

Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary

October 7, 2021



Attendees: Anthony Martin (Chair), Vinod Singh, Tasha Johnson, Laura Trunk, Matthew Barnett, Troy Gagliano, Jeff Pazdalski, Kieran Sikdar, Randy Olsen, Audrey O’Brien, Simon Christensen, Tom Arnold, Mac Martin, Tony Varela, Tina Chang, Allison Puch Cahuich, Hannah Cruz

Support Team: Peter Brandom; Dacia Bakkum; Jason Robertson

Absent: Fawn Bergen, Justin Green, Makena Krause, Mia Hocking, Nina Carlson

Welcome + Introductions

Councilor Anthony Martin, Chair, welcomed the group and asked each person to introduce themselves and answer the question: “Do you see opportunities for excellence in environmental stewardship in Hillsboro that we are not necessarily already addressing?”

Committee feedback:

- Renewable energy sources, solar panels, gas pack generators, etc.
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality benefits at the state level by the efforts communities are making; we learn from communities and try to make sure we are hearing the issues that communities are experiencing; you have to communicate with your community in a language they can understand.
- Help CWS acquire grant funding to increase the scope of planting in the McKay Drainage, especially near 10th Avenue and Oak; we don’t utilize enough grant funding
- Make travel corridors more friendly for all modes of transportation; make it easier for businesses to support employees use of alternative modes of transportation; allow City workers to continue working from home post-pandemic
- Develop alternative options to chemical land management; focus on biological processes to support diverse and healthy soils
- Take climate change information into account when planning all major City initiatives and investments
- Indicators on the right track; partners/players all working in the same direction
- City can help promote cultural shift to reusable products; promote reusable take-out containers, bulk foods, etc. Change thought processes – move away from “throw away” norms
- More customer led conversations about the use of renewable materials
- Assess natural resource areas the City owns and protect these habitats; create budgets for restoration work; continue to remove invasive species
- Continue to refine and improve public works practices
- Be more aggressive in certain areas – natural resources

Council Update

Chair Martin provided a City Council update.

- Partnered with Washington County Mental Health Response Team
- Created an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Hillsboro School District to provide school resource officers
- Implemented the Home Energy Score Program
- Created a low-income grant program to provide free Home Energy Score assessments for income qualified households
- Increased garbage rates
- US Bank building at 2nd and Main in Downtown Hillsboro will be redeveloped and may include a roof top dining area/bar
- An assessment of how the City manages natural resources has begun under the Portland State University Center for Public Service

City Updates

Committee News

- Next ESC meeting is on December 2
- ESC – 2-year commitment; coming up on one year; will check in next year to see who would like to affirm committee members
- Simon Christensen with the City of Hillsboro Water Department will be joining the ESC in place of Kristel Griffith who is no longer with the City of Hillsboro

City (Operations) Greenhouse Gas Reductions

- Scope 1: City fleet, natural gas, refrigerants
- Scope 2: Electricity
- Scope 3: City purchases, commutes, solid waste, other indirect sources
- Results: Scope 1 & 2 emissions down 33% 2020 compared to 2007; note that when accounting for renewable energy credit investment to offset electricity use the reductions are 67% compared to 2007
- Results: Scope 3 emissions highly variable and much larger than scopes 1 and 2
- Actions include energy efficiency upgrades, stronger state energy code in new buildings, more fuel-efficient fleet, including lower carbon content fuels, purchase of renewable energy credits to offset electricity use
- Volume of large construction projects impacts scope 3

Electricity Offsets

- City purchases renewable energy credits (REC) to offset electricity use through PGE; new solar array being procured by PGE (Pachwaywit Fields [pronounced *Patch-Why-Wit*], which means “sun” in the Sahaptin language of the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and other native people of our region)

Clean Fuels Program

- State program started in 2016, requires companies that import liquid and other fuels to voluntarily reduce the carbon intensity of fuels sold in Oregon

Cap and Reduce Rule and Process – Oregon Climate Protection Program

State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) response to Governor’s Executive Order 20-04 rules are in draft that will require providers of liquid and gaseous fuels, and large stationary emitters of greenhouse gases to reduce emissions 80% by 2050. Public comment period on the draft rule is open until 4:00pm on October 25. Links to the draft rule and ways to provide comment can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Regulations/rulemaking/Pages/rghgcr2021.aspx>.

Home Energy Score Program

- The Home Energy Score (HES) Program became effective September 1. Requires sellers of single-family residential homes to obtain and disclose a HES and Report prior to listing the home for sale.
- Excludes some housing types (manufactured homes, mobile homes detached ADUs, stacked units and rentals)
- Includes new construction. Homes constructed in the same geographic area and with identical design documents and features may produce an HES and Report for multiple buildings. Most, if not all, of the data points can be replicated from the original assessment allowing the assessor to easily produce a unique Home Energy Score and Report for each address of the remaining identical homes.
- The City offers free HES assessments for income qualified households regardless of whether the home is being sold. Income qualified renters are also eligible with written permission from the homeowner.
- For more information visit Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/EnergyScore

Energy Efficiency Grant Program

- The City has launched a local Energy Efficiency Grant for income qualified households. In partnership with Community Action, the City will provide an incentive of up to \$1,000 for the replacement of older, less efficient water heaters with a new heat pump water heater. The grant requires a Home Energy Score assessment which will be provided through the City’s HES Low Income Assistance Program.

Member Spotlight Concept

Jason Robertson asked the group to think about places they’d like to tour/visit and/or topics they’d like to learn more about. Ideas include:

- YAC update
- Far West Fibers/Recology tours
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands
- DEQ Air monitoring station in Hillsboro
- Tualatin Valley Waste Recovery/Hillsboro Landfill
- Clean Water Services Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Fern Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Water reuse irrigation systems
- Bee City USA Program
- R&D Plastics

- Metafab
- Working Theory Farm
- DEQ food composting facility

Revised Indicators Review

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target (Climate Action)

- Since 2015, 20 indicators have been tracked. The new proposed set has 29 indicators including nine new ones. The City is considering moving forward with a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory which will help inform a greenhouse reduction target.

HESC Feedback

- Indicator 1: Can identify sub-basins, but current data includes only CWS facilities. We should make sure the indicator goes up, not down
- Indicator 3: Clean Water Services is already doing this – putting data into context takes expertise. Should consult with technical experts to refine or omit. Maybe consider % of water returned to beneficial use
- Indicator 5: Target 100%. Create demo sites with Washington County; opportunities to learn and collaborate with developers; Pumpkin Ridge “pollinator hole;” HOAs environmental friendly, drought resistant plants in neighborhood – find HOA communities already making efforts and provide assistance; Business park HOA (Far West Recycling) is looking at ways to save water; promote Water Department program incentives; focus on new development sites – including new affordable housing sites – can create landscape design during construction phase; some question as to what all would be included in definition of “turf conversion.” Mac believes CWS can all requested data and will coordinate with Laura
- Indicator 6: Backyard Habitat Certification is renewed every three years
- Indicator 8: Current metric of % water system loss is not good, Water Department has budgeted this fiscal year to review
- Indicators 9-11 are good, but City could do more to opt-in all Hillsboro households. PGE will reach to City to explore opt-out program options

Next Steps

Committee discussion was paused at Indicator 13. Peter said the project team would work to refine the indicators and identify proposed targets at future meetings, starting in December.

Member Announcements/Public Comment

- Energy Trust of Oregon completed a manufactured home replacement pilot and just received PUC approval to move forward with a full program early next year.
- JSH Recycling is hosting a recycling event on October 16 from 10am -2:30pm at Columbia Sportswear, 14370 NW Science Park Drive, Portland, OR 97229. For more information visit jshrecycling.com/recycling-dropoff-event/.

Adjourn

Councilor Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.