

**City of Arcata Energy Committee  
Annual Report to the City Council  
Presented July 2016**

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.

**2015 Committee members include:**

Nate McKeever, Chair

Gwelen Paliaga, Vice-Chair

Ruthanne Cecil

Melanie Faust

George Williamson

Mike Kowalski

Jim Zoellick

Mahayla Slackerelli

**Committee Staff**

Julie Neander, Staff Liaison

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Energy Committee has been involved in the following activities since the last annual report was submitted to the City Council in July of 2015:

**Recommendations to Council:**

- ❖ **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).** The Committee had a special meeting in April to receive and discuss a California Clean Power Presentation. The committee recommended that the Council approve amendments to RCEA's Joint Powers Authority Agreement to allow RCEA to establish a local CCA.
- ❖ **City's Medical Marijuana Innovation Area.** The committee provided recommendations for energy efficiency policies or requirements in the City's Medical Marijuana Innovation Area, including: (1) an energy calculator; (2) a list of energy efficiency measures; (3) a requirement to pay offset for energy consumption above a specified baseline and (4) have greater offsets required as size of operation increases. The Committee also recommended the following energy offset options: (1) Purchase carbon offsets from the City of Arcata Community Forest; (2) 100% green power option through CCA Humboldt; (3) purchase renewable power from PG&E's program; (4) support local community-based renewable energy products; (5) on-site renewable energy generation.

**New Committee Chair:** The committee accepted Chair, Nate McKeever's resignation from the Committee and elected George Williamson to the new position of Chair of the Energy Committee. In this past year the Committee also welcomed new member Mahayla Slackerelli.

**PACE**

The Committee received a presentation on the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing program and the HERO (Home Energy Renovation Opportunity) program. The Committee expressed to Council its support for the City's participation in PACE programs.

**City Facilities** –The Committee reviewed and discussed the Repower Humboldt Report on best practices for reducing greenhouse gases. The Committee also reviewed and gave input on the two options for upgrading the City Hall heating and ventilation system.

**Building Energy Saving Ordinance:** The committee reviewed other local jurisdictions' energy efficiency ordinances and initiated work on developing a building energy efficiency ordinance for Arcata for the Council to consider.

**Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)** - The Committee received a report on RCAA's Energy Efficiency Weatherization and Appliance Upgrade programs and offered suggestions on additional outreach opportunities to promote the program.

**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. This past year, the RCEA reported that they will be installing nine new Electric Vehicle charging stations in the area; the first one will be in Trinidad.

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

### **Priority Projects**

1. Complete work on the Building Energy Saving ordinance;
2. Continue to track the Excessive Energy Use Tax and make energy efficiency recommendations in 2016/2017;
3. Continue to track legislation concerning energy and make recommendations to the Council;
4. 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.