



Community Climate Advisory Committee

[March 16, 2021]

The Community Climate Advisory Committee met virtually. Present: [Dennis Rigby, Jason Snell, Jean Wiedenheft, John Zakrasek, Kelzye Bedwell, Kristine Sorensen, Laura Barr, Mark Weldon, Megan Crawford, Mugisha Bwenge, Rachel Maker, Carter Oswood, Laura Barr] all via Zoom video call. Also present [Eric Holthaus and Sylvia Brueckert of the city, Katie Coyne and Gwen Jenkins of Asakura Robinson, Abby Finis, Jessi Wyatt, and Kris Acuña of Great Plains Institute, Becky Alexander of LHB]. Staff liaison Eric Holthaus announced that the meeting was held as an electronic regular City Council meeting because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Community Climate Advisory Committee members, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

Minutes

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions. Staff Liaison, Eric Holthaus, started the meeting with a round of introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda.

Project Timeline Update. Abby Finis of the Great Plains Institute gave an overview of the current CCAP development timeline. She notes that work over the past few months has been focused on existing conditions and the advisory committee, with engagement and scenario planning as the next phase happening over the next several months.

Story Map and Survey Results. Eric Holthaus provided an update on the Cedar Rapids Story Map. It has been updated with greenhouse gas (ghg) since the last meeting. The purpose of the map is to educate the public with general overview of climate action topics, concepts, data, and Cedar Rapid resident priorities. The GHG Mitigation Report and forthcoming Resilience Conditions Report provide more detailed and technical documents. The Story Map will be shared broadly in April. Eric provided an overview of the city's survey results, outreach tactics, successes. Select survey questions and responses were highlighted, including how changing climate would affect residents and what they are excited about.

Existing Conditions Overview. Abby Finis provided an overview of the existing conditions, comprising the city's goals, GHG Inventory, background information on building energy use, transportation and waste characteristics, available renewable energy resources, and current policies, programs, and plans. This assessment provides background information that serves as the foundation for decision-making and determining priorities. The consultant team will use this information to solicit feedback from CCAC about current conditions and future considerations.

GHG Inventory. Becky Alexander, LHB, highlighted the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. She highlighted the Climate Resolution goals on emissions, electricity production, transportation, and carbon removal technologies and progress to date. The GHG Inventory tracks data in 2010 and 2019, using the U.S. Community Protocol. It includes emissions that are generated from activities that occur within the boundary of the community. This includes building energy use, transportation, waste, electricity generation, and industrial processes. Since 2010, community-wide emissions have decreased 17% primarily due to cleaner electricity generation and reduced use of coal.

Energy Use, Transportation, Clean Energy, and Programs, Plans, and Policies. Jessi Wyatt from Great Plains Institute presented on the different categories of energy use for the community. Residential energy use increased 10% between 2010-2019, driven by higher consumption of natural gas due to a colder winter. Commercial energy use has increased 12% over the same period for similar reasons. Jessi Wyatt discussed "Energy Burden", the percentage of household income paid to energy costs, with special attention to lower income households who pay a higher percentage of their household income. The committee responded to a few live poll questions, including what considerations must be included in the residential energy conversation. Responses to this question are included below.

What considerations must be included in the residential energy conversation?

- More information about how electricity is being consumed as it is happening.
- Provide existing homeowners with cost-efficient options to move to electric heating from gas.
- Enabling renters to access the programs or rebates and benefit from them if the renter is paying the utilities the renter would have a vested interest in making improvements.
- Ease of application.
- Ease of landlord incentives to upgrade.
- Change building codes to increase energy efficiency for new buildings.
- Lower-income individuals may be working multiple jobs to just keep the house or maybe buying more affordable houses and older or rough ER shape.
- They may not have the resources to investigate different programs and follow through. Ease of access both in language time and support available.
- Programs change regularly. I think Mid-America, the city, and Alliant do a good job providing updated information about changing programs and should continue to do so.
- Increase advertising and awareness of programs available.
- Allowing individual access to renters on Energy savings.

- Easily digestible incentivization structures.
- Central access/support and location.
- Upfront costs.
- Easy-to-understand education for non-science educated folks.
- More educated contractors who helped facilitate getting programs into customers home.
- Energy Efficiency audits to identify cost-effective improvements.
- Easy to access and apply to grant programs for people who don't have the money to invest ahead of time.

Transportation and mobility trends and waste were also highlighted, and the presentation wrapped up with an overview of solar and wind energy in Cedar Rapids. This conversation will continue at future meetings.

Closing. Abby Finis and Eric Holthaus closed out the meeting. The next CAC meeting will be focused on the resilience content of the existing conditions, Vulnerability Assessment, and Engagement Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.