



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2021 - MAY 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) has been engaged and productive this past year. Much of the Commission's work is researched and drafted by its committees, and the full Commission conducted 12 regular monthly meetings, numerous work sessions, two special meetings, and a January 2022 annual retreat.

The JCOS charter, and resolutions for the *Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan* (2011) and *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy* (2018), identify its duties¹:

1. promotion of sustainability in the community,
2. recommendations to the Assembly and other boards and commissions on policies and programs,
3. research and applying for grants,
4. advising CBJ staff on GHG emission reductions, and
5. acting as a liaison between the community and Assembly on sustainability-related issues.

Sustainability, as defined in JCOS's charter, encompasses economic, social, environmental, and local government components.

II. HIGHLIGHTS – JCOS Priorities, Accomplishments and Pending Work

A. PRIORITY - ENERGY

1. Transportation

a. **JCOS Actions: Juneau Dock Electrification**

- provided detailed recommendations and suggested text and analysis for improved 2022 Juneau Dock Electrification RAISE Grant Application.
- submitted detailed comments and recommendations on CBJ *Dock Electrification Study* draft report.
- recommended use of Marine Passenger Fees (MPFs) in 2022 for 16B docks

¹ <https://juneau.org/community-development/jcos>

electrification, and raised questions about what the proposed replacement of Franklin Dock aging shore power equipment buys Juneau with respect to overall waterfront electrification.

- identified Dock Electrification as a community project for CBJ's *2022 Legislative Priorities* list.

b. JCOS Actions: Electric Vehicles

- for the fifth year, gathered community letters of support (including JCOS) for Capital Transit's successful \$1.4M FTA grant application for on-route electric bus charging equipment at the new Valley Transit Center.
- advocated for a downtown electric bus circulator as a use of MPFs (which City Mgr recommended) and as a candidate for a 2022 FTA Lo-No grant application (which was not pursued).
- provided public education and community awareness on EVs (see Outreach below).
- investigated the Alaska Energy Authority's as-yet unfulfilled allocation of VW Settlement funds committed in 2019 for EV charging infrastructure in SE Alaska.

c. JCOS Pending Work

- continue to collaborate with CBJ staff on electrification of Juneau's waterfront.
- advocate with AEA to fund EV charging equipment in interested SE communities – both VW settlement and federal Infrastructure Bill monies.

2. Space Heating

a. JCOS Action: Federal Grant Opportunity

- conducted research on Juneau housing and provided a letter of support for Alaska Heat Smart's successful \$2M HUD (3-year) grant for energy efficiency improvements to lower income housing.

b. JCOS Actions: Financing for Commercial Building Energy Upgrades

- successfully petitioned the Alaska Energy Authority to complete legal research and documents preparation for potential C-PACE financing program in Juneau for JCOS presentation to the City Manager and Assembly later this year.
- advocated for continued CBJ support to Alaska Heat Smart for base operational funding in FY2023.

3. CBJ Energy Management

a. JCOS Actions: Energy Use in CBJ Facilities

- provided a review (and accolades) on CBJ's first *Annual Sustainability Report*.

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- followed up with CBJ staff and consultants on energy efficiency components to renovations to the Glacier Valley Fire Station and Centennial Hall.
 - after advocating attention for years, applauded CBJ staff actions to track and reduce energy consumption by establishing an energy data base for approx. 30 CBJ facilities.
 - recommended exemptions from LEED certification for two CBJ projects – Centennial Hall Ballroom Renovation and BRH Emergency Dept Addition & Renovation. Also offered to work with CBJ staff to re-examine the 2011 LEED ordinance and current “green” building certification programs.

4. Implementation of the Juneau Climate Action Plan and the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy

a. JCOS Actions

- actively monitor and advocate for JRES progress to help the Assembly meet its sustainability goals and the community’s expectations.
- worked with E&PW Dept to develop a scope of work for pending contract with Dynamhex to 1) obtain an updated Juneau’s energy use inventory (2010) and 2) provide an interactive model that will inform CBJ, community, and individual decision making on best ways to reduce GHG emissions.
- provided specific sustainability recommendations to the Assembly for its annual retreat goals-setting.
- after advocating for years, applauded the inclusion of sustainability as a criterion now part of written CBJ staff submittals for projects under the annual CIP process.
- submitted recommendations for several CIP projects that address the community’s long-term sustainability: zero waste, downtown electric bus circulator, energy data inventory, community EV adoption, energy efficiency upgrades to CBJ facilities, district heating planning, and climate change adaptation assessment.
- submitted suggested projects that further Juneau’s goal of 80% renewable energy by 2045 for the 1% temporary sale tax extension ballot proposition.

b. JCOS Pending Work

- continue to actively participate in Energy Use/Greenhouse Gas Inventory project with E&PW.
- Submit suggested projects that further Juneau’s goal of 80% renewable energy by 2045 for the 1% sales tax ballot proposition.
- investigate job descriptions and benefits to municipalities elsewhere of having a Sustainability Coordinator on staff and present concept to CBJ.

B. PRIORITY - FOOD & LOCAL RESOURCE RECOVERY (formerly Solid Waste)

a. JCOS Actions

- presented information on Zero Waste concept to Assembly PWFC, and advocated for Assembly goal and FY2023 funding to undertake a public engagement/consulting effort to identify long-range approach and solutions.
- advocated for a waste reduction & waste diversion “placeholder” in the 1% sales tax projects (for pending October 2022 election) to implement zero waste efforts.

b. JCOS Pending Work

- initiated contacts for tour of the City of Whitehorse waste management facility and staff meeting (June 2022) to consider successes/failures of the City’s waste planning.
- research waste reduction/diversion grant funding opportunities.
- investigate/promote use of public land for local agriculture and resource recovery sites.

C. PRIORITY - OUTREACH

1. Public Education and Community Awareness

a. JCOS Actions

- Developed and co-hosted a five-part AARP-JCOS Sustainability webinar series during spring 2022 on: carbon footprint/community action, green homes/buildings, electric transportation, reducing carbon footprint of food & waste, and resiliency – mental health & climate change.
- conducted a JCOS Sustainability Session on EVs – technology and investigating additional public charging stations in Juneau.
- drafted for the mayor two energy-related proclamations – Juneau EV Road Rally (September 2021) and Earth Day/Litter Free (April 2022).
- maintained a website under the CBJ/CDD and also has a Facebook page. Sustainability sessions are recorded and posted, as are JCOS reports, meeting minutes, and useful articles.

2. Collaboration with AK municipalities

a. JCOS Actions

- regularly participated in bimonthly Zoom meetings of the Alaska Municipal Climate Network of local elected officials, staff, and advocates around the state to share information and actions.
- provided information about JCOS governance, duties, and priorities to Sitka climate

action task force which may be remade as a sustainability commission by local officials.

b. JCOS Pending Work

- restart initiative to present to the Assembly the concept of an annual Sustainability Award to honor an individual, organization, business or agency that takes substantial action to further Juneau’s sustainability and resilience.

D. PRIORITY - CLIMATE IMPACTS/SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

a. JCOS Action

- continued editorial work to finalize the *Juneau Climate Impacts* Report – a collaborative effort by UAF and UAS scientists and others.

b. JCOS Pending Work

- develop and promote sustainability indicators/metrics as part of CBJ Comprehensive Plan update in FY2023.

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.

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 a CBJ/CDD staff liaison. 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>	6/30/2024, Chair	<i>Anjuli Grantham</i>	6/30/2024, Vice Chair
<i>Lisa Daugherty</i>	6/30/2022	<i>Duff Mitchell</i>	6/30/2022
<i>Danielle Meeker</i>	6/30/2023, Secretary	<i>Steve Behnke</i>	6/30/2024

Jim Powell	6/30/2023	Colin Peacock	6/30/2022
David Teal	6/30/2023		
Carole Triem	CBJ Assembly Liaison (non-voting member)	Paul Voelckers	Planning Commission Liaison (non-voting member)
Beth McKibben	CBJ Staff Liaison		

Also, JCOS thanks Assembly Liaison Alicia Hughes-Skanjes who served on the Commission during the past year.

For additional background about the Commission, see Attachment 1.

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, Ed King, Linda Kruger, Iura Leahu, Jeni Lefing, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Jim Rehfeldt, Sally Schlichting, Amy Skilbred, John Smith, Kate Troll, Sara Truit, Greg Smith, Nancy Waterman, , Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood, Lisa Weissler, Christine Woll.

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

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

CBJ Staff Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski, Tim Felstead.

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).