

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Agenda Sustainability Commission

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

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Gerry Hope

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, June 3, 2024

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the May 6, 2024 minutes.

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

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sitka Tribe of Alaska Grid Resiliency Formula Grant Public Hearing

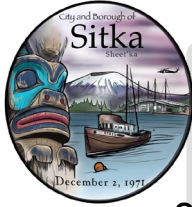
B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy May and June Deliverables

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 Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Gerry Hope

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Present: Aurora Taylor (Acting Chair), Elizabeth Bagley (left at 7:07 P.M.) , Lilli Garza (left at 7:30 P.M.), Gerry Hope (arrived at 7:06 P.M.), Erik de Jong

Absent: Katie Riley (excused), Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Technical Team: Molly Grear, Andrea Mott

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the April 1, 2024 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the April 1, 2024 minutes.

Motion PASSED by 4-0 voice vote.

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

None.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Tongass Forest Management Plan Revision Comments Draft Letter

Taylor summarized the item's purpose on behalf of Riley who provided the original draft and explained that the purpose of the letter was to provide context to federal officials unfamiliar with Southeast Alaska as they began the revision of the Tongass Forest Management Plan for the first time in 30 years. Gabel

indicated that as a multi-year process, it was likely the Commission would be approached again to make more specific comments. The Commission discussed edits proposed by Taylor.

Bagley moved to approve the Tongass Forest Revision Comments Draft Letter as written and amended through Commission discussion.

Motion PASSED by 4-0 voice vote.

B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Scopes

De Jong summarized the work that he, Gabel, and the technical team had done over the previous month. Technical team members Molly Grear and Andrea Mott answered Commissioner questions regarding the purpose of each of the scopes, what they included, and how they were typically used. The technical team requested that Commission approve the proposed scope one emission sources and associated calculation methodology so they could begin calculating the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Garza moved to approve the methodology for scope one emission sources as proposed by the Pacific Northwest National Lab.

Motion PASSED 4-0 by voice vote.

Gabel suggested that the Commission draft objectives to help the technical team understand how scope three emissions were intended to be used so they could best propose methodology to meet the needs of the Commission. Since solid waste and recycling was considered scope three, de Jong drafted objectives explaining the use of the data obtained from that source. Gabel requested that if the Commission was satisfied with these objectives, they approve them so the technical team could begin calculations.

GHG Emissions Inventory Scope 3 Objectives: Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Calculate an emission factor for Sitka's unique waste stream that combines the EPA standard value for waste processing and transportation of waste.
2. Differentiate between landfilled solid waste and recyclable waste emission factors.

Objectives 1 and 2 will facilitate:

3. Establishing a GHG emissions reduction goal related to waste.
4. Identifying actions for the community and City to reduce emissions and meet reduction goal.

Garza moved to approve the objectives for scope three: recycling and solid waste emissions as written above.

Motion PASSED 4-0 by voice vote.

Gabel explained that the other requested scope three sources: air travel, shipping, and cruise would likely require more discussion before the technical team could propose methodology. The Commission requested that the technical team, de Jong, and Gabel draft objectives for those emission sources for review at the next meeting.

C. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy April and May Deliverables

Gabel summarized the work that had been completed by the technical team in April. She presented the module learning objectives, and engagement methods proposed by the team. She explained the purpose of the objectives was to give the technical team metrics to measure success against and ensure alignment with the key questions of the education modules.

Garza expressed gratitude that comments previously made by the Commission had clearly been reflected in the proposed learning objectives document. Bagley inquired about how the objectives would translate to educational materials and how the team was planning on measuring success.

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 attended the Sustainable Southeast Partnership retreat.

Chair: Acting Chair Taylor also attended the Sustainable Southeast Partnership and announced her new position as a grants specialist in Alaska State Representative, Mary Peltola's office.

Commissioners: Hope summarized his conversations regarding electric vehicles with Gabel and Riley, research avenues regarding free, public EV charging stations, and how he hoped the Commission could further efforts to bring these to Sitka.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

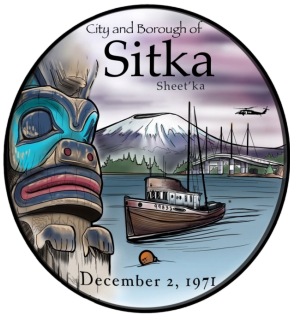
The next meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 7:38 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: May 31, 2024
Subject: **Sitka Tribe of Alaska Grid Resiliency Formula Grant Public Hearing**

Background

The Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants program, authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is designed to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis.

The program will distribute funding to states, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations, over five years based on a formula that includes factors such as population size, land area, probability and severity of disruptive events, and a locality's historical expenditures on mitigation efforts. The states, territories, and tribes will then award these funds to a diverse set of projects, with priority given to efforts that generate the greatest community benefit providing clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Through this program, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) has been allocated \$149,979.00. In order to utilize these funds, STA must subgrant these funds to an electric utility, CBS.

Analysis

CBS and STA staff have discussed potential projects that this funding could support. However, no commitment to a specific project has been made at this point. It is the intent of CBS to use these funds to support budgeted projects and align the funds with the criteria, objectives, and methods outlined below in addition to further discussion with STA. Some potential projects could include but are not limited to purchase of equipment such as transformers or design work on the Thimbleberry Bypass project.

STA is required to match 15% of the amount under this program and CBS will be required to match 100% of the amount provided. CBS anticipates meeting this match requirement through aligning the funding with budgeted projects that meet the criteria co-developed with STA.

Public Hearing Information

As part of the application, STA is required to undertake a public hearing to review the criteria and methods they anticipate using to grant awards to eligible entities and the proposed funding distributions. The CBS Sustainability Coordinator proposed holding the hearing during the Sustainability Commission's regular meeting time. The following methods, provisional objectives and metrics, and criteria have been drafted for public comment.

Methods:

To continue consistent utilization of its renewable energy currently provided by its two hydroelectric projects, increasing the resiliency of its current grid system is an immediate concern. The majority of the transmission and distribution system is approaching 45 years and is at the end of its useful life. As it continues to age, the distribution of Sitka's current energy production, let alone any future sources, is jeopardized. The aging transmission and distribution infrastructure has been identified as a high risk for Sitka's long term grid resiliency and reliability.

As a municipally owned utility, the CBS Electric Department has unique ways to engage the community. While a project of this nature would typically fall solely to an electric utility, thanks to its history of collaboration, the CBS Public and Government Relations Director and the CBS Sustainability Coordinator will work closely with STA and the CBS Electric Department to facilitate city-wide communications and develop community engagement strategies respectively. By leveraging the CBS Sustainability Commission and other community stakeholders, the STA and CBS plan to extend this collaboration well outside its expected boundaries to ensure that the benefits from this project are amplified throughout the community.

Objectives and Metrics:

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska, in partnership with the City and Borough of Sitka, has established the following objectives and supporting metrics to guide decisions involving resilience investments made in conjunction with this grant.

Objective #1: Replace outdated and/or failing energy infrastructure items and materials serving Tribal communities. These outdated and/or failing items and materials add to the volatility of the electric grid infrastructure and to the frequency of power outages and infrastructure failures experienced by the Tribe.

Metrics (Provisional):

- Frequency (occurrences per year) of electricity service disruptions of one hour or more to critical facilities and/or residences and businesses
- Number of components and systems replaced
- Average age of item and/or material used in current electric grid operation (by category)

Objective #2: Ensure that critical community facilities that serve Tribal citizens are not impacted by events such as extreme weather conditions or other events that may cause disruption to normal grid operations. Critical community facilities include buildings such as Tribal headquarters and health care facilities, as well as residential homes.

Metrics (Provisional):

- Frequency (occurrences per year) of electricity service disruptions of one hour or more to critical facilities and/or residential areas
- Number of hours/days critical facilities are closed due to lack of electricity

Objective #3: Address energy burden in disadvantaged Tribal communities by assuring a more reliable electricity service. Burdens are caused by frequent power outages resulting from inadequate electricity distribution infrastructure.

Metrics (Provisional):

- Frequency (occurrences per year) of electricity service disruptions of one hour or more to residences and businesses
- Number of occurrences within a community impacted by power outages of one hour or more in any year

Objective #4: Invest in modernization of the grid infrastructure, enabling consumer access to Sitka’s renewable energy generation capabilities, supporting diverse businesses.

Metrics (Provisional):

- Number of jobs created following the investment in modernizing the grid infrastructure
- Number of Tribe-owned businesses created and supported by renewable energy

Criteria:

Top priority will be given to resilience upgrades that:

- Benefit the most Tribal citizens
- Best serve low-income and energy-burdened Tribal citizens
- Addresses aging electric infrastructure
- Best advance the economic vitality of the Tribe by creating opportunities for new economic development that utilizes Sitka’s renewable electricity resources

Anticipated Community Benefits:

A Decrease in Energy Burden

Offsetting the cost of critical capital grid equipment through the successful award of this grant directly reduces the cost burden borne by ratepayers, i.e., all energy consumers in Sitka. Low-income households are disproportionately impacted by rate increases, as energy costs represent a greater percentage of household spending.

A Decrease in Environmental Exposure and Burdens

Increasing grid resiliency ensures the availability of decarbonized energy in Sitka. Without it, homes would have to provide supplemental generation through the burning of carbon-based energy which results in harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air-quality impacts.

Increases in Energy Democracy, Community Ownership of Energy Assets

Increasing grid resiliency ensures the availability of community owned, decarbonized energy in Sitka. Without it, CBS would likely have to provide supplemental generation through carbon-based energy, decreasing community-owned, democratically controlled energy

sources in Sitka.

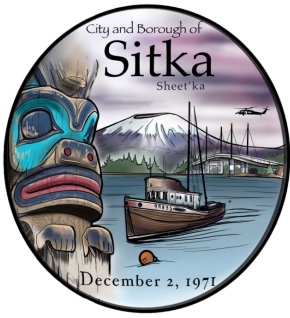
Benefitting Community: All Sitka energy consumers, approximately 1/3 of Sitka households currently considered energy cost burdened (6% or more of income spent on energy), approximately 1/4 of Sitka households currently considered severely energy cost burdened (10% or more of income spent on energy).

Next Steps

STA and CBS staff are collaborating to prepare the application. STA will be the applicant in with CBS as the sub-grantee electric utility. Approval for the Municipal Administrator to request these funds is currently slated for the June 11th, 2024 Assembly Meeting.

Recommendation

Review the methods, objectives and metrics, and criteria proposed and provide input as necessary. No formal action from the Commission is needed.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: May 31, 2024
Subject: Discussion/Direction/Decision on Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy May and June Deliverables

Background

At the April 1st, 2024 meeting, the Sustainability Commission agreed to pilot the following working schedule to allow Commissioners more flexibility to engage with specific deliverables they deem of personal interest or importance while allowing the technical team enough autonomy to continue developing materials at a pace that will ensure the educational component of the SCRES is delivered promptly and efficiently.

May Work Status

Ready for approval:

- No approval requested at this time

Input requested:

- Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) activity (during work session)

Recommendation

- Participate in the work session and provide feedback on the TSP for SCRES development

Proposed Work in June

- Finalize Education Modules 1-3; aiming to publish end of June
- Transformative Scenario Planning: Commission feedback and pilot planning
- Plan “Energy Week” (July 8-12) Parks and Rec Camp collaboration
- Brainstorm “low effort” engagement strategies for SCRES

POSSIBLE MOTION(S)

No motions are anticipated.