

**City of Arcata Energy Committee
Annual Report to the City Council
Presented July 2018**

The Energy Committee meets on the third Monday of each month and serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council, City Manager and City staff in energy matters related to policies, management and projects.

2017 Committee members include:

George Williamson, Chair
Gwelen Paliaga, Vice-Chair
Ruthanne Cecil
Melanie Faust

Mike Kowalski
Mahayla Slackerelli
Jim Zoellick

Committee Staff

Julie Neander, Staff Liaison
Emily Benvie, Staff Liaison

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2017:

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 member George Williamson accepted the proclamation.

The Committee also participated in a Council Study Session with the Forest Management Advisory committee in March to discuss biomass energy production, incentives to encourage change outs of wood stoves, and energy conservation education.

Community Choice Energy (CCE) – RCEA filed the CCA Implementation Plan with CPUC. A technical study was prepared and accepted by RCEA’s Board. The CCE launched in May 2017. The County and all of the cities in the County became participants prior to the end of 2017. The retention rate for customers was 93% and a number of customers have opted up to 100% renewable energy including the City of Arcata.

Reach Codes—The Reach Code Subcommittee met with representatives from PG&E tasked with supporting local reach codes and subsequent to those meetings, developed a draft Reach Code for Arcata that will be presented to the Council in 2018.

Transportation Mode Shift - Established a “Sustainable Transportation Mode Shift” sub-committee to review the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan, Smart Growth Development, and GHG Action Plan and data from the American Community Survey. The Sustainable Transportation Mode Shift sub-committee identified the need to emphasize the benefits/value of bike/pedestrian modes and discussed ideas for a “Community Encouragement Program”. Oona Smith (HCOAG) presented an overview of the Regional Bicycle Plan Update and explained how they hope to obtain funds for active transportation planning from the State.

City Facilities – The Committee received the 2015 GHG Inventory Presentation from Jerome Carman on behalf of RCEA and suggested additional information needed to improve accuracy for comparing the 2015 data to prior report year data. GHG emissions were lower in 2015 than 2010 by 6938 Metric tons of

CO₂e. It is difficult to demonstrate which actions lead to the greenhouse gas emissions reductions between 2010 and 2015 without conducting a robust statistical analysis. When asked to determine greenhouse gas emission savings due to energy efficiency measures implemented during this time period, RCEA determined energy efficiency services in the City of Arcata were 2,267CO₂e (approximately 33% of the reduction). Between 2010 and 2015, PG&E's electric generation was derived from cleaner sources which constituted 1,158 metric tons of CO₂e savings (approximately 17% of the reduction). It should be noted that these numbers are not the result of robust statistical analysis, but they suggest potential causes of abatement. The remaining 3,513 metric tons of CO₂e cannot be attributable to any set of sources at this time.

Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO): The BESO sub-committee continued to work with City staff and RCEA to investigate implementation options for a BESO for performing appropriate energy assessments and tracking buildings required to have assessments. Based on Arcata's building size's determined in 2016 the Committee determined that a Level 1 ASHRAE assessment would work for Arcata Buildings. This level of assessment identifies low, medium and high savings opportunities that could be implemented. The larger Committee agreed on the "building size thresholds" proposal for a BESO that includes all buildings, with some exemptions yet to be determined. RCEA also continues to assist with assessment of local assessment service providers and cost-benefit analyses.

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 roll out, the Opt-up campaign and NEM accounts and potential new local renewable energy sources such as solar PV at the Airport, 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
2. Complete work on the Building Energy Saving ordinance;
3. Continue to track the Excessive Energy Use Tax and make energy efficiency recommendations in 2017/2018;
4. Continue to track legislation concerning energy and make recommendations to the Council;
5. Continue work on transportation mode shift to reduce impacts of transportation in collaboration with HSU and other community groups;
6. Discuss Committee's role in supporting education and outreach; specifically, finding ways to better engage the community in our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction efforts;
7. Review and update the GHG reduction Plan
8. Continue to explore and recommend energy efficiency measures for City-owned facilities;
9. Continue to collaborate with RCEA, HSU including the Climate Action Plan and Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF), and the Eureka Energy Committee;
10. Assist the City with alternative fuel vehicles for the City fleet and with Plug-in electric vehicle infrastructure development.