

**City of Arcata Energy Committee  
Annual Report to the City Council  
Presented August 2022**

The Energy Committee meets on the third Monday of odd-numbered months and serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council, City Manager and City staff in energy matters related to policies, management and projects. The Committee held five meetings during 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2021 Committee members include:**

George Williamson, Chair  
Andrea Alstone, Vice Chair  
Carisse Geronimo (March-December)  
Mike Kowalski

Gwelen Paliaga  
Michael Winkler (July-December)  
Jim Zoellick  
Mahayla Slackerelli (Jan-July)

**Committee Staff**

Emily Benvie, Staff Liaison

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2021:

George Williamson was re-elected to serve as Chair and Andrea Alstone was elected to serve as Vice Chair. The Committee confirmed their meeting schedule, in which they hold regular meetings on odd-numbered months only.

**Arcata All Electric Initiative** – The Committee continued work on the All-Electric Initiative. This initiative includes decarbonization and electrification of city and privately-owned buildings using a range of options, enacting a municipal ordinance gas ban, and investigating options to increase equity and affordability of electrification. To further this, in 20201 the Committee:

- Received reports from staff about electric vehicles charging stations within the City as well as battery storage grant opportunities for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, pump stations, City Hall, and Community Center.
- Received a presentation on building decarbonization from Redwood Energy staff
- Reach Code Subcommittee researched natural gas ban ordinances requiring all-electric new construction for reducing greenhouse gases.

**Collaboration** The Committee continues to consult and work collaboratively with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), 350 Humboldt, RCCR, and Redwood Energy on energy and climate-related issues. This included receiving a presentation on building decarbonization and importance of electrification. The Energy Committee participated in a joint study session with the Transportation Safety Committee in May 2021.

**Gateway Area Plan**

The Committee received an update on the Gateway Area Plan and prioritized energy-related implementation measures to be included in the draft Plan.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocation** – Energy Committee provided feedback on considerations for use and prioritization of climate-related ARPA funds.

**Reach Code Subcommittee** — Reach Code Subcommittee researched natural gas moratoriums for improving building energy efficiency/reducing Greenhouse gases. This includes exploring all electric options for new construction and remodels.

**Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)** — This past year, the committee received regular reports from RCEA on electric vehicle education promotion, heat pump rebates, Net Energy Metering and Battery Storage Basics webinars for customers, potential new local renewable energy sources such as offshore wind and local microgrids, power storage and long-term resiliency, and other RCEA initiatives.

## **II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR**

Furthermore, in pursuit of the following goals, the Energy Committee committed to furthering energy-related Environmental Justice and Social Equity.

- 1) **Arcata Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan** — Continue to work with the County to adopt and implement a regional Climate Action Plan.
- 2) **Transportation Mode Shift** - Consistent with the Climate Action Plan - continue to support staff with work related to shifting transportation toward walking, biking, public transportation and electric modes of transport.
- 3) **Arcata All Electric Initiative** - Continue work to decarbonize and electrify city and privately-owned buildings using a range of options, enact a municipal ordinance gas ban, and investigate options to increase equity and affordability of electrification.
- 4) Support Staff to **explore low carbon options for community resiliency** - Including the benefit of solar with battery backup options, “connected communities”
- 5) **Identify significant changes to 2022 Title 24 Energy Code**
- 6) **Explore Waste to Energy Projects** - Support projects that generate energy from diversion of organic waste (including food scraps, yard trimmings, and agricultural waste) and can be demonstrated to provide GHG emissions reductions and meet air quality emission standards