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## **JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2014 - MAY 2015**

This report summarizes the Juneau Commission on Sustainability activities from June 2014 through May 2015.

### **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 amount 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 Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.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.

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## 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. 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of the Commission was altered from March 16, 2015 through CBJ Resolution 2718 which re-established the Commission and repealed the previous establishing Resolution 2528. Planning Commission members and Assembly Liaison Members are now considered non-voting members and do not count towards a quorum.

Current members are:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Steve Behnke</b>	6/30/2015, Chair	<b>Duff Mitchell</b>	6/30/2016, Vice Chair
<b>Clint Gundelfinger</b>	6/30/2017, Secretary	<b>Kate Bevegni</b>	6/30/2016
<b>Bob Deering</b>	6/30/2015	<b>Amy Skilbred</b>	6/30/2017
<b>Greg Smith</b>	6/30/2018	<b>John Smith</b>	6/30/2018
<b>Darrell Wetherall</b>	6/30/2015	<b>Ben Haight</b>	Planning Commission
<b>Kate Troll</b>	CBJ Assembly Liaison	<b>Beth McKibben</b>	CBJ Staff Liaison
<b>Tim Felstead</b>	CBJ Staff Liaison		

Others who served on the Commission during the past year included:

Lisa Weissler, Chair  
Jeni Lefing  
Lauren Heine

Persons who previously served on the Commission include:

- Public: Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Bob Bellagh, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Amy Condra, Susan Ely, Catherine Fritz, Dave Hanna, Scott Jackson, Jonathan Kamler, Linda Kruger, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Sally Schlichting, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Nancy Waterman, Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood

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- Assembly Liaison: Bob Doll, Karen Crane, Mary Becker, Jerry Nankervis
  - 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, Lisa Weissler

## 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. 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 2015 retreat, the Commission currently has the following subcommittees:

- **Energy (including building codes/energy codes)**
- **Outreach/Accountability**
- **Solid Waste (including bio-solids)**

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

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

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2014-2015

### I. Energy

#### **CBJ Energy Plan**

JCOS Energy committee developed an energy plan outline and basis for City manager to issue an RFP for a contractor to develop the CBJ Energy Plan. An RFP was issued and several qualified contractors submitted proposals. Stantec was selected as the CBJ Energy Plan contractor.

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JCOS hosted three work session meetings with contracted consultant Stantec to provide information input on the development of the Juneau Energy Plan and provided feedback and recommendations on draft Juneau Energy Plan documents. Energy plan is proceeding on timeline and schedule outlined in the RFP.

### **Airport Sustainability Plan**

Contributed to development of the Juneau Airport Sustainability Plan. During public JCOS meetings with consultants URS and Sheinberg Associates, feedback has been provided. This feedback concerned recommendations on the process of developing sustainability focus areas and associated goals and actions that can be taken in these focus areas. JCOS has a liaison and a back-up liaison to the Airport Sustainability Master Plan who attend all relevant meetings.

### **District Heat Initiative**

Participated in a discussion with Andy Baker who presented information on the Seward Sea Life Center sea water heat pump system. Mr. Baker demonstrated the technology and economic energy savings that have been gained at the Seward Sea Life Center. Mr. Baker showed how Juneau could use this Alaska based sea water heat pump technology as a potential local fuel source for a possible heating district for Juneau. He also explained there was interest in Sitka and Wrangell for the technology applications.

### **Electric Vehicles**

JCOS has a parade entry for the third consecutive year for Electric Vehicles of Juneau. In 2014, the JCOS parade entry had 8 electric vehicles and two electric bicycles. Additionally, a flatbed truck donated by Chatham Electric displayed a vehicle charging station to demonstrate to the Juneau public what an Electric Vehicle charging station looked like. The parade expenses were assisted by Alaska Electric Light & Power and Juneau Hydropower, Inc.

JCOS participated in the 2014 Earth Day activities at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center with JCOS handouts containing electric vehicle information. Juneau Hydropower, Inc. supplied two electric vehicles for display and to allow Juneau citizens to look at and ask questions about electric vehicles.

### **Cruise Dock Electrification**

The JCOS continued to discuss the possible electrification of the 16B Cruise dock electrification where it was learned the dock system has conduit installed to the dock, but confirmed that there are no current plans to electrify these facilities. The requisite engineering for electric system and

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the engineering required for weight safety for any subsequent electric cranes and jibs have not been scoped or designed for the 16B dock system.

### **Building Energy Efficiency**

Hosted a discussion with Charlie Ford (CBJ Building Official) addressing CBJ Building Codes from an energy efficiency viewpoint. It was agreed that moving forward with the development of building energy efficiency codes was a strong priority for JCOS. JCOS sent a letter in January 2015 to the Building Advisory Committee asking them to review the relevant recommendations from the JCAP, and advise the JCOS on how to best implement them to meet our community needs and values. Feedback from the Building Code Advisory Committee (BCAC) was received indicating further work is required to develop the economic argument for implementing the higher standards.

## **II. Solid Waste**

### **Solid Waste**

Hosted a discussion regarding CBJ recycling initiatives with Jim Penor (CBJ Solid Waste Coordinator) and Michelle Elfers (CBJ Engineering and Public Works) addressing accomplishments, current plan steps, and future goals.

### **Bio-Solids**

Hosted two discussions/presentations from CBJ Engineering Department regarding the bio-solids situation, reviewed consultant documents, and provided feedback and recommendations.

Letter was sent to the Assembly which included supporting the CBJ Public Works preferred alternative, but also suggested that other alternatives or wider scope should not be discounted.

## **III. Outreach/Accountability**

### **Website**

With cooperation from CBJ, 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>). 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.”

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## **Events**

Organized electric vehicle entry for the 4th of July parade for the third year. Eight electric vehicles, three electric bicycles, and a flatbed displaying an electric vehicle charger participated in the event.

Provided information on electric vehicles on Earth Day at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center with static electric vehicle display.

## **Green Team**

JCOS has a liaison to the CBJ Green Team and the JCOS representative has been to the Green Team meetings whenever possible. The CBJ Green team has been meeting regularly to try and raise awareness within CBJ of the Juneau Climate Action Plan (JCAP). Through its representative, JCOS collaborated with the Green Team to develop and create a presentation addressing the Juneau Climate Action Plan to be delivered to CBJ. The Green team presented a summary of the JCAP to the City Manager's Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and asked for feedback from all managers on how their department is meeting some of the goals in the plan. Following the meeting more tailored presentations were done on the JCAP in early 2015 to the CBJ Finance Department and the CBJ Docks and Harbors Department. Since the presentation to the Management Team the Green Team has grown, with broader representation from CBJ Departments. Additional presentations are planned for other CBJ Departments. JCOS strongly commends CBJ for their great efforts so far and encourages continued work in this area.

## **Support for the Auke Bay Area Plan**

JCOS provided a letter of support in February 2015 for the Auke Bay Area Plan. This noted that many sustainability principles and actions were included and that implementation of these would help towards a more sustainable community. It suggested the plan incorporate a number of relevant goals included in the JCAP.

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## **DIRECTION FOR 2015 – 2016**

The Commission is focusing its attention during 2015-2016 on the following priorities:

### **I. Energy**

- Continue development of the CBJ Energy Plan.
- Identify and develop input concerning building energy efficiency codes through constructive dialogue with the BCAC.
- Identify opportunities for improving CBJ energy efficiency and cost savings, and support CBJ departments and staff working to achieve the goals of the JCAP.
- Develop early input concerning energy efficiency and other sustainability concerns to CBJ CIP projects and processes.

### **II. Solid Waste/Biosolids**

- Assist CBJ in the development of sustainably viable solution(s) to bio-solids waste disposal.
- Assist CBJ in assessing options for reducing waste, and moving toward more sustainable solid waste management.
- Kate Troll (CBJ Assembly Liaison) stated that addressing the CBJ bio-solids and solid waste issues were the number two priority for the CBJ Assembly.

### **III. Outreach/Accountability**

- Continue updating website and Facebook page.
- Celebrate sustainability successes through public exposure and working to host brown bag lunches on sustainability topics of interest in Juneau.
- Assist CBJ with public education/outreach regarding recycling initiatives.
- Continue to Organize or assist in future electric vehicle entries for the 2015 Juneau 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Juneau community Earth Day events.
- Green Team plans to roll out tailored presentations on the JCAP to each CBJ department.