

**MINUTES FOR THE CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION PLAN ad hoc COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**  
**Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way**

**1. Call to Order**

Councilor Rich Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Committee members Louise Shawkat, Stuart Green, James McGinnis, Bryan Sohl were present. Committee member Roxanne Beigel-Coryell and Greg Jones arrived late. Staff member Adam Hanks was present. Committee members Claudia Alick and Jim Hartman were absent.

**2. Public Forum**

Alan Greene – Is a member of SOCAN and wanted to congratulate the group on being leaders in Southern Oregon in addressing climate change. SOCAN has been working with councilors from other cities to move their cities in the same direction. He worked previously with Good Company and believes this Greenhouse Gas Inventory will be well done.

*Committee member Beigel-Coryell arrived 2:05 p.m.*

**3. Ashland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

Hanks stated that the document included in the packet is the final draft, the final document has a few minor changes and will be posted on-line soon. He introduced Aaron Toney from Good Company.

Mr. Toney reviewed why he is here today, what his presentation will cover and what areas the inventory will cover. They did three inventories: overall community, Ashland city government, and Ashland city-owned utility (see attached slide show). Overall, there has been a decrease in greenhouse gases in the community, this is likely due to the warmer winters we've had, leading to a decrease in energy used to heat homes. He reminded the group that the per-family consumption graph is only an average, and that different families/homes have differing usage numbers.

Mr Toney stated that compared to other cities in Southern Oregon, Ashland's government emissions are very similar. The largest emissions source is always related to construction and that this is also the most variable, as it is budget-funding based.

Mr. Toney stated that in regard to the City Utility emissions, the fact that we use BPA electricity means that our overall impact is less than communities who use other sources. He stated that the environmental benefit of using BPA, however, isn't owned by the community, rather that it is spread throughout the entire electric grid and does not account for the consequences/benefits of lowering electricity use (the less we use, the more "clean" power available to other communities). As it would be difficult to find a better option, the committee would be better off focusing on efficiency and reduction in use, rather than in changing the source.

Group discussed concerns with the traffic/travel emissions numbers, in that they have to be modeled by ODOT, rather based on real data. Group discussed ways to better obtain data including permanently installed traffic counters or a small local gas tax to capture gallons of gas purchased locally. Mr. Toney's stated that, even though the data is based on modeling, ODOT is well ahead of the curve for accuracy in the country.

*Committee member Jones arrived 2:50 p.m.*

Group discussed concerns with how large commercial marijuana grows may effect the amount of emissions in future years. Mr. Toney's stated that large producers would be good targets for efficiency improvements – it's a new business sector and each community in Oregon needs to address the issue based on need, volume, and preferred method of reducing energy consumption.

Group thanked Mr. Toney's for his presentation and time creating the inventory.

#### **4. Update on Climate and Energy Action Plan RFP Process**

Rosenthal stated that the City Council approved the award of contract with Cascadia Consulting Group at last night's meeting. He thanked the members of the evaluation panel for their time and effort in choosing Cascadia as the consultant.

Hanks stated that he is currently getting all necessary background information to Cascadia so they can propose a timeline and work plan at an upcoming committee meeting. He reminded the group that a large portion of Cascadia's work will involve the public engagement process and the committee needs to be very clear on what they need and expect of that process.

Group discussed how the contract will be managed. Hanks stated that contract management is his role as staff, and the group needs to focus on creating a good plan and engaging the public. He stated he can give budget updates if the group feels this is necessary. Beigel-Coryell stated that worrying about budget issues is not how she wants to spend her or the group's time.

#### **5. Schedule and Agenda for Upcoming Meetings**

Group discussed potential future meeting dates. They agreed to hold their March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, at 3:30 p.m. in order to prepare for the first meeting with Cascadia Consulting Group. Hanks will work with Cascadia to determine if March 16 or 17, preferably in the evening, works for the next meeting. Hanks reminded the group that it would be preferable if the group held their work meetings at consistent times. The public input portion of the process will likely have meeting scattered throughout days of the week and times of day, to reach the widest portion of the community possible.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Shippet, Executive Assistant