

Memorandum

To: Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council

From: Lael Gray, Chair, Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE)

Date: January 21, 2015

Subject: 2014 Annual Report for SACEE

Overview

This memorandum represents the 2014 annual report for the City's Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment. It provides a summary of work completed in 2014 and planned goals for 2015.

SACEE Mission

To support the Mayor and Asheville City Council in their charge to integrate sustainable 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 2014 Accomplishments

- Successfully recommended the passage of the Waste Reduction Resolution.
- Provided learning opportunities on issues related to energy, regulation, and incentives for committee members and public in advance of work on the Duke Energy Progress Partnership.
- Created an Energy Taskforce, made up of representative members of energy providers and users, that created a ranked list of ideas and opportunities to reduce the community's energy use.
- Analyzed Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) options for the City of Asheville and recommended that City Council pursue the feasibility of requiring trash be bagged by residents in bags purchased specifically for this program.
- Forwarded a fracking resolution to City Council for consideration.
- Held a liaison seat on the Multimodal Transportation Commission.

SACEE 2014 Membership

Lael Gray (Chair) – Asheville Jewish Community Center

Sonia Marcus (Vice-Chair) – University of North Carolina Asheville

Mindy Fisher – The Dungan Law Firm

Torin Kexel – Asheville Green Opportunities

Duncan McPherson, AIA – Samsel Architects

Josh O'Conner – Buncombe County Planning Department

Lawrence Pittman – PSNC

Ryan Blau, ASLA – Vision Design Collaborative (term expired in December 2014)

Matt Raker – Advantage West (term expired in December 2014)

City of Asheville supporting staff:

City Staff Liaisons – Margaret Ullman and Kerby Smithson

City Council Liaison – Councilor Gwen Wisler

SACEE 2015 Action Plan

GOAL	Focus Areas
ENERGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Duke Energy partnership through quarterly updates from Duke, exploration of long-term role of the Energy Taskforce, and work with Duke on research of commercial sector opportunities • Continue engaging with various sectors of the energy industry to understand current trends • Identify specific advocacy opportunities at the state level to recommend to City Council
WASTE REDUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for community-wide composting opportunities • Promote a Pay-As-You-Throw garbage collection program • Encourage additional recycling opportunities • Continue supporting the City's waste reduction goals
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage staff and City Council to define sustainability and triple bottom line philosophy in economic development (ED) strategies • Continue involvement in ED incentives re-evaluation
CLIMATE ADAPTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with staff on stormwater planning and development incentives/regulations • Stay informed and provide input on the City's resiliency planning efforts • Provide input on climate adaptation planning, comprehensive land use planning, and partnership development • Continue engaging with local and regional entities to understand issues and explore solutions
COLLABORATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide liaison to Food Policy Council (FPC) and offer input on FPC metrics to include in Buncombe County's Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) online dashboard. • Assist with transition of new staff • Work with Council to improve inter-committee communication • Actively connect with City staff and other committees on transportation initiatives as they relate to sustainability