABLE ENERGY TO BRING NEW CUSTOMERS</b></p> <p>In this scenario, Sitka's energy future is shaped by efforts to reduce the energy-cost burden to residents. While the need to cover operational costs remains, Sitka's renewable energy surplus attracts new, larger-scale power consumers which allows residential rates to stabilize. Some deferred maintenance is accomplished in this scenario, but grid upgrades that enable larger-scale power consumption are prioritized sometimes at the cost of longer-term resiliency. Efforts to promote energy efficiency and conservation for residents help slow residential load growth and lower bills. Projects that increase the output of existing hydropower capabilities are completed. While residents and the utility benefit from the additional revenue, gaps in intermittent power availability in light of load growth and inconsistent climate and weather conditions are of increasing concern. The community grapples with solutions to address these gaps, with some preferring a focus on conservation and small-scale generation, while others prefer large-scale generation projects (i.e. additional hydropower, geothermal, nuclear, etc.) that, in order to build and operate without increasing residential energy-cost burden, will require at-scale power purchase commitments from commercial users or other forms of commercial investment.</p>		

## Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES): Guiding Principles and Sub-theme Definitions and TSP Scenario Narrative Summaries

<b>Reliability</b>	Ensuring consistent availability of dependable electricity supply across the community and minimizing disruptions in power far into the future and in unknown circumstances.	
<b>Sub-Themes:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
<b>Diversifying Utility-Scale Generation</b>	Deploying a mix of energy resources to ensure reliability	<i>"Since we already have hydro, solar would work well when there's more water—better hydro, less water—better solar." "Wave power and tidal power could help diversify energy sources."</i>
<b>Energy Security</b>	Prioritizing actions to address access to energy over decades or with minimal amounts of reinvestment and/or waste.	<i>"More long-term operations with less short-term changes."</i>
<b>Crisis Preparedness</b>	Retaining access to fallback sources or strategies to manage emergencies or unexpected shortages in hydropower production	<i>"Even though I had a bit of excess energy I think it was perfect because it leaves room in case something bad I can't predict happens." "Always have the option to use diesel during a crisis." "We needed just a little bit more excess energy, just in case"</i>
<b>Draft Narrative (Summary)</b>		
<p><b>IN THE YEAR 2050, SITKA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY REMAINS RELIABLE DESPITE CLIMATE CHALLENGES.</b></p> <p>This scenario, climate uncertainty puts Sitka's renewable energy sources at risk both directly and indirectly. Residents have continued to electrify as oil prices fluctuate, increasing Sitka's reliance on its hydroelectric projects for both power and water. Intense storms become more frequent, and the utility moves critical transmission lines underground to ensure power remains available with long term plans to move distribution as well. As rainfall becomes less consistent and/or more intense, the utility develops multiple, smaller renewable energy projects that can take advantage of Sitka's intermittent power sources. While these projects are slightly overbuilt and allow Sitka to completely eliminate diesel as a backup source, the investment is significant. Rates are adjusted to achieve long-term benefits, ensuring power is available regardless of environmental hazards. However, raises frustrate residents which are reliant on electricity make some hesitant to electrify or even switch back to oil. Simultaneously, oil prices continue to fluctuate, which causes rapid influxes of load growth that make aligning rates with required projects challenging. While the benefits of reliable, renewable energy are solidified, the sporadic changes in demand caused by electrification and changing environmental conditions require constant rebalancing and evaluation of goals.</p>		

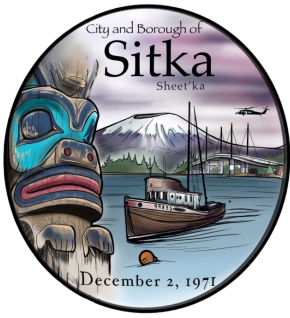
## Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES): Guiding Principles and Sub-theme Definitions and TSP Scenario Narrative Summaries

<b>Self-Sufficiency</b>	Utilizing local energy to support necessities and reducing reliance on external energy.	
<b>Sub-Themes:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
<b>Distributed Generation Sources</b>	Developing localized energy grids or smaller systems that reduce dependency on external grids and improve community-focused autonomy	<i>"Since we already have hydro, solar would work well when there's more water—better hydro, less water—better solar."</i> <i>"Wave power and tidal power could help diversify energy sources."</i> <i>"Wave power and tidal power could help diversify energy sources."</i>
<b>Reducing Dependency on Fossil Fuels</b>	Efforts to transition away from diesel fuel due to its high operational costs and import reliance, with a preference for affordable and renewable alternatives.	<i>"More long-term operations with less short-term changes."</i>
<b>Food Security and Waste Stream Reduction</b>	Using energy to grow food on island and utilizing waste streams locally to reduce imports and exports	<i>"Even though I had a bit of excess energy I think it was perfect because it leaves room in case something bad I can't predict happens."</i> <i>"Always have the option to use diesel during a crisis."</i> <i>"We needed just a little bit more excess energy, just in case"</i>
<b>Draft Narrative (Summary)</b>		
<p><b>IN THE YEAR 2050, SITKA USES ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY TO BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT.</b></p> <p>In this scenario, community needs that are primarily met by outside services are supported by Sitka's renewable energy capabilities. Things like food, transportation, and waste are incentivized to electrify with new rate structures that help lower consumer costs. Hydroponic gardens lower the amount of produce shipped in, electric public transport is invested in and personal EVs are encouraged, reducing land-based emissions. Food waste is diverted to community-scale, electrified composting with other streams channeled to waste-to-energy facilities. While these changes require significant investment, the associated load growth and revenue help rate changes to remain lower than the off-island supply chain but are not unnoticeable. While electricity rates slightly increased, benefits were seen in some food prices, waste disposal costs, and land transportation. Residential solar creates a distributed network which helps take some pressure off the electric grid but balancing individual self-sufficiency opportunities with operational and maintenance costs of the utility is a significant challenge. Excess renewables are converted into small amounts of alternative fuels which are used for additional generation or stored. Additional fuel is used to power a small fleet of local ships, however, with the uncertain availability and low volumes, this fuel is expensive which slows conversion of marine transportation.</p>		



## Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES): Guiding Principles and Sub-theme Definitions and TSP Scenario Narrative Summaries

<b>Innovation</b>	Implementing forward-thinking energy solutions to address the most challenging electrification goals as soon as possible.	
<b>Sub-Themes:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
<b>Novel Technologies</b>	Encouraging the use of cutting-edge technologies such as nuclear energy, geothermal systems, and alternative marine fuels to address energy challenges creatively.	<i>"Small nuclear energy could be dependable." "Shallow geothermal gardens near Mt. Edgecumbe."</i>
<b>Marine-Based Energy Solutions</b>	Exploring tidal and wave energy systems that utilize Sitka's coastal geography for forward-thinking renewable generation.	<i>"Tidal/Wave energy should be invested in." "Wave power alongside hydro could positively change energy production for Sitka." "Uncertain effectiveness, but tidal power should be studied further."</i>
<b>Green Fuel Development</b>	Generating green fuels from renewable energy sources for storage, transportation, or industrial uses.	<i>"Converting excess renewable power into green fuel and long-term energy storage." "Green-fueled combined heat and power, microgrid, and community uses for green fuel." "Hydrogen gas for heating combined with hydro's surplus."</i>
<b>Draft Narrative (Summary)</b>		
<p><b>IN THE YEAR 2050, ENERGY INNOVATION BROADENS SITKA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPACT TO THE REGION AND BEYOND.</b></p> <p>In this scenario, Sitka has become an incubator for new energy technologies by utilizing its islanded grid, excess renewables, and moderate climate. By focusing on innovation, Sitka captures first-mover advantages, solidifying itself as a hub for alternative fuel generation and distribution as well as marine energy sources such as tidal and wave power. Collaboration with industry leaders in alternative fuel production allowed Sitka to phase out its diesel generation plants earlier than expected, and overall capacity of the utility increased as result of new generation and storage opportunities. The market for alternative fuels was slower to develop, but as soon as large-scale marine transportation was capable of using these fuels, Sitka became a critical component in the larger shift from fossil fuels for the region. This quickly drew attention from the aviation sector, further solidifying the demand. Economic opportunities in the community expand with new developments, jobs, and access to cutting-edge technology for local energy use. However, there is competition for access to these new renewable energy resources due to large-scale commercial demand and their funding sources (i.e. the extent to which development of new energy sources were privately funded through power purchasing agreements or other forms of investment). Additionally, Sitka grapples with early adoption disadvantages such as early technology that became quickly outdated or were otherwise found to be infeasible long-term, and the utility struggles to balance the demands of ongoing operations with resources needed to foster and maintain innovative, diversified generation and distribution systems.</p>		



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sustainability Commission Members  
**From:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Date:** July 3, 2025  
**Subject:** Consider Contributing to the Alaska Climate Alliance Policy Platform

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### Background

The Alaska Climate Alliance reached out to the Sustainability Coordinator and requested to include details about the ongoing work the City, and by extension the Sustainability Commission is working on in their policy platform project.

The primary purpose of this platform is to consolidate ongoing projects, actions, and priorities occurring throughout Alaska to facilitate better coordination between groups to make greater impact at the state level. The Sustainability Coordinator has received permission to submit City-led efforts, such as the SCRES, however, there are additional actions/projects that fit the goal of this project could be submitted. Additional details on the project are enclosed.

### Analysis

This request aligns with the [Sustainability Commission's 2025-2026 Annual Work Plan](#) second goal to explore regional approaches to sustainability. Submissions will appear in the broader tool and widen the visibility of the work conducted in Sitka and could be used to inform action in other communities within Alaska.

### Recommendation

Review list of actions in the current annual work plan and propose a list of Sustainability Commission actions and/or project to submit to the policy platform.

**Encl:** 2025-2026 Sustainability Commission Comprehensive List of Actions

Alaska Climate Action Policy Platform Proposal

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## POSSIBLE MOTION








**I MOVE TO** contribute to the Alaska Climate Action Policy Platform by submitting *(insert proposed Sustainability Commission projects/actions)* to the project.



City and Borough of Sitka

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ACTIONS

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SGC 2.31.060 B

-  Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.
-  Responsible use of natural resources.
-  Diminution of Sitka's supply-chain fragility.
-  Food security enhancement.
-  Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka's locally generated, renewable energy sources.
-  Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.
-  Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.
- • • Other matters as the Assembly or Commission may deem beneficial for the City.

### SUPPORTS:



### 2024

Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Developed energy education modules for SCRES	✓		✓					
Recommended funding allocation for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)	✓				✓	✓		
Drafted comments on the Tongass Management Plan Revision		✓		✓			✓	
Advised on municipal solid waste policy		✓				✓		
Public hearing with STA for Grid Resiliency Formula Grant			✓				✓	✓
Recommended approval of the municipal fleet procurement policy					✓			
Recommended approval of the decarbonizing and rightsizing to improve vehicle efficiency (DRIVE) group charter					✓			

### 2023

Alaska Heat Smart recommendation and letter of support	✓							
Sitka Community Garden Concept letter of support				✓			✓	
Made a recommendation for the Sustainability Seat on the Tourism Task Force							✓	✓





# **ALASKA CLIMATE ALLIANCE**

## **Presents: Policy Platform Proposal**

Invitation for Collaboration

**Stay connected for updates!**

[akclimatealliance.org](http://akclimatealliance.org)

[ACA@justtransitionak.org](mailto:ACA@justtransitionak.org)

# Introduction

**We're building a collaborative statewide climate justice policy platform to align climate organizations, tribal organizations, community members, and movement partners across Alaska.** By creating a unified front, we can amplify our efforts and achieve more significant impact around climate action.

Our goal is simple: coordinate, strengthen, and amplify our collective work to create long-lasting solutions for Alaska's climate challenges. **We need you to make it happen.**

In this invitation, we'll share further background information and clarity on the process, as well as information on how to get involved.



ALASKA  
CLIMATE  
ALLIANCE



# Get Involved

There are four ways you can participate:

## **Submit Your Policy Priorities**

Help us understand the most urgent issues by submitting your organization's top priorities for Alaska's climate future at the [link here](#).

## **Join the Policy Platform Working Group**

After submitting, consider joining the working group to help guide the platform development.

## **Co-host a community input meeting**

Broad community input is a critical part of this process. Help us to co-host an event in your community!

## **Connect more with us**

As a coalition, we welcome conversation around connecting or collaborating either on the Policy Platform or other projects. If you have other skills, expertise, or knowledge to share please let us know.

For more information: [ACA@justtransitionak.org](mailto:ACA@justtransitionak.org)



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# Policy Platform Proposal Purpose

Our strategy for co-creating a Policy Platform that will be bold, beautiful, visionary, and inclusive will be to **utilize a community engagement approach and directly bring together work and voices from across Alaska together** in one place to ensure that larger and better-funded groups are taking into account the priorities of less well represented and less well funded groups and stakeholders and to help build consensus around key objectives and strategies.

**We believe a climate justice policy platform will allow the Alaska Climate Alliance to deepen our commitments to the shared priorities of our movement partners,** including with less firmly established connections such as tribal governments and organized labor, into a more active and strategic working collaboration. By identifying shared goals and aspirational policy wins, we can find common ground among our diverse constituencies and build long-term solidarity and power for a Just Transition in Alaska – in the process, breaking down silos and building narrative power.



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# Where we are now

## The Current Moment

Many groups are working on urgent, short-term climate issues in Alaska. The Alaska Climate Alliance (ACA) aims to complement this work by fostering collaboration on both short-term actions and long-term visions. By engaging both, we can confront immediate challenges while building lasting solutions together.

## Our Collective Work

The ACA will facilitate this collaboration and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Our shared focus includes defending the ongoing work and previous wins while opposing harmful projects (e.g., Pebble Mine, Arctic Refuge drilling), and advancing a regenerative economy.

Our collective work can and should have a broader impact in Alaska, intersectional solidarity is necessary for supporting all community members so we must work towards an inclusive and inviting platform.



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# Policy Platform Proposal

## Our Approach

Our strategy for co-creating a Policy Platform that is bold, beautiful, visionary, and inclusive will be to utilize a community engagement approach and directly bring together work and voices from across Alaska together in one place.

## Why This Platform Matters

This platform will be a roadmap for state-wide climate action, highlighting key priorities, strategies, and opportunities for long-term climate justice. Our approach will ensure that well-funded organizations, grassroots organizations, and community members all have a voice.

## Key Goals

- Build alignment across diverse stakeholders (tribal governments, nonprofits, community organizations, labor groups)
- Create a space for collaboration to address both urgent and long-term climate issues
- Deepen commitments to shared priorities, breaking down silos and amplifying narratives for greater impact



# Submission Details

## How to Submit

Please submit your organization's policy priorities using the form at [this link](#). Be clear about the issue, its local, state, or federal implications, and what needs to be done. Even if a policy hasn't been introduced yet, your work, priorities, and vision are valuable.

We will accommodate other forms of submissions, just ask! For example if you would like to set up a meeting or phone call to **make a submission verbally** please reach out to [aca@justtransitionak.org](mailto:aca@justtransitionak.org)

## Example submission:

- **Vision:** Proactive and adaptive steps towards reducing climate change impacts locally that includes input from community members.
- **Title:** Support for Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) in Fairbanks Borough
- **Description:** This plan helps our community adapt to climate impacts. We support it because it includes sustainable solutions for long-term resilience.
- **Support Action:** Email FNSB to express support or show up to meetings to testify.

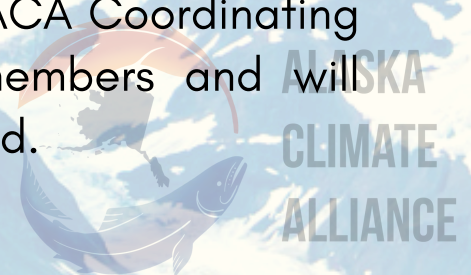


# Transparency and Process

We're committed to an inclusive process, ensuring all voices are heard and represented. That means going at the speed of trust, building relationships, prioritizing intentional inclusion at every step. Regular updates will be shared with participants, and we'll have multiple feedback mechanisms in place.

## Questions and Answers:

- What is a policy?
  - A policy can be defined as a course or principle of action that guides an organization to make decisions and goals. For this platform, policies will represent our movements' priorities.
- Why should my organization submit a policy?
  - This is an opportunity to be part of a collaborative statewide process that intends to build alignment and solidarity. A submission means others can learn about and support the work people are doing in Alaska all in one place.
- Who can make policy platform submissions?
  - We invite everyone to submit to this process, if you or your organization are climate focused, Indigenous led, and/or working on intersectional issues, please consider submitting.
- How will submissions be processed?
  - Submissions will be reviewed by the ACA Coordinating Team and Policy Working Group members and will follow up with organizations as needed.



# Timeline

- **May 2025** – formal invitations are sent out
- **May 30th, 2025** – Suggested submission date for all ACA organizations
- **Summer 2025** – First Draft completed + 1 public outreach event minimum
- **Fall 2025** – Second Draft completed + 1 public outreach event minimum
- **Winter 2025** – Complete edits, formatting, and any last minute submissions
- **January 2026** – Completed Policy Platform ready to share, and an official celebration/ launch

## Outreach Event Description

Outreach events are intended to be an opportunity for in person connection, to gather feedback, gather more submissions, and for coalition members and community members to meet for relationship building so we can make intentional connections within the climate movement. For those interested in cohosting, it is an opportunity to partner with the ACA and other organizations to plan an event relating back to our goal.



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# **Submit your priorities and join us in shaping Alaska's climate future.**

**Make a Submission:**  
**[Link here](#)**



**Join the Policy Platform Working Group AND/OR  
discuss co-hosting a community input event:**

Email: [ACA@justtransitionak.org](mailto:ACA@justtransitionak.org)



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# **Presents: Policy Platform Proposal**

## **Invitation for Collaboration**

**We're building a collaborative statewide climate justice policy platform to align climate organizations, tribal organizations, community members, and movement partners across Alaska.**

Our goal is simple: coordinate, strengthen, and amplify our collective work to create long-lasting solutions for Alaska's climate challenges. **We need you to make it happen.**

### **There are four ways to participate:**

#### **Submit Your Policy Priorities**

Help us understand the most urgent issues by submitting your organization's top priorities for Alaska's climate future at the link on the right.



**[Link here](#)**

#### **Join the Policy Working Group**

After submitting, consider joining the working group to help guide the platform development. Email [ACA@justtransitionak.org](mailto:ACA@justtransitionak.org).

#### **Co-host a community input meeting**

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