

Memorandum

To: Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council

From: Sonia Marcus, Chair, Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE)

Date: January 31, 2016

Subject: 2015 Annual Report for SACEE

Overview

This memorandum represents the 2015 annual report for the City's Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment. It provides a summary of work completed in 2015 followed by goals for 2016.

SACEE Mission

To support the Mayor and Asheville City Council in their charge to integrate sustainability principles related to energy and the environment into City operations and the broader community consciousness, while promoting economic viability, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility – with the intent to improve quality of life for this and future generations through the following:

- **Policy Guidance:** Provide technical assistance to the Mayor and Council on institutionalizing environmentally sustainable practices by evaluating and developing current and future policies in support of City sustainability commitments.
- **Education:** Increase awareness of matters related to energy and environmental sustainability by developing and implementing outreach and education activities aimed at changing behaviors across a diverse cross-section of the community.
- **Partnership:** Provide leadership and support in creating synergy among public and private partners in the region to maximize efforts towards a more environmentally sustainable future.

Summary of 2015 Accomplishments

- Continued to provide support and guidance for the City's Pay-As-You-Throw initiative and the associated consulting contract to evaluate implementation potential.
- Led further meetings of the Energy Task Force, comprised of citizens, advocates, commercial customers, subject area experts, and elected officials.
- Recommended final adoption of the Clean Energy Framework by Council.

- Engaged with Duke Energy Progress to further engage them in the clean energy partnership.
- Participated in the selection of the City's new sustainability officer.
- Explored sustainability considerations in regards to a number of ongoing projects, including RADTIP and storm water fee increases.
- Consulted with other committees such as the A-B Food Policy Council and the Multimodal Transportation Committee.

SACEE 2015 Membership

Lael Gray (Chair) – Asheville Jewish Community Center
 Sonia Marcus (Vice-Chair/Chair) – University of North Carolina Asheville
 Mindy Fisher – The Dungan Law Firm
 Torin Kexel – Citizen
 Duncan McPerson – Samsel Architects
 Josh O'Conner – Buncombe County Planning Department
 Lawrence Pittman – PSNC
 Katie Bray – Clean Energy for WNC
 John Noor (Vice Chair) – Roberts & Stevens, Attorneys at Law

City of Asheville supporting staff:

City Staff Liaisons – Kerby Smithson, Amber Weaver, Joey Robison, and Melissa Van Sickle

City Council Liaison – Gwen Wisler

SACEE 2016 Goals

1. Support ongoing implementation or amendment of relevant City resolutions and initiatives
 - Resolution 11-77: To increase the municipal carbon footprint reduction goal to 4% each year for the next five years
 - Resolution 14-27: Establishing a waste reduction goal and benchmarks for the City of Asheville
 - Resolution 13-17: Establishing the City of Asheville's Food Action Plan in support of the Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Agenda
 - Resolution 15-200: Adopting a Community Clean Energy Policy Framework
 - Sustainable development incentives (including property tax exemptions and fee reductions)
2. Comprehensive Planning
 - Ensure that sustainability goals and programs feature prominently in the City of Asheville's comprehensive plan

3. Participation and Engagement

- Expand and improve the quality of public contribution
- Diversify SACEE membership
- Raise awareness and overall visibility of committee
- Improved communication with other departments and boards and commissions