



## **Juneau Commission on Sustainability Annual Report for Dates: June 2011 through May 2012**

### **Mission**

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. This report summarizes Commission activities for the period from June 2011 to May 2012.

The governing legislation for the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) 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. 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 Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.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 of the public appointed by the Assembly, plus one member of the Assembly and one member of the Planning Commission. The Commission is also 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:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Steve Behnke	6/30/2012	Kate Troll (Vice Chair)	6/30/2014
Eva Bornstein	6/30/2012	Lisa Weissler	6/30/2014
Darrell Wetherall	6/30/2012	Nancy Waterman (Chair)	6/30/2014
Jenni Lefing (Secretary)	6/30/2013	Mary Becker	CBJ Assembly
Duff Mitchell	6/30/2013	Ben Haight	Planning Commission
vacant	6/30/2013	Beth McKibben	CBJ Staff Liaison

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

Public: Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Bob Bellugh, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Catherine Fritz, Dave Hanna, Scott Jackson, Jonathan Kamler, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Sally Schlichting, Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood

Assembly Liaison: Bob Doll, Karen Crane

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

## **Organization and Subcommittees**

The Commission holds a monthly 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 emerge to take action on the priorities identified. Subcommittees also meet monthly. Based on the January 2012 retreat, JCOS currently has the following subcommittees and liaisons:

- Climate Action Plan Implementation
- Sustainability Indicators
- Public Education & Outreach
- Initiatives
- CBJ Green Team Liaison

Past committees have included: Sustainability Indicators (2011, 2010), Energy/Green House Gas (2011, 2010, 2009), Food Security (2011, 2010, 2009), Built Environment, City Operations, Solid Waste (ad-hoc) and Transportation.

## **Accomplishments**

### **Climate Action Plan**

In 2007, the CBJ joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and committed to completing the five milestones of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (Resolution 2397(b)). These five steps include: 1) conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast; 2) establishing a GHG emissions reduction target; 3) Developing an action plan with both existing and future actions which will meet the local GHG reduction target; 4) Implementing the action plan as approved by the Assembly; and 5) Monitoring and reporting progress.

In November 2011, the Assembly adopted the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan (JCAP) (Resolution 2593). The plan was developed over the past year by the consultant team of Skilbred Consulting, Amy Skilbred, and Sheinberg Associates, Zoe Morrison, with guidance from the Deputy City Manager, Kim Kieffer, and members of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability. With adoption of the JCAP, the CBJ has completed the first three ICLEI milestones. 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.

Work on the JCAP began in late 2010 and continued until its adoption in 2011. The JCOS provided ongoing guidance throughout its development. A four member GHG subcommittee of the JCOS met regularly with the consultants, holding work sessions, open to the public, on January 27, February 10 and 28, March 14 and 28, April 11 and 26, and May 17, 2011. Additional meetings were held with the full JCOS on March 2, April 6, July 6, and September 7, 2011. Members of the JCOS provided recommendations on the overall development of the Plan, strategies for public outreach, and specific actions to lower energy use and GHG emissions.

Public involvement in the development of the JCAP included an online survey conducted between February and May, 2011 to gauge public attitudes and participation in energy savings actions. Two focus group sessions were held to involve knowledgeable local residents and experts. The first, on improving the energy efficiency of building envelopes, was held March 30. The second, on heating systems, was held on April 1.

The JCOS hosted a public meeting on May 25, 2011 to review the goals and actions sections of the draft plan. A second public meeting, in coordination with the JCOS, was held October 5 to review the draft

GHG Inventory and draft Climate Action Plan, focusing on top actions for reducing energy use and GHG emissions. The draft plan and comment forms were also made available on a project website.

Two work sessions were also held with the Juneau Assembly Committee of the Whole. On August 1 discussion focused on the results of the 2010 GHG Emissions Inventory, and a comparison with 2007 data, and the first draft of the recommended actions. On October 31 an overview of the plan was presented, and discussion focused on Top Actions for reducing energy use and GHG emissions. Comments by the Assembly led to revisions to the executive summary and the list of top actions.

The Juneau Climate Action Plan was adopted by the CBJ Assembly on November 14, 2011 by Resolution 2593. The Juneau Climate Action Plan is a major commitment toward sustainability for the CBJ. It provides a roadmap for reducing costs and GHG emissions while enhancing the local economy. At the JCOS Annual Retreat in January the Commission decided to make implementation of the JCAP one of its top priorities for 2012.

### **Sustainability Indicators**

Policy 2.3 of the 2008 City and Borough of Juneau Comprehensive Plan (Plan) states 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". Chapter 2 further directs the JCOS to develop these Sustainability Indicators. It notes that their development begins by "selecting important, diverse, measurable categories and topics that the community will commit to measure at regular intervals", and that they will be developed "from ongoing issues that emerge in the community".

The JCOS began this work in 2011 by reviewing a broad range of approaches and possible sustainability indicators. Over the following months the JCOS focused our efforts on finding measurable and relevant indicators in support of the "Implementing Actions" identified in Chapter 2 of the Plan. These include a range of social, economic, and environmental areas (Sections 2.1.IA3 through 2.1.IA12, and 2.2.IA1 through 2.2.IA6); about two-thirds of them deal with energy use and energy conservation.

Given the significance of energy in the Plan, and to the community, the JCOS decided to further focus their initial efforts on identifying appropriate indicators related to energy use. The JCOS was greatly aided in this by the development of the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan (JCAP) during 2011. The JCAP compiles data on internal energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in Juneau for 2010 and compares it with baseline data from 2007. It also recommends a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 25% by 2032, and sets out a series of implementation actions for achieving this goal. To measure progress toward the JCAP goals, the Commission decided to forward the following three sustainability indicators relating to internal energy use to the CBJ Assembly for adoption. A letter to the Assembly is in development.

#### 1) Fossil fuel use.

This indicator is measured as MMBtu's (millions of British thermal units) of fossil fuel used annually. The JCAP provides a methodology for measuring petroleum energy use. It also breaks out data by CBJ government activities, as well as the community as a whole. The burning of petroleum fuels generates about 75% of local energy used in Juneau, mostly for transportation and heating. Juneau is highly dependent on oil for heating, and the economies of households, businesses and agencies are affected by fuel oil costs.

#### 2) Renewable energy use

This indicator is measured as MMBtu's of renewable energy used annually. The JCAP provides a methodology for measuring this. Hydropower provides most of Juneau's electricity. Electricity is about 25% of the total energy consumed in the borough.

### 3) Greenhouse gas emissions

This indicator is measured as metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e). The JCAP provides a methodology for measuring GHG emissions, and sets a specific goal for reduction of GHG (25% reduction by 2032).

### **Public Education and Outreach**

JCOS participation in community events for the period included:

- Community Day on Campus, May 21, 2011
- Local Food Festival, August 27, 2011
  - Groups with which the committee partnered included the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC), the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), the UAF Cooperative Extension Service (CES), and Slow Food Southeast.
- Earth Day, April 21, 2012

### Web Sites

The Commission's official webpage is located on the CBJ website.

This is where information about the commission meetings, agendas, minutes, committee structure and membership is located. The website can be found at:

[www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/Sustainability/Sustainability\\_Commission.php](http://www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/Sustainability/Sustainability_Commission.php)

The Commission also has maintained, in the past, a non-CBJ blog to relay information, events, and activities related to sustainability in Juneau. It was designed and set up by volunteers, and depends on Commission member volunteers to maintain it. The web site can be found at:

[www.sustainablejuneau.blogspot.com](http://www.sustainablejuneau.blogspot.com)

### Public Participation/Information Sessions

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

- Bob Deering, USCG; Biomass utilization in Southeast and proposal for incorporating a biomass distributed heating system in the Willoughby District Plan.
- Sally Schlichting, AK Dept of Environmental Conservation; Statewide Brownfields Study Group to work on overcoming challenges which make brownfield redevelopment difficult in Alaska. Requested participation from JCOS.
- Jonathan Kamler, supercritical fluids as solution to Juneau's sewage sludge.
- Heather Marlow, CBJ Lands and Resources Manager; Willoughby District land use plan.

### Other

- Alida Bus, in her role as Chair of the JCOS, was the featured guest on KTOO Radio's show, *The Alaska Identity Project*.
- Comment letters sent:
  - CBJ Lands and Resources in support of the Willoughby District Plan, July 6, 2011.

### **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. The JCOS Liaison to the group is Steve Behnke.

## **Direction**

The Commission will focus its attention during the coming year (2012-2013) on these activities:

1. Implementation of the Juneau Climate Action Plan. The Commission will look for opportunities to help implement the provisions and continue to serve as advisors to the city staff on implementation efforts. JCOS will develop a public outreach and education program for the JCAP.
2. Sustainability Indicators. The Commission will present to the CBJ assembly a format for measuring, collecting and reporting the three energy sustainability indicators.
3. CBJ Green Team. The Commission will hold a joint meeting with the CBJ Green Team and Assistant City Manager, Rob Steedle.
4. Public outreach. The commission will re-energize and update our Sustainability Blog more frequently.
5. Sustainability Initiatives. The commission will look into developing a cruise ship sustainability award program.