



# **CLIMATE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE AGENDA:**

April 18, 2024

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

8:30 AM

Mark Boardman; Sandra Hoy-Hazelton; David Prytherch; Jason Bracken; Peggy Branstrator; David Gorchov; Venus Harvey; Olivia Herron; Ann Webster  
Reena Murphy

## **Approval of Agenda**

## **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes from the March 21st, 2024 CASC Meeting

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

1. 2025 Goals
2. Future Public Engagement
3. Updates from Members:
  - City Council
  - Planning Commission
  - OPTAB
  - Environmental Commission
4. Staff Updates

## **Adjournment**



## **MINUTES: Climate Action Steering Committee**

Date: March 21, 2024

Location: City of Oxford Municipal Building, 1st Floor Conference Room

Time of Meeting: 8:31 am

Members present: Mark Boardman, David Gorchoy, Venus Harvey, Olivia Herron, David Prytherch, and Ann Webster. City Manager Designee was Reena Murphy.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Venus moved approval, Sandi seconded, all voted in favor.

### **Approval of Minutes**

David G. moved approval, Sandi seconded, all voted in favor.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

The committee welcomed Ann Webster, an architect and new resident, liaison from the Planning Commission.

The committee discussed a staff recommendation that the Climate Action Steering Committee be merged with the Environmental Commission to make operations more efficient for staff and to ensure better coordination between the two groups. Reena asked the question “is the current structure of boards and commissions the best to advance the City’s sustainability goals?” particularly given new sustainability-focused staff and recent adoption of the City’s Climate Action Plan. Sandi supported the idea in general, particularly given the reinvigoration of the Environmental Commission, though suggested a subcommittee oversee the Climate Action Plan specifically. David P. shared some of the history that led to the creation of a separate climate committee, both to focus specifically on climate and augment the work of the Environmental Commission. David G. expressed concern wanting to know “what’s broken?” Reena suggested that some ambiguity about the division of labor may dilute the voice of both committees in addition to the burdens placed on staff. A number of members expressed concern about merger, and David G. suggested the OCASC may want to meet more regularly with the Environmental Commission but maintain separateness. Alternatively there might be a way to truly merge the groups but maintain a distinct subcommittee.

Mark moved that a few members of the OCASC – Sandi, David G., and David P. – meet with members of the Environmental Commission to discuss a possible merger and elaborate more details on what that might look like. David G. seconded. All voted in favor.

The committee discussed 2024 annual Council and staff goals, which are currently set to guide City activities. As important for the committee, Reena shared draft 2025 goals which need to be prioritized for the budget cycle.

Members and staffers provided updates. David updated on Council activities, which involve discussions on Fire/EMS deficits that will require a new property tax levy to fund if we are to avoid massive budget cuts that would affect activities like sustainability. The board also discussed the process of updating the City’s development code and the role of appointed officials and what role OCASC might have on climate-focused code items. Reena updated on the Environmental Commission, which has discussed the same topic of a merger in addition to other grants (received for Zero Waste for City events, applied through OKI for Climate Pollution Reduction program). Olivia confirmed that Miami University will be constructing a 1 megawatt solar array before the end of 2025 and “Campus Beauty and Sustainability” will be one of the 9 focus areas in the Miami Thrive strategic plan.

**Next Meeting:**

March 21, 2024 8:30 am

**Adjournment**

David G. moved to adjourn, Venus seconded, all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Department	Comp Plan Goal	Area To Research	B&C or Staff Assigned
Community Development	1. L: Smart Growth and Quality Places	Update historic preservation guidelines and make recommendation on contributing historic structures or expansion of historic districts.	HAPC
City Manager	2. M: Safe and Efficient Travel for All Modes of Transportation	Develop an area plan for Chestnut Fields	CIC
Community Development	2. M: Safe and Efficient Travel for All Modes of Transportation	Examine Main Street corridor between BCRTA and Uptown to improve transit access.	OPTAB
Service	2. M: Safe and Efficient Travel for All Modes of Transportation	Feasibility study to cover open ditch on Locust Street across from Kroger gas station.	Mike Dreisbach
Community Development	2. M: Safe and Efficient Travel for All Modes of Transportation	Develop a parking in lieu of fee as an alternative to required on site parking .	Sam Perry
City Manager	2. M: Safe and Efficient Travel for All Modes of Transportation	Develop better metrics for mobility chapter. % of complete streets or # of intersections made accessible.	Jessica Greene
City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Explore regulation of manufactured/mobile homes (Raghu)	HAC
City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	develop eviction diversion programs (Raghu)	HAC
	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Explore TOPA/COPA first right of refusal. (Raghu)	HAC
Community Development	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Improve inspection enforcement. (Raghu)	Sam Perry
City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Develop a ban on source of income discrimination. (Raghu)	HAC
Community Development	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Develop inclusionary zoning- density bonus, set asides, fee waivers, expedited approval, no parking minimums.	Sam Perry

City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Develop a community land trust	HAC
Community Development	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Develop a mixed income neighborhood overlay district.	Sam Perry
City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Explore ways to prevent corporate purchase of homes.	HAC
City Manager	3. H: Housing Opportunities for Everyone	Develop RFP for 47 acres for mixed income, mixed types housing and include some small neighborhood business.	HAC
City Manager	4. E: A Thriving and Resilient Year-Round Economy	Explore ways to improve and expand outdoor dining	CIC
City Manager	4. E: A Thriving and Resilient Year-Round Economy	Explore ways to redevelop uptown surface lot. Look at Lexington Greyline Station as example <a href="https://www.greylinestation.com/about">https://www.greylinestation.com/about</a>	CIC
City Manager	4. E: A Thriving and Resilient Year-Round Economy	Restaurant week + night markets (raghu)	CIC. Share idea with Chamber and Enjoy Oxford
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	<u>To address S1-A1 “Develop an energy plan to meet Oxford’s demand with renewables generated locally/regionally” and 2024 staff priority (“By December 2024, develop an action plan...), should we envision a 2025 priority related to implementation? For example, to solarize municipal operations – and build community generating capacity – would require both an RFP for installation and a financing strategy (e.g. issue bonds). Should we set out such goals (issue RFP, assemble funding package)</u>	Environmental Commission

City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	<p>S4-A2 “Expand the city’s urban tree canopy by supporting tree planting and urban forestry programs.” We’ve budgeted a bit more in 2024, but need a 2025 goal related to this, maybe “Develop an urban forestry plan and implementation strategies, including additional funding to support municipal and community tree planting.” (D. Prytherch)</p> <p>Increase funding for urban forestry and identify funding source.</p>	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	<p>S4-A5 “Revise Street Guidelines to incorporate green infrastructure...” Should we budget in 2025 to formalize and update Oxford Street Design Guidelines both to align with this priority and our Complete Street policies/M3-A1 “treat pedestrian and cyclist mobility with equal importance...”? (D. Prytherch)</p> <p>Staff note: A stormwater revenue source could potentially support green infrastructure. We have the fund, but not the revenue source.</p>	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	Explore incentives for furnished apartments (mattresses, etc.)	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	Curbside composting +/- biomass fuel (raghu)	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	Support for TOPSS food rescue/food waste prevention (ordinance to divert tonnage from the landfill such as from grocery stores and cafeterias) (raghu)	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	Comment from retreat: Develop more concrete measures toward goals. Reduction in GHG,	Environmental Commission

City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	S1-A6: Install EV charging stations in places available for public use. We need Level 3 charging stations. Staff Note: Grant application submitted for 6 class 3 rapid chargers. Award notice TBD.	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	S4-A1: Our Comp. Plan calls for strengthening conservation of mature forests in development review. We need to review our existing Tree Ordinance – and its balance of tree preservation and development friendliness – to consider how well this ordinance is and isn't working, and consider strengthening it. (Prytherch)	Environmental Commission
City Manager	5. S: A Sustainable Oxford	S4-A8 calls for expanding public education using public lands and our <i>Climate Action Plan</i> has goals to "optimize soil carbon sequestration." To achieve these we should begin implementing our <i>Landscape Naturalization Master Plan</i> , doing preparation on selected sites in 2024 and budgeting and planning for seeding in 2025. (Prytherch)	PACO
City Manager	6. R: Celebration of the People and Places that Make Oxford Unique	Implementation of Public Art projects (Snavely), (agree- Raghu; public arts/murals that celebrates multicultural history including indigenous people - Raghu) Staff note: Councilors Bracken and French are working with HAPC on a related legislation which would seek to preserve indigenous cultural sites as Oxford expands.	PACO
City Manager	6. R: Celebration of the People and Places that Make Oxford Unique	Order creative bike racks with a theme developed by PACO and public input.	PACO
City Manager	6. R: Celebration of the People and Places that Make Oxford Unique	Explore community tile art and ID community partners	PACO
City Manager	6. R: Celebration of the People and Places that Make Oxford Unique	Develop crosswalk art.	CIC. Share idea with Chamber and Enjoy Oxford

City Manager	7. C: A Connected, Livable, and Equitable Community for All	Housing stabilization services Funding for FRC for emergency payments for rent, utilities, and other expenses (including car repair so individuals can commute to work) (raghu)	HAC
City Manager	7. C: A Connected, Livable, and Equitable Community for All	Restructuring civil rights commission with council representation (raghu)	CRC
City Manager	9. Essential Services	Participatory budgeting (raghu)	Doug and Jessica
Parks & Recreation		Two generation childcare approach at senior center (raghu)	Casey and community partners
Parks & Recreation		Head Start for before and after school (raghu)	Casey and community partners