

**City of Arcata Energy Committee  
Annual Report to the City Council  
Presented July 2019**

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.

**2018 Committee members include:**

George Williamson, Chair	Scott Coss (July-December)
Gwelen Paliaga, Vice-Chair (January – August)	Melanie Faust
Mahayla Slackerelli, Vice Chair (Sept. – December)	Mike Kowalski
Ruthanne Cecil (January – February)	Jim Zoellick

**Committee Staff**

Julie Neander, Staff Liaison  
Emily Benvie, Staff Liaison

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2018:

The Committee held its annual Council Study Session with the Transportation Safety Committee. Sustainable transportation mode shift was a primary point of discussion. In this vein, May was Bike Month with several bicycle-friendly events coordinated through Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association. October was proclaimed Energy Action Month, and Committee Chair George Williamson accepted the proclamation.

In March, the Committee acknowledged the service of long-time member, Ruthanne Cecil, who passed away this year. In July, the Committee welcomed new member, Scott Coss. George Williamson was re-elected to serve as Chair and Mahayla Slackerelli was elected to serve as Vice Chair. The Committee also adopted a new meeting schedule, in which they hold regular meetings on odd-numbered months only.

**Community Choice Energy (CCE)** –The retention rate for customers continues to be good and the City is an ongoing 100% renewable energy customer.

**Reach Codes** — Based on their meetings with representatives from PG&E, the Reach Code Subcommittee recommended a Tier 2 reach code. This was accepted by the Committee, which moved to adopt the Tier 2 Reach Code recommendation. The subsequent City of Arcata Residential New Construction Local Energy Ordinance was adopted by the City Council in September and began implementation in early 2019.

**Transportation Mode Shift** - The Committee received a presentation from an “Energy and Climate Capstone Project” Engineering class, which reviewed Arcata’s GHG Reduction Plan and looked at what has changed in transportation since 2005. The class was to look at how those changes could be put to work in Arcata to lower transportation GHGs. The Committee unfortunately did not receive follow up information from the Class. The Committee also received reports from staff on the City’s transportation mode shift activities, including a new Zagster Bike Sharing program and a license agreement with ChargePoint for additional EV charging stations within the City.

**City Facilities** – The Committee received reports from staff about energy efficiency upgrades throughout City owned facilities. These included LED lighting in the parking lot of the Arcata Community Center; a mini-split heat pump for the Arcata Library Conference Room; and a solar PV system at the wastewater treatment plant. The Committee also recommended the City Council adopt a resolution for transition to 100% renewable electricity, which was modified from a resolution brought to the Committee by 350 Humboldt.

**Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)** - The Committee received a report on RCAA's new contract working with mobile home parks to educate mobile home park residents about their services.

**Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)** – This past year, the committee received regular reports from RCEA on CCE rates, the Opt-up campaign, and NEM accounts and potential new local renewable energy sources such as off-shore wind and biomass.

**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 about HSU's Climate Commitment to get higher education to sign on to a carbon reduction plan, including a three-year plan in which HSU will partner with the local community to work together to align work on greenhouse gas reductions.

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

1. Complete and recommend a Reach Code Ordinance be adopted by Arcata for the 2019 Building Code update to be implemented in 2020.
2. Continue to track the Excessive Energy Use Tax and make energy efficiency recommendations in 2018/2019;
3. Continue to track legislation concerning energy and make recommendations to the Council;
4. Continue work on transportation mode shift to reduce impacts of transportation in collaboration with HSU and other community groups;
5. Support development and completion of the Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) and review and update the Arcata GHG reduction Plan.
6. Work to better engage the community through education and outreach; to help implement the CAP and Arcata's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan;
7. Continue to explore and recommend energy efficiency measures for City-owned facilities;
8. Continue to collaborate with RCEA, HSU, the Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF), RCAA, and the Eureka Energy Committee;
9. Assist the City with alternative fuel vehicles for the City fleet and with Plug-in electric vehicle infrastructure development.