

**City of Bend**  
**Environment and Climate Committee**  
**September 14, 2023**

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023, in City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

- 1. Roll Call:** Alex Cerussi, Andrew Calise, Kavi Chokshi, Lauren Fraser, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Smita Mehta (present virtually)

Council Liaison: Councilor Megan Norris (present virtually)

**Absent:** Laura Tabor, Rory Isbell, Kellie Jensen, Serena Dietrich, Jackie Mueller (ex officio), Sasha Sulia (ex officio)

- 2. Approval of minutes**

- No votes on minutes today. Will approve minutes from August and September at October meeting.

- 3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

- No public comment.

- 4. Staff Updates**

Stephanie Betteridge

- Cate Schneider who has been filling in for Cassie Lacy is unavailable today. Stephanie Betteridge is filling in for Cate today.
- Stipend process for committee and advisory bodies has been underway for a year. A survey to evaluate the stipend process will be sent out soon to all advisory bodies and the results of the survey will be brought to the attention of Bend City Council.
- Cassie Lacy will be returning in early December. Cate Schneider will be covering as staff liaison for her.

- 5. Energy Working Group**

Chair Baunsgard recognized the members of the group.

- ECC Member Laura Tabor joined the Energy Working Group. Other members include Chair Neil Baunsgard, and ECC Members Andrew Calise, and Lauren Fraser.
- Andrew Calise provided a brief overview outlining the responsibilities for the 9 CCAP strategies and the actions currently underway and those not completed or started yet.

- There are 4 Key areas to focus on and the actionable items from those key areas include developing a road map to 100% renewable energy for Bend residents, community outreach and education, develop revolving loan fund for the community, and workforce development.
- Chair Baunsgard provided Relevant Updates:
  - Resilient, Efficient Buildings Policy Package leverages federal funding to improve efficiency of homes and buildings including heat pumps for all and the Benchmarking Program.
  - ODOE One-Stop Shop requires ODOE to establish a one stop shop to serve as a navigator, for state and federal climate incentives
  - Solar and Storage Rebate Program Extension extends sunset on solar ad storage project rebates for residential customers and low-income service providers, extending the program through January 2029.
  - Community Renewable Energy Grant Program which provides funding for ODOE's Community.
- ECC Member Fraser discussed what Actions the Energy Working Group hopes to prioritize:
- Provide 100% renewable electricity supply to the community.
  - HB2021 created 100% renewable electricity standard for investor-owned utilities by 2040 which requires utilities to offer a community green tariff (CGT).
  - CGT would allow the City of Bend to procure 100% renewable electricity for certain customers much sooner.
  - CGT is developing and certain cities such as Portland have been engaged and submitted proposals to the PUC.
- Outreach and Education
  - Actions not started. For community education actions, the CCAP recommends identifying community organizations as the implementation partners with the ECC providing guidance on model for outreach and education.
  - Large tax incentives and rebates available for residents and businesses via the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - Working Group developed an initial set of ideas and recommendations to explore further.
  - Develop a plan for how the City of Bend can fund and work with community organizations to carry out this action.
- Revolving Loan Fund
  - Strategy is on hold.
  - A portion of the federal funds received via the EECBG will be used to establish a loan fund program.
  - Working Group conducted research on Seeds for the Sol, a low-income revolving loan fund in Corvallis and Craft3, a home strategy loan provider.
  - Develop a revolving loan fund plan for the City of Bend and meet with relevant City staff members to develop the plan.

- **Workforce Development**
  - Actions have not been started. Workforce development actions, the CCAP recommends identifying community organizations and trades as the implementation partners with the ECC providing guidance on a model for partnerships.
  - Staff had met with East Cascades Works; a local workforce development agency and they have interest in helping to develop a program if funding is available.
  - Conduct further research on partners and develop a plan for how the city can support and work with community organizations, educators and local trades to carry out this action.

## **6. Bike Rack Update**

Vice Chair Chokshi suggested postponing this agenda item to the next meeting.

## **7. ECC Representative Report**

Chair Baunsgard recognized that ECC members attend multiple meetings outside of ECC. Standardizing the process for reporting on other committee obligations is helpful and important. He suggested that ECC members request time to speak during ECC meetings on other committee reporting. He added that requesting time through the committee liaison or the Chair would be appropriate.

Vice Chair Chokshi reported on TRUAC. Recommendations to City Council to prioritize and preserve large trees but admitting that can be a barrier to development. TRUAC as a whole is conservation oriented.

ECC Member Buckley reported on Transportation Utility Fee Committee. The committee will meet three times and it's largely focused on prioritization of how funds would be used from the Transportation Utility Fee program and how the funds will be generated.

Chair Baunsgard shared that the SDC Subcommittee has made their recommendations to City Council. One specific goal is to encourage smaller housing. This is due to the fact that SDCs will now be calculated on the square footage of the home. This was not the standard practice in the past.

## **8. Agenda Review**

Chair Baunsgard reviewed the upcoming agenda: Working group discussions continued, CCAP revision initial kick-off, and bike rack update.

## **9. Adjourned at 1:05**