



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Agenda Sustainability Commission

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

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza

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

**Assembly Liaison:** Kevin Mosher

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**Monday, March 4, 2024**

**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 February 5, 2024 minutes

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

**V. REPORTS**

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**B.** Approve the 2024-2025 Goals and Work Plan

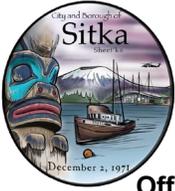
**C.** Review Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Community Scoping Survey Results

**D.** Review SCRES 3-Month Work Plan

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

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

**X. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Katie Riley, Acting Vice Chair Elizabeth Bagley, Secretary Carol Voisin

**Members:** Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio, Lilli Garza, Erik de Jong

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

**Assembly Liaison:** Kevin Mosher

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Monday, February 5, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Staff Liaison Gabel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:06 P.M.**

**Present:** Lilli Garza (telephonic, left at 6:17 P.M.), Erik de Jong, Katie Riley (telephonic), Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

**Absent:** Elizabeth Bagley (excused)

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

**Public:** Larry Edwards

### II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### CHAIR

**Zermoglio moved to nominate Riley as Chair; Riley accepted the nomination.**

**Riley was ELECTED as Chair 6-0 by roll call vote.**

#### VICE CHAIR

**Zermoglio moved to nominate Taylor as Vice Chair; Taylor accepted the nomination.**

**Taylor was ELECTED as Vice Chair 6-0 by roll call vote.**

#### SECRETARY

**Voisin moved to nominate de Jong as Secretary; de Jong accepted the nomination.**

**De Jong was ELECTED as Secretary 6-0 by roll call vote.**

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

**Voisin MOVED to address unfinished business after new business.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.**

### IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the December 5, 2023 minutes.

**Riley moved to approve the December 5, 2023 minutes with proposed amendments.**

**Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.**

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

None.

## VI. REPORTS

**Staff:** Gabel reported that she would be virtually attending the Alaska Forum on the Environment and had been working extensively with the Sitka Community Renewable Energy (SCRES) technical team to develop a workflow now that they had moved from scoping into execution.

**Commissioners:** Voisin invited those in attendance to the Electrification Expo on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

#### **Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Working Groups**

**Public Energy Education:** Voisin and Taylor reported on their meeting with the technical team and the development of outcomes for the education portion of the SCRES.

**Public Engagement Planning:** No report from members. Gabel informed the Commission that she had asked the technical team to create a short-term engagement plan for the ongoing survey that could be used as a structure for future engagement planning.

**GHG Emissions Inventory:** No report from members. Gabel reported that she had provided the technical team some data they could use to familiarize themselves with Sitka and that she would reach out to the working group members as soon as the technical team asked for their input.

**Municipal Solid Waste:** Zermoglio and Riley reported on their meeting with Ron Vinson, Public Works Director, Mike Stenberg, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent, and Gabel and outlined the approach the group would take to start addressing solid waste collaboratively.

**Municipal Fleet Electrification:** Riley reported that there were some potential challenges with future changes to the fire code and that she was open to collaborating with other Commissioners on this goal.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Review and Amend the Bylaws

Zermoglio asked Gabel to inquire if there was flexibility on the limit of annual teleconference occurrences as outlined in Article III Section B of the Sustainability Commission Bylaws which cited Sitka General Code 2.60.050(f), due to the number of Commissioners that traveled for work regularly.

### C. Update Regular Meeting Time

**Zermoglio MOVED to amend the Sustainability Commission Bylaws, Article 4 “Meetings”, Section A “Regular Meetings”, to reschedule the regular meeting from 6:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month to 6:00 PM on the first Monday of the month.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.**

### D. Review 2023-2024 Work Plan

Gabel summarized the Commission’s 2023-2024 Work Plan and that the goals approved by the Assembly last year would take multiple years to complete. She explained that the Commission would need to confirm that these goals would remain the same for 2024-2025. She outlined areas of the report she would update and create to reflect the accomplishments of the past year.

Commissioners suggested that Gabel coordinate with the working groups to update sections about their respective goals to reflect their updates and anticipated changes based on the work of the last year.

Gabel noted that a revised 2024-2025 Work Plan would be on the March agenda for Commission approval.

**E. Review Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Outcomes**

Gabel explained that the outcomes of the SCRES would help the technical team develop their work plan and early education modules and ensure alignment with what the Commission wanted to see out of the early SCRES work. The Commission reviewed and suggested additions to the outcomes listed in the meeting packet.

Larry Edwards commented on the role of snow pack on Sitka's annual electricity generation capacity.

**F. Review Clean Energy-to-Communities Outcomes**

Gabel explained how the Clean Energy-to-Community (C2C) and SCRES projects supported one another, and outlined how the outcomes addressed different needs to achieve a sustainable energy future. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and made recommendations to increase clarity.

**IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

None.

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

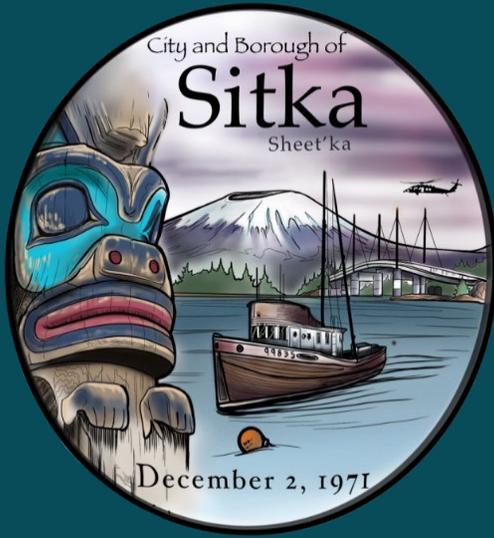
The next meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Voisin moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 8:13 P.M.**

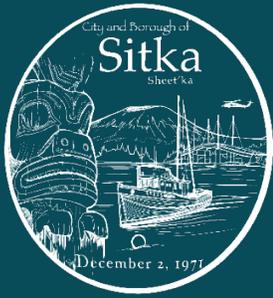
Minutes By: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION**  
2024-2025 WORK PLAN



SUBMITTED FOR ASSEMBLY REVIEW ON MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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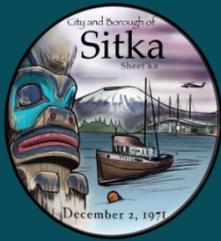
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A: SCRES Community Survey Results Summary

B: SCRES Scope of Work

C: Ford F150 vs. F150 Lightning Lifetime Cost-Benefit Comparison for CBS



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainability Commission acts as an advisory body to the Assembly with the purpose of catalyzing and developing municipal and community-focused approaches that support the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the City.

## 2023-2024 COMMISSION REQUESTS & ACTIONS

- RECOMMENDED THE ASSEMBLY FUND A SITKA-BASED HEAT PUMP ASSESSOR VIA ALASKA HEAT SMART
- PROVIDED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SITKA COMMUNITY GARDEN CONCEPT
- MADE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY SEAT ON THE TOURISM TASK FORCE

## 2024-2025 GOALS

### 1. CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY (SCRES)

CBS was successfully selected as one of nine communities for the third cohort of the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) to support the development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES). The SCRES aims to establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions by shaping a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision. The scope of the SCRES includes a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, public energy education, the development of future energy scenarios, and a compilation of community actions and policy recommendations based on continuous community engagement throughout the project. **Updates on the SCRES can be found on the project's website: [cityofsitka.com/SCRES](http://cityofsitka.com/SCRES)**

### 2. COLLABORATE WITH CITY STAFF ON MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROCESS

While the original 2023-2024 goal intended to identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion, new leadership within the Public Works Department requested an alternative approach first be considered: use the asset management program the City utilizes to strategically approach municipal solid waste (MSW). It was suggested that rather than just staff participating in the process, Sustainability Commissioners also be included. **In January 2024, a small group of City staff and Commissioners convened for an initial meeting to discuss the proposed approach. All were willing to commit to the novel approach and anticipate creating an MSW policy as the first step.**

### 3. CREATE A MUNICIPAL FLEET TRANSITION & EV INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Assembly passed Resolution 22-18: Decarbonize City Operations by 2030. Integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age is a required step to achieve this directive. The Sustainability Coordinator collected questions and addressed concerns from the This plan will also help address questions, concerns, and logistics related to transitioning municipal vehicles and strengthen Sitka's ability to apply for federal EV charging infrastructure funds. **Funds available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program may be considered to support the accomplishment of this goal.**



# THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

## PURPOSE SGC 2.15.010

It is the intent of the Sustainability Commission to work towards catalyzing a healthy community now and in the future by proposing solutions to environmental, social, and economic concerns of the City and Borough of Sitka, its partners, and community members.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SGC 2.15.060

The commission will act as an advisory body to the Assembly with the purpose of catalyzing and developing municipal and community-focused approaches that support the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the city. The commission will accomplish this by working towards the following actions described below:

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



## REPORTING SGC 2.15.060

Annually, the commission will develop, identify, and present goals to the assembly for approval. The approved goals shall be the Commission's primary focus for the following year. Concurrently with presenting goals to the Assembly, the commission will submit a report to the Assembly on progress towards the previous year's goals and other activities which were approved and directed by the Assembly.



## MEMBERSHIP

SGC 2.15.010

The commission is composed of seven members appointed by the assembly and, to the extent deemed advisable by the assembly and possible from the applicants, include at least one individual with background or training as a sustainability professional and at least one individual of Alaska Native heritage with understanding and appreciation of the historical importance of sustainability on Tlingit Aaní. All voting members of the commission shall be at-large members and representative of a diverse cross-section of the community.

### MEMBERS

Name	About	TERM	
		Apt.	Exp.
<b>Katie Riley</b> <i>Chair</i>	Born and raised in Sitka and graduated from MEHS in 2011, Katie works in policy and community development at the Sitka Conservation Society, fishes Bristol Bay in the summer, serves on the Planning Commission, and was on the Climate Action Task Force.	10/11/22	10/11/24
<b>Auora Taylor</b> <i>Vice Chair</i>	Born and raised in Eagle River on Dena'ina Elnena, Aurora moved to Sitka in 2019 after getting her B.S. in Environmental Science. She works as a fishery biologist and enjoys feeding salmon scraps to her cat, Tundra.	10/11/22	10/11/25
<b>Erik de Jong</b> <i>Secretary</i>		10/25/23	10/25/26
<b>Elizabeth Bagley</b>	Elizabeth works remotely for Project Drawdown, a climate solutions nonprofit. She uses her experience in education and science to work with community members to find win-win solutions that improve life for Sitkans and generations to come.	10/25/23 10/11/22	10/25/26 10/11/23
<b>Lilli Garza</b>	Lilli is passionate about equity and education and applies that in her job at Sitka Trail Works. Experienced in low-income energy programs, her priority is to ensure all Sitkans are included in the clean energy transition. She loves fishing, hunting, and hiking with family and friends.	10/25/23	10/25/26
Vacant			10/11/25
Vacant			10/11/24

### PREVIOUS MEMBERS

Angie Bowers, Kent Barkhau, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio  
*Thank you!*

## ASSEMBLY LIAISONS

Kevin Mosher  
*Assembly Liaison*

Thor Christianson  
*Alternate Assembly Liaison*

## STAFF LIAISON

Bri Gabel  
*Sustainability Coordinator*

bri.gabel@cityofsitka.org  
(907) 747-1856



# ONGOING COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the prioritized goals, the Sustainability Commission has ongoing responsibilities that it will continue to enact throughout the year.

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT

- Serve as a resource for city staff, other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces.
- As needed, review sustainability proposals and make recommendations during Sustainability Commission meetings.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback.
- Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.

## COMMISSION REQUESTS & ACTIONS

### RECOMMENDED THE ASSEMBLY FUND A SITKA-BASED HEAT PUMP ASSESSOR VIA ALASKA HEAT SMART (AHS)

In April 2023, AHS requested a \$10,000 contribution from CBS to fund the Sitka-based home energy assessor position to support roughly 50 assessments for Sitka homeowners. **The Sustainability Commission unanimously supported the request and recommended the Assembly contribute \$10,000 to support the AHS Sitka Home Assessor position. Currently, the recommendation awaits two Assemblymember sponsors to take the recommended request to Assembly for full consideration.**

AHS has shifted \$100,000 of its \$500,000 Clean Heat Incentive Program (CHIP), funded by DOE, to Sitka to provide between \$1,500 and \$2,500 cash incentives to lower-to-modest income families to support heat pump conversions. \$21,000 in incentives have been paid out with \$14,000 in incentive payments awaiting agreements.

Prior to receiving an incentive, prospective recipients must receive an AHS home energy assessment to determine home readiness. A typical assessment costs \$250 but are currently free to those who qualify. AHS has facilitated this in Sitka by hiring a local resident as a 'home energy assessor', funded via private foundation money and a match from the Sitka Conservation Society. Approximately 30 energy assessments have been conducted over the past eight months. Assessor funding is anticipated to run out by fall of 2024.

### PROVIDED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SITKA COMMUNITY GARDEN CONCEPT

In April 2023, the Commission drafted a letter of support for the development of a community garden requested by the Sitka Local Foods Network and Transition Sitka. Citing that a community garden aligned with the duties and responsibilities of the Sustainability Commission, including 3) diminution of Sitka's supply-chain fragility, 4) food security enhancement, 6) solid waste consumption reduction, composting, recycling, and reuse; and 7) robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities (SGS 2.15.060), as well as the city's five-year strategic plan and the comprehensive plan, **the Commission drafted and unanimously approved a letter of support for the community garden concept.**



## MADE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY SEAT ON THE TOURISM TASK FORCE

With the establishment of the Tourism Task Force in March 2023, Resolution 2023-11 stated that Sustainability shall recommend a member for appointment. **The Sustainability Commission unanimously recommended the Assembly appoint Barb Bigham to the Tourism Task Force.**

## 2023-2024 GOALS

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Chair Riley presented the 2023-2024 Work Plan to the City Assembly and summarized the evolution of municipal climate and sustainability initiatives over time, steps involved in prioritizing actions, and the goals the Commission aims to achieve. Assemblymembers and members of the public voiced their support, expressed that the goals were attainable and appreciated the ranked approach to the goals. It was noted by Chair Riley that these goals would likely take multiple years to accomplish. The City Assembly unanimously approved the goals outlined in the Sustainability Commission's 2023-2024 Work Plan (Item 23-046). **The goals set forth by the Commission included:**

### 1. DEVELOP A COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

A Community Renewable Energy Strategy will establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future. Components of the strategy could include but are not limited to refreshing the existing baseline assessment of community emissions; forecasting energy demands and identifying priority actions; recommending feasible renewable energy options for the city to pursue, and municipal policies for consideration to increase efficiency, such as electrifying heating and land/marine transportation.

### 2. ANALYZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

The current waste management contract is slated to be renewed in 2032. In order to ensure that Sitkans' waste is managed sustainably, with lower costs and fewer resulting greenhouse gas emissions, this project will identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion and support the long-term sustainability of Sitka. Aligned with the 2014 Interim Solid Waste Management Report, this project seeks to conduct a baseline assessment of the composition of municipal solid waste.

### 3. CREATE A MUNICIPAL FLEET TRANSITION & EV INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The City of Sitka has vowed to decarbonize city operations, which includes integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age. This plan will also help address questions, concerns, and logistics related to transitioning municipal vehicles and strengthen Sitka's ability to apply for federal EV charging infrastructure funds.

## UPDATING THE GOALS FOR 2024-2025

The goals for the upcoming year support the same objectives as the 2023-2024 goals but have been reworked to reflect the updates within CBS and the evolution of the operational and feasibility landscape around each goal in the past year. Similarly, the goals will be approached sequentially with the Commission's full effort into the highest prioritized goal until there is a lull. **The Sustainability Commission (insert vote) approved the following updated goals at their March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, regular meeting.**



# 1. CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

## SUPPORTS:



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

**SUMMARY:** CBS was successfully selected as one of nine communities for the third cohort of the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) to support the development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES). The SCRES aims to establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions by shaping a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision. This City-led project, heavily supported by the Sustainability Commission, works in collaboration with energy experts at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). The SCRES is funded through the ETIPP program and the Sustainability Coordinator's time.

**INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS:** Planning & Community Development, Electric

## MILESTONES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### **Recommended Approval of Resolution 23-18: Authorize the Municipal Administrator to Apply for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)**

As part of the 2023-2024 Work Plan, the Commission recommended the City pursue a second round of technical assistance through the ETIPP project. The Assembly unanimously approved the resolution. This resolution also acted as the Assembly's support for the application. The Sustainability Coordinator prepared the application materials for submittal.

### **Assisted with Additional Stakeholder ETIPP Application Support**

As required by application for the ETIPP program, additional stakeholders were required to be identified and letters of support submitted. Per the recommendation of the regional partner, supporting stakeholders for CBS's application were limited to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), CBS Electric Department, the Sustainability Commission, and the Assembly.

The Sustainability Coordinator and Chair Riley presented the project to STA's Natural Resource Projection Committee, who recommended approval. The Tribal Council subsequently approved.

### **Gathered Community Input for the Scope of Work**

To help refine the scope of work, a survey was conducted that introduced participants to SCRES and help the technical team answer the following guiding questions:

- 1a.** What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?
- 1b.** What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?
  - 2.** What are the best ways to increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community?
  - 3.** What values does the community want to guide the development of SCRES

The survey ran from November 28, 2023, to February 29, 2024, and gathered ### of responses. Summary results are in Appendix A.



## Hosted a Technical Team Kickoff Meeting & Introduced Them to Sitka

In December, the ETIPP Technical Team visited Sitka to attend to meet the Sustainability Commission, attend their regular meeting, initialized community outreach, and familiarized them with Sitka.



Photo: As an icebreaker for SCRES, the Sustainability Commission hosted the Ginger-Build: an energy education event and competition to build energy-efficient gingerbread houses. Commissioners their families, the technical team, and the public casually learned and enjoyed energy in its most delicious form: sugar.

### Recommended Approval of Scope of Work for the SCRES

The scope of the SCRES was recommended to include a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, public energy education, the development of future energy scenarios, and a compilation of community actions and policy recommendations based on continuous community engagement throughout the project (Appendix B). The scope was approved by CBS in February 2024.

### NEXT STEPS:

With the scope of work finalized, the SCRES has transitioned into the execution phase, anticipated to take place over the next 18 months. The Sustainability Commission forms ad hoc working groups to support specific requests and/or topics the technical team requires to begin planning and executing the full project. The technical team works closely with the Sustainability Coordinator to ensure that critical materials and questions are brought before the Commission at their regular meetings to provide their input and aligns with the needs of the Sitka and make recommendations to ensure the project remains community focused.

Updates on the SCRES can be found on the project's website: [cityofsitka.com/SCRES](http://cityofsitka.com/SCRES)



## 2. COLLABORATE WITH CITY STAFF ON MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROCESS

### SUPPORTS:



Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

**SUMMARY:** Off to a slow start due to lack of consolidated data and new City staff, goal 2 has only recently made significant progress. While the original goal intended to identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion, new leadership within the Public Works Department requested an alternative approach first be considered. Using the asset management program the City utilizes to strategically approach municipal solid waste (MSW), it was suggested that rather than just staff participating in the process, Sustainability Commissioners also be included. In January 2024, a small group of City staff and Commissioners convened for an initial meeting to discuss the proposed approach.

**INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS:** Planning & Community Development, Public Works

### MILESTONES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

#### **Convened for a Municipal Solid Waste Asset Management Kickoff**

In January 2024, the Public Works Director, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent, Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainability Commission's Municipal Solid Waste Working Group convened to discuss the approach proposed by Public Works and to answer questions about the process as the endeavor was a new approach neither CBS nor the Commission had attempted before. However, with emphasis on the need for flexibility, understanding, and reflection throughout the collaboration, all were willing to commit to the novel approach.

*Asset Management Bubble Chart Here (Get from Ron)\**



## NEXT STEPS:

### **Collaboratively Develop a Municipal Solid Waste Policy\***

The group will start by creating a municipal solid waste policy (Figure #). City staff and the working group will split into parallel workstreams to delineate CBS and public perspective before coming back together to form a draft policy. Commissioners will inform staff when and where the full Sustainability Commission's and public's input should be sought.



Photo: Ron Vinson (Public Works Director, Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), and Mike Stenberg (Maintenance & Operations Superintendent) conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis on CBS's Municipal Solid Waste system, the initial step in developing a policy.

### **Evaluate the Collaborative Policy Development Process**

After completing the MSW policy deliverable, the group will review the process and determine if it should be continued or modified, and where Commission involvement is ideally leveraged and how CBS can apply the lessons learned elsewhere.

### **Consolidate Data**

A major inhibitor to progress during the first year of this goal was the disaggregation of data and the inherent complexity of the system that currently handles solid waste. The Sustainability Coordinator and the Maintenance and Operations Superintendent will work together to develop a system that will allow for comprehensive tracking weights collected, ships, composition, and associated costs. This will allow for information about solid waste to be communicated and utilized further into the asset management process.

### **Learn From Other Municipalities About Potential Solid Waste Management Strategies**

As an islanded community, Sitka's MSW is currently shipped to Washington State where it is landfilled. Other communities, often equally if not more isolated, manage their MSW similarly along with some other approaches. Similarly, looking at municipalities with robust solid waste management systems may provide helpful insight into what might be possible in how CBS manages MSW. Understanding these in more detail to determine applicability to Sitka will further determine potential options for Sitka's MSW when its current contract expires in 2032.



# 3. CREATE A MUNICIPAL FLEET TRANSITION & EV INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

## SUPPORTS:



Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka's locally generated, renewable energy sources.



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

**SUMMARY:** The Assembly passed Resolution 22-18: Decarbonize City Operations by 2030. Integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age is a required step to achieve this directive. The Sustainability Coordinator collected questions and addressed concerns from the This plan will also help address questions, concerns, and logistics related to transitioning municipal vehicles and strengthen Sitka's ability to apply for federal EV charging infrastructure funds.

**INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS:** Planning & Community Development, Electric, Public Works

## MILESTONES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Purchased the First Municipal Electric Vehicle

CBS purchased an Electric Transit van in 2023 for janitorial use. While a small step, the purchase allows City staff to familiarize themselves with EVs and test their use in a low-risk task while gathering valuable data that can inform future conversion and use scenarios.

### Prepared a Cost-Benefit Analysis for the Ford F150 and F150 Lightning

When a Ford F150 in the Harbors Department was approaching the end of its useful life, the Sustainability Coordinator approached staff that depended on the truck to gather questions and concerns about potentially switching to an electric truck. These questions were answered and compiled and the lifetime cost per mile was calculated (Fig 1, Appendix C) The results of the analysis showed that F150 Lightning could replace an internal combustion engine (ICE) F150 during typical use with minimal disruptions to operations. Despite a larger upfront investment, because the electric utility is owned by CBS, benefits were amplified as not only is electricity cheaper than gasoline, it also is functionally cost neutral to the municipality.

Although the Harbors truck was not replaced with an EV, it was not replaced with an ICE either. Instead, a low use vehicle was reassigned to the dept. This reduced the overall size of the CBS fleet by best utilizing its current assets and will allow for more strategizing before purchasing more EVs.

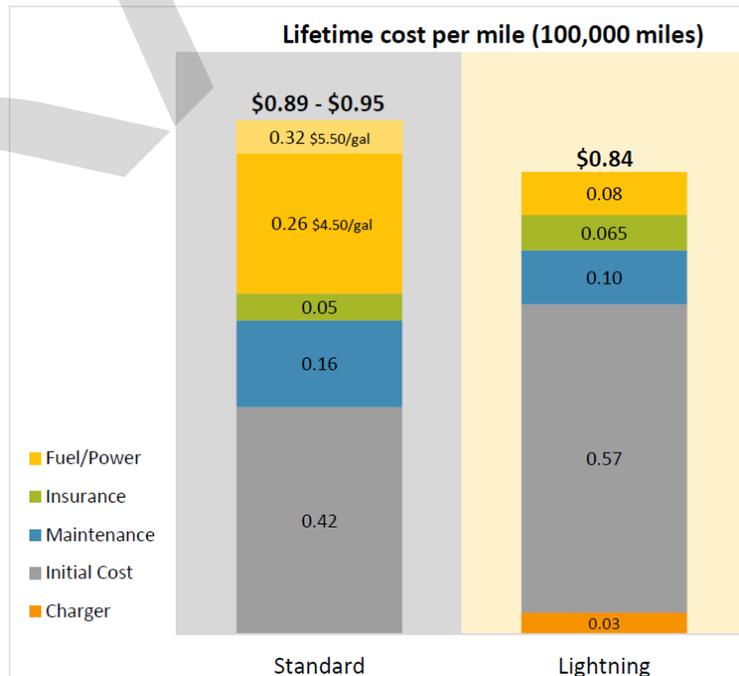


Fig 1: Lifetime Cost per Mile of a Standard (ICE) F150 and F150 Lightning for CBS. Full comparison report can be found in Appendix C.



## NEXT STEPS:

### **Gather Feedback on E-Transit Van**

With staff usage of the aforementioned E-Transit van, gathering feedback from those that have used the vehicle the most will be useful in forming recommendations for fleet conversion. While initial Cost Benefit Analysis for the F150 Lightning was informed only by questions posed by the Harbor Department, understanding real-world use of an EV for CBS use will likely uncover more concerns and questions to be answered to build confidence in the technology and the ability to transition.

### **Identify Conversion Candidates Within the Current Municipal Fleet**

The makeup of CBS's municipal fleet ranges from light duty commuter vehicles to heavy duty snowplows and fire trucks. Depending on each use case scenario, available EVs, and scheduled replacement of the vehicle, upcoming replacements may be suitable candidates for conversion. However, no formal recommendation based on these criteria has yet to be adopted. Understanding the composition of the fleet and its use in more detail will be critical for the Sustainability to make these recommendations to CBS for fleet vehicle replacement.

### **Continue to Watch the EV Landscape and Identify Potential Challenges to Conversion**

With the development and rapid adoption of electric vehicles across the country, supply chain issues and changes in regulations in response to Lithium-Ion batteries have developed equally rapidly. To understand the full cost of conversions and how regulations and availability may influence the pace at which CBS transitions will be critical to avoid anticipated costs or unforeseen challenges from acquisition to disposal. The Sustainability Commission along with the Sustainability Coordinator will work to keep careful watch of the developing EV landscape as they prepare formalized transition recommendations.

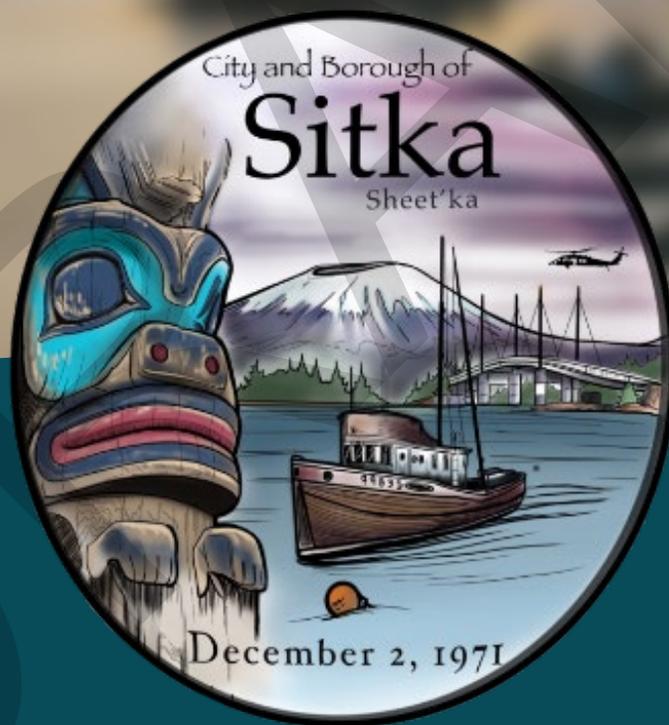
### **Recommend Use for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Award**

As part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, a formula-based allocation of \$75,200 is available to CBS to assist the implementation of strategies that:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
- Reduce the total energy use of the municipality;
- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, the building sector, and other appropriate sectors;
- Build a clean and equitable energy economy that prioritizes disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities and deployment activities, consistent with the Justice40 Initiative.

The use of these funds is broad and can support a variety of initiatives. As such, the Sustainability Coordinator is developing a list of potential uses that align with the CBS strategic goals, current staff capacity and needs, and that are feasible with the allotted funding. This list will be reviewed by the Sustainability Commission and a recommendation made for the use of the EECBG funds before it is taken to Assembly for approval and submittal by staff. The deadline for the EECBG application is April 30, 2024; once approved by DOE, the EECBG funds must be used within two years.





## **MISSION:**

To provide public services for Sitka that support a sustainable community for all.

# Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Community Scoping Survey Results

Prepared By: CBS Planning & Community Development Dept.  
March 1, 2024

**Survey Window:** November 28, 2023-February 29, 2024

**Responses:** 173\*

Online: 165

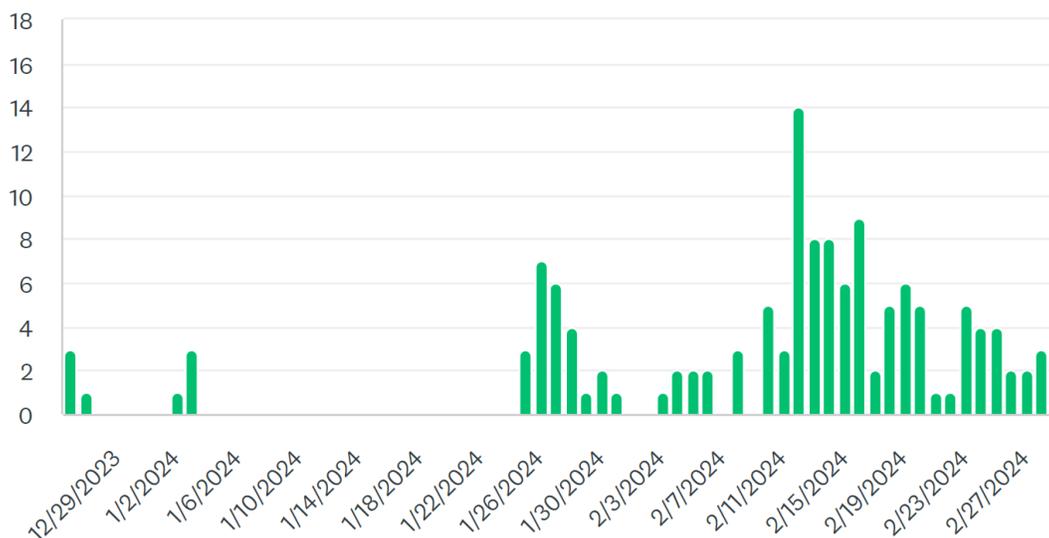
Paper: 8\*

\*Haven't yet picked up copies at the library

**Completion rate:** 82%

**Typical time spent:** 10m:24s

**Reponses over time**



*Qualitative results and visualizations are being processed*

*Thank you for your patience*

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Age	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=135
Prefer not to answer	4%
Under 18	0%
18 to 24	<1%
25 to 34	16%
35 to 44	16%
45 to 54	11%
55 to 64	19%
<b>65 and above</b>	<b>33%</b>

Housing Status	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=133
<b>Homeowner</b>	<b>77%</b>
Renter	20%
Liveaboard	3%

Gender	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=134
Prefer not to answer	7%
<b>Woman</b>	<b>46%</b>
Man	41%
Non-binary	2%
Self-describe	4%

Have lived in Sitka for...	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=135
Prefer not to answer	2%
<1 year	2%
2 to 5 years	7%
6 to 10 years	12%
<b>&gt;10 years</b>	<b>77%</b>

Were they a student?	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=128
K-12 student	0%
College student	2%
<b>No</b>	<b>98%</b>

Race	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=134
Prefer not to answer	10%
<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>79%</b>
Black or African American	<1%
Middle Eastern or North African	<1%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	2%
Asian or Asian American	2%
Native American, or Alaska Native	11%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
Prefer to self-describe	2%

Household income	
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=123
Less than \$24,999	6%
\$25,000-\$49,999	12%
\$50,000-\$74,999	13%
<b>\$75,000-\$99,999</b>	<b>28%</b>
\$100,000-\$124,999	16%
\$125,000-\$149,999	12%
\$150,000-\$174,999	6%
\$175,000-\$199,999	2%
More than \$200,000	6%

## Energy Attitudes

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Energy conservation is important to me.	2%	3%	10%	37%	49%	<b>4.29</b>
In my home, I take actions to conserve energy.	1%	2%	7%	47%	43%	<b>4.30</b>
I am not willing to conserve energy at my home if that comes at any cost to my comfort.	20%	43%	22%	8%	7%	<b>2.40</b>
I encourage my friends and family to make energy-conservation choices.	3%	10%	24%	45%	18%	<b>3.64</b>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a positive effect on the environment.	6%	8%	21%	37%	28%	<b>3.74</b>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a positive effect on my community's health.	4%	10%	14%	42%	31%	<b>3.86</b>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a positive effect on my utility bill.	4%	5%	13%	41%	37%	<b>4</b>
I think about my energy use every day.	1%	17%	19%	41%	21%	<b>3.65</b>
I am too busy to be concerned with my energy usage.	37%	42%	14%	6%	0%	<b>1.89</b>
It is too inconvenient to reduce my energy usage.	34%	48%	13%	5%	0%	<b>1.89</b>
It is too expensive to reduce my energy usage.	31%	31%	23%	14%	1%	<b>2.25</b>
I would do more to save energy if I knew how.	9%	10%	28%	43%	10%	<b>3.35</b>

### Homes are primarily heated by...

#### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES  
n=147

Electric- Resistance baseboard heaters	19%
Electric- Boiler/radiant heat	5%
<b>Electric- Heat pump(s) - if so, how many? (write in other)</b>	<b>19%</b>
Fuel Oil (Diesel)	18%
Propane	3%
Wood stove/fire place(s)	2%
I don't know	2%
Other (please specify)	31%

### Secondarily heated by...

#### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES  
n=142

<b>Electric- Resistance baseboard heaters</b>	<b>23%</b>
Electric- Boiler/radiant heat	3%
Electric- Heat pump(s) - if so, how many? (write in other)	2%
Fuel Oil (Diesel)	18%
<b>Propane</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Wood stove/fire place(s)</b>	<b>23%</b>
I don't know	5%
Other (please specify)	24%

### Kitchen cooktop is...

ANSWER CHOICES                      RESPONSES  
n=148

<b>Electric- Resistant Coils</b>	<b>44%</b>
Propane	29%
Electric- Induction	19%
I don't know	3%
Other (please specify)	5%

### Primary vehicle is...

ANSWER CHOICES                      RESPONSES  
n=148

<b>Gas powered (internal combustion engine)</b>	<b>68%</b>
Gas/Electric Hybrid	5%
All Electric Vehicle	19%
I use public transit	<1%
I don't have a vehicle	5%
I don't know	1%
Other (please specify)	1%

### Lights...

ANSWER CHOICES                      RESPONSES  
n=148

<b>LED</b>	<b>81%</b>
Florescent/CFL	6%
Incandescent	5%
Halogen	0%
I don't know	4%
Other (please specify)	4%

### Hot water is heated by...

ANSWER CHOICES                      RESPONSES  
n=148

<b>Electric boiler</b>	<b>54%</b>
Propane boiler	3%
Instant electric hot water heater	17%
Instant propane hot water heater	4%
Heat pump hot water heater	3%
I don't know	5%
Other (please specify)	14%

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I can explain where Sitka's electricity comes from.	<1%	4%	3%	48%	43%	<b>4.30</b>
I know how Sitka's electric grid gets electricity to where I live.	2%	16%	7%	44%	31%	<b>3.86</b>

### How much of Sitka's energy needs do you think is met by renewable energy?

#### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES  
n=139

0-20%	9%
21-40%	11%
41-60%	18%
61-80%	24%
<b>81-100%</b>	<b>37%</b>

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The city has a strong role to play in the community's energy efficiency.	3%	5%	13%	27%	51%	<b>4.18</b>
I believe that I can contribute to solving energy problems by making appropriate energy conservation choices and actions.	4%	6%	13%	52%	24%	<b>3.87</b>
The way I personally use energy does not really make a difference to the energy challenges that may face Sitka.	16%	38%	20%	17%	8%	<b>2.62</b>
I believe I have a voice in helping to impact energy policies.	8%	13%	27%	42%	10%	<b>3.33</b>

### Would you like to participate in community energy planning?

#### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	17%
No	35%
Maybe	48%

## What are you most interested in learning about over the next year?

### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES  
n=131

I am not interested in learning more about energy	10%
Energy efficiency	53%
Environmental impacts of energy actions	31%
Economic impacts of energy actions	37%
Energy trends	20%
Energy resources	29%
Energy safety	4%
<b>Renewable energy technologies</b>	<b>47%</b>
How to read my utility bill	11%
Sitka's electric grid	38%
Other (please specify)	11%

## When you have a question about energy, where do you go for information?

### ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES  
n=341

I am not interested in energy	4%
Through conversations with my friends and family	38%
Search engines (e.g. Google search)	65%
Scholarly research databases	23%
Online or print encyclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia)	15%
Personal social media feeds (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok)	4%
Government websites (CBS Website, Department of Energy)	46%
Professional or industry websites	23%
Non-profit agencies	23%
Other (please specify)	9%

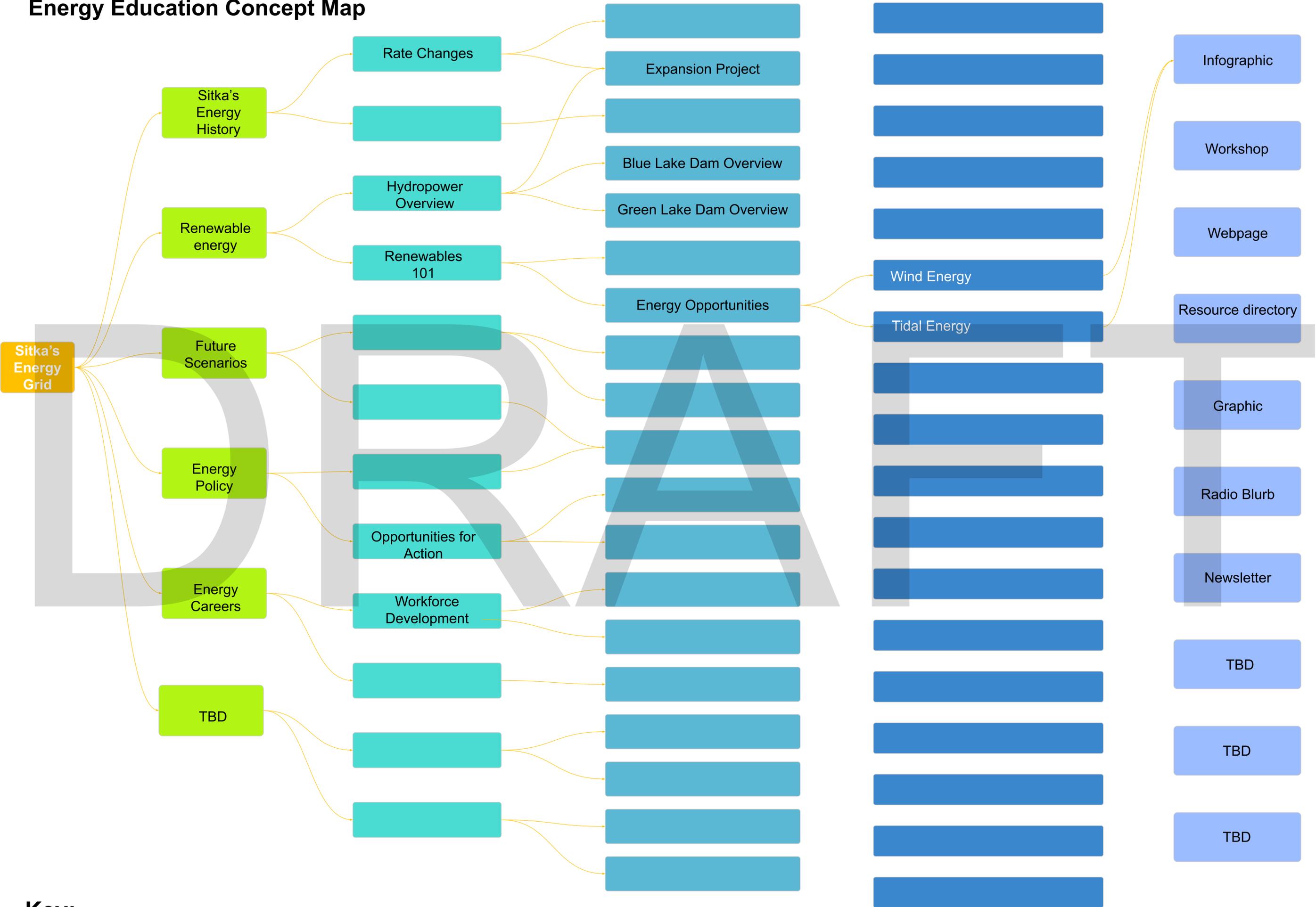
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES n=333
Attending in-person meetings and/or workshops	52%
Attending virtual meetings (Zoom) meetings and/or workshops	33%
A presentation to my community group or organization (please put name of group in the “other” comment box	13%
Engaging online via social media	17%
Watching video recordings	28%
<b>Reading information online</b>	<b>60%</b>
Listening to the radio	41%
Other (please specify)	8%

# Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy 3-Month Workplan

## Schedule:

Description	March		April		May	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
<b>Energy Education</b>						
Survey analysis	█					
Energy history information collection	█	█				
Concept map		█				
Module finalization and schedule			█			
Sitka's Energy Background Module development			█	█		
Feedback on Sitka Energy Module from Commission					█	
<b>Community Engagement</b>						
Continue developing engagement strategy/network	█	█	█	█		
Deliver module 1					█	█
<b>GHG inventory</b>						
Initial parameter discussion	█	█				
Commission parameter discussion/work session			█			
<b>Scenario Planning</b>						
Initial scenario discussion	█	█				
Scenario commission discussion/ work session			█			
Scenario community pilot					█	█

# Energy Education Concept Map



**Key:**

- Module Category
- Module Topic
- Module Subtopic
- Deliverable Focus
- Dissemination Method