



MINUTES
OXFORD CLIMATE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE REGULAR
MEETING
CITY OF OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 S. COLLEGE AVE.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 AT 8:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Members Present: Mark Boardman, Peggy Branstrator, David Gorchov, Venus Harvey, Olivia Herron, David Prytherch
Members of the Public Present: Anna Abey
Staff Liaison: Reena Murphy

Approval of Agenda

Venus H. moved, David G. seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed.

Approval of Minutes

David G. moved, Venus seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed.

1. Approval of the August 17th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

New Business

1. Public Outreach Planning:

- Citizen Climate Pledge
- Electrification fair

The committee discussed public outreach planning. Peggy presented a draft household climate pledge program involving a signed pledge, a worksheet focused on key actions, and signage. The committee discussed the program and supported the program, which a working group will work on with the goal of action by Council in advance of the Electrification/Efficiency event in

November. The committee then discussed the Electrification/Efficiency Fair being planned by a working group in conjunction with the League of Women Voters, which will include a public presentation on Oxford's Climate Action Plan goals, information on the Inflation Reduction Act, information on the household Climate Action Pledge, and then a fair encouraging participants to interact with local/regional vendors.

2. Mini-grant program

Reena provided an update on the concept of a mini-grant program to address gaps in the Inflation Reduction Act. There are not a lot of great models, but one good option Reena recommends is a program focused on e-bikes, which are scaled to income. David G. expressed preference for a program that helps fund local, stationary improvements (focused on energy efficiency upgrades). Committee consensus was to support a pilot program (perhaps \$5000) to address gaps in the Inflation Reduction Act and equity (low income), the details of which to be determined (e.g. e-bike vs. energy efficiency improvements vs. other).

3. EV Readiness ordinance: goals / objectives

The committee discussed EV readiness. The committee briefly reviewed an ordinance recently adopted by Columbus, Ohio, which might provide a model to be imitated. Reena suggested this be woven within the development code rewrite that will occur over 2024 and 2025. The Committee discussed the relative merits of incorporating this within a comprehensive process and long timeline vs. a more targeted approach focused on a separate EV readiness ordinance on a shorter timeline. The consensus of the committee was that this ordinance need not wait to be part of a comprehensive development code rewrite. David G. moved that the committee pursue an EV ready parking ordinance, Venus seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed.

4. Staff and member updates

Staff and members provided updates. Reena updated the group about the landfill solar array. The City has leased the entire landfill and any energy generated must go through Duke to enter the grid, meaning any increases in generation must have interconnection improvements. Members expressed concern over the dedication of the entire site for tracking panels that will only generate a portion of the potential total generation capacity of the landfill site. David P. asked Reena to inquire about whether the City has any remaining ability within its lease agreements to optimize the long-term landfill generation capacity, if future interconnection improvements were funded. Reena updated the committee on the curbside composting: the survey has closed and the Environmental Commission will be making a recommendation based on it. David P. inquired about the feasibility of using existing City yard waste collection operations to also collect food waste, to reduce the cost to provide household curbside. Reena updated the committee on EV charging infrastructure grants.

Adjournment

Peggy B. moved, Venus seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.