



Juneau Commission on Sustainability Annual Report: June 2012 through May 2013

This report summarizes the Juneau Commission on Sustainability activities from June 2012 to May 2013.

Overview

In 2007, the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly established the Juneau Commission on Sustainability to research and advise 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 educational 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 gifts 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 green house gas emissions to target levels as adopted by the CBJ Assembly;
- act as liaison between the public and the CBJ Assembly on sustainability related issues.

The governing legislation for the Juneau Commission on Sustainability is City and Borough of Juneau Resolution 2401am, July 9, 2007. The mission of the former Juneau Energy Advisory Committee was folded into the policy and purpose of the Commission. Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee. The Commission's 2010 sunset date was removed by CBJ Resolution 2528, May 19, 2010.

Organization

I. Membership

The eleven member Commission is comprised of nine public members appointed by the Assembly, one member of the Assembly and one member of the Planning Commission. The Commission is supported by a CBJ staff liaison. Commission membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interest of sustainability.

Current members are:

Member	Term Expires	Member	Term Expires
Kate Troll	6/30/2014, Chair	Steve Behnke	6/30/2015, Vice Chair
Jenni Lefing	6/30/2013, Secretary	Lisa Weissler	6/30/2014
Darrell Wetherall	6/30/2015	Robert Deering	6/30/2015
Kate Bevegni	6/30/2013	Jerry Nankervis	CBJ Assembly Member
Duff Mitchell	6/30/2013	Ben Haight	Planning Commission
Vacant		Beth McKibben	CBJ Staff Liaison

Persons who previously served on the Commission include:

- Public: Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Bob Bellagh, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Catherine Fritz, Dave Hanna, Scott Jackson, Jonathan Kamler, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Sally Schlichting, Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood, Nancy Waterman, Amy Condra
- Assembly Liaison: Bob Doll, Karen Crane, Mary Becker
- Planning Commission Liaison: Dan Miller, Nancy Waterman, Nicole Grewe
- CBJ Staff Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski
- Previous chairs include: Gayle Wood, Sarah Lewis, Sandy Boyce, Sean Lynch, Alida Bus, Nancy Waterman, Kate Troll

II. Meetings and Subcommittees

The Commission holds a regular meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. The Commission holds an annual retreat in January to identify goals and strategies for the calendar year. Out of each retreat, subcommittees are formed to take action on the priorities identified. Subcommittees meet at monthly work sessions, usually the third Wednesday of each month.

Based on the January 2013 retreat, the Commission currently has the following subcommittees:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Energy
- Solid Waste

Past subcommittees include: Climate Action Plan Implementation (2012), Sustainability Indicators (2012, 2011, 2010), Initiatives (2012), Energy/Green House Gas (2011, 2010, 2009), Food Security (2011, 2010, 2009), Built Environment, City Operations, Solid Waste (ad-hoc) and Transportation.

A Commission member serves as a liaison with the CBJ Green Team.

Accomplishments for 2012-2013

I. Public Education and Outreach

JCOS members participated in the following events:

- June 20, 2012: Joint session between the Commission and the CBJ Green Team
- September 2012: Nancy Waterman and Kate Troll participated in an interview on KTOO Juneau Afternoon as part of a Tuesday series on sustainability.
- February 2013: Jim Penor from CBJ Solid Waste met with the Commission.
- April 29, 2013: Jenni Lefing and Lisa Weissler presented information on the Commission to the Juneau Assembly Committee of the Whole.

Of special note is the Commission's award winning entry in the Juneau July 4th Parade.



The Commission recruited the willing participation of Juneau electric vehicle owners in the July 4th parade. Others joined Commission members driving and walking the parade route. The CBJ, Juneau Hydropower and AEL&P sponsored the entry.

Also in July, the Commission launched its Facebook page, Sustainable Juneau: <http://www.facebook.com/SustainableJuneau> As of May 16, 2013, 40 people receive Facebook postings from Sustainable Juneau.

II. Climate Action Plan Implementation

In November 2011, the Assembly adopted the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan (JCAP) through CBJ Resolution 2593. The Juneau Commission on Sustainability played an instrumental role in making the plan happen, and in its development. The JCAP is a major commitment toward sustainability for the CBJ. It provides a roadmap for reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing the local economy.

The JCAP establishes a community-wide emissions reduction target of 25% by the year 2032 and sets out a wide range of options for accomplishing this goal.

At its January 2012 annual retreat, the Commission decided to make implementation of the JCAP one of its top priorities for the year. At a June 2012 joint meeting with the CBJ Green Team, Commission members made the following recommendations for CBJ implementation of the JCAP:

- A designated staff person to help implement the JCAP, someone who can coordinate and prioritize JCAP goals and actions (also recommended in JCAP).
- Energy audits for projects.
- Find out how the CBJ is achieving energy efficiency that incorporates concepts from the JCAP.
- Early input from the Sustainability Commission on CIP projects/processes.
- Monitor a few energy efficient projects to show the savings.
- More support from the City Manager's office for the CBJ Green Team.
- More coordination between the Commission and the Green Team.

In June 2012, the Commission unanimously moved to support the CBJ in applying for the *Greening America's Capital* proposal, in which the CBJ submitted a request for the Willoughby District area project.

In August 2012, the Climate Action Plan subcommittee met with Rich Ritter of the CBJ Engineering Department to discuss energy audits.

III. Webpage Development

One of the top actions in the Juneau Climate Action Plan is the development of a website that “provides information on energy conservation and energy efficiency and connects residents and business owners to local services and expertise.”

In September 2012, the Commission began the process of developing a replacement for its webpage that is currently on the CBJ website. This work consumed the Commission's regular meetings and work sessions through January 2013. The site will serve as an information source and highlight community achievements related to sustainability. The site officially launched in April 2013.

Direction for 2013-2014

The Commission will focus its attention during the coming year (2013-2014) on these priorities:

I. Public Education and Outreach.

- Work to develop better communication between the Commission and the CBJ Assembly and management.
- Look for ways to get input from the public and CBJ employees on what issues related to sustainability are of interest to Juneau residents.
- Continue posting current events and Commission activities on the Facebook page and regularly update the new website.

II. Energy

- Begin the process of developing an Energy Plan for Juneau (one of the top actions recommended in the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan) to identify and evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of renewable energy sources that will be available to meet the community's future need.
- The process will start with determining the level of support for such a plan by the CBJ Assembly and top management, and exploring funding opportunities.
- Investigate ways to encourage car sharing for government employees.
- Track CBJ progress for the five-year Comprehensive Operations Analysis/Transit Development Plan and look for ways the Commission can be involved in transit plan development.
- Look for opportunities to help implement the Climate Action Plan provisions and continue to serve as advisors to the city staff on implementation efforts; possibly conduct an internal survey to assess CBJ staff awareness of the Climate Plan.
- Find a way to update the 2007 CBJ study "Climate Change: Predicted Impacts on Juneau."

III. Solid Waste

- Track progress on the CBJ bid process for a fixed facility and services for the CBJ's municipal solid waste programs.
- Establish communication with CBJ Solid Waste Management personnel to support and promote the most sustainable solid waste management outcome for Juneau.
- Assess the effectiveness of the curbside recycling program.