



APPROVED 12/13/2023

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

City of Scottsdale
Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission (SEAC)
Regular Meeting

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:39 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Commission Members: Tammy Bosse, Walter Cuculic (virtually), Ryan Johnson, Andrew Scheck (virtually)

ABSENT: Commissioner Tony Coletta

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Office of Environmental Initiatives; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023

Chair Brady made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2023, with Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr providing a Second for the motion, which carried 5-0. All members present at the time voted for APPROVAL.

2) Recognition of Service: Commissioner Tammy Bosse

The Commission recognized Commissioner Bosse for having completed two consecutive terms of service with the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission. Commissioners and city staff shared their appreciation. This item was moved to the end of the agenda (after Item #8).

3) Scottsdale Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Richard Rushforth, Northern Arizona University, presented updated results from the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory and macro-trend energy forecast model completed for the city of Scottsdale. Dr. Rushforth revisited slides presented in May reviewing how a GHG inventory is calculated. He reviewed the five sectors included in the protocol and the methods for calculating emissions (mostly using the activity data approach).

City-wide and municipal-only results were calculated for 2018, 2020, and 2022. He reviewed details from the inventory report, which was shared as part of the agenda packet. The key takeaways are:

- City-wide GHG emissions decreased 7.1% between 2018 and 2022
- City-operations GHG emissions – which are mostly due to electricity use and are 6% of the city-wide total – decreased 10.3% over the same period.

- GHG emissions have decreased over a period of population and economic growth for a variety of reasons:
 - Less GHG intensive electricity, increased energy efficiency (potentially), increased distributed solar, among other factors.
 - Post-pandemic economic recovery will place an upward pressure on future GHG emissions

Dr. Rushforth also reviewed the results of the forecast model, which looked at five scenarios: baseline, accelerated renewable energy development, increased energy efficiency, electric vehicle growth, and all-of-the-above. This model was not intended to be predictive, but a forecast of possible emissions pathways. Some insights from the model include that an acceleration of renewable energy does not impact 2050 total emissions but instead lowers those emissions sooner and that electric vehicle growth can have a high impact on reducing emissions below the baseline scenario.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Dr. Rushforth shared that municipalities tend to only update their inventory every two years and that building energy efficiency could have a large impact on emissions going forward (especially given longer summers). He also shared that increasing behind-the-meter solar in the residential sector and achieving utility carbon goals were two more high impact strategies. Commissioners also asked about methane from wastewater emissions and about reductions in transportation-related emissions.

4) Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan

Lisa McNeilly shared an update on the discussion at the November 13th City Council Work Study Session on the sustainability plan. Councilmembers shared helpful direction on ambition, accountability, and achievability of sustainability targets, and staff will rely on the Marked Agenda for that meeting for a record of the direction. Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr shared thoughts on levers the city has that can impact air quality.

Ms. McNeilly reviewed the items in the agenda packet that were shared with Commissioners on November 7th, introducing baseline data and draft strategies and actions for the remaining three chapters of the plan: Energy, Extreme Heat, and Waste. Commissioners discussed possible targets for carbon neutrality, revisions to indicators to better highlight core issues, and reviewed actions. The feedback received will be evaluated and reviewed with staff for possible incorporation in the next version of the draft plan. Commissioners were asked to share any additional feedback with Ms. McNeilly.

~~5) Environmental Achievement Recognition Award (EQAB)~~

Item #5 was removed at the request of staff.

6) Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission Annual Work Plan

Chair Brady reviewed some of the topics that will be covered during the December, January and February meetings. A word version of the Work Plan will be sent to Commissioners, who are asked to forward their ideas for additional 2024 topics to the staff liaison with a copy to the chair.

7) Staff Updates

Staff will present updates pertaining to Scottsdale sustainability initiatives for commission information only. Arizona State law prohibits the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not properly noticed on the posted agenda.

Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, provided an update on the selection of the consultant team to craft the city's Shade and Tree Plan. Lisa McNeilly shared information on the regional climate action planning effort undertaken by the Maricopa Association of Governments, highlighting the community [survey](#). The state is also conducting a [survey](#) for their new heat planning efforts. Ms. McNeilly also shared that a team of ASU students are working on a green purchasing project with the city and will forward the final product to commissioners.

8) Identification of Future Agenda Items

The Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission may suggest items they wish to be placed on a future agenda. Per Arizona State law, the Commission shall not discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item suggested as a future agenda item, unless the specific item is properly noticed for Commission discussion and action.

Future meetings: Energy (October/November); Water conservation and turf (December); State weatherization program (October), Design with Nature and integrated pest management (December). Other topics: discussion on possible updates to residential building and energy codes, Environmental Achievement Recognition program, presentation on the tourism and events strategic plan, tree inventory updates, and an update on the Colorado River situation.

Commissioners discussed inviting the Parks & Recreation Department to present at their February meeting and about the possibility of recommending a different name for the sustainability plan.

Adjournment 8:14 p.m.



Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-2831. Requests should be made 24 hours in advance, or as early as possible, to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For TTY users, the Arizona Relay Service (1-800-367-8939) may contact the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-2831.