

Borough of Carlisle
Climate Action Commission
Executive Committee
Minutes
February 4, 2021
7:00 PM

- I. Joel Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present at the meeting: Joel Hicks, Sean Shultz, Mohamed Badissy, Karla Farrell, Sara Markowitz, Tony Underwood, Tamela Trussell, Jim Rouland, Barbara Ann Sexton, Tony Rymar, Tom Horton, Susan Armstrong, Stephanie Taylor and Joyce Stone.

II. **Meeting Minutes**

- A. Executive Committee voted 8-0 to approve the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. (Hicks/Shultz)

III. **Public Comment**

No public comments were heard

IV. **Presentations:**

Mr. Hicks thanked Mr. Tom Horton from the Carlisle area School District (CASD) for his presentation at a recent community action forum. Mr. Horton provided information of the CASD efforts in reducing energy consumption by using renewable power generation.

Mr. Hicks spoke of a renewable energy rate program default that had been discussed by PPL, but has now been withdrawn from their discussions. He commented that our elected officials may want to reach out to the PUC as an advocate for the energy default service. Mr. Hicks shared an informal survey that he took on social media regarding choices to purchase electricity. The survey revealed that the default options provided by the utility provider are being utilized by approximately 40 percent of the users.

Mr. Hicks suggested holding inter-team meetings to have in depth discussions on topics such as: enforcement and monitoring of GHG reductions; implementation costs and financing. He asked for the team leads to begin thinking about future conversations on these topics.

Mr. Tony Rymar, Sustainable Program Manager for UGI provided a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of their future sustainable initiatives. Specific areas they are following and focusing on are: PA Climate Action Plan; possible approval of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; reduce carbon emissions, UGI operational fugitive emissions along with renewable natural gas sources and programs. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

Sara Markowitz inquired as to when the pipeline replacement program may be completed. Mr. Rymar responded that it will coincide with the methane reductions goal of 2040.

Mr. Hicks spoke of the Borough's partnership with Cumbria UK and the four collaborative subgroups that were formed. He invited the PPL and UGI representatives to participate in future meetings with Cumbria.

Mr. Shultz questioned if the water treatment plant were to upgrade their system to anaerobic digestion would the gases produced be considered a source of renewable natural gas for UGI to acquire. Mr. Rymar explained that UGI has certain quality specifications for the gas it acquires. In order for the Borough to market the gas, another facility would be needed to condition the gas to meet those specifications.

Chat room question: Does the Carlisle community have influence over PPL utility line providers? Mr. Hicks replied that PPL has the franchise to distribute electricity for transmission in this area. He noted if a community wanted to own their own lines it would involve a long process to procure the lines. Mr. Rouland added there are co-ops throughout the territory that own the lines but are not the source of the power. These entities are considered a public utility and are regulated by the state commission.

Mr. Underwood asked what the current number for natural gas usage is in Carlisle and UGI's projections for the installations of new service lines. Mr. Rynard replied he does not have those details but they can be provided and added there was a recent expansion on Garland drive due to low spots.

Mr. Hicks shared a statement from the Governor, which said a portion of the RGGI fund will be designated to an Energy Communities Trust Fund which would be used to aid workers and communities to offset the economic impacts from the move to cleaner sources of electric generation.

Team Lead Updates:

A. Community Engagement: Sara Markowitz

The team has finalized the draft of community survey, which will now be reviewed by all the team members and discussed at the next team meeting. The team is also reaching out to stakeholders and the Community Action Network as well as holding a virtual event through Bosler Library. Ms. Markowitz also stated that a grant application was submitted to obtain funding for the survey. The potential grant would help fund the cost of an incentive of a free led light bulb for each survey participant. The survey will be done in two rounds and will reach out to 400 participants. The team is talking about community values and how they should be prioritized those values in terms of the climate action plan.

B. Zoning: Karla Farrell

The zoning team has divided in two groups: one group is reviewing and commenting on the existing zoning ordinances and the other group is reviewing the draft zoning documents provided by Weidner University. The team is gathering information in the following areas: looking for a partnership connection with the DCA; reviewing the stormwater ordinance as it relates to impervious area; discussion on the desired number of street trees; revitalizing towns through pedestrian traffic which help with emissions and team members will share their favorite section of CAC plans from other towns.

C. Pathways & Analytics: Tony Underwood

They have completed their preliminary research of climate action plans in other municipalities in terms of types of mitigation actions being proposed. The team has also followed writings in terms of what is being forecasted regarding feasibility and some reasonable projection for adoptions of electric vehicles and the role of electrification. These assumptions will be used in ClearPath as they develop the pathways. The team is preparing

a report to include the model pathways and a series of proposed actions for the commission and teams to discuss.

Mr. Hick explained that the pathway is basically a mitigation curve from now until 2050, which is the extent of our targets that show what our pathway will be for mitigating across the different sectors. The Pathways & Analytics team is looking across residential, commercial, industrial transportation and waste management to make educated and reasonable projections about how each of those will be mitigated based on some rough assumptions. The projections will be refined by the Projects & Estimates team with pathways that will show what the assumptions are for that slope. Then under those objectives, we'll have possible actions that would be a manifest of accomplishing those objectives. With each objective there may be two or three actions that would actually accomplish that objective. Those objectives will then be given to the Projects & Estimates team to do a cost benefit analysis. They will not only be based on economics, but also on all of the input from the Community Engagement Team's surveys that reflect our social values, our priorities and our preferences in the community.

D. Projects & Estimates: Mohamed Badissy

They are working on informal community outreach and have received a few examples from the community in regard to the business side of interventions that have occurred on their own accord.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.