



**COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Tameika Isaac Devine | Chair | Present |
| Will Brennan | Member | Present |
| Daniel J. Rickenmann | Member | Present |

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) Quarterly Update - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Administrator for the Public Works Department and Dr. Lori A. Ziolkowski, CPAC Chair

Dr. Lori Ziolkowski, CPAC Chair provided an update on behalf of CPAC. Our consultant's report on Ready for 100 will be available within the next month and that will likely be the focus of our next meeting. CPAC organized a Ready for 100 event to educate people on lowering energy costs and programs to help with energy efficiency, especially for those who are struggling financially. Keeping it Cool Columbia! is being planned for June 17, 2021 to educate people on cooling their homes in an affordable manner. The SC State Energy Efficiency Roadmap recommends the development of a residential labeling/disclosure pilot program. There is a financial energy burden with residents paying upwards of 20% of their monthly income on energy. We are scheduling a meeting to learn more about the Missouri Home Energy Certification Program. We are working to identify a pilot community in Columbia and a voluntary roll out program. There is a goal of 100% carbon neutrality and rate neutrality by 2036. Over the past month, Dominion Energy has expressed an interest in working out custom deals with its customers by forming a local coalition in the midlands between the city, university, and county using large projects in the queue or renegotiation of the franchise agreement. We recommend that the city work on the local coalition deal with Dominion Energy for an approximate 70 MW installation project. The World Resources Institute is starting a cohort of entities to work on renewable procurements. I would like for the city to support members of the city, county, and university participating in this free cohort.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if the university is willing to work further on a joint project for a massive solar field so we can harvest those credits as a community.



We Are Columbia

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Dr. Lori Ziolkowski, CPAC Chair said the university's biggest concern is rate neutrality and support from upper administration. Next steps include Assistant City Manager Shealy continuing the conversation with Dominion Energy. WRI is also offering a cohort for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The SC State Energy Office is finalizing a fleet audit for the city and the data should be available soon. Long-term goals include the development of a community wide climate action plan. How can we work together most effectively?

Councilor Brennan said I look forward to hearing from Clint on his discussions with Dominion. This could set off an accelerated path to meeting the sustainability goals.

Councilor Devine said a lot of work that we are doing is interconnected. It's not just sustainability, affordable housing, and transportation; this all works together. I would like Dr. Ziolkowski's thoughts on how to incentivize or help property owners with energy efficiency in rental units. This would help with affordability and our energy goals.

Dr. Lori Ziolkowski, CPAC Chair said the SC State Energy Office is working on a green bank because it would help fund issues like this. We worry about gentrification because as landlords increase the quality of a rental, that could push out lower income renters. The first step is to gather data on labeling, then look at how to incentive this, and figure out how to implement it. Our energy consultant wanted us to ask if Columbia Housing can use high energy efficiency or renewables in their renovations.

Councilor Devine said let's send information over to Columbia Housing and see how they respond. We need to be prepared with shovel ready projects and a community based plan will align us with federal monies that may become available. We can figure out where Richland County is and what needs to be done to bring them along as partners.

Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Coordinator / Public Works Department announced that Earth Day is Thursday, April 22, 2021. We are participating in a celebration at Boyd Plaza on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Green Steps Schools will be participating, as well. We will have information on recycling, sustainability, and Columbia Water. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Forestry Commission, and the Wildlife Federation will have tables, also. There will be upcycled educational items for sale for the benefit of the Environmental Educators Association of South Carolina. We are promoting events with South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light.



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Councilor Brennan asked Dr. Ziolkowski to keep the City updated on the green bank conversation at the state level and how we can help craft that idea.

Councilor Devine asked about Richland County's conversations around the bag ordinance and bagging leaves.

Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said it went to a committee, but the committee didn't meet after COVID.

Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Coordinator / Public Works Department said they did a survey but they haven't moved forward.

Councilor Rickenmann said everybody is clogging up the storm drains and we need to revisit that at some point.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk