

**City of Arcata Energy Committee
Annual Report to the City Council
July 2014**

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.

Committee members include:

Nate McKeever, Chair
Gwelen Paliaga, Vice-Chair
Ruthanne Cecil
Melanie Faust

Mike Kowalski
George Williamson
Jim Zoellick

Committee Staff

Karen Diemer, Staff Liaison

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 2013.

Education and Outreach – The Committee did outreach to the community on Energy Awareness Month in October 2013 by hanging a banner across G and 9th Streets and developing and distributing a calendar of energy education events.

Recommendation to Council on Community Choice Aggregation

The Committee continued to devote many hours to the issue of community choice aggregation. At its March 17, 2014 meeting the following motion was adopted:

M:McKeever S: Williamson VOTE: 6-0. AYES: Faust, Kowalski, McKeever, Paliaga, Williamson, Zoellick. Noes: None. Absent: Cecil.

The Committee believes that both Marin Clean Energy and Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) are viable CCA options for Arcata to request membership to. The committee recommends pursuing membership with SCP while continuing to support the efforts of a North Coast CCA. The committee strongly recommends that the Council request that Arcata retains a seat on the Board of Directors for SCP if membership to the JPA is approved. If and when steps need to be taken with Sonoma that would preclude the City from being part of a North Coast CCA, the Committee would like review the current status of both options and make a final recommendation to the Council.

Concurrent with this recommendation the Committee requests that staff develop a financial analysis of the options that includes what rates will be for customers at both the standard levels and for higher renewable products in each of the CCA options as well as PGE's Green Power option. Lastly the Committee requests monthly updates to track the feasibility of SCP and if membership options are

delayed with SCP because they are such a young organization may recommend that the City consider Marin Clean Energy.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station – At the 8th and F Streets parking lot, a new ChargePoint electric vehicle charging station was installed and a second parking stall was dedicated to electric vehicle charging.



Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF) – The Committee received an overview on this program, its current projects and potential for energy savings reinvestment. It has expressed an interest in looking for ways to recommend that the City to explore collaborating more closely with HEIF.

Time of Sale Ordinance: The committee is developing a time of sale / time of rental draft Ordinance. Currently the committee is reviewing three options

- a. Disclosure – a requirement to share 12 months of energy data with the buyer or renter at the time of sale/rental
- b. Energy Audit – A required energy audit for a home prior to sale or an apartment at the time of rental or every specified number of years.
- c. Energy Audit and minimum level of retrofit – A requirement that at the time of sale or rental a property must complete an energy audit and retrofit to a specified level.

Collaboration with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) – The Committee continues to consult and work collaboratively with RCEA on numerous energy and climate-related issues. The City has been active in educating both residents and businesses about the availability of energy audits through RCEA. A mailing went out to multi-family residence owners in April educating them on the availability of such audits through RCEA.

II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR

Priority Projects

1. Track legislation concerning energy and make recommendations to the Council;
2. Develop a Time of Sale / Rental ordinance that considers energy disclosure, energy audits and/or required energy upgrades.
3. Review Cap and Trade program development and encourage protocols that could fund energy efficiency and renewable generation projects.
4. Track the progress of the Excessive Energy Use Tax passed by the voters and develop recommendations for use of the revenue;
5. Provide guidance to Balance Efficiency and Indoor Air Quality;
6. Assist the City in re-establishing a greenhouse gas reduction goal;
7. Investigate an Energy Use Reporting System starting with commercial properties;
8. Consider Energy Load mitigation for new development. Development of a local database that can match the energy efficiency upgrade needs of older housing stock to offset the energy demand of new construction;
9. Encouraging Transportation Mode Shift – Re-engage in developing policies, programs and infrastructure to meet the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan goal that 50% of all trips that begin and end in Arcata be made by non-motorized modes by the year 2020;
10. Consider Rideshare software such as zimride and community access to Zip Cars.

On-Going Goals

- Explore and recommend energy efficiency measures for City-owned facilities;
- Collaborate with RCEA, HSU and the Eureka Energy Committee;
- Find ways to better engage the community in our GHG reduction efforts;
- Help the City obtain more alternative fuel vehicles for the City fleet and assist with Plug-in electric vehicle infrastructure development.