



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 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

Meeting called to order at 1:05 by Chair Jim Sell

Present:

Jim Sell (in-person)	Representative, Ward 6
Garrett Weaver (in-person)	Representative, City Manager
Katy Brown (in-person)	Representative, City Manager
Manon Getsi (in-person)	Representative, Ward 5
Adriana Bachmann (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 2
Dan Stormont (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager
Vanessa Gallego (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 1
Camila Martins-Bekat (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager, Tucson Electric Power

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Jane Conlin	GreaterTucson Climate Coalition
Bruce Plenk	GreaterTucson Climate Coalition
Tres English	GreaterTucson Climate Coalition
Ron Proctor	GreaterTucson Climate Coalition
Cesar Acosta	PDSD
Amanda Smith	PDSD
Erick Bieber	City of Tucson Intern
Ian Wan	PDSD

Absent:

Ojas Sanghi	Representative, Ward 3
-------------	------------------------

2) Call to Audience - None

3) Approval of Minutes (February 26)

Page 2: Comm. Brown suggested changing “plan made” to “Climate Mitigation Report by the City’s Climate Change Committee with consultation support”

Page 2: Comm. Brown suggested changing “ther” with “TRT”

Page 2: Comm. Brown suggested inserting “included” in “not in scope,”

Page 2: Comm. Brown suggested changing “There was discussion of the 2011 plan made by the Westmorland group” to “make sure that we are moving from paper (reports with good ideas) pushing, and towards action. “

Page 4: Comm. Brown suggested changing “Comm. Brown said that what is missing from Plan Tucson is what Pima Community College was doing on sustainability. ” to “Comm. Brown noted that one thing that is missing from Plan Tucson when discussing community partners is what Pima Community College has been doing on sustainability. PCC has a Climate and Sustainability Action Plan that it is implementing. ”

Page 2: Comm. Brown suggested spelling out TRT as *Tucson Resilient Together*

Comm. Getsi motioned to approve.

Comm. Bachmann seconded.

Minutes approved.

4) Report from the Chair

Chair Sell reported Two town halls coming up for the Franchise agreement.

Tabling event coming up on April 2nd.

Prop 414 failed. Says a lot about the political climate.

Chair Sell showed gratitude to Rep. Grijalva.

5) Annual Report

Chair Sell and Comm. Bachmann agreed to remove the mention of the calendar as amended.

Comm. Bachmann motioned to approve.

Comm. Stormont seconded.

The motion passed unanimously, no objections.

6) Plan Tucson — Cesar Acosta, Amanda Smith, Ian Wan

Cesar Acosta addressed the commission. Reported that they passed a general plan in December.

Reported changing “greenhouse gas emissions” to “greenhouse gas neutrality”

Reported they updated all mentions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Updated comments on energy use in goal 3.

Comment on preliminary draft Climate 8.

Comm. Martins-Bekat commented that TEP does not have a limit on the amount of solar in a neighborhood. We should not make all ratepayers pay for equipment for one customer.

Comm. Brown suggested learning more about what that wording means.

Comm. Stormont asked about community solar.

Amanda reported on the wording on the new preliminary draft Climate 8, draft Climate 9 wording.

Comm. Brown discussed the structure of the Plan Tucson website with Cesar.
Cesar talked about the plan spotlight.

Comm. Stormont. It would be good to show what goals map to which part of a specific plan.

Cesar said that the website will eventually have links between the plans.
We do not know our capacity 5 to 7 to 10 years out.

Chair Sell commented that he does not agree with measures and goals, they're too vague.

Cesar reported on next steps. Rescheduled 2nd public hearing with planning commission on April 9th at 6pm.

Chair Sell indicated he cares about Equity, Resilience, Transparency. Said he sees Equity, and Resilience, but is not sure about Transparency. Did not see in 2013 plan reporting.

There was discussion on whether to make a recommendation to Mayor and Council on the plan.

7) Tucson Climate Coalition — Jane Conlin

Jane Conlin Indicated she was grateful for work of the commission and the city. Cities across the country have implemented sustainability with franchise agreements.

Ron Proctor reported he was co-chair of the climate change committee. Identified that franchise agreement is a leverage point for sustainability. TEP is the largest emitter in the region. San Diego had \$70m bid from the utility for franchise agreement bid.

TEP \$259m in profit in 2023, \$6.5B profit over 25 years.

2.25% of revenues for City from franchise agreement. It's passed along to ratepayers. Allowed by the ACC. Mentioned tracking tools. There should be a climate equity fund.

Chair Sell asked if the cities have a franchise tax.

Ron reported that there are a variety of funding mechanisms.

A subcommittee was appointed to make recommendations to Mayor and Council for Plan Tucson.

Comm. Stormont,

Comm. Brown

Comm. Getsi were selected

Tres English addressed the commission. Reported TEP is the most important player in a sustainability, both as emitter and as an enabler on electrification.

TEP is vulnerable to disruptions due to climate change. Blackouts are a serious problem. 2 day blackout in Phoenix, 8k people would die.

Emergency centers should be in the franchise agreement.

Bruce Plenk, addressed the commission, used to be on the commission. Reported that 412 failed two years ago. Get info to the council. Reported that GDS Associates has been hosted by the commission.

EM Catanzaro reported that the Franchise agreement will be posted on Friday.

Some discussion about forming a subcommittee.

Comm. Martins-Bekat said we want to be in front of this. Said TEP takes people's lives very seriously.

Comm. Weaver moved to form a subcommittee on Franchise agreements

Comm. Brown. Seconded.

Motion passed, without objections.

Chair Sell agreed with forming a Franchise subcommittee and put Comm. Weaver, Comm. Gallego, Comm. Brown, Comm. Martins-Bekat on the subcommittee.

8) Outreach Committee — Climate Community Day, April 8

Comm. Bachmann reported on a community resource database.

We are making a report on individual research on climate action plan community engagement efforts in other cities.

Reported tabling at Pima Community College Climate Community Day.

Some discussion of putting a bio together.

Comm. Ghetsi asked about email address for Bio.

EM Catanzaro said to send all information to him.

9) Energy Manager Report

EM Catanzaro reported on GDS Associates Energy Sourcing Study dates,

Reported that Draft report from city staff will be released to city staff on Apr 9

Draft report to council on April 14th,

Apr 22 council franchise discussion

Report publicly available on April 25, by the latest.

Final public meeting on May 2nd.

Final draft on May 20

Final report delivery on May 23.

Language for franchise agreement will be in July.

Comm. Weaver suggested having a meeting later in the day for the GDS associates study.

10) Climate Resilience Report - None**11) Call to Audience - None****12) Future Agenda Items**

Bruce Plenk said there is a lot of energy related stuff happening all this month. Mentioned that there is a franchise extension till 2027.

Comm. Brown wants to learn more about solar rooftop limits.

Comm. Brown wants to look at EN-ROADS simulator by climate interactive.

Comm. Getsi suggested having a thermometer to track heat index.

13) Adjournment - Chair Sell Adjourned the meeting at 4:01.