

ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda

December 17, 2014

Community Development Building, Siskiyou Room
51 Winburn Way

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Consent Agenda / Reports** (5 min)
 - 2.1. Minutes November 19, 2014 Commission meeting
3. **Announcements** (5 min)
 - 3.1. Next Regular Meeting: January 28, 2015
 - 3.2. Upcoming Sub-committee meetings
 - Climate/Energy – January 7th, 21st
 - 3.3. Other Announcements from Commissioners
4. **Public Forum** (10 min to be evenly divided by public wishing to speak)
5. **Reports / Presentations/Updates** (15 min)
 - 5.1. Council - Councilor Rosenthal (5 min)
 - 5.2. City Conservation & Operations – Hanks (5 min)
 - 5.3. Quarterly Report – N/A (Ashland School District in Jan)
 - 5.4. Conservation Awards sub-committee update (5 min)
6. **Old Business**
 - 6.1 Commission Monthly Column in Sneak Preview (10 min)
 - a. Feb - Energy Efficiency – Hanks & Beam
 - b. March – Water Conservation - Weir
 - c. April – Overview of Climate Action Plan – Koopman/McGinnis
 - 6.2 Carbon Fee/Dividend Discussion (10 min)
 - 6.3 Commission calendar review
7. **New Business**
 - 7.1 Climate/Energy Sub-Committee Presentation/Council Prep(15 min)
8. **Wrap Up**
 - 8.1 Items to be added to next agenda
 - 8.2 Adjournment (8 PM)

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Chair Marni Koopman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Commissioners Bryan Sohl, Shel Silberberg, Jim McGinnis, Mark Weir, Thomas Beam, Risa Buck, Jim Hartman, and Roxanne Beigel-Coryell were present. Councilor Rich Rosenthal and staff member Adam Hanks were present.

2. Consent Agenda

Beigel-Coryell/McGinnis m/s to approve the minutes of August 27, 2014 and October 23, 2014. Voice vote: All ayes. Motion passes.

3. Announcements

The next meeting will be held one week early, on December 17, 2014, due to the Christmas holiday.

4. Public Forum

None.

5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

Council Update – Rosenthal informed the group that currently the Council will be discussing Recology rate design options on December 2nd. At the December 16 Council meeting there will be a presentation by Senator Bates and Representative Buckley to discuss the upcoming legislative session. If there are any specific questions the group would like Councilor Rosenthal to bring up, please sent them to him via e-mail. On February 3rd there will be a presentation regarding the SOU co-gen project, though SOU will take comments at any time regarding the project. He reminded the group that the budget process will be starting soon.

Group discussed meeting with budget committee members to discuss the ad package related to conservation staff/consultant time.

McGinnis/Beigel-Coryell m/s to have commissioners meeting with Budget Committee member Runkel to inform him of the Commission's request.

Discussion: Group discussed whether it would be more appropriate to talk to all committee members.

McGinnis/Beigel-Coryell agreed to amend their motion to meeting with as many members of the Budget Committee as is possible, within the Commission's discretion.

Discussion continued: Group discussed creating an information sheet to aid in these discussions.
Voice Vote: all ayes. Motion passes.

City Conservation & Operations - Hanks gave the group an overview of what will be going to Council regarding the Recology rate resolution update as well as the rate design possibilities. He informed the group that staff is starting on the fleet audit (going out for an RFP) and gave the group some details of what a typical audit does and does not include.

SOU Quarterly Report - Beigel-Coryell informed the group that SOU Center for Sustainability is a runner-up on an award. They are also working with ODOT's Drive Less, Connect program and launched a Raider Ride Share to help students make connections for carpooling. They are working with Chevrolet for carbon credits to sell. The sustainability council is working on a climate action fund for air travel offsets.

Downtown Cigarette Butt Container Project – Hanks showed the group a sample of the containers. Currently there are six businesses sponsoring containers and they should go up before Thanksgiving. The group thanked Hanks and Beam for their persistence in this project. Beam stated that the goal is to continue to have good outreach with businesses so that new locations and sponsors can be identified.

Climate/Energy Sub-committee – Koopman informed the group that they are currently working on the next steps for creating the plan. They are modeling the plan on Eugene and Corvallis. They would like to involve community and staff resources.

Group discussed how Council's previous direction will work with or connect to the plan as it's being created. The subcommittee hopes to have a draft for the full group to review at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

Sneak Preview Column – Group gave Tom and Risa minor edits to their articles and thanked them both for writing columns.

Weir/Hartman m/s to approve the December and January columns with the minor edits presented. Voice Vote: all ayes. Motion passes.

Group determined that the calendar for the next few months will be:

- February (due to group in December): Climate & Energy - written by Hanks and Beam.
- March (due to group in January): Water conservation – written by Weir
- April (due to group in February): Preview of the Climate Action plan – written by Koopman and McGinnis
- May (due to group in March): Recycle center and schedule of composting classes – written by Buck
- June (due to the group in April): Litter and our streams – writer to be determined.

BYOB - Group discussed the BYOB program and how it's going so far. Hanks stated that so far businesses like the program but some have complained about charging 10 cents for paper bags. He is working with them and the Chamber to come up with solutions and options for the businesses having struggles with the charge.

Carbon Fee/Dividend Discussion – Group discussed what they would like to have as a result of this discussion. Group was concerned that this topic might be inappropriate as it doesn't match with current commission goals or with Council direction. The group decided that this discussion is probably premature as the legislative request hasn't been formally written yet. There was

consensus, however, that no one wants to entirely leave or forget this topic.

Weir/Hartman m/s to have this topic on the December meeting agenda. Voice Vote: all ayes. Motion passes.

Hanks reminded the group that any articles, reports, etc. used for discussion purposes should be in the packet and so need to be submitted to him in time for inclusion. Group discussed whether this would put too much of a time-crunch on information gathering.

Hartman/Beigel-Coryell m/s to move this topic to the January meeting for easier agenda creation and inclusion of appropriate packet materials. Voice Vote: all ayes. Motion passes.

7. New Business

Calendar Discussion for 2015- Hanks proposed do a “look ahead” similar to the City Council to aid the group in timing decision making. The group agreed that this would be useful. Hanks requested the group submit dates, events, topics, projects, etc. for inclusion.

Conservation Awards – Hartman informed the group that at the last subcommittee meeting regarding this project they discussed how to build on some of last year’s successes as well as over-come some of the challenges. They propose doing an “Environmental Bee” similar in structure to a spelling bee. Give students concepts to learn, have teams of 4 compete in a quiz on those concepts. This should probably be limited to middle-school kids. The award would be recognition and some sort of nature award (gift certificate to something outdoor/active). The group would like to try and get the final round on public television. The subcommittee will meet again on December 2 at 4:00 pm in the upstairs City Hall conference room.

8. Wrap Up

Group discussed having the next meeting be a short meeting followed by a holiday party.

Group requested that a possible ban on gas-powered leaf blowers be on an upcoming agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Secretary

Conservation Commission FY 2015

Working Calendar

	Topic Lead	CC 1/28	CC 2/25	CC 3/25	CC 4/22	CC 5/27	CC 6/24	CC 7/22	CC 8/26	CC 9/23	CC 10/28	CC 11/25	CC 12/23
1/7	Climate Energy Sub-Committee	1/7											
1/21	Climate Energy Sub-Committee	1/21											
1/23	Regular Commisison Meeting	1/28											
	Sustainability Awards												
	Carbon Tax/Fee Discussion												
	Ashland School District Quarterly Update												
2/4	Climate Energy Sub-Committee		2/11										
2/18	Climate Energy Sub-Committee		2/4										
2/27	Regular Commisison Meeting		2/25										
	SOU Co-Generation Plant Presentation												
	City Water Conservation Program Presentation												
	Earth Day Commission Participation Discussion												
	Compost Class format/schedule												
	Recology Quarterly Update												
3/11	Climate Energy Sub-Committee			3/4									
	Climate Energy Sub-Committee			3/18									
3/20	Regular Commisison Meeting			3/25									
	City Solar Programs Update Presentation												
	Fourth of July sub-committee ?												
	SOU Quarterly Update												
4/1	Climate Energy Sub-Committee			4/1									
4/15	Climate Energy Sub-Committee			4/15									
4/22	Regular Commisison Meeting				4/22								
4/25	Special Meeting/Event - Earth Day				4/25								
5/6	Climate Energy Sub-Committee					5/6							
5/20	Climate Energy Sub-Committee					5/20							
5/22	Regular Commisison Meeting					5/27							
	Ashland School District Quarterly update												
6/3	Climate Energy Sub-Committee						6/3						
6/17	Climate Energy Sub-Committee						6/17						
6/24	Regular Commisison Meeting						6/24						
	Recology Quarterly Update												
7/1	Climate Energy Sub-Committee							7/1					
7/15	Climate Energy Sub-Committee							7/15					
7/22	Regular Commisison Meeting							7/22					
	SOU Quarterly Update												
8/5	Climate Energy Sub-Committee								8/5				
8/19	Climate Energy Sub-Committee								8/19				
8/26	Regular Commisison Meeting								8/26				
	Bear Creek Salmon Festival prep												
9/2	Climate Energy Sub-Committee									9/2			
9/16	Climate Energy Sub-Committee									9/16			
9/23	Regular Commisison Meeting									9/23			
	Ashland School District Quarterly Update												
10/7	Climate Energy Sub-Committee										10/7		
10/21	Climate Energy Sub-Committee										10/21		
10/28	Regular Commisison Meeting										10/28		

Conservation Commission FY 2015 Working Calendar

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	Recology Quarterly Update												
11/4	Climate Energy Sub-Committee											11/4	
11/18	Climate Energy Sub-Committee											11/18	
11/25	Regular Commisson Meeting											11/25	
	SOU Quarterly Update												
12/2	Climate Energy Sub-Committee												12/2
12/16	Climate Energy Sub-Committee												12/16
12/23	Regular Commisson Meeting												12/23
	Long Term Projects												

DRAFT

Conservation Commission Recommendations for a Community Climate and Energy Action Plan for the Community of Ashland, Oregon December 12, 2014

Background: Climate change poses a severe threat to the health, safety, and livelihoods of current and future residents of Ashland, as well as people around the globe. Climate change also severely threatens the natural world and the resources we depend on. We are already feeling the impacts of climate change at the local level. Local impacts include the lack of snow and loss of revenue at Mt. Ashland last winter; severe drought conditions in 2014; and smoke from forest fires causing Oregon Shakespeare to cancel plays two summers in a row. Without emissions reductions, the impacts to our community will continue to worsen and accelerate over time. We need to participate in the solution to climate change by reducing emissions locally and preparing our community for the inevitable changes ahead. Because Ashland already has a strong history of conservation and a population engaged in the issue, we are poised to take truly meaningful action on this extremely important issue.

State Level Efforts and Policies: The state of Oregon passed a resolution to combat climate change by setting short and long term targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions statewide. The state has goals to reduce emissions by 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75% below 1990 levels by 2050. A recent report (2013) shows that progress has been made and our state is on a trajectory to meet its targets, but that success in tenuous and sustained efforts are not yet in place. Success at the state level relies heavily on actions taken at the local level.

For more information on actions the state is taking to address climate change, see the Roadmap 2020 report (Appendix I) and the

For information on what action other Oregon communities are taking on climate change, see Appendix II.

Why we need to take action: Ashland has an opportunity to help the state reach its short and long term emissions goals by taking action at the local level. Many communities in Oregon are taking action to reduce emissions. Because of this, there are numerous plans and frameworks that Ashland can model its efforts after, reducing the investment in planning and moving more quickly to action. Action on climate change provides numerous benefits besides greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions – it also provides cleaner air and water, locally sourced energy that creates a stronger local economy, and monetary savings for residents that conserve energy.

Goals of a plan for Ashland:

1. Develop a collaborative effort driven by the City and a local Advisory Committee, with extensive community input and buy-in to recommend to City Council greenhouse gas emissions targets for the Community of Ashland (including city operations as well as all residents, businesses, schools, and others).
2. Develop strategies, an implementation plan, timelines, and monitoring requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Community of Ashland.

3. Identify risks and vulnerabilities of changing climate to the community and resources of Ashland; develop, prioritize, and implement strategies to protect the community from climate change impacts.
4. Participate in regional efforts to reduce emissions across jurisdictions, including city and county boundaries.

Specific sectors to be addressed:

- Infrastructure
- Economics and Tourism
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Food and Agriculture
- Land use and Transportation
- Consumption and Waste
- Health and Social Services
- Natural Resources

Scope: The Community of Ashland, City Operations, the Ashland watershed and other areas of influence.

Timeline: Planning to begin in spring of 2015 with implementation of initial actions to begin no later than spring 2016.

Steps:

1. The City conducts or contracts a greenhouse gas inventory that includes a subset for city operations (transportation is included); this inventory will also benefit the city operation sustainability plan that has already been adopted.
2. Create a local Advisory Committee to help set scientifically valid GHG emission goals, engage community members, interface with other groups, conduct outreach, guide strategy development, and prioritize actions.
3. Hold a public kick-off event that informs community members about the effort, engages them on the issue, collects their opinions on areas of highest priority, and showcases positive stories and successes in energy savings and renewable energy.
4. Convene sector specialists to develop initial lists of strategies and prioritize them in a collaborative manner, based on cross-sector discussions of synergies, short- vs. long-term goals, areas with the greatest/fastest potential savings, and issues of equity and local values.
5. Hold a working session with Council and city staff to further refine and prioritize emissions reduction strategies.
6. Hold an open forum workshop to share information and collect feedback. Also use online forums, local TV and radio, Facebook, other outreach tools and events.
7. Report the results online in other venues, as appropriate, with recap of the process, detailed strategies, timeline, and implementation plan.
8. Implement strategies in phases, based on implementation plan.
9. Measure and report on results periodically (each year at first, then every 2-3 years)
10. Revise as needed, based on new information, ongoing trends, new technologies, and results from monitoring. Additional measures will need to be developed as needed to protect the community from climate change impacts.
11. Continue with public outreach and education for sustained efforts.

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Appendix I – Roadmap 2020

In 2010, the Oregon Global Warming Commission developed the Roadmap 2020 with recommendations on how to meet its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions goals and get a head start on its 2050 goals. Six technical committees were convened to address actions in specific sectors (energy/utilities, industry, forestry, agriculture, materials/waste management, and transportation/land use). Recommended actions came from each technical committee as well as additional “integrating” actions that work across sectors.

Some key actions included:

- Work with state agencies and local governments to conduct greenhouse gas inventories across the state
- Advocate for a carbon price signal across goods and services, through an emissions cap or a carbon tax
- Reduce (prevent) waste of food at the retail and consumer level by 5-50%
- Ramp down emissions associated with coal generation
- Provide financial incentives to reduce lifecycle building-related greenhouse gas emissions by 80%
- Eliminate reliance on a gas tax for funding transportation infrastructure
- Develop new funding streams to support climate-friendly transportation options, including high speed rail from Eugene to British Columbia
- Encourage agricultural practices that increase carbon sequestration in soils
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For more information on the Roadmap 2020 and the full report go to this link (<http://www.keeporegoncool.org/content/roadmap-2020>).

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Appendix II - Community Level Climate Action Planning in Oregon

“A Community Climate and Energy Action Plan for Eugene” has set goals to reduce community-wide GHG emissions 75% below 1990 levels by 2050, reduce community-wide fossil fuel use by 50% by 2030, and identify strategies that will help the community adapt to a changing climate and increasing fossil fuel prices. Their community-wide plan addresses 6 main topic areas: (1) Buildings and Energy, (2) Food and Agriculture, (3) Land Use and Transportation, (4) Consumption and Waste, (5) Health and Social Services, and (6) Urban Natural Resources. This plan is a great model because they document the process, specific steps, and timeline that they used to develop the Climate and Energy Plan for the community. The recommended steps for Ashland’s plan closely follow those from the Eugene plan.

For more information on Eugene's plan and their progress reports, go to this link (<http://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?nid=511>).

The City of Portland and Multnomah County adopted a climate action plan (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/49989>) that calls for reducing GHG output 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

The [City of Corvallis](http://corvallisap.org) is in the midst of developing a Climate Action Plan (<http://corvallisap.org>), supported by the Climate Action Plan Task Force. In 2008 the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Community Sustainability Action Plan (<http://sustainablecorvallis.org/action-plan/download-the-action-plan/>) calls to reduce per capita consumption of energy in the built environment by >50% using energy efficiency and conservation and that energy utilized will be 100% renewable by 2025.

Appendix III – Existing City Actions and Impacts

- list of things the city has already undertaken or is planning on undertaking. (e.g. community solar project, energy conservation incentives)
- \$ lost because of climate change on City to date.
- list of existing impacts of Climate Change on the City to date.

Appendix IV - Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee to be comprised of 10-15 people from some the following areas:

- Ashland School District
- Chamber of Commerce
- Commissions (Transportation, Planning, Conservation)
- Watershed oversight
- Jackson County Housing Authority and/or Access, Citizens at Large
- Utilities
- SOU
- Rogue Climate and/or SOCAN
- RVTD
- Clean Energy Works
- City Councillors
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- Clean Energy Works
- City Councillors
- City building/engineering experts
- OCF or another community foundation
- Tourism sector (e.g. OSF, hotel facilities experts)
- Recology Ashland Sanitary Service
- Community at large

Conservation Commission Goals 2014-15

Definitions

- **Goal** – The purpose toward which an endeavor is directed
- **Objective** – The overall strategy that the Commission is taking to achieve its goals
- **Action** – The actual steps involved in achieving the objectives

Note: Goals, objectives, and actions in **BOLD** were voted on and adopted. Goals, objectives, and/or actions that are not in bold were suggested, but are not officially adopted by the Commission in order to retain some flexibility.

Goal	Objectives
<p>Climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City Council to identify locally-specific climate change impacts and opportunities for initial actions and long term planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Set up Subcommittee on climate change (Marni, Roxane, Jim M., Bryan) Fall 2014 ○ Update – Marni, Roxane, Jim M., and Bryan are working on a recommendation for Council to be presented Jan or Feb. 2015. To be discussed at the Dec. 17th Conservation Commission meeting.
<p>City and Community Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate and encourage Council to adopt Sustainability Planning at the Community level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Hold Study Session Sept 2014 (Jim M., Marni, Roxane, Bryan) ○ Update – Study session was held. STAR was not adopted. Council recommended that the Commission come back with Climate Change and Energy recommendations. ○ Goal has been met • Track progress and contribute, where needed, to the City Operational Sustainability Planning effort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Work with City staff (existing and/or new Sustainability staff) to develop targets once baseline data becomes available. Depends on staffing (Jim M., Bryan, Roxane, Tom, Mark) ○ Update – None? ○ Action – Recommend that the City completes and shares data collection on baseline energy, water, and fuel consumption by city operations

	<p>as the first step in Sustainability Plan implementation Winter-Spring 2014-15 (Jim M., Bryan, Roxane, Tom, Mark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update – this recommendation is included in the Climate and Energy plan recommendation above. It will go to Council in Jan or Feb 2015. <p>• Recommend to Council that the City establishes dedicated staff for sustainability efforts at the City Operations and Community level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Discuss need for dedicated staff in Study Session and other opportunities Sept 2014 (Jim M., Marni, Roxane, Bryan) ○ Update – This goal has shifted to focus on dedicated staff for Climate and Energy planning at the community level, which also includes City Operations. It was part of the Study Session discussion and has been primarily met with a positive response.
<p>Waste Prevention</p>	<p>• Continue to work with the City to develop the most effective approach to prevent waste and increase diversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Explore impacts/benefits of mandated trash and recycling service Fall-winter 2014 (Tom, Roxane) ○ Update – ○ Action – Explore opportunities for post-consumer compost (assess cost feasibility) Fall-winter 2014 (Tom, Roxane, Risa) ○ Update –
<p>Citizen Education</p>	<p>• Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fourth of July Spring/Summer 2015 (Risa, Roxane, Shel, everyone) ○ Earth Day Winter/Spring 2015 (decide later) ○ “Green” Green Show Winter/Spring 2015 (Risa, Marni, others?) ○ Bear Creek Salmon Festival Fall 2014 (Risa, Tom?) <p>• Classes/Programs/Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compost Spring/Summer 2015 (Risa, everyone) ○ Leaf bags Fall 2014 (Risa)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Car wash kits and outreach (Tom?) ○ Climate change risk and costs ○ Conservation, energy, sustainability, etc. <p>● Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conservation/Sustainability Winter/spring 2015 (Risa, Marni, Jim H. others?) ○ Update – Jim H., Risa, Marni, and Shel have developed an initial plan for a middle school contest and are working on logistics and details to implement the plan. <p>● Media Column (bi-weekly or monthly) Fall 2014 (Jim, Risa)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update – Jim H. is organizing participation and 2 columns have been printed so far (thanks Jim and Tom!). The schedule is as follows: Jim (Nov.), Tom (Dec.), Mark (month?),
<p>Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support programs to conserve water/protect streams/storm drains ● Explore action on cigarette butt pollution ● Support water conservation program