



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Thursday, August 30, 2024, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Conference Room
City Council Ward 6
3202 E. 1st Street
Tucson, Arizona, 85716

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:01 PM by Chair Jim Sell

Present:

Garrett Weaver	Representative, City Manager
Dan Stormont	Representative, City Manager
Ojas Sanghi	Representative, Ward 3
Camila Martins-Bekat	Representative, City Manager, Tucson Electric Power
Adriana Bachmann	Representative, Ward 2
Jim Sell	Representative, Ward 6
Vanessa Gallego	Representative, Ward 1
John Eisele	Representative, City Manager, Environmental Organization Combating & Adapting to Climate Change

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Fatima Luna	Chief Resilience Officer
Jana Sagal-Stormont	
Howard Choy	

Absent:

None

2) Call to Audience - None

3) Approval of Minutes (June 27)

Chair Sell asked to add page numbers to minutes. And change "80% of 90% in the next 10 years" To "80% to 90% in the next 10 years"

Chair Sell said there is a place to put the presentation on the Boards and Commissions Site.

Comm. Sanghi moved to approve as corrected, Bachmann seconded to approve.

No objections.

4) Fatima Luna, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Tucson

Fatima Luna talked about heat mitigation strategy. Implements 2.1 of TRT.

Last year CAT did background research on heat action across the nation. In Feb 2024 CoT hosted the Southern Arizona Heat Planning Summit. Well represented by Unions, health professionals, community members.

Culminated in adoption of Heat Plan in June. Also working on heat protection ordinance and administrative action.

Heat action roadmap is a strategy to build heat resilience. Three goals, and 61 actions.

Goal 1: Focus on people.

Goal 2: Focus on people's homes and communities. Improve energy efficiency of people's homes.

Goals 3: Look at the community neighborhood scale.

Implemented Goal 1 by starting a Heat Advisory Committee.

For protecting City Employees this is done with an administrative directive.

Working with transportation and mobility on rain water harvesting, solar panels, and integrating green infrastructure for bus stops.

Suntran received a \$11.3M grant for updating infrastructure.

Fatima Luna talked about City of Tucson's work building heat relief kits, over 40 volunteers have contributed. 650 Kits have been distributed at 5 distribution events. Using 911 call data. Many faith based groups have volunteered to build the kits.

Distributed kits to mobile homes.

Two events coming up: second Southern Arizona Heat Summit. Looking at January 13th at this moment. They are starting to plan for it.

Assessing readiness of cooling centers to be resilience hubs. Rating how ready they are for infrastructure. They are creating a Community leadership academy. Will walk community members about climate change, what is it, and work with their community to develop a preparedness plan. Identify strengths, vulnerabilities.

FEMA grant is ongoing for three years.

Engagement opportunities, Distributing heat relief kits on 8/31/24 and heat relief kit assembling 9/7/24.

Next Climate Action stakeholder conversation event is on September 25th.

Comm. Stormont noticed on the Heat Action Roadmap, asked about adding a tab for it on the Climate Action Hub.

Fatima Luna plans to update the Climate Action Hub. In process of hiring community relations coordinator. They could help with the hub update and make sure resources are easy to update.

Comm. Stormont pointed out that PDF is not loadable.

Pinecrest has a school that is interested in being a resilience center. Can FEMA grant be used for that?

Focusing on Norte Sur corridor, that is the geographic limitation there.

Comm. Weaver asked about the amount of community input in the Heat Advisory Committee.

Got a lot of applicants from, had the first kick off meeting earlier today. Got representation from Academia, emergency respondents, unions, and business. Very excited. Prioritizing actions in the road map. Committee will have quarterly meetings, will create working groups, and collectively support. Help is always needed.

Comm. Sanghi asked if there are any tie-ins for heat action for unhoused people. There are programs for unhoused people, but also for housing retrofits. CH 2.7 is working towards that, to fill in the gaps. Working more closely with housing first. The city also go a grant for supporting unhouse

Comm. Bachmann asked about cooling centers staying open longer into the evenings.

Libraries stay open till 6pm. Most cooling centers will be closed by the end of August. There are some other cooling centers, community based groups will stay open. Cooling centers had 300 visitors, others have 1. Work is being spent on being more strategic. Where is the geographic areas. Map with 911 call data that they have. There will be a report out of collective activities this summer.

Comm. Bachmann, recommends the cooling centers on the way to work, a lot of people do not know where they are.

The County created a small template, shows signs of heat stress and heat exhaustion with a map of cooling centers along with a map of bus routes on a website.

Comm. Stormont asked about housing. People are trying to reduce homeless populations and cutting trees down. Is canopy data being updated?

Luna tree data is spatial data, but now they have an inventory of trees and their species. Using to identify Trees have been cut for safety or other issues. Strategy should be to not only plant trees, but maintain trees that we already have.

Chair Sell asked about the tree vigilanties, who cut down trees.

We have a community action plan for trees. There is more work that needs to be done. Having more information out there, seeing the benefits of trees. A very good piece of green infrastructure because it increases value over time.

Chair Sell asked the commission to help draft a survey on the resilience centers.

Chair Sell said he will send out the document for review by commissioners and will collate comments for Fatima Luna.

Comm. Sanghi commented that cooling center situation seems as problematic as last summer.

Chair Sell said they need to be revamped, they were originally designed as recreation centers when we did not have these issues.

Comm. Martins-Bekat reported that she is on YWCA board and they are talking about doing a cooling center. It would be great to see where the needs are. Believes there is some level of coordination that should connect cities to non-profits.

Comm. Stormont we need to talk about emergency cooling centers. Where do you go if power is out for three days?

Comm. Stormont A lot of schools can act in the cooling center roll.

We need to have an inventory of community cooling centers. Perhaps that is something we can recommend to Fatima.

Next steps, who is providing centers, and what is their condition?

Comm. Martins-Bekat Can't speak to resources on the cooling centers. TEP is not allowed to turn off power till October. There should be a way to connect that.

Comm. Weaver commented that heat can last till November. Asked how many places in administrative codes and ordinances are tied to dates, whereas they are intended to apply to temperature?

5) Update on Plan Comparison

Chair Sell We're at the point now where Plan Tucson is being finished and we are looking at implementation.

What Natalie Shepp needs is a set of 10 to 20 priorities from the city that we can focus on.

Comm. Stormont said the priorities are constrained by funding.

Chair Sell said that these priorities should be put on the dashboard.

Comm. Stormont said Tree canopy.

We can look at progress for tree coverage goal. We can measure how much tree canopy coverage there is.

Comm. Sanghi Building energy efficiency. kBtus per cubic foot.

Vehicle registration for Pima County, look at that trends, and look at CO2 reductions relative to vehicle registration.

6) Committee Reports — Outreach

Latino Conservation week, hoping to plan an event, grant was not granted. Mt. Lemmon Sky Island adventure with Sierra Club.

Community Resource Data, building off of Garrett's initial list. Deciding if it should be internal and external, depends on hosting our own website, social media page, newsletter. May not be able to because of Open Meeting Law.

Garrett Looked into San Diego, Jim looked into Arizona Cities.

Comm. Sanghi suggested Environmental Lobby Day.

7) Energy Manager Report

Commissioners agreed to have meetings at 2pm - 4pm on the 4th Friday of the month. .

GDS was selected for studying CCA and Microgrids. Looking into energy use. Finalizing energy totals, almost 15% self generation for city operations

8) Call to Audience

Jana Segal-Stormont - Would like to invite to Sustainable Tucson Sept. 10 meeting, Luke Cole will be there for urban wildlife. Concrest neighborhood association. Understand prioritizing areas that do not have shade. We would like to have an emergency cooling center in their area. Needed for when grid goes down. Rides public transportation. Excited for shade. Social media has pushback because of homeless and drug dealers. Sun Tran needs to provide security. These people need to have a place to go. There should be urban campgrounds. Homeless people have no place to go, they need shade, they need to have access to bathrooms. They need to have access to water.

9) Future Programming

Shared letter about Rio Vista Park. Chair Sell looked at it, and is investigating. Will have more time at the September meeting to discuss.

Comm. Sanghi proposed discussion of TUSD, AZYCC climate action resolution. Write a letter in support of letter for TUSD board.

Comm. Martins-Bekat mentioned that TEP has been working with TUSD for fleet electrification.

Comm. Weaver asked for a discussion of where to build cooling centers.

10) Adjournment

Chair Sell Adjourned the meeting at 2:34.