



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2024 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Committee Attendees: Chair Lauren Lindelof, KC Chermak, David Kirkland, and Meaghan Yorro.

Wayzata City Staff Member: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner.

Additional Attendees: Maureen Colburn, Ingrid Sokup, and Becky Alexander from LHB.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda, first by Chermak, seconded by Yorro. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduce New Committee Member – David Kirkland

Committee Member Kirkland provided his background in the environmental field which led to his interest in applying for the Energy and Environment Committee.

4. Approve October 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes, first by Chermak, seconded by Yorro. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation from LHB on Wayzata's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Staff and LHB noted that the City Operations Resilience Plan is underway with the main focus on data gathering at this point. The data gathered will help to create the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and future development of strategies. Alongside the City Operations Plan, the MPCA also funded the data for a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory. LHB presented this community-wide greenhouse gas data.

The information listed here includes the general takeaways from the presentation. Greenhouse gas data includes energy, water, travel, and waste. There are 75 cities with at least one year of greenhouse gas data on the Regional Indicators website. Approximately half of Wayzata's greenhouse gas emissions come from travel and half come from energy. Most of the other cities have a larger proportion of GHG from energy use compared to travel. Wayzata's GHG emissions decreased 14% from 2017 to 2023. The main reason for the reduction of GHG is from the reduction of energy use in residential and commercial buildings. The energy use per household is more on average than most of the other cities that have been inventoried. A strategy to decrease residential energy use is to improve weatherization of the home and transition to heat pumps. Since the electrical grid is transitioning to more renewable sources, transitioning

homes or commercial buildings to more electrification is more beneficial. Rather than using more natural gas.

To get GHG data in the future, Wayzata would need to complete a greenhouse gas inventory each year or the city could update the inventory approximately every three years. The cost for a community-wide GHG inventory would be around a few thousand dollars while a specific city operations GHG inventory update would be more intensive which would cost more.

6. 2025 Work Plan Discussion

The Committee discussed the accomplishments in 2024 and the proposed work items for 2025.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Finished installation of solar
- Continued support of Home Energy Squad visits
- LED retrofits for Fire Station and warming house
- Hosted native landscaping and lawns event
- Purchased more electrical equipment for Public Works
- Received the MPCA grant for City Operations Resilience Plan
- Continued work on Dark Sky

2025 Work Plan:

- Finalize and approve City Operations Resilience Plan
- Recommendation for Dark Sky
- Dark Sky educational event
- More educational blurbs in Portal and other media outlets
 - o Show our solar results
- Water conservation efforts
- Conduct more multi-family outreach with free audit options
- Give out Sustainability Champion Award

7. Sustainability Policy

Staff noted that a draft Sustainability Policy is being created to address density bonuses for the R-5 Zoning District. The main purpose of the Policy is to allow new developments in the R-5 District to have increased density if they construct their building in a more sustainable manner or if the development includes a renewable energy component. The Committee will continue to review the Policy as staff finalizes more of the language.

8. Dark Sky Update

Staff provided a brief update that they are contacting lighting manufacturers to determine options to change the public lighting to more Dark Sky compliant lighting. Staff will pass along more information as it becomes available.

9. Election of 2025 Chair and Vice Chair

The Committee tabled this election to the next meeting to have more Committee Members present.

10. Next Meeting – TBD

Staff will send out a poll to determine what date works best for the Committee Members to meet.

11. Adjournment