



**COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021**

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The Columbia Environment and Infrastructure Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Busby Street Community Center, 1735 Busby Street, Columbia, SC 29203. You may view the meeting online at [www.columbiasc.gov](http://www.columbiasc.gov). For questions regarding the meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (803)545-3045 or [cityclerk@columbiasc.gov](mailto:cityclerk@columbiasc.gov).

The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, At-Large, *Chair*  
The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, District IV ▪ The Honorable William Brennan, District III

**CALL TO ORDER**

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1. Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee Quarterly Update - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Administrator for the Public Works Department and Dr. Lori A. Ziolkowski, CPAC Chair
2. Disposal of Grass and Leaf Debris - Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director

**ADJOURNMENT**



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We Are Columbia

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**MEETING DATE:** October 19, 2021

**DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**FROM:** *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

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

**FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:**

**FOCUS AREAS:** **Innovative & High Quality Municipal Services**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- CPAC Oct 2021 Update (PDF)

# Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) October 2021 update

## In this update:

- Energy events past + future
- Renewable cohort update
- Conversation with Dominion
- Ready for 100 resolution v 2.0
- Communications within government

Observations, next steps, and  
recommendations.

Dr. Lori Ziolkowski - chair of CPAC

email: [loriz@sc.edu](mailto:loriz@sc.edu)

Prepared for the City of Columbia Environment and Infrastructure committee meeting October 19th, 2021.

**Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

**Previously reported CPAC efforts**

**Adapt to climate change**

**Reduce energy usage**

**Change how we generate electricity**

**Prepare for more extreme heat**

**Outreach on incentive and loan programs**

**Work with Dominion (& PSC) to source renewables**

**Help keep more citizens cool**

**Energy labelling for real estate & rentals**

**Energy consultant (via Sierra Club) to advise on Ready for 100**

**Use heat vulnerability to guide tree planting**

Attachment: CPAC Oct 2021 Update (7098 : CPAC Quarterly Update - October 2021)

**Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

**Reduce energy usage**

**Outreach on incentive and loan programs**

**Energy labelling for real estate & rentals**

**Current CPAC efforts**

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**Latest webinar:**

**Back to School:  
Sustainability Style**

September 16th | 6:00 p.m.

For more information, e-mail  
**Mary.Baldauf@ColumbiaSC.gov**

Streaming on  

 

**Next (mid-Dec): how climate change factors into faith communities**

# From the CPAC April 2021 presentation:

## So how do we prepare for negotiating such a custom deal?

World Resources Institute is starting its 2nd renewable aggregation cohort in a few weeks.

Met with Zach Green on 4/19  
He suggests having that participants participate in this seven month series

City + UofSC: fairly clear who should participate  
County: who could participate on the

This is FREE.

WRI also said they can help with other initiatives + funding

WRI willing to present to CPAC in early May.

**Next steps?**

**Council:**  
Are you in support of this?  
Reach out to uni/county

**Clint:** continue convo with Dominion

**Dr. Z + Clint + uni/county:** training in renewable procurement?



Proposed Workshop Schedule

| Date               | Virtual Workshop Information   |
|--------------------|--|
| March/April 2021   | <a href="#">Kickoff meetings, Energy &amp; Off-site Procurement 101</a>  |
| May 2021           | <p><a href="#">Building Renewables Aggregation Knowledge</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Overview of aggregation process. Facilitated discussions with aggregation groups on key procurement elements.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Understand process and key alignment points.</p>   |
| June 2021          | <p><a href="#">Determining Governance Structure &amp; Managing the Group (MOU)</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Presentation on various governance structures and approaches, practices for MOUs. Work time for aggregation groups.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Determine aggregation group governance structure.</p> <p><a href="#">Legal and Accounting Risks</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Presentation on legal and accounting challenges for aggregation groups. Consultation with experts and align on any deal breakers. Understand legal and accounting barriers.</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Local government legal and accounting staff.</p> <p><a href="#">Project to Senior Leaders</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Review pitch deck template, Q&amp;A on behavioral best practices to get to a small group work time to craft a pitch. Prepare each team member to get approval from senior leadership to proceed further.</p> <p><a href="#">Risk Mitigation Strategies</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Presentation on risk mitigation strategies for large-scale renewable aggregation. Work time for aggregation groups. Align on risk mitigation strategies the aggregation group wants to pursue.</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Local government procurement staff.</p> <p><a href="#">Procurement Deal Terms (individual workshops)</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> RMI/RMI will facilitate an alignment convening for each aggregation group to align on RFP criteria and importance of each category.</p> |
| January 2022       | <p><a href="#">Drafting Your Request for Proposal (RFP)</a></p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Review RFP template and align as a procurement group.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Draft RFP for aggregated deal.</p>  |
| February-June 2022 | Additional check-ins and support to help release RFP.  |

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# Since May 2021, local organizations have been working on this.

# Renewable aggregate cohort

## Current participants:

- city of Columbia
- University of South Carolina
- Richland One
- Columbia Housing
- Richland County

## Goals:

- build large (~100MW) solar facility in the midlands
- 5 to 25% of each organizations power requirements
- negotiate this deal with Dominion as a cohort
- price neutrality, reliability, equity

## Progress:

- Dominion is open to this custom deal
- Cohort strengthens relationships between midlands organizations
  - Useful for future procurement?
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## Limitations:

- Price implications currently unclear
- At present, this option only available participant organizations (not the citizens)...

## Ready for 100 Resolution

2017 - Mayor Benjamin committed the city to 100% renewable power for the community by 2036

To date, little detailed work on how we are going to achieve this goal.

## Ready for 100 Resolution v2.0

CPAC is currently drafting on a revised Ready for 100 resolution for the city that is two separate resolutions

- 1) City operations focused resolutions that encompasses energy savings, and powers as well as offers their annual electrical usage with solar.
- 2) Mechanisms for how the city can partner with 3rd parties to make energy efficiency and solar accessible to the broader community

These resolutions will come with interim goals to help prioritize efforts.

Expect CPAC to present these revised resolutions to council in 2022.

# Dominion visit with CPAC

## Danny Kassis VP Customer Relations and Renewables

### Tues Oct 5th, 2021

-Brief overview of Dominion's plans and recommendations

- They are cautious to roll out solar too quickly
- No current large scale plans for wind
- Will retire or convert remaining coal generation over next decade
- Biogas may be important for balancing the load
- Their carbon neutral goals are 2050, which is much slower than the city

Opportunities:

- Energy efficiency first priority to lower long term electricity costs
- Cohort aggregate is a workable model, may enable community solar
- Electrification for fleet and transit is viewed as "beneficial electrification"
- Planning for EV infrastructure
- Study what time of use rates would mean for both city operations and residents' meters & bills
- Large interconnection queue: Columbia could engage at PSC to help with interconnection reform

Limitations:

- Dominion says that Act 62 is what is limiting community solar due to cost shift. That was not the intention of the law. Can we lobby for an updated law?
- Dominion suggested we focus on transportation first, without considering how energy is generated
- We want renewables faster than Dominion wants to roll them out. Will require us advocating for ourselves.

## Claire Windsor report to CPAC

Presentation found on CPAC website

<https://www.columbiasc.net/depts/cpac/CPAC%20Presentation.pdf>

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### Potential future city wide efforts

**Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

**Adapt to climate change**

**Reduce energy usage**

**Electricity generation**

**Transportation**

*This is more than a committee effort.  
Building climate awareness into departments across the city is needed.*

**Prepare for more extremes**

Outreach programs

City sources renewables

City fleet to EV

Keep citizens cool

Rental energy labelling

Ready for 100 v2.0

EV charging network?

Trees + heat

Energy efficiency?

Community solar?

EV COMET?  
Bike lanes

More flooding'

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**Next steps:**

- Formation of CPAC subcommittee on communications
- Continued communication with State Energy Office
  - potential funding
  - greenbank scoping
- CPAC report to city on renewables in franchise agreements (mid Nov)
- Renewable aggregate cohort: continue learning and defining goals

Administrative: CPAC leadership election in January

**Observations:**

- CPAC has ambitious and passionate volunteers. Current guidance from the city on how we can best help is limited
- Currently, the city has limited staff dedicated to helping with this issue, limits ability to focus on new opportunities
- Current legal framework in SC limits choices for citizens and small businesses.
- City is not currently advocating for helping citizens achieve Ready for 100 goals at either the state house or PSC

**Recommendations:**

- Council & city management empower and charge more staff to work on climate change efforts
  - Greater continuity of efforts if led by staff, and not just volunteer committees
  - Need more staff up to speed on the technical, financial, and future looking aspects
- **Political courage needed from council**
  - Ready for 100 was intended to be community wide. Currently, limited mechanisms to do that. Lobbying will be required
  - Dominion said Act 62 (Energy Freedom Act) was a limitation for them helping customers more. Can we help update Act 62?

**Questions'  
Comments'**

**loriz@sc.ed**

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