

Juneau Commission On Sustainability Annual Report

Submitted: May 12, 2011

Mission

The governing legislation for the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (Commission) is City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Resolution 2401am. It was established July 9, 2007. The Commission's 2010 sunset date was removed by CBJ Resolution 2528, May 19, 2010. This report includes Commission activities for fiscal year 2011.

The mission of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability is to promote the economic, social, environmental, and governmental well-being of Juneau and all its inhabitants, now and in the future.

The mission of the former Juneau Energy Advisory Committee was folded into the policy and purpose of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability. Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.

Composition

Membership

The Commission is comprised of nine members appointed by the Assembly, plus one member of the Assembly and one member of the Planning Commission. Commission membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interest of sustainability. Current members are:

Member	Employment Affiliation
Chair Alida Bus	Alaska State Legislature
Karen Crane	Assemblymember
Nicole Grewe	Planning Commission
Beth McKibben	CBJ Staff Liaison
Steve Behnke	Small Business Owner
Eva Bornstein (Vice-Chair)	Juneau Economic Development Council
vacancy	
Scott Jackson	US Forest Service
Sarah Lewis	Small Business Owner
Sean Lynch	Alaska Department of Law
Nancy Waterman	Small Business Owner
Gayle Wood	Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.

Persons who have served on the Commission since its inception include:

Nathan Arentsen, Sandy Boyce, Catherine Fritz, Sally Schlichting, Dave Hanna, Carol Anderson, Rick Wolk, Dan Miller (Planning Commission liaison), Maria Gladziszewski (CBJ staff liaison), Nancy Waterman (Planning Commission liaison). Previous chairs include: Gayle Wood, Sarah Lewis, Sandy Boyce and Sean Lynch.

Organization and Subcommittees

The Commission holds an annual retreat to identify goals and strategies for the year. Out of each retreat, Committees have emerged to take on the tasks identified. The Commission meets once a month and currently has the following

subcommittees:

- Energy/Greenhouse Gas/Climate Action Plan
- Sustainability Indicators
- Public Education & Outreach Liaison
- Food Security Liaison
- CBJ Green Team Liaison

Past committees have included: Food Security, Energy, Built Environment, City Operations, Solid Waste (ad-hoc) and Transportation. During our annual planning retreat in January 2011, we narrowed our focus to the current organization.

Accomplishments

Climate Action Plan

The CBJ has started work on a Climate Action Plan for Juneau. The Commission worked with CBJ management to develop a RFP for the plan, which was awarded in January 2011.

The Plan will focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the local government's operations and from the community as a whole. It will include recommendations on opportunities to reduce GHG emissions related to CBJ utilities, vehicles and buildings, as well as to community-wide transportation, land use, buildings, and energy.

This project will take about a year and the final Plan will include:

- An updated community GHG emissions inventory
- New GHG reduction targets for both the CBJ and the community
- Implementation strategies
- Information on grants and funding opportunities
- Options for starting a sustainability fund
- Recommendations about opportunities for CBJ energy efficiency and savings
- A Public Outreach Plan for GHG reduction actions

The Commission serves as an advisory group for the project.

Sustainability Indicators

In January 2011 the JCOS began a project to identify sustainability indicators for the CBJ. The 2008 CBJ Comprehensive Plan notes that "It is the policy of the CBJ to develop and use sustainability indicators to measure Juneau's progress toward becoming a more sustainable community." The JCOS has made identifying appropriate indicators and preparing a recommendation to the Assembly one of its highest priorities.

The JCOS is using materials developed by CBJ staff through meetings associated with the 2008 Comp Plan as a starting point. It has identified 9 topic areas: education, safety, energy, community, health, economy, demography, balanced resource use, and waste materials/cycles. Subcommittees are meeting on each of these topics through the remainder of 2011, and through June of 2012. These will result in identification of specific indicators for each of the 9 areas, and recommendations to the Assembly.

Green Building Standard Adopted

The LEED ordinance was adopted by the Assembly on January 10, 2011. This mandates that new CBJ buildings and renovations valued at \$5 million or more will meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.

Food Security

The focus of the Food Security efforts of the JCOS is to create community resilience to changes in food supply and cost as fuel prices rise. A secondary focus is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions produced through the shipping of food to Juneau.

The Food Security Committee met monthly between January and August of 2010, chaired by Sarah Lewis. JCOS members on the committee included Sean Lynch and Nicole Grewe. An “expert” member on the committee was Darren Snyder of the UAF Cooperative Extension Service (CES). There were two regular public attendees to the committee meetings, as well.

Groups with which the committee worked included the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC), the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), the UAF Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Slow Food Southeast, and the Juneau Emergency Preparedness Committee.

2010 projects in which the Food Security Committee was involved as planners, coordinators, and/or volunteers included:

- The weekly Juneau Farmers Market in June, July, and August (with JAHC and JEDC)
- The Annual Local Food Festival in August (with JAHC and JEDC)
- Development of a Community Kitchens Guide (with Slow Food Juneau, not yet complete)
- Two Community Kitchen food preservation workshops (with CES and Community Schools)

In September of 2010, at the request of the Food Security Committee, the JCOS disbanded the committee in favor of the appointment of a Food Security Liaison. This change was requested because the groups with which the committee worked are better, and more efficiently, able to address the various issues and needs related to food security in Juneau. Sarah Lewis was appointed the Food Security Liaison and will attend and continue to be active with these food-related groups and projects. When an issue arises in any of these groups that can best be addressed by the JCOS, the Food Security Liaison will bring it to the Commission for discussion and action.

CBJ Green Team

The Green Team is made up of staff members representing each CBJ Department. It’s mission is reduced energy use and waste in local government operations. It meets monthly. Gayle Wood has served as JCOS Liaison to the group.

Public Information and Outreach

Web Sites

The Commission’s official webpage is where information about the commission, its meetings, agendas, minutes, committee structure and membership is located on the city’s website. The Commission also has a non-CBJ blog to relay information, events, and activities related to sustainability in Juneau. It was designed and set up by volunteers and is maintained by the Commission’s Outreach & Public Liaison, Alida Bus. The web sites can be found at:

www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/Sustainability/Sustainability_Commission.php

www.sustainablejuneau.blogspot.com

Global Climate Action Day: Community Garden Work Party 10/10/10 was a "watershed" moment for the Douglas Community Garden near St. Ann’s and B Street in downtown Douglas. The JCOS sponsored the local climate action day, inspired by 350.org, a climate action organization (350 is the parts per million number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere). Despite the rain, about twenty locals and an excavator mobilized to smooth out a lot donated by adjacent property owners, rake gravel, lay down garden fabric and build beds and a terrace.

Until the work party, the site was begging for attention from volunteers. The global action work party built local momentum, to help the Douglas Community Garden transition from vision to reality. The Douglas Community Garden has since established a Board of Directors. The B Street garden and the Crow Hill community garden sites will be open to the public this year. Plots approximately 20 square feet in size are being assigned to the public for \$35/season.

Public Participation/Information Sessions

A number of individuals and groups spoke to the JCOS on topics related to sustainability. These included:

- CBJ Solid Waste management issues. Jim Penor, CBJ Waste Management Coordinator.
- Sealaska Corporation’s experience with its new wood pellet boiler, and plans for developing wood pellet supplies. Nathan Soboleff.

- `Other communities' experiences in developing and using sustainability indicators. Jim Powell.
- Results of AHFC's weatherization and energy rebate programs and associated carbon emission reduction. Dan Miller of Bicknell Company.

Other

- Developed an information display about the JCOS, which can be easily added to and updated.
- Participated in the Oct. 9, 2010 Energy Fair during Energy Awareness Month at the Nugget mall.
- Helped organize and participated in the 350 Global Action Day work party at the Douglas Community Garden.
- Developed and forwarded to the CBJ AJ Mine Advisory Committee a recommendation that if the city proceeds with the mine it should require that hydropower or other renewable energy sources be used.

Direction

The Commission will focus its attention during the coming year (2011-2012) on these activities:

1. Climate Action Plan (CAP). The preparation of a Climate Action Plan is the third step in the ICLEI Five Milestone Process. It describes the methods that the community will use to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reductions adopted by the Assembly. The Commission will continue to serve as advisors to the contractor, and to city staff on implementation efforts.
2. Sustainability Indicators. As noted above, the Commission will continue to develop sustainability indicators for the CBJ.
3. Expanding public outreach, including updating our Sustainability Blog more frequently, convening forums or seminars on sustainability topics, and planning for a "Community Connections/Sustainability Fair" for 2012.
4. Food Security. The Commission will continue to support community efforts to improve food security through coordination and information sharing with the wide range of groups involved in food issues.