

**City of Arcata Energy Committee  
Annual Report to the City Council  
Presented September 2017**

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.

**2016 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

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2016:

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 Mike Kowalski accepted the proclamation.

**Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** – RCEA filed the CCA Implementation Plan with CPUC. A technical study was prepared and accepted by RCEA’s Board. The CCEM was scheduled to launch in May 2017, with the County and almost all of the cities in the County on board. Rate setting was set to take place in January 2017, followed by customer notification.

**Legislation AB 1110** – The Committee supported City staff sending letters to State representatives in opposition to the proposed amendments to AB 1110 and urging representatives to make sure legislation is supportive of and promotes CCA development and operation in the State.

**Reach Codes**—The Committee received a presentation from TRC on Reach Codes (codes which achieve energy performance standards that exceed the State’s minimum requirements), and the different types and strategies that have been implemented in other California cities.

**Zero Waste Action Plan (ZWAP)** – The Committee reviewed and provided comments on the City’s draft ZWAP and insured it included GHG Reduction Plan language.



**City Facilities** –The Committee reviewed and gave input on options for upgrading the City Hall heating and ventilation system.

**Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO):** A sub-committee on BESO was created. The sub-committee inventoried Arcata building sizes and assigned categories to help understand local capacity to conduct an assessment. 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 will assist with assessment of local 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, RCEA reported that all nine EV charging stations are up and running from Rio Dell to Trinidad. RCEA also made a presentation to the Committee on the Low Carbon Fuels Program – a program that involves lowering carbon fuels in five-county region in the northwest, such that 20% of all light-duty vehicles are zero emission by 2025. This program relates to RCEA’s Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.

**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 work on the Building Energy Saving ordinance;
2. Continue to track the Excessive Energy Use Tax and make energy efficiency recommendations in 2017/2018;
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. Discuss Committee’s role in supporting education and outreach; specifically, finding ways to better engage the community in our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction efforts;
6. Continue to support the City in meeting GHG reduction goals;
7. Explore and recommend energy efficiency measures for City-owned facilities;
8. Collaborate with RCEA, HSU including the Climate Action Plan and Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF), 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.