



**JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JUNE 2016 - MAY 2017**  
**Submitted June 14, 2017**

This report summarizes the Juneau Commission on Sustainability activities from June 2016 through May 2017.

**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 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.

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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 Resolution 2401am also repealed Resolution 2376 relating to the Juneau Energy Advisory committee.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 (JCAP). Specifically, the JCAP charges the JCOS to develop a CBJ Energy Plan, which will identify and evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of renewable energy sources (including hydroelectric, biomass, solar, tidal, and wind) that will be available to meet the community's future need. The Energy Plan will need to be flexible enough to respond to changing conditions and will need to examine the full range of renewable energy options and the relative costs. Completion of an Energy Plan requires input from other levels of government and the private sector.

## **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 May 2nd, 2016 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.

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Members serving as of May 10, 2017 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>Greg Smith</i></b>	6/30/2017, Secretary
<b><i>Clint Gundelfinger</i></b>	6/30/2017, past Secretary	<b><i>Kate Bevegni</i></b>	6/30/2019
<b><i>Zane Jones</i></b>	6/30/2019	<b><i>John Smith</i></b>	6/30/2019
<b><i>Myrna Gardner</i></b>	6/30/2017	<b><i>Mike LeVine</i></b>	Planning Commission Liaison
<b><i>Maria Gladziszewski</i></b>	CBJ Assembly Liaison	<b><i>Beth McKibben</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison
<b><i>Tim Felstead</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison		

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

**Public** - none

**Planning Commission** - Percy Frisbee

Persons who previously served on the Commission include:

**Public:** Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Bob Bellagh, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Amy Condra, Robert Deering, Susan Ely, Catherine Fritz, Dave Hanna, Scott Jackson, Jonathan Kamler, Linda Kruger, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Sally Schlichting, Amy Skilbred, Kate Troll, Sara Truit, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Nancy Waterman, Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood, Lisa Weissler, Jeni Lefing, Lauren Heine

**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.

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During the December 2016 meeting, members discussed the CBJ conflict of interest guidelines, the discretion of the chair, and the need to make all meeting material discussion transparent. Additionally, it was recommended that all Commission meeting minutes be posted to the Commission pages on the CBJ website.

## **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 eleven regular commission meetings (there was no September meeting) 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 2017 retreat, the Commission currently has the following subcommittees:

- Energy
- Outreach
- Food Security
- Animals & livestock

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).

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

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## Accomplishments for 2016-17

### I. Energy

#### ***CBJ Energy Plan***

The Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan (JCAP), which was adopted by the Assembly in 2011, establishes a community-wide emissions reduction target of 25% by the year 2032 and sets out a range of actions for accomplishing this goal. One recommendation of the JCAP was that the CBJ should develop an energy plan that “would identify and evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of renewable energy sources (including hydroelectric, biomass, solar, tidal, and wind) that will be available to meet the community’s future need” (Juneau Climate Action Plan – November 2011, Executive Summary, page V). At its January 2013 annual retreat, the Commission decided to make the development of the energy plan a top priority for the year. In January 2014, the CBJ City Manager approved \$40,000 to contract for an energy plan and requested that the JCOS develop a draft scope of work for the plan. Professional consulting services provider Stantec was contracted and began working with the JCOS on the Juneau Energy Plan. The JCOS has continued to make the development of the Energy Plan a high priority action. Since the contract with Stantec began the JCOS has hosted multiple regular and work session meetings with Stantec to provide information and input on the development of the Juneau Energy Plan and working in collaboration with the CBJ has provided feedback and recommendations on the various phases of draft plan documents including the most recent work on the final draft of the Juneau Energy Plan. In addition to the services of Stantec, the Commission has invested several hundred hours of research and analysis by Commission members and large amount of hours contributed by Juneau businesses. Specifically, some local oil energy data was provided by Ike’s fuel.

The draft Juneau Energy Plan was presented to the Juneau Assembly Committee of the Whole (COW) on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A sustainability session on the Energy Plan took place on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Additional discussions occurred with the Juneau Chamber of Commerce, the Cruise Lines of Alaska (CLIA), Alaska Electric Light & Power (AEL&P). Multiple public sessions were held on various aspects of the 'Energy Plan' to include presentations by AELP, Juneau Hydropower, and Alaska Energy Authority.

#### ***..... Airport Sustainability Plan***

JCOS contributed to development of the Juneau Airport Sustainability Plan. A JCOS representative continued to attend Airport Sustainability Plan meetings and JCOS continued to ask questions and receive input from Sheinberg Associates.

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## ***Electric Vehicles***

JCOS participated in the 2017 Renewable Juneau Fair activities at the Juneau Douglas High School with a booth providing the public with draft energy plan documents and JCOS handouts. JCOS has been discussing Electric Vehicle adoption processes for the CBJ municipal vehicle fleet as well as electric buses for the CBJ Capital Transit. JCOS has been in discussions with the non-profit Electrification Coalition and Energy Secure Cities Coalition. The latter has offered to provide free of service analytics and metrics that provide detailed analyses on the CBJ fleet of vehicles to determine which CBJ vehicles area and are not good candidates for lower cost electrical operation. JCOS Chair has had meetings with the CBJ Manager and Public Works director on how to best utilize the independent analysis resources currently available to the CBJ. Other Energy Secure Cities Coalition member cities are Orlando FL, Indianapolis, IN, Sacramento, CA, and Charlotte NC among others. <http://www.energysecurecities.org/>

It should come to no surprise that Juneau is a leading EV adopting community and is one of the fastest growing EV communities in America. With less than five electric vehicles only four years ago, Juneau now has over 130 electric vehicles with growth of 1 to 2 new electric vehicles arriving weekly. This growth is exceptional when considering that Juneau has limited sales and service support.

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 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 public 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.

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

JCOS has supported efforts to acquire and utilize electric buses, both by the city and private companies. JCOS supports the continued CBJ effort to procure grant funding from the Federal Transportation Administration Low or No (LoNo) Emission Vehicle Deployment Program.

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### ***Building Energy Efficiency***

The commission decided that to most efficiently move forward with the development of building energy efficiency codes and implementation, JCOS should utilize the Juneau Energy Plan after it is finalized as a basis to improve Juneau building and energy efficiency codes, and coordinate these efforts with the Building Codes Advisory Committee. The public discussion and improvement in the codes will be a public process in the near future.

### ***CBJ Capital Improvement Program***

JCOS reviewed the FY18-2023 CBJ Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and provided input regarding the use of sustainability language and metrics within the plan. Commissioners met with city staff on multiple occasions to encourage continued consideration of sustainability when projects are proposed and developed. A letter was sent to the Planning Commission with recommendations on the CIP process and plans.

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

Resulting from a meeting in the prior reporting year, commissioners continued to express interest in assisting CBJ staff in tracking and reducing energy use, and improving efficiency. Efforts were made in the CIP process, as well as in various conversations with CBJ staff during the year. During periods of financial duress in CBJ budgets, the JCOS recommends that energy management become a larger priority as the CBJ looks to optimize financial efficiencies.

## **II. Solid Waste**

JCOS hosted a November discussion with Michelle Elfers (CBJ Engineering Department) regarding current CBJ solid waste reduction efforts and initiatives, including composting, recycling, and bio-solids. Additionally, the sale of Arrow Refuse was discussed at another meeting and JCOS offered any assistance CBJ may desire during the transition. A compost feasibility study was included in an early version of the CIP, but appears to have been removed. There appears to be continued interest in developing local sources of compost material for lawns and gardens.

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### III. Food Security

A representative from the CBJ Parks & Recreation (P&R) department met with JCOS and expressed the desire of P&R to have more community gardens. Part of the emphasis on food security has led to the review of the CBJ livestock ordinances.

A Food Security committee was formed as a result of the 2017 annual retreat.

### IV. Outreach/Accountability

#### *Website*

With cooperation from the CBJ, JCOS 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.” General upkeep of meeting agendas and minutes has also been a priority.

#### *Events*

See above entry regarding electric vehicles in the Energy section.

#### *Sustainability sessions sponsored or supported by JCOS:*

- Explaining Juneau’s Electricity System by representatives from AEL&P
- Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Facility by Juneau Hydropower Inc.
- The case for electric vehicles in Juneau - panel discussion
- District heating and downtown Juneau by Juneau District Heating
- Maintaining and developing Juneau’s electricity system by representatives from AEL&P
- Renewable heating alternatives - panel discussion
- Emerging energy technologies for Alaska by the Alaska Energy Authority
- Climate change and Alaska fisheries by Terry Johnson, AK Sea Grant
- Food security and Juneau, and Sustainable Juneau: The City We Want, The City We Need, by Cecil Steward and Sharon Kuska, professors, University of Nebraska

The 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.



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### ***Green Team***

JCOS has a liaison to the CBJ Green Team and the JCOS representative attends 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) this includes presentations to departments and divisions within CBJ. CBJ is often working to implement energy improvements but these are rarely reported back to JCOS. Various commissioners attended Green Team meetings, and are working to assist the Green Team as they develop mission and goals for themselves. It would appear that there are energy and efficiency cost savings and improvements that could be achieved with a reinvigorated and supported program.

### **V. Livestock Committee**

Stemming from community interest and demand, a livestock committee was formed to address issues related to zoning and the keeping of livestock. This group met several times with public meetings and work sessions with the significant assistance of a city staff member, and crafted a draft ordinance that is currently being reviewed by the Title 49 subcommittee of the Planning Commission. JCOS will make a recommendation to the Planning Commission on language changes.

### **PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE 2011 JUNEAU CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

#### ***Recommendations***

- Update the Juneau energy use and GHG emissions inventory with 2013 and 2016 data. A revised approach to capturing fuel sales data from local companies is required.
- Update the 2007 Juneau Climate Change – Predicted Impacts Report with current temperature and precipitation predictions based on the latest models.
- Establish a system for energy use and GHG emission tracking and reporting for all CBJ Departments. Many improvements are being made, and costs reduced, but there is no system for tracking them.

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- Review and update Juneau's climate action goals. In the past 5 years the science has become clearer that GHG emissions must be reduced almost completely by 2050 in order to prevent significant negative impacts from climate change, including substantial sea level rises, extreme weather events, etc. The CBJ should consider adopting a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 50% by 2035, and 80-100% by 2050.
  - Provide dedicated staff support for implementation of the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan, and the Juneau Community Energy Plan.
  - Consider use of consultant to identify potential energy savings and monitor progress. This model has already been successfully implemented by Juneau School District.

#### **DIRECTION FOR 2017-2018**

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

##### **I. Energy**

- Juneau Energy Plan publication and adoption by resolution.
- Identify and develop input and revisions concerning building energy efficiency codes.
- Keep apprised of energy utility developments.
- Seeking adoption of EV and buses in CBJ fleets to lower CBJ transportation costs.
- Accountability/environmental management/implementation within CBJ.

##### **II. Sustainability Awareness/Promotion/Outreach**

- Sustainability speaker series including potential for video of presentations to be available via the JCOS website and other digital platforms.
- Continued involvement with Airport Sustainability Plan and the new Juneau Arts & Humanities Council (JAHC) facility.

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### **III. Food Security**

- Understanding any current restrictions on local agricultural production (local, state, and federal).
- Supporting local compost operations that assist local food and agriculture production

### **IV. Livestock**

- Development of an ordinance allowing for the reasonable keeping of livestock within city limits.
- Continue public dialogue to ensure that ordinance seeks a balance of local Juneau food security compatible with neighborhoods.

### **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION FOR 2017-2018**

- Meet with CBJ staff to review progress on Climate Action Plan goals and actions.
- Develop a systematic plan to update both Community and CBJ energy/emissions data and monitor progress.