



---

## **JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2017 - MAY 2018**

This report summarizes the activities of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability from June 2017 through May 2018.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Led efforts which resulted in Assembly adoption of Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy in February 2018
- Held 4 well-attended sustainability sessions relating to food security in Juneau.
- Drafted recommended changes to livestock ordinance.
- Began JRES implementation through interviews with mid-level CBJ staff and meeting with Building Code Advisory Committee.
- Collaborated on CBJ submittal for Statewide VW Settlement grant program in March
- Drafted a letter to USFS on Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area planning supporting innovative concepts which implement aspects of JRES.
- Initiated work on public sessions to be held summer 2018 on EV charging program.

### **OVERVIEW**

In 2007, the CBJ Assembly established the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) 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 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 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 Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.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.

Additionally, the JCOS is charged with duties from the Assembly through CBJ Resolution 2593, November 14, 2011, Juneau's Climate Action and Implementation Plan (JCAIP).

## **ORGANIZATION**

### **I. Membership**

The eleven-member Commission includes 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. The Commission's membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interests of sustainability.

The membership structure of the Commission was altered from February 05, 2015, through CBJ Resolution 2755 which re-established the Commission and repealed the previous establishing Resolution 2718 (which in turn had previously repealed Resolution 2528). Planning Commission members and Assembly Liaison Members are now considered non-voting members and do not count towards a quorum.

Members serving as of June 30, 2018 are:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b><i>Duff Mitchell</i></b>	6/30/2019, Chair	<b><i>Darrell Wetherall</i></b>	6/30/2018, Vice chair
<b><i>Steve Behnke</i></b>	6/30/2018, past Chair	<b><i>Gretchen Keiser</i></b>	6/30/2021
<b><i>Edward King</i></b>	6/30/2020	<b><i>Christine Woll</i></b>	6/30/2020
<b>Vacant seat</b>	6/30/2019	<b><i>John Smith</i></b>	6/30/2019
<b>Vacant seat</b>	3/30/2019		
<b><i>Rob Edwardson</i></b>	CBJ Assembly Liaison	<b><i>Mike LeVine</i></b>	Planning Commission Liaison
<b><i>Tim Felstead</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison	<b><i>Beth McKibben</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison

JCOS would like to warmly thank others who served on the Commission during the past year included:

**Assembly Liaison** - Maria Gladziszewski;

**Public:** Kaley Bangston, Kate Bevegni, Zane Jones,

Persons who previously served on the Commission include:

**Public:** Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Bob Bellagh, 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, Jonathan Kamler, Linda Kruger, Jeni Lefing, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, 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,

**Planning Commission Liaison:** Dan Miller, Nancy Waterman, Nicole Grewe, Ben Haight

**CBJ Staff Liaison:** Maria Gladziszewski

**Previous chairs include:** Gayle Wood, Sarah Lewis, Sandy Boyce, Sean Lynch, Alida Bus,

---

Nancy Waterman, Kate Troll, Lisa Weissler, Steve Behnke.

## **II. Meetings and Subcommittees**

The Commission holds a regular meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Subcommittees meet at monthly work sessions, usually the fourth Wednesday of each month. For the time period covered by this report, the Commission held 9 regular commission meetings, and numerous work sessions. 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.

Based on the January 2018 retreat, the Commission currently has the following subcommittees:

- Energy
- Outreach
- Solid Waste
- Food Security

Past subcommittees include: Climate Action Plan Implementation (2012), Sustainability Indicators (2012, 2011, 2010), Initiatives (2012), Energy (2015, 2014), Energy/Green House Gas (2011, 2010, 2009), Food Security (2011, 2010, 2009), Solid Waste (2016, 2015, 2014), Sustainability Chapter/Comprehensive Plan Update (2014), Built Environment, City Operations, and Transportation; Outreach/Accountability(2015, 2014).

### **Accomplishments for 2017-18**

#### **I. Energy**

##### ***Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy Adopted***

On February 12, 2018, the Assembly approved Resolution 2808, adopting the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy (JRES).

This capped an effort that began in January 2013, when the JCOS decided to make development of an energy plan a top priority. This was one of the top recommendations of the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan (JCAIP), adopted by the Assembly in 2011. In January 2014, the City Manager approved \$40,000 to contract for an energy plan and requested that the JCOS develop a draft scope of work.

---

In July, 2015 a draft renewable energy plan was presented to the Assembly, which served as the basis for public consultation and a series of well-attended public information and education sessions on energy topics. As a result of public input and discussions the JCOS made a number of significant changes, and retitled the document as the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy (JRES). At its June 13, 2017 meeting the JCOS voted to move the amended JRES to the Assembly. The Assembly Committee of the Whole considered it at its meeting on January 29, 2018, and approved forwarding the Strategy to the Assembly for adoption by resolution.

### ***Beginning Implementation of the JRES***

One of the priorities identified at the January 2018 retreat was to support implementation of the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy and related areas in the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan. The Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy identifies 4 implementation areas:

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.

### ***CBJ Energy Management***

The goal of this initiative is to assist the CBJ in developing a comprehensive energy management program that allows for systematic consideration of energy use and costs in decision-making at all levels, and provides information to the public.

Commissioners continue to express interest in assisting CBJ staff in tracking and reducing energy use, and improving efficiency.

JCOS reviewed the FY2019-2024 CBJ Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and attempted to provide input regarding the use of sustainability language and metrics within the plan. Commissioners met with city staff to encourage continued consideration of sustainability when 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 include information on energy use and expenditures in the CIP.

In March 2018, JCOS members began interviewing mid-level CBJ staff and discussing energy use and management with them. This effort will continue through the coming year, and will result in a discussion paper and recommendations to the City Manager and Assembly.

### ***Space Heating and Buildings***

---

The JCOS has begun to explore several approaches to continuing to reduce fossil fuel dependence throughout the community, including continuing to discuss changes to the CBJ building code dealing with energy efficiency, working with groups involved in building, such as the Southeast Building Industry Association and the Renewable Energy Cluster Working Group, and convening affected groups.

In April, 2018, the JCOS convened a group of individual and organizations involved with promoting and supporting adoption of heat pumps. We organized a Sustainability Session on electrification of heating in Juneau, which included a panel representing AEL&P, as electricity provider, Renewable Juneau, a non-profit promoting heat pumps through consumer education, and Interfaith Power & Light, which is developing a proposal for incentivizing conversion from oil to heat pumps.

JCOS will continue to work with the full range of groups involved in energy efficiency and heating, including a coordinated effort on electrification of heating loads.

### ***Transportation: Electric Vehicles***

The JCOS has been involved in this initiative for more than five years, helping to provide information and promote electric vehicle adoption in the community. Juneau is a leading EV adopting community and is one of the fastest growing EV communities in America. With about 5 electric vehicles only 5 years ago, over the past year the number of electric vehicles has doubled to about 300, with 1 to 2 new electric vehicles arriving in Juneau weekly. In addition to continuing strong growth in numbers of used and new Nissan Leafs, there are increasing variety of EV's, including Chevrolet Bolts and about 10 Teslas.

Last summer, Gastineau Guiding, a local tourism company, operated the first Alaskan electric diesel bus for use in Juneau's tourism transportation fleet.

Since adoption of the JRES, JCOS has worked with the Public Works Committee to craft a plan for supporting EV's and developing an appropriate fee structure for use of CBJ chargers.

Additionally, JCOS, in collaboration with the Juneau Electric Vehicle Association (JEVA) and others, is developing a CBJ EV Charging Permit program whereby Juneau EV operators can receive charging at any public CBJ charging station and where the Charging Permit program collects user fees to pay for Electric Vehicle Charging services. This program is intended to cover the cost of publicly-provided electricity while also establish a growth fund for future charging stations that will be required as Juneau expands its personal use, governmental and commercial use electric vehicles. JCOS and JEVA are looking into the options of how to provide fast charging stations to allow for electric taxis and electric commercial vehicles

---

that require fast charging systems.

JCOS has supported efforts to acquire and utilize electric buses, both by the city and private companies. Commissioners assisted staff in developing last year's successful Lo-No grant which provided significant funding for Juneau's first electric public transit bus. We have supported EV adoption for the CBJ municipal vehicle fleet as well as electric buses for the CBJ Capital Transit.

In February 2018 JCOS members assisted CBJ staff in preparing VW Settlement grant application which would provide additional funding for EV chargers and CBJ fleet conversion to EV's.

## **II. Solid Waste**

JCOS continued to monitor CBJ solid waste reduction efforts and initiatives, including composting, recycling, and bio-solids. As noted below under food security, JCOS organized a public outreach event on composting this past year.

## **III. Food Security**

In 2018 JCOS expanded the focus on food security begun in 2017.

The Livestock Committee continued work on review of the CBJ livestock ordinances. The draft ordinance is awaiting review CBJ Law Department prior to review by the full Planning Commission.

The commission conducted a series of public discussions on various aspects of food security, co-sponsored with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service:

Food Security and Juneau Community Gardens Sept. 14

Three legs to food security in Juneau: a place to garden, growing skill assistance, and food preservation skills and know how.

Keeping Livestock in Juneau: A public panel discussion October 25, 2017

Juneau Sustainability Session Provides Public Insight to Ordinance Drafts

Food Security and Composting in Juneau November 15, 2017

Composting food waste and other waste streams in Juneau improves soil value and is used for gardening/food security and landscaping. It also reduces landfill waste.

---

Juneau Food Producers and Food Security January 16, 2018.  
A panel discussion with 5 local food producers.

As a result of these discussions, JCOS is drafting recommendations for improving food security, to be addressed to the Assembly and other entities.

#### **IV. Outreach/Accountability**

##### ***Website***

With cooperation from the CBJ, JCOS has continued to refine and update the Sustainable Juneau website (<http://www.juneau.org/sustainability/>), and to post current events and activities on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableJuneau>).

##### ***Other Events***

In addition to the 5 public sessions noted above under Energy and Food Security, the JCOS sponsored a sustainability session focusing on the new JACC:

##### ***The New JACC: Sustainable Design May 10, 2018***

JCOS Sustainability Sessions have been well attended and well received by the Juneau public. The JCOS will continue to have Sustainability Sessions on key local topics as part of community outreach.

##### ***Green Team***

Since February 2017 the CBJ Green Team has ceased to function. JCOS has a historically had a liaison to the CBJ Green Team. During 2016 the CBJ Green team met regularly to try and raise awareness within CBJ of the Juneau Climate Action Plan (JCAIP), including presentations to departments and divisions within CBJ.

#### **DIRECTION FOR 2018-2019**

The Commission is focusing its attention during 2017-2018 on these priorities:

- Energy Strategy Implementation (space heating, CBJ organization and community-wide energy tracking, and transportation) – lead by Steve Behnke.

- 
- Outreach - Continue Sustainability Sessions Future presentations should look at local and non-Juneau success stories. Website and media to be used better – Christine Woll will lead work on this.
  - Recycling/Food security work – was led by Darrell Wetherall and alternative leader will be found