

**City of Arcata Energy Committee
Annual Report to the City Council
Presented July 2020**

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.

2019 Committee members include:

George Williamson, Chair

Gwelen Paliaga, Vice-Chair (January – August)

Mahayla Slackerelli, Vice Chair (Sept. – December)

Andrea Alstone (Sept - December)

Scott Coss (July-December)

Melanie Faust (Jan-July)

Mike Kowalski

Jim Zoellick

Committee Staff

Julie Neander, Staff Liaison

Emily Benvie, Staff Liaison

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2019:

George Williamson was re-elected to serve as Chair and Mahayla Slackerelli was re-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 - Began work to develop a 15-year plan to phase out Natural Gas City-wide including looking at strategies to require and/or incentivize private development to utilize all electric construction. The Energy Committee's overall strategy for developing recommendations for the 15-year plan for electrification includes:

- 1) Look at New construction electrification options to consider and recommend
- 2) Look at options for retrofitting existing buildings to reduce dependence on natural gas and promote electrification (ongoing energy efficiency upgrade options as well as reach codes or other code modifications for existing buildings)
- 3) Look at options for gas appliance replacement to electric opportunities to encourage/require electric appliances
- 4) Consider equity issues related to the above as upfront and ongoing financial costs can be higher
- 5) Consider the need for resiliency in power sources as evidenced by recent Public Safety Power Shutdown events

City Facilities – The Committee received reports from staff about energy efficiency upgrades throughout City owned facilities, which included ongoing lighting upgrades to LED in buildings, are Larson Park.

Climate Action Plan – Committee held the Arcata Climate Action Plan Workshop in collaboration with Humboldt County and RCEA to gather community input on proposed measures for the Regional Climate Action Plan. A subcommittee for the CAP was established and the subcommittee continues to work with the County on the analysis of the proposed measures. The committee also received reports on Arcata's and the Region's GHG inventory forecast, GHG reduction target and reduction measures.

Collaboration with Local Agencies – The Committee continues to consult and work collaboratively with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), RCAA and Humboldt State University (HSU) on numerous energy

and climate-related issues. The Committee received a report from HSU's Climate Capstone on litigation around Climate Action Plans, and discussed timeline for providing comments on RCEA's CAPE process.

Energy Action Month -October was proclaimed Energy Action Month, and Committee member Andrea Alstone accepted the proclamation.

Reach Codes — Reach Code Subcommittee researched Reach Codes as well as other options for improving building energy efficiency/reducing Greenhouse gases including assessing the reach codes in light of the new building code which requires rooftop solar and improved federal appliance efficiency standards. 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 potential new local renewable energy sources such as offshore wind and biomass, “citizen sourcing” CCE, and LED lighting incentive for businesses.

Transportation Mode Shift - This area has been incorporated into the analysis options for the Regional Climate Action Plan with mode shift options being presented and ranked by community members during the May 2019 Arcata Climate Action Plan Workshop at the Arcata Community Center.

Water Saving Measures - The Committee received a presentation from Energy Solutions on New Construction Cost Effectiveness Study for Water Saving Measures as a potential reach code to consider. Main takeaways from presentation included commercial kitchen water efficiency measures are very cost effective and new CA plumbing code requires individual water meters for all multi-family buildings.

II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR

At their 1/13/2020 meeting, the Energy Committee approved the following Goals for the 20/21 Fiscal Year.

Reach Codes - Continue to explore and make recommendations relevant to implementing reach codes in Arcata consistent with the 2019 California Green Building Code

Arcata Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan – Continue to work with the County to develop a regional plan and update the City's current plan with consideration of adopting thresholds of significance for Arcata.

Transportation Mode Shift - Consistent with the Climate Action Plan - continue work related to shifting transportation toward walking, biking, public transportation and electric modes of transport – including outreach projects on walking/biking maps, walkability;

Arcata All Electric Initiative - Continue work to develop a 15-year plan to phase out Natural Gas City-wide including looking at strategies to require and/or incentivize private development to utilize all electric construction.

Community Resiliency - Explore low carbon options for community resiliency - Explore the benefit of solar with battery backup options