

**City of Arcata Energy Committee
2022 Annual Report to the City Council
For Presentation to the City Council on August 2, 2023**

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. The Committee held four regular meetings and one special meeting during 2022.

2022 Committee Members:

George Williamson, Chair
Andrea Alstone, Vice-Chair
Carisse Geronimo
Mike Kowalski

Gwelen Paliaga
Michael Winkler
Jim Zoellick

Committee Staff Liaisons:

Emily Benvie, Deputy Director - Community Services, Environmental Services Department
Morguine Sefcik, Environmental Programs Manager, Environmental Services Department

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Energy Committee was involved in the following activities in 2022:

George Williamson served as Chair and Andrea Alstone served as Vice-Chair in 2022. The Committee confirmed their meeting schedule, in which they hold regular meetings on odd-numbered months only. The committee meetings were held via zoom throughout 2022.

Arcata All Electric Initiative

The Committee continued work on the All-Electric Initiative. This initiative includes decarbonization and electrification of City and privately-owned buildings using a range of options, including enacting a municipal ordinance gas ban, decarbonizing City facilities, and investigating options to increase equity and affordability of electrification.

- The Energy Committee and the Electrification Subcommittee supported the electrification ordinance throughout the year and as proposed at the November 28, 2022 meeting. The Committee anticipated beginning outreach regarding this ordinance in Spring of 2023, however recent court rulings have delayed progress on the ordinance.
- The Committee received regular updates and provided input on decarbonization of City facilities. Specific examples included:
 - Supporting an application for an Energy Conservation Assistance Act loan to provide energy efficiency upgrades and install rooftop solar at the Arcata Community Center
 - Supporting Electric Vehicle Charging Station planning efforts for future Carlson Park development in coordination with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)
 - Supporting water heater replacement from a gas to electric water heater at Arcata Community Center
 - Providing input on potential uses for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) climate change allocations

Collaboration

The Committee continues to consult and work collaboratively with RCEA, 350 Humboldt, Redwood Coalition for Climate and Environmental Responsibility (RCCER), and Redwood Energy on energy and climate-related issues. The Committee collaborated with the City Council during the City Council/Committee Chair Study Session in Spring 2022.

Gateway Area Plan

Over multiple meetings, the Committee received updates on the Gateway Area Plan and prioritized energy-related implementation measures to be included in the draft Plan, ultimately leading to recommended measures to include with the draft Plan.

Regional Climate Action Plan

The Committee received updates on the status of the Regional Climate Action Plan. At their May meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the draft Climate Action Plan and recommended approval of the draft Climate Action Plan (to be used in development of CEQA analysis).

II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR

Furthermore, in pursuit of the following goals for FY 2023/2024, the Energy Committee committed to furthering energy-related Environmental Justice and Social Equity.

- 1) **Arcata Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan** – Continue to work with the County to adopt and implement a regional Climate Action Plan.
- 2) **Transportation Mode Shift** - Consistent with the Climate Action Plan - continue support staff with work related to shifting transportation toward walking, biking, public transportation, and electric modes of transport.
- 3) **Arcata All Electric Initiative** - Continue work to decarbonize and electrify city and privately-owned buildings using a range of options, enact a municipal ordinance gas ban, and investigate options to increase equity and affordability of electrification.
- 4) Support Staff to **explore low carbon options for community resiliency** - Including the benefit of solar with battery backup options, “connected communities”.
- 5) **Identify significant changes to 2022 Title 24 Energy Code**
- 6) **Explore Waste to Energy Projects** -- Support projects that generate energy from diversion of organic waste (including food scraps, yard trimmings, and agricultural waste) and can be demonstrated to provide GHG emissions reductions and meet air quality emission standards.