



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2019 - MAY 2020

This report summarizes the activities of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) during the past year.

I. HIGHLIGHTS – Actions Undertaken by JCOS

The Commission and its committees met regularly until the Covid-19 emergency shut down its meetings in mid-March through May, 2020. Some individual work continued during the Spring as reflected below, and JCOS resumed its meetings on June 10, 2020.

- Assisted CBJ Capital Transit in its successful \$5 million 2020 federal grant application for additional electric buses and charging infrastructure by gathering 14 public support letters from a range of Juneau organizations.
- Drafted the Mayor’s letter supporting the proposed Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort, which would provide Juneau with technical assistance to strengthen its adaptive capacity and ability to implement climate actions over time.
- Provided a letter of support for the Alaska Energy Authority’s grant application to the US Dept. of Energy for technical assistance to implement the State of Alaska’s EV Charging Network and Fleet Adoption project.
- Drafted the Mayor’s proclamation *50/50/50 Day – April 22, 2020*, which celebrates 50 years of Earth Day, 50 years of Sea Week, and State of Alaska’s policy calling for 50% renewable energy by 2025.
- Provided comments to the Visitor Industry Task Force on “Clean Port” incentives to reduce traffic congestion, replace plastic bottle with reusables, and replace single-use plastic bags with *Juneau* (marketing) reusable shopping bags. Also submitted information on dock electrification.
- In January 2020, recommended to the Assembly that then-anticipated FY21 Marine Passenger Fees be used to create bid-ready documents for Berth 16B dock electrification as part of a comprehensive dock electrification action plan.
- In December 2019, recommended several projects for then-anticipated FY2021 CIP funding focused on the *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy* (JRES) – CBJ energy costs tracking and benchmarking energy use in CBJ facilities, research on energy efficiency

financing for Juneau private and public buildings, continued electrification of CBJ vehicle fleets, and community EV charging infrastructure. Also recommended strategy for solid waste volume reduction to Juneau landfill, and continued work on dock shore power infrastructure and facilities.

- Provided recommendations to the Assembly for its 2020 Community Sustainability goals – 1) continued work to implement the JRES in transportation, buildings, CBJ energy management, and long-term planning on energy demand and supplies; 2) identification of impacts of climate change on Juneau’s infrastructure and utilities; and 3) solid waste reduction, recycling and landfill diversion strategies.
- Hosted a Sustainability Session (October 30, 2019) with Tlingit Haida Central Council staff presenting its *Climate Adaptation Plan*, which begins to identify climate impacts in Southeast Alaska, with an initial focus on salmon, cedar, and shellfish resources.
- Prepared a summary of recent/ongoing work in 2020 and “go forward” recommendations on implementation of the JRES for Assembly Public Works/Facilities Committee, City Manager, and Engineering & Public Works Dept Director.
- Developed a new, more informative JCOS website.
- Advocated for and secured modest CBJ funding as partial support for an UAS update of the 2007 report: *Climate Change: Predicted Impacts on Juneau*

II. 2020 PRIORITIES BY JCOS COMMITTEE

The Commission held its annual retreat on January 18, 2020 to identify goals and strategies for the calendar year while at the same time cognizant of the CBJ Assembly’s 2020 goals. The Commission established four Committees to address its 2020 priorities:

Energy Committee— Steve Behnke (Chair), Gretchen Keiser, Anjuli Grantham, Duff Mitchell

- Support, research and assist electrification of transportation (Juneau EV plan and charging infrastructure, federal grants for electric buses, cruise ship dock electrification)
- Support, research and assist in reducing fossil fuel use in buildings through energy efficiency and electrification of space heating (Alaska Heat Smart heat pump program and use of forthcoming energy data)
- Support, research and assist staff in the development of a CBJ Energy Management Program (project to “benchmark”/consolidate energy use data for CBJ facilities and operations; energy tracking structure and software)
- Begin to identify incremental steps to achieve 80% renewable energy by 2045

Solid Waste Committee – Lisa Daugherty (Chair), Anjuli Grantham, Ed King, Duff Mitchell

- Research and identify recommendations for waste reduction to landfill
- Identify actionable pilot projects (food waste; cost-effective recycling) and partner

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- with local groups
 - Undertake public education

Outreach Committee - Christine Woll (Chair), Jim Powell, Gretchen Keiser, Lisa Daugherty

- Continue and expand Sustainability Sessions - solid waste reductions/composting, energy, other community topics
- Develop Sustainability Awards process for Assembly consideration
- Maintain new JCOS website and post success stories

Sustainability Indicators and Impacts Committee -Jim Powell (Chair), Duff Mitchell, Ed King

- Identify measurable sustainability indicators
- Collaborate to integrate sustainability indicators into Comprehensive Plan revision
- Support and assist UAS in its update of the 2007 report on the impact of climate change on Juneau
- Develop Sustainability Awards process with JCOS Outreach Committee

III. OVERVIEW OF JCOS

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability, established by the Assembly in 2007, researches and advises the CBJ on community sustainability. The Commission's mission is to promote the economic, social, environmental, and governmental well-being of Juneau and all its inhabitants, now and in the future.

The Commission's powers and duties are to:

- *Coordinate, propose, and promote sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, government, and non-governmental agencies and education organizations through education and outreach programs;*
- *Make recommendations to the Juneau Assembly and CBJ Boards and Commissions on policies and programs that promote sustainability;*
- *Research and apply for grants or other funds or CIPs from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of the resolution establishing the commission;*
- *Serve as an advisory group to the CBJ in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to target levels as adopted by the CBJ Assembly and;*
- *Act as liaison between the public and the CBJ Assembly on sustainability-related issues.*

The JCOS is charged with additional duties from the Assembly when it adopted *Juneau's Climate Action and Implementation Plan* (CBJ Resolution 2593; November 14, 2011).

Membership

The 11-member Commission includes nine public members appointed by the Assembly, and one non-voting member each of the Assembly and the Planning Commission. The Commission is supported by CBJ/CDD staff liaisons. The Commission’s membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interests of sustainability.

The JCOS members currently serving are:

Member	Term Expires	Member	Term Expires
<i>Gretchen Keiser</i>	6/30/2021, Chair	<i>Anjuli Grantham</i>	6/30/2021, Vice Chair
<i>Christine Woll</i>	6/30/2020, Secretary	<i>Duff Mitchell</i>	Past Chair, 6/30/2022
<i>Edward King</i>	6/30/2020	<i>Steve Behnke</i>	6/30/2021
<i>Jim Powell</i>	6/30/2020	<i>John Smith III</i>	6/30/2022
<i>Lisa Daugherty</i>	6/30/2022		
<i>Alicia Hughes-Skandjics</i>	CBJ Assembly Liaison (non-voting member)	<i>Erik Pedersen</i>	Planning Commission Liaison (non-voting member)
<i>Tim Felstead</i>	CBJ Staff Liaison	<i>Beth McKibben</i>	CBJ Staff Liaison

The JCOS thanks Commissioner Duff Mitchell for his leadership for three years as Chair and two years as Vice-Chair.

Also, JCOS thanks others who served on the Commission during the past year:

- Assembly Liaison:** Michelle Hale
- Planning Commission Liaison:** Mike Levine
- Public Members:** Jim Rehfeldt, Iura Leahu

Meetings and JCOS Committees

The Commission holds its regular meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month. JCOS Committees meet at monthly work sessions, usually the 4th Wednesday of each month. For this report’s time period, the Commission held nine regular commission meetings, one special meeting, numerous work sessions, and the aforementioned annual retreat.

For additional background about the Commission, see Attachment 1.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019-20

A. Implementation of the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy

A continuing JCOS priority for 2019-2020 was advocating for implementation of the *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy* (2018), and related areas in the *Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan* (2011) – both adopted by the CBJ Assembly. It should be noted that the Assembly’s 2019 goals included “develop and implement a CBJ energy management program” and “implement Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy”.

The JCOS Energy Committee is tasked with providing recommendations, and assistance when requested, to CBJ Assembly and staff on implementation of the four strategic areas of JRES:

1. Implement a CBJ energy management program
2. Reduce Juneau’s dependence on fossil fuels for space heating
3. Reduce Juneau’s dependence on fossil fuels for transportation
4. Support efforts to provide new renewable energy supplies

The Energy Committee appreciates the Assembly’s goal setting and also the FY20 CIP and grant funds directed toward JRES implementation for: partial (energy) staffing in Engineering & Public Works Dept (E&PW), a community EV planning contract, EV charging infrastructure, and a residential heat pump conversion project by Alaska Heat Smart. As noted previously in the Highlights section of this report, JCOS recommended FY21 CIP funding for CBJ energy management projects, research on energy efficiency financing options for Juneau buildings, and continued electrification of CBJ’s vehicle fleet and community EV charging infrastructure.

1. CBJ Energy Management

The goal of this initiative is for CBJ to develop a comprehensive energy management program that allows for systematic consideration of energy use and costs in decision-making at all levels to identify potential energy savings. Internal actions by CBJ can also provide “success stories” as models for the public and private sectors.

JCOS has repeatedly offered recommendations and assistance on incremental steps that could be taken to get this effort underway. Key starting points are 1) to develop a system for tracking and reporting energy use and costs by facility and program, and 2) to consolidate recent CBJ energy data as a “benchmark” in order to document and target cost-effective energy efficiencies going forward.

JCOS Energy Committee members met with Director Mike Vigue E&PW about the partial staffing for Energy/JRES work, but subsequent departmental staffing changes have stalled

this effort in FY20.

Later in the year, Commissioners encouraged routine consideration of sustainability when CIP projects are proposed and developed. As noted in previous years, the JCOS believes that the CBJ is missing significant opportunities to save money, increase transparency and improve public support for CBJ programs by failing to systematically include information on energy use and expenditures in the CIP.

2. Space Heating and Buildings

Over the past year, JCOS liaisons have continued to participate in the development of the Juneau Heat Pump Conversion project and the creation of the Alaska Heat Smart nonprofit organization. Under CBJ funding, Alaska Heat Smart launched the heat pump project in late October, 2019. Through May 2020, the project has assisted over 100 Juneau homeowners, and Juneau-specific heat pump calculations indicate an average savings of 42% in annual heating costs. The typical Juneau household heating system conversion will avoid 10,000 lbs. of CO₂ – the amount emitted by the average U.S. car.

JCOS is gaining useful information, through a collaboration among Alaska Heat Smart, Cold Climate Housing Research Center at UAF, and Alaska Energy Light & Power, under US Dept of Energy funding, that in part focuses on energy efficient heating in multi-family housing in Juneau. JCOS continues to work with the full range of groups involved in energy efficiency and heating, including a coordinated effort on electrification of heating loads.

3. Transportation: Electric Vehicles

The JCOS has advocated for electric vehicles (EV) and charging infrastructure for more than six years, helping to provide information and promote electric vehicle adoption in the community. Unlike many communities that rely either on private industry or government to provide public EV charging infrastructure, Juneau has benefitted from collaborative private-public partnerships.

Juneau is a leading EV adopting community and is one of the fastest growing EV communities in America. In the past 6 years, the number of electric vehicles has grown to over 500, with 1 to 2 new electric vehicles arriving in Juneau weekly. According to a 2019 report by Experian Information Solutions, which examined all EV sales, Juneau ranked 3rd in the Nation.

The JCOS Energy Committee drafted an EV plan outline in 2018 to contribute to meeting the JRES Transportation goal (“Why Juneau should support EVs, and why the CBJ should adopt an EV plan” draft).

JCOS continues to support efforts to acquire electric buses, both by the city and private companies. In February 2020, JCOS assisted Capital Transit staff developing a 2020 federal Lo-No grant by gathering 14 letters of support from a variety of Juneau organizations. Recently, it was announced that Juneau was awarded a \$5 million grant for more electric

buses to be delivered beginning in 2022.

4. New Renewable Energy Supplies

JCOS's focus in this area is to help share information about the status of renewable energy supplies and projects in Juneau. As proposals to meet the other JRES goals through electrification of heating and transportation are developed, there is a need for better information about electricity supply, demand and costs, which is provided by the industry. JCOS sees its role as helping to make this information available to the public.

B. Solid Waste

JCOS formed a new Solid Waste Committee at its January 2020 retreat because of the ongoing issues and efforts regarding the Juneau landfill's lifespan, recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Before the March 2020 lockdown, the Solid Waste Committee began meeting with CBJ staff and an interested Assembly member to understand the current circumstances, needs, and challenges. The Committee intends to continue its research, gather information, and make recommendations to the Assembly Public Works and Facilities Committee later this year. As conditions allow, the Committee may hold a virtual sustainability session to educate the public about Juneau's solid waste challenges and opportunities.

C. Outreach and Public Education

1. Website

With cooperation from CBJ staff, the JCOS Outreach Committee completed a full redesign of the Sustainable Juneau website with relevant sustainability resources for Juneau, including those produced by JCOS. The goal has been to make it easier to navigate and aesthetically pleasing. The new website went live June 2019. JCOS has also been active in using their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableJuneau>) for announcing upcoming events hosted by JCOS and in the Juneau community and sharing local, national, and global stories relevant for JCOS stakeholders.

2. Sustainability Sessions

The sustainability sessions are intended to raise public awareness, discourse and education about sustainability topics relevant to Juneau. The Outreach Committee organized one sustainability session during this reporting period:

Climate Adaptation Plan presented by Tlingit Haida Central Council staff based on ongoing information they are collecting on the effects of climate change throughout Southeast Alaska. THCC staff noted that habitat conditions are changing due to warming water temperatures, increasing ocean acidity, and isostatic rebound. About 30 people attended the session.

3. Sustainability Awards

Under the lead of the JCOS Sustainability Indicators and Impacts Committee, the Outreach Committee began developing a Sustainability Awards process.

D. Sustainability Indicators and Impacts

1. Sustainability Awards

Drawing on models in other municipalities, the Sustainability Committee began developing a Sustainability Awards concept, whereby a community individual, organization, business, or agency would be recognized for their efforts that achieve sustainability addressing a resilient economy, climate change and adaptation, energy efficiency in the built environment, public policy, natural ecosystems, transportation, solid waste reduction, food security, or public/community health. The JCOS would solicit and review applications and make a recommendation to the Assembly, which would select the annual award recipient.

2. Update 2007 Predictions of Climate Change Impacts

The JCOS Sustainability Committee, in collaboration with the UAS School of Arts and Sciences has reviewed the 2007 Report with the intent to update it based on the latest information and understanding. Initial meetings with UAS faculty collaborators have been held, and three graduate students from the UAS Master of Public Administration program worked on the social and economic sections of the revised report. CBJ has contributed \$5,000 to UAS to help support UAS's collaboration and leadership in updating the report.

ATTACHMENT 1: History of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability

The governing legislation for the Juneau Commission on Sustainability is CBJ Resolution 2401am, July 9, 2007. The policy and purpose of the Commission incorporated the mission of the former Juneau Energy Advisory Committee, which was also repealed by Resolution 2401am. The Commission's 2010 sunset date was removed by CBJ Resolution 2528, May 19, 2010.

The membership structure of the Commission was altered in 2015. Resolution 2755; February 5, 2015 renewed the Commission and repealed an earlier Resolution 2718. The Planning Commission and Assembly Liaison members are now non-voting members and do not count towards a quorum.

In the past, many persons have actively served on the Commission:

Public Member: Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Kaley Bangston, Bob Bellagh, Kate Bevegni, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Amy Condra, Robert Deering, Susan Ely, Catherine Fritz, Myrna Gardner, Clint Gundelfinger, Dave Hanna, Lauren Heine, Scott Jackson, Zane Jones, Jonathan Kamler, Linda Kruger, Iura Leahu, Jeni Lefing, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Jim Rehfeldt, Sally Schlichting, Amy Skilbred, Kate Troll, Sara Truit, Greg Smith, Nancy Waterman, , Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood, Lisa Weissler.

Assembly Liaison: Bob Doll, Karen Crane, Mary Becker, Jerry Nankervis, Kate Troll, Maria Gladziszewski, Rob Edwardson, Michelle Hale.

Planning Commission Liaison: Dan Miller, Nancy Waterman, Nicole Grewe, Ben Haight, Mike Levine.

CBJ Staff Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski.

Previous JCOS Chair: Gayle Wood, Sarah Lewis, Sandy Boyce, Sean Lynch, Alida Bus, Nancy Waterman, Kate Troll, Lisa Weissler, Steve Behnke, Duff Mitchell.

Over the years, JCOS worked on several aspects of community sustainability through several past committees, including: Food Security (2016-2018; 2009-2011) Climate Action Plan Implementation (2012), Sustainability Indicators (2010-2012), Initiatives (2012), Energy (2014-2015), Energy/Greenhouse Gas (2009-2011), Solid Waste (2014-2016), Sustainability Chapter/Comprehensive Plan Update (2014), Built Environment, City Operations, and Transportation; Outreach /Accountability(2014-2015).