

# Juneau Commission On Sustainability Annual Report

## Submitted: April 1, 2010

### 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 is scheduled to sunset July 9, 2010. This report includes fiscal years 2008, 2009 and 2010 Commission activities.

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 Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.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 Sean Lynch	State of Alaska Department of Law
Bob Doll	Assemblymember
Nicole Grewe	Planning Commission
Beth McKibben	CBJ Staff Liaison
Bob Bellugh	United States Coast Guard
Eva Bornstein	Juneau Economic Development Council
Alida Bus	Alaska State Legislature
Catherine Fritz	Juneau International Airport
Sarah Lewis	City & Borough of Juneau
Sandy Boyce	United States Forest Service
Rick Wolk	University of Alaska & Rosewood LLC
Gayle Wood	Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.

Persons who previously served on the Commission since its inception are:

Sally Schlichting, Jonathan Kamler, Dave Hanna, Carol Anderson, Dan Miller (Planning Commission liaison), Maria Gladziszewski (CBJ staff liaison), Nancy Waterman (Planning Commission liaison). Previous chairs include Gayle Wood, Sally Schlichting, and Sandy Boyce.

### **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 that meet periodically:

- Energy/Greenhouse Gas
- Public Education & Outreach
- Food Security
- Solid Waste (Ad-hoc subcommittee)

Past committees have included: Energy, Public Info/Education, Built Environment, City Operations, and Transportation. During the second year, we narrowed our focus to the current organization.

### **Accomplishments**

#### **Juneau Farmers Market**

In August of 2008, the Commission co-hosted the first annual Juneau Farmers Market at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center. The Commission partnered with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service and the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council to offer a sales venue for commercial and individual vendors involved in local food production. Non-profit participants sold produce and/or baked goods, jams & jellies that contain locally grown or harvested ingredients. Commercial vendors had booths for local food production and gardening-related businesses. There were also information and demonstration booths and mini-seminars on a variety of topics; how to dress deer and other game, how to grow garlic, and how to make cheese were among the presentations at the 2008 event.

The second annual Juneau Farmers Market and Local Foods Festival, held August 29, 2009, drew approximately 2000 community members to the Juneau Arts and Cultural Center to meet, greet, shop and socialize. The market was also a commercial success, grossing more than \$18,000 in total sales for its 33 vendors. The success story for the 2009 market was the number of vendors who came to the market from other Southeast communities, including Kake, Hoonah and Haines. We had food-related tables and informational tables. A series of workshops included straw gardening, gathering seaweed and raising chickens—these all had approximately 40 participants. We feel that we successfully met our goals of increasing community awareness of locally produced Alaska Grown products; increasing the number of Alaska Grown products purchased locally; and supporting the future availability of local high-quality farm products.

The Farmers Market has become established as a collaborative effort of several community organizations: Juneau Economic Development Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service and the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. For 2010, we plan on narrowing the focus of our Commission to manage the educational component of the event. Focusing on the educational workshops will allow us to present a quality product to the interested public. Partner organizations will carry the organizing components of the Market.

#### **Federal Stimulus Energy Efficiency Grant**

The City & Borough of Juneau qualified for \$141,300 under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (federal stimulus package). In April of 2009, the Commission made recommendations to the CBJ City Manager for potential uses for the EECBG funds. These priority projects were selected based on recommendations from CBJ department heads, their ability to create jobs, save energy, reduce greenhouse gases, install renewable energy (not applicable in this case), and leverage funds. The Commission also recommended that CBJ conduct energy audits of major buildings in order to be positioned for potential future grant funding opportunities.

The top three projects nominated by the Commission for the grant, in priority order, were:

- Roof and upper window replacement for the Juneau Arts & Culture Center
- Last Chance Basin Variable Speed Well Pumps
- Ground Source Heat Pumps at Existing Buildings

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Recommendations**

In March of 2007, the CBJ passed Resolution 2397(b) and joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, a global movement to advance local sustainability and climate protection efforts. The greenhouse gas emission inventory was completed in March of 2009 and is the first step in a process designed to reduce emissions. According to the report, Juneau released approximately 441,000 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in the 2007 baseline year. The Commission prepared a recommendation for emissions reduction targets which was adopted by the CBJ Assembly in June of 2009. The target is to reduce emissions 21% by the year 2012.

The Commission is now working with the local government's management to develop an RFP for a climate action plan (CAP). The CAP is intended to outline the short and long term goals for energy reduction in the community to help achieve the adopted reduction targets. The Commission will serve as an advisory group to the project consultant.

### **Reenergize - Avalanche**

In response to the April 2008 avalanche that separated Juneau from the Snettisham hydroelectric project, the Commission organized and held a community-wide event to assist Juneau citizens in learning how to quickly reduce their energy consumption... and maintain a lower level of energy use into the future. Within three weeks after the avalanche, the Commission organized eight workshops (from conserving energy in the kitchen to generating your own electricity), four community forums (about AEL&P, the avalanche, community and government activities, and energy conservation topics), and an information market of 31 local businesses and non-profit organizations. The event was held at the Mendenhall Mall and was very well attended.

### **Earth Day**

The Commission participated in the Earth Day celebration at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in April 2008 and 2009 and will do so again in 2010. Attended by local organizations and the public, this event is a celebration of nationally recognized "Earth Day. It's a chance for local organizations to gain publicity while increasing awareness about the environment and human impacts on the earth. The Commission's table generates awareness about the Commission's projects and mission, promotes energy conservation principles, provides information about the annual Farmers Market, and hosts a children's seed planting activity (thanks to donations from businesses Home Depot and Rainbow Foods for materials for the activity).

### **Web Site Information**

The Commission's official webpage where information about the commission, its meetings, agendas, minutes, committee structure and membership is located on the city's website at

[www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/Sustainability/Sustainability\\_Commission.php](http://www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/Sustainability/Sustainability_Commission.php). The Commission also felt it important to set up a non-CBJ blog to relay information, events, and activities related to sustainability in Juneau. In March 2008, the Commission's website was launched: [www.sustainablejuneau.blogspot.com](http://www.sustainablejuneau.blogspot.com); it was designed and set up by volunteers and is maintained by the Commission's Outreach & Public Information Committee.

### **UAS Community Day**

The Commission participated in UAS community day twice, in May of 2009 and in 2008. A family day on campus, this event is an annual community celebration, featuring local organizations. Members of the public can register for camp, find volunteer opportunities, and enjoy food, music and activities. The Commission's table generates awareness about the Commission's projects and mission, and promotes the Farmers Market with a poster and fliers. The activity offered for the public is planting seed starters, encouraging people to plant early so they'll have a harvest come time for the Farmers Market in late August.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

From approximately July 2007 until February 2008, the Commission worked extensively on drafting and editing two chapters of the CBJ Comprehensive Plan, "Sustainability", and "Energy" and testified before the Planning Commission. While the final draft did not incorporate all of the recommended community sustainability goals, this work became the basis for much of the Commission's focus and led to subsequent work such as the Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

### **CBJ Sustainability Operations Committee**

The Commission stimulated the formation of the CBJ Sustainability Operations Committee, comprised of CBJ staff and focused on improving the sustainability of local government operations. The CBJ Sustainability Operations Committee (aka Green Team) began meeting in January 2008. The team mission is to look at CBJ operations to find ways departments and employees can save energy, reduce waste and recycle. The Green Team meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The team is made up of representatives from Public Works, Engineering, Purchasing, Human Resources, Parks & Recreation and Community Development. There is also a representative from Juneau Commission on Sustainability.

The Green City Committee is currently drafting a Green City handbook for all employees and is working with the City Manager to draft an ordinance to require all new City buildings and major remodels to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. They are also exploring other sustainability efforts such as broader recycling efforts, carpooling, and purchasing that considers the environment and energy use. A survey has been developed by the Green Team and will be distributed to CBJ employees to evaluate current green practices and possible practices within local government.

### **CIP Capital Projects Reviews**

The Commission has provided review and public comment on several of the CBJ CIP projects, including the Downtown Parking Garage and Transit Center and the use of geothermal heat pumps for the Dimond Park Swimming Pool and JNU Airport Terminal Renovation. The JCOS has advocated for energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction to be analyzed and included in all applicable CBJ capital projects.

### **Transit Plan**

The Commission offered its endorsement of the June 2008 CBJ Transit Development Plan and encouraged its funding by the Assembly.

### **Non-Motorized Transportation Plan**

The Commission offered its endorsement of the November 2009 CBJ Transit Development Plan and encouraged its funding by the Assembly.

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS)**

The EECS is a document required by the US Department of Energy as a condition of having received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Community Block Grant (EECBG) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Commission assisted the City Manager in developing this document and promotes the strategy developed therein.

### **Direction**

The Commission will focus its attention during the coming year (2010-2011) 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 serve in any capacity assigned to it by the Assembly in the preparation of the CAP.
2. Farmers Market. The Commission will continue to co-sponsor the Farmers Market and encourage increased citizen participation.
3. Solid Waste. Management of our regional solid waste stream is an increasingly salient issue. The Commission has reorganized to include a subcommittee dedicated to finding solutions relating to solid waste.
4. Food Security. After the success of the Farmers' Market, the Food Security Committee was created to help reestablish local food production for the health of people and the community, and to reconnect people with where Juneau's food comes from. The committee is currently working with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service to establish community gardens throughout Juneau, with various community members to establish a "community kitchen" model, and with members of the public and the Planning Department to establish ordinances and zoning regulations for the keeping of food animals.