



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Friday, December 20, 2024, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

There was discussion of the traceability matrix for Plan Tucson between Comm. Stormont and EM Catanzaro.

Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Jim Sell

Present:

Dan Stormont	Representative, City Manager
Garrett Weaver	Representative, City Manager
Ojas Sanghi	Representative, Ward 3
Jim Sell	Representative, Ward 6
John Eisele	Representative, City Manager, Environmental Organization Combating & Adapting to Climate Change

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
-------------------	---

Absent:

Camila Martins-Bekat	Representative, City Manager, Tucson Electric Power
Vanessa Gallego	Representative, Ward 1
Adriana Bachmann	Representative, Ward 2

2) Approval of Minutes (October 25)

Comm. Sanghi moved to approve, Comm. Stormont seconded.
No objections, minutes approved.

3) Report from the Chair

Chair Sell acknowledged the work of Comm. Eisele, with Climate Reality Project and Green Rotary. Announced the draft of Plan Tucson rolled out, over 200 pages. Want comments by January 20th. Will request that plan Tucson present to the commission. Chair Sell commented that the political climate is tenuous. City will need as many friends as it can get on the plan.

Comm. Weaver asked about the annual report.

Chair Sells plan request that commissioners produce talking points and produce a plan in January.

4) Discussion: Key Performance Indicators

CM Catanzaro reported that energy consumption, natural gas consumption, CNG consumption, footprints are as up-to-date as we can get them. Working with a consultant to get a real-time carbon footprint and have that up in July.

Comm. Stormont asked about the scope of emissions.

Comm. Sanghi asked about the building breakdown.

EM Catanzaro said that in the next iteration that can be added.

Chair Sell asked about comprehensive emissions.

EM Catanzaro reported that the dashboard will cover City Government operations and not for the entire community.

Comm. Sanghi asked about real-time data from TEP

EM Catanzaro said that data can be accessed monthly.

Comm. Stormont asked about state restrictions

EM Catanzaro said that Government Operations will not be available.

Comm. Weaver asked about the development process.

EM Catanzaro responded that they're modeling it after City of New Yorks dashboard. It will be an iterative process.

Comm. Stormont asked If there going to be API Access.

EM Catanzaro replied, not to start, but that could occur.

Chair Sell, raised the question about what are our primary indicators? Mentioned that Blaise Claudil said we're the only city in the state that is working on this.

Comm. Eisele asked about press.

EM Catanzaro replied that they are getting mayor and council feedback.

Comm. Stormont asked about the scope. Are we looking at vehicle replacement? Are we making a lot of these numbers available?

EM Catanzaro said when we make decisions on things like lawn equipment we want to have good data on the impacts of that. We want good data on things like carbon emissions, but also health impacts so that we make informed decisions.

Chair Sell commented that we can get per capita water consumption, but it does not tell us how much we have to work with.

There was a discussion of energy and water intersection and how we spend energy to bring in CAP water.

Comm. Stormont commented that he cannot find how many miles of road that City of Tucson is responsible for.

Comm. Sanghi asked about urban accessibility metrics.

EM Catanzaro replied that Move Tucson has done some work on that.

Comm. Sanghi asked who the contractor is.

EM Catanzaro responded that we're working with Energy Cap, it's a product they have called Carbon Hub.

Would like to pull in fugitive emissions, and employee commute numbers as well.

Comm. Weaver asked about the possibility of having institutions contribute data.

EM Catanzaro said there are no plans right now to take on data from other parties.

Comm. Sanghi said we could count the number of buildings with LEED certification.

EM Catanzaro replied that we are a LEED Silver city, those are numbers we can integrate.

Comm. Stormont said many of the goals in Plan Tucson are binary. Did you do or not do something.

EM EM Catanzaro replied that some things are things that can be measured such as a greenhouse gas inventory in the climate action and adaptation plan. We could track the progress on whether goals are done with a check. Some goals are not measurable.

Chair Sell summarized Key indicators:

Energy, Greenhouse Gases, Water,

We have to integrate the nuances of how many we look at.

Comm. Sanghi suggested that we as a commission can do work and find information and research to make this useful to the work the city is doing.

EM EM Catanzaro said he will advise that we would pull in Plan Tucson metrics to the dashboard.

5) Letter to Council about Resilience and Energy Offices

Comm. Weaver spoke of the importance of recognizing the important work of the Climate Action team and the work that Michael Catanzaro and Fatima Luna are doing.

Comm. Sanghi motioned to approve, Comm. Stormont seconded.

Chair Sell asked for a vote.

Unanimous consent.

Chair Sell will send the letter to Mayor and Council.

6) Rio Vista Report

Comm. Weaver asked for the letter to be read aloud.

Comm. Sanghi noticed a typo on Rio vista on page 1. and suggested on page 2 changing “ben” to “been”. Fixed “showed” on page 3.

Comm. Sanghi asked about the core issue, which he understood to be that the plants were not being watered.

Comm. Stormont said that the contractor is addressing the issue.

Chair Sell commented that it is draconian to expect the contractor to replace dead plants, especially with our increasingly hot environment. The forest service looks at a 5% attrition rate.

To summarize the plan, this has been a very professional installation. It is a good plan and we have no concerns.

Comm. Eisele mentioned to send the letter out as corrected, Comm. Weaver seconded.

Comm. Sanghi said that we are acting in the capacity as an intermediary between the community and city government on climate issues.

7) Energy Manager Report

EM Catanzaro shared a presentation from an Energy purchasing conference with Connect, the broker City of Tucson uses to buy natural gas.

(Tucson Resilient Together) TRT was approved in 2022, climate emergency declaration in 2020, the City has a goal for net zero emissions by 2030.

Presented “MR. ODO” framework - 1. **M**easure activity, **R**educe and **O**ptimize, **D**ecarbonize Activity, **O**ffset (insert) Activity.

City of Tucson has 4864 Utility accounts, 2,932 Electric, 332 Gas, and 1,600 water.

Reported that electric usage has been flat, but costs have gone up, there was a 20% rate increase last year.

In a breakdown of electric consumption, Tucson Water is the highest consumer, with 60.4% of energy use in 2024. Parks and Recs is second.

8) Climate Resilience Report - None

9) Call to Audience - None

10) Future Agenda items - None

11) Adjournment

Chair Sell adjourned the meeting at 3:45.