



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**Wayzata City Hall
600 Rice Street East
Wayzata, MN 55391**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve November 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments
5. Municipal Solar Update
6. 2024 Work Plan Workshop
7. Next Meeting – **Wednesday, February 21**
8. Adjournment



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:00 PM – 6:30

PM

1. Roll Call

Committee Attendees: Chair Lauren Lindelof, Polly Andersen, Dr. Edmund Chute, and Ava McNanley.

Wayzata City Staff Member: Nick Kieser, Parks Planner

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda, first by Andersen, and seconded by Chute. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Approve October 24, 2023

Motion to approve minutes as shown, first by Andersen and seconded by McNanley. Motion passed 4-0.

4. School Solar Update

McNanley stated that she had a discussion with the sustainable group at the School District and the main concern that was brought up was the cost of the solar systems. McNanley noted that the other leaders of the sustainability group wanted to move forward with the addition of a native landscaping garden first and then focus on solar later. The garden project could be an easier win and easier to get accomplished.

The Committee discussed options to bring forward solar more quickly to the School Board or to School Staff to at least start the discussion of solar. A high priority is to have the school's sustainability group start the conversation and really push the solar project forward instead of the E&E Committee taking the lead. The Committee noted that they are all willing to help if McNanley finds there is a good opportunity for the Committee's involvement.

4. Sustainable Home Update

Dr. Chute noted that he sent to a college professor and his notes mainly stated that more emphasis should be put on the items that lower energy use and then the energy efficiency measures should be focused on after that. This should be represented in the diagram, for example, an asterisk or some symbol can be placed next to items that reduce energy consumption as being the most important. Behavioral change is an aspect of this work that should also be focused on.

The Committee discussed options to get this out to the public for their knowledge and use. One way to get this in the hands of developers, contractors, and property owners is to attach this to building permits for their review during construction projects. Staff noted that there should be a QR code placed on the diagram for digital use.

5. Municipal Solar Update

Staff noted that the Public Works solar installation is fully operational, the Muni and Library solar systems are installed but are not commissioned yet, the City Hall and Fire Station systems will be installed in the next couple of weeks. Blue Horizon will set us up with a dashboard when the solar systems are commissioned so the data can be reviewed in real time.

6. 2024 Work Plan Discussion

The Committee discussed the potential items that can be worked on in 2024:

- Research benefits of a Climate Action Plan and research funding mechanisms to create a plan and implement the action items.
- Lindelof noted that the SB 2030 for city-owned buildings would be beneficial. This would require new city construction or remodeling to follow specific requirements to create a more sustainable building.
- The Committee discussed BP #23 – 3 which is to reduce air emissions. Ideas such as an educational campaign to reduce air emissions can be worked on. Staff brought up an idea for a policy/ordinance to reduce the number of vehicles idling.
- In addition to the air emissions reduction campaign, other opportunities could be explored to partner with schools, churches, etc. to educate and create engagement tactics. The Sustainability Champion Award should be continued with this effort.
- The Dark-Sky compliant lighting opportunities can be incorporated.
- Adopting a construction and demolition Ordinance to require a level of recycling and reuse of building materials can be incorporated.
- Chute noted that the Committee can look at ways to review energy data for each individual residence to educate them on what they can do to make a more sustainable home. Specific outreach could be done with this type of program.
- Determine if the City should advocate for no-mow May this year which could include an educational campaign, park maintenance changes, yard signs, etc.
- The Committee wants to look at incentive-based programs such as reduced costs for rain barrels.

- Another webinar/educational event should be incorporated with a focus on native landscaping/sustainable yards.

Staff will send out a draft work plan to the Committee for review and comment before it goes to Council for approval.

7. Klapprich Park Discussion

The Committee reviewed the updated plans for the Klapprich Park improvements. Staff also added the notes that were discussed at the last meeting to make the Park more sustainable. The Committee did not have any other significant notes regarding the park plans.

9. December Meeting

The Committee decided to hold another Open House at the Muni on Wednesday, December 13 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:20 pm. Motion passed 4-0.



Energy and Environment Committee 2024 Work Plan

New Projects/Initiatives:

- Research benefits, cost, and options for a Climate/Resiliency Action Plan.
- Create an Ordinance/Policy to require energy efficient, Dark-Sky compliant new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures on all buildings.
- Create a construction and demolition Ordinance that requires a level of recycling and reuse for building materials and soil/land-clearing debris.
- Create a City Policy that would require new city owned buildings to be built using SB 2030 energy standard and/or a green building framework.
- Research incentive-based programs/options for residents (i.e. reduced costs for rain barrels).
- Research and implement initiatives to reduce air emissions.
 - Research ways to reduce vehicle idling.
- Hold another educational event that is focused on native landscaping and sustainable yards.
- Determine ways the City can participate in no-mow May.
- Continue educational campaigns and expand partnerships with schools, churches, etc.
- Review energy production of the new solar systems and potentially create educational opportunities focused on the renewable energy.
- Determine action items required with the planned closure of the Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center.

Continued Projects/Initiatives:

- Reduce the cost of Home Energy Squad visits for residents.
- Award the annual Sustainability Champion Award.
- Work with the Public Works Department to transition gas-powered equipment to electric equipment.
- Determine if another EV Ride and Drive event should be held.
- Continue to put sustainability-related educational materials in city media outlets.

- Continue partnership with the Wayzata School District on any sustainability projects the Committee can help with.
- Review potential grant opportunities.