


CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator 
Date: January 30, 2026
Subject: February Work Session Materials

Per the direction given at the January regular meeting, the February and March will be used as a work session to focus on creating the 2026-2027 Sustainability Commission Work Plan.

Work Session Objectives:

- Review the responsibilities and comprehensive list of actions of the Sustainability Commission
- Draft updates of current goals
- Draft revision to current goals, new goals, and actions
- Outline objectives for the March work session

Agenda:

6:00-6:30: Review Commission responsibilities and list of actions

6:30-7:00: Paired discussion on each goal

7:00-7:30: Commission discussion on goals

The work session is anticipated to adjourn no later than 8:00

Current Sustainability Commission Goals:

1. Support Sustainable Municipal Operations

- a. Update the Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory and analyze progress.
- b. Identify sustainability metrics for municipal operations that align with CBS's Strategic Plan.
- c. Develop recommendations and necessary actions to reduce municipal emissions, such as continued support for electrification of the municipal fleet via advisory group.
- d. Integrate sustainability metrics into existing and near future CBS projects.

2. Explore Regional Approach to Sustainability

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

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

Update: CBS was awarded a Waste-to-Energy Technical Assistance (TA) for State, Local, and Tribal Governments from the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR, previously known as the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL). This small (~40 hours of TA) has been scoped to include:

1. Review and comparison of other waste stream analysis with recommended waste composition assumptions for Sitka and notes on fish waste.
2. An evaluation to increase operational efficiency and maximize waste diversion from landfills, drawing on examples and best practices from similar facilities nationwide with suggestions to enhance MSW services.

This technical memo is anticipated some time in Q1 of 2026.

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

4. Supporting and Finalize the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

Update: The 2023 Sitka Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory was released December 16th and was open for public comment until January 25th.

Notes from the November 2024 Joint Work Session with the Assembly:

Based on questions and comments from the Assembly members at the joint work session, utilizing the greenhouse gas emissions inventory to strategically inform recommendations to further public utilization of Sitka's renewable electricity. A major component of this was specifically more accessible information for the public via the CBS website.

Municipal solid waste was repeatedly flagged by Assembly members, with reducing the amount of material brought in as well as streamlining and exploring disposal methods locally and regionally.

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure for both the public and municipality was also of interest.

Other recommendations/requests were to explore the potential for tax solutions to support local resource production, ground source heat pumps, and better defining and outlining the "supply chain" to help clarify its purpose and better understand its fragility.

Overall, the Commission was thanked for their work and alignment with the CBS strategic plan.

Strategic Documents:

[2025-2026 Sustainability Commission Work Plan](#)

[CBS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#)

[2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#)

Scope of Commission









Established September 2022 (Ord. 2022 -16S)



Topics

- 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

Comprehensive List of Commission Actions

	 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.
Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory								
Developed energy education modules for SCRES								
Alaska Heat Smart recommendation and letter of support								
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								
Sitka Community Garden Concept letter of support								
Recommended approval of the municipal fleet procurement policy								
Recommended approval of the decarbonizing and rightsizing to improve vehicle efficiency (DRIVE) group charter								