

**Agenda – Special Meeting**  
Juneau Commission on Sustainability  
Friday, May 27, 2022  
12pm-1pm  
VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/81410013298>

or  
1-253-215-8782  
Webinar ID: 814 1001 3298

**I. CALL TO ORDER - 12noon**

**II. AGENDA CHANGES**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**IV. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. 2022 Annual Report
- b. Suggested Projects for 1% Sale Tax Extension

**V. Next meetings**

- a. Monthly Work session/Subcommittee      Wednesday June 15, 2022, @ 12PM ZOOM
- b. Monthly regular meeting                      Wednesday, July 6 @ 12PM ZOOM

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon)**

**Zoom**

**I. Call to Order.** Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at 12 pm.

*Commissioners Present:*

Chair Keiser, Steve Behnke, Lisa Daugherty, Anjuli Grantham, Duff Mitchell, David Teal

*Commissioners Absent:*

Colin Peacock, Danielle Meeker, Jim Powell

*Staff & Others Present:*

Staff Liaison Beth McKibben, CBJ Assembly Liaison Carole Triem,

Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers, Engineering and Public Works Director

Katie Koester, CBJ Architect Jeanne Rynne, CBJ Engineer Associate Lisa Eagan-Lagerquist

*Members of the Public Present:*

Sara Gress, Alec Mesdag

**II. Agenda Changes.**

***None***

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

April 6, 2022

**Approved without change by unanimous consent.**

**IV. Public Participation.**

**Alec Mesdag (AELP)** AELP's recently approved rates for EV chargers are:

1. Not intended for home chargers—the target is banks of level II chargers on dedicated circuits,
2. Exempt from power resale restrictions, and
3. Lower than rates for dedicated demand loads.

**V. Action/Discussion Items**

**A. Update EV planning, infrastructure and fleet conversion**

**Katie Koester (EPW).** Issues associated with CIP projects for EV infrastructure include:

1. Where to place chargers. Twin Lakes and various parking lots are under consideration.
2. Incentives available. Exploring
  - federal formula funding to states and
  - community grants.
3. Areas with limited off-street parking. On-street chargers are problematic (ownership issues and interference with snow plowing)—current strategy is to attempt to place

chargers in off-street locations within walking distance of homes. Mr. Mitchell suggested consideration of church parking lots.

4. CBJ fleet of EVs.

- Six replacement buses are covered by grants but not yet ordered.
- Charging infrastructure is included in plans for the construction (underway) of the Valley Transfer Center.
- There is no mandate for fleet conversion to EVs.
- It is not currently practical to replace many trucks and other large vehicles, but Ms Koester intends to work with other CBJ depts on a consolidated fleet for the downtown offices and develop a replacement schedule for the 20 or fewer passenger vehicles in the downtown fleet (excluding police vehicles).
- The first step in fleet replacement is placement of chargers in the Marine View parking garage.

Mr. Mitchell noted that planning resources are available for fleet conversion and offered to provide Ms Koester with information.

5. VW settlement.

- \$125,000 of “no strings attached” money is earmarked for Southeast Alaska.
- There are no current claims on the money, although AEA has some ideas about planning.
- Instead, CBJ would like to see the funds used for EV infrastructure (public chargers on public land) and requested a letter of support from JCOS.

**MOTION: Mr. Mitchell moved that the topic be added to the agenda for May 18, giving the Energy Committee chair an opportunity to gather background information required to prepare a draft letter. *The motion was approved without objection.***

6. There was some discussion of Lo-No and other grant processes, including the availability of funding for circulator buses and the long delays associated with planning, ordering and delivery of buses. Mr. Mitchell advocated for the CBJ to apply for grant money in 2022 rather than put it off until more planning occurs. Currently, there is FY23 money earmarked for planning with Ms. Alexandra Pierce as staff lead.

**B. Cloth Diaper Initiative.**

**Sara Gress (Bartlett Regional Hospital)** reviewed a letter in the packet and provided the following additional information:

1. The Alaska Children’s Trust has had several requests on this topic and is working to address needs.
2. Approximately 1 million disposable diapers go to the Juneau landfill annually.

In response to a question regarding compostable diapers, Ms Daugherty noted that reusable diapers were a far more feasible alternative.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that Ms Gress investigate similar efforts in other communities, including whether the issue is one of education or practicality, and return to JCOS with a specific request for JCOS support.

Chair Keiser noted that the Assembly is currently considering a FY23 CIP for zero waste planning to reduce waste entering the landfill. She encouraged Ms Gress to provide information to Ms. Koester, EPW.

**C. Bartlett Regional Hospital—JCOS letter to waive LEED certification requirements.**

Jeanne Rynne and Lisa Eagan Lagerquist (EPW) requested that JCOS send a letter to the City Manager citing grounds similar to those affecting Centennial Hall renovations.

**MOTION:** Mr. Benke moved that chair send a letter as requested. After discussion of the cost and value of the LEED certification process, **the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.** MS Rynne agreed to document the LEED process as it applies to the behavioral health building (particularly demolition and construction waste) and report to JCOS.

**D. RAISE grant update.**

Mr. Benke had nothing to report other than Docks and Harbors is working on a parallel grant.

**E. JCOS Workplan.**

Chair Keiser noted that the goal tracking sheet is incomplete and asked chairs to update information.

**V. Information Items**

**A. JCOS-AARP Webinar series.**

No information

**B. JCOS recommendation on LEED exemption (Centennial Hall)**

No information

**VI. Commissioner Comments**

1. Mr. Mitchell noted that the JCOS-AARP webinars and the meetings on waste management were well attended and appeared to be well received by the public.
2. He also noted that the April 30<sup>th</sup> EV/litter pick up produced some good pictures and thanked those that attended.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by David Teal, acting for Danielle Meeker

**A. Downtown Bus Circulator and RAISE Grant/ Dock Electrification Study - Chair Keiser**

JCOS has seen a draft resolution on the downtown circulator, which encourages Capital Transit to file for a no or low-emission grant to make progress. CBJ can not apply for the replacement of a regular diesel bus because CBJ's diesel buses are too young to be eligible for replacement with electric buses, so we're going to pivot to requesting downtown bus circulator. DBA supports this. The goal of the resolution is to demonstrate JCOS support for a grant application. There remains a question of whether we need to study this in more detail. If passed, we would forward this resolution to Capital Transit and CC Katie Koester.

Ms. Daugherty requests more information on the purpose and rationale for a downtown circulator, and whether it would address an existing problem. Other commissioners suggest that the circulator would help alleviate pedestrian and vehicular congestion in the broader downtown area, and would increase accessibility.

**MOTION** by Mr. Behnke to finalize draft resolution and forward to Capital Transit and CBJ Engineering and Public Works Department, pending approval. Seconded by Mr. Powell.

**Objection from Ms. Daugherty.**

Ms. Daugherty expresses concern over the rationale for the downtown circulator, and asks if there is demonstrated need. Mr. Teal notes that the downtown circulator might compete with the existing trolley, but was included in the RAISE grant application and has been envisioned as working in tandem with the electrification of the downtown area. Secretary McKibben notes that Capital Transit has operated a downtown circulator intermittently before, and that one of the recommendations from Blueprint Downtown was for better advertising of the downtown circulator service. Mr. Behnke expresses his belief that JCOS should take every opportunity to support the electrification of transportation, and notes that there will be opportunity for further discussion in the future.

**VOTE** to finalize and submit resolution in support of a no or low-emission grant application from CBJ for a downtown circulator.

*Yays:* Commissioners Teal, Behnke, Powell, Peacock, Meeker

*Nays:* Commissioner Daugherty

**B. JCOS Input - Centennial Hall - Jeanne Rynn and Lisa Eagan Lagerquist**

Two page memo in meeting packet from Jeanne Rynn (City Architect with CBJ Engineering) and Lisa Eagan Lagerquist (City Planner). City Code 49.35.800 requires any renovation that costs over



## **JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2021 - MAY 2022**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) has been engaged and productive this past year. Much of the Commission's work is researched and drafted by its committees, and the full Commission conducted 12 regular monthly meetings, numerous work sessions, two special meetings, and a January 2022 annual retreat.

The JCOS charter, and resolutions for JCAIP and JRES, identify its duties<sup>1</sup>:

1. promotion of sustainability in the community,
2. recommendations to the Assembly and other boards and commissions on policies and programs,
3. research and applying for grants,
4. advising CBJ staff on GHG emission reductions, and
5. acting as a liaison between the community and Assembly on sustainability-related issues.

Sustainability, as defined in JCOS's charter, encompasses economic, social, environmental, and local government components.

### **II. HIGHLIGHTS – JCOS Priorities, Accomplishments and Pending Work**

#### **A. PRIORITY - ENERGY**

##### **1. Transportation**

##### **a. JCOS Actions: Juneau Dock Electrification**

- provided detailed recommendations and suggested text and analysis for improved 2022 Juneau Dock Electrification RAISE Grant Application.
- submitted detailed comments and recommendations on CBJ *Dock Electrification Study* draft report.
- recommended use of Marine Passenger Fees (MPFs) in 2022 for 16B docks electrification, and raised questions about what the proposed replacement of

<sup>1</sup> <https://juneau.org/community-development/jcos>

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Franklin Dock aging shore power equipment buys Juneau with respect to overall waterfront electrification.

- identified Dock Electrification as a community project for CBJ's *2022 Legislative Priorities* list.

**b. JCOS Actions: Electric Vehicles**

- for the fifth year, gathered community letters of support (including JCOS) for Capital Transit's successful \$1.4M FTA grant application for on-route electric bus charging equipment at the new Valley Transit Center.
- advocated for a downtown electric bus circulator as a use of MPFs (which City Mgr recommended) and as a candidate for a 2022 FTA Lo-No grant application (which was not pursued).
- provided public education and community awareness on EVs (see Outreach below).
- investigated the Alaska Energy Authority's as-yet unfulfilled allocation of VW Settlement funds committed in 2019 for EV charging infrastructure in SE Alaska.

**c. JCOS Pending Work**

- continue to collaborate with CBJ staff on electrification of Juneau's waterfront.
- advocate with AEA to fund EV charging equipment in interested SE communities – both VW settlement and federal Infrastructure Bill monies.

2. Space Heating

**a. JCOS Action: Federal Grant Opportunity**

- conducted research on Juneau housing and provided a letter of support for Alaska Heat Smart's successful \$2M HUD (3-year) grant for energy efficiency improvements to lower income housing.

**b. JCOS Actions: Financing for Commercial Building Energy Upgrades**

- successfully petitioned the Alaska Energy Authority to complete legal research and documents preparation for potential C-PACE financing program in Juneau for JCOS presentation to the City Manager and Assembly later this year.
- advocated for continued CBJ support to Alaska Heat Smart for base operational funding in FY2023.

3. CBJ Energy Management

**a. JCOS Actions: Energy Use in CBJ Facilities**

- provided a review (and accolades) on CBJ's first *Annual Sustainability Report*.
- followed up with CBJ staff and consultants on energy efficiency components to

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renovations to the Glacier Valley Fire Station and Centennial Hall.

- after advocating attention for years, applauded CBJ staff actions to track and reduce energy consumption by establishing an energy data base for approx. 30 CBJ facilities.
- recommended exemptions from LEED certification for two CBJ projects – Centennial Hall Ballroom Renovation and BRH Emergency Dept Addition & Renovation. Also offered to work with CBJ staff to re-examine the 2011 LEED ordinance and current “green” building certification programs.

#### 4. Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy Implementation

##### **a. JCOS Actions**

- actively monitor and advocate for JRES progress to help the Assembly meet its sustainability goals and the community’s expectations.
- worked with E&PW Dept to develop a scope of work for pending contract with Dynamhex to 1) obtain an updated Juneau’s energy use inventory (2010) and 2) provide an interactive model that will inform CBJ, community, and individual decision making on best ways to reduce GHG emissions.
- provided specific sustainability recommendations to the Assembly for its annual retreat goals-setting.
- after advocating for years, applauded the inclusion of sustainability as a criterion now part of written submittal for projects under the annual CIP process.
- Submitted recommendations for several CIP projects that address the community’s long-term sustainability: zero waste, downtown electric bus circulator, energy data inventory, community EV adoption, energy efficiency upgrades to CBJ facilities, district heating planning, and climate change adaptation assessment.

##### **b. JCOS Pending Work**

- continue to actively participate in Energy Use Inventory project with E&PW.
- submit suggested projects that further Juneau’s goal of 80% renewable energy by 2045 for the 1% sale tax ballot proposition.
- investigate job descriptions and benefits to municipalities elsewhere of having a Sustainability Coordinator on staff and present concept to CBJ.

#### **B. PRIORITY - FOOD & LOCAL RESOURCE RECOVERY (formerly Solid Waste)**

##### **a. JCOS Actions**

- presented information on Zero Waste concept to Assembly PWFC, and advocated for Assembly goal and FY2023 funding to undertake a public engagement/consulting effort to identify long-range approach and solutions.

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- advocated for a waste reduction & waste diversion “placeholder” in the 1% sales tax projects (for pending October 2022 election) to implement zero waste efforts.

**b. JCOS Pending Work**

- initiated contacts for tour of the City of Whitehorse waste management facility and staff meeting (June 2022) to consider successes/failures of the City’s waste planning.
- research waste reduction/diversion grant funding opportunities.
- investigate/promote use of public land for local agriculture and resource recovery sites.

**C. PRIORITY - OUTREACH**

**1. Public Education and Community Awareness**

**a. JCOS Actions**

- Developed and co-hosted a five-part AARP-JCOS Sustainability webinar series during spring 2022 on: carbon footprint/community action, green homes/buildings, electric transportation, reducing carbon footprint of food & waste, and resiliency – mental health & climate change.
- conducted a JCOS Sustainability Session on EVs – technology and investigating additional public charging stations in Juneau.
- drafted for the mayor two energy-related proclamations – Juneau EV Road Rally (September 2021) and Earth Day/Litter Free (April 2022).
- maintained a website under the /CBJCDD and also has a Facebook page. Sustainability sessions are recorded and posted, as are JCOS reports, meeting minutes, and useful articles.

**2. Collaboration with AK municipalities**

**a. JCOS Actions**

- regularly participated in bimonthly Zoom meetings of the Alaska Municipal Climate Network of local elected officials, staff, and advocates around the state to share information and actions.
- provided information about JCOS governance, duties, and priorities to Sitka climate action task force which may be remade as a sustainability commission by local officials.

**b. JCOS Pending Work**

- restart initiative to present to the Assembly the concept of an annual Sustainability Award to honor an individual, organization, business or agency that takes substantial action to further Juneau’s sustainability and resilience.

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#### D. PRIORITY - CLIMATE IMPACTS/SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

##### a. JCOS Action

- continued editorial work to finalize the *Juneau Climate Impacts Report* – a collaborative effort by UAF and UAS scientists and others.

##### b. JCOS Pending Work

- develop and promote sustainability indicators/metrics as part of CBJ Comprehensive Plan update in FY2023.

### III. OVERVIEW OF JCOS

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability, established by the Assembly in 2007, researches and advises the CBJ on community sustainability. The Commission's mission is to promote the economic, social, environmental, and governmental well-being of Juneau and all its inhabitants, now and in the future.

#### Membership

The 11-member Commission includes nine public members appointed by the Assembly, and one non-voting member each of the Assembly and the Planning Commission. The Commission is supported by a CBJ/CDD staff liaison. The Commission's membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interests of sustainability.

The JCOS members currently serving are:

| Member                        | Term Expires                                | Member                        | Term Expires                                          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Gretchen Keiser</i></b> | 6/30/2024, Chair                            | <b><i>Anjuli Grantham</i></b> | 6/30/2024, Vice Chair                                 |
| <b><i>Lisa Daugherty</i></b>  | 6/30/2022                                   | <b><i>Duff Mitchell</i></b>   | 6/30/2022                                             |
| <b><i>Danielle Meeker</i></b> | 6/30/2023, Secretary                        | <b><i>Steve Behnke</i></b>    | 6/30/2024                                             |
| <b><i>Jim Powell</i></b>      | 6/30/2023                                   | <b><i>Colin Peacock</i></b>   | 6/30/2022                                             |
| <b><i>David Teal</i></b>      | 6/30/2023                                   |                               |                                                       |
| <b><i>Carole Triem</i></b>    | CBJ Assembly Liaison<br>(non-voting member) | <b><i>Paul Voelckers</i></b>  | Planning<br>Commission Liaison<br>(non-voting member) |

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| <b><i>Beth McKibben</i></b> | CBJ Staff Liaison |  |  |
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Also, JCOS thanks Assembly Liaison Alicia Hughes-Skanjes who served on the Commission during the past year.

For additional background about the Commission, see Attachment 1.

Draft

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## ATTACHMENT 1: History of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability

The governing legislation for the Juneau Commission on Sustainability is CBJ Resolution 2401am, July 9, 2007. The policy and purpose of the Commission incorporated the mission of the former Juneau Energy Advisory Committee, which was also repealed by Resolution 2401am. The Commission's 2010 sunset date was removed by CBJ Resolution 2528, May 19, 2010.

The membership structure of the Commission was altered in 2015. Resolution 2755; February 5, 2015 renewed the Commission and repealed an earlier Resolution 2718. The Planning Commission and Assembly Liaison members are now non-voting members and do not count towards a quorum.

In the past, many persons have actively served on the Commission:

**Public Member:** Carol Anderson, Nathan Arentsen, Kaley Bangston, Bob Bellagh, Kate Bevegni, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Sandy Boyce, Alida Bus, Amy Condra, Robert Deering, Susan Ely, Catherine Fritz, Myrna Gardner, Clint Gundelfinger, Dave Hanna, Lauren Heine, Scott Jackson, Zane Jones, Jonathan Kamler, Ed King, Linda Kruger, Iura Leahu, Jeni Lefing, Sarah Lewis, Sean Lynch, Greg McEwen, Jim Rehfeldt, Sally Schlichting, Amy Skilbred, John Smith, Kate Troll, Sara Truit, Greg Smith, Nancy Waterman, , Rick Wolk, Gayle Wood, Lisa Weissler, Christine Woll.

**Assembly Liaison:** Bob Doll, Karen Crane, Mary Becker, Jerry Nankervis, Kate Troll, Maria Gladziszewski, Rob Edwardson, Michelle Hale, Alicia Hughes-Skanjes.

**Planning Commission Liaison:** Dan Miller, Nancy Waterman, Nicole Grewe, Ben Haight, Mike Levine, Mike Peterson.

**CBJ Staff Liaison:** Maria Gladziszewski, Tim Felstead.

**Previous JCOS Chair:** Gayle Wood, Sarah Lewis, Sandy Boyce, Sean Lynch, Alida Bus, Nancy Waterman, Kate Troll, Lisa Weissler, Steve Behnke, Duff Mitchell.

Over the years, JCOS worked on several aspects of community sustainability through several past committees, including: Food Security (2016-2018; 2009-2011) Climate Action Plan Implementation (2012), Sustainability Indicators (2010-2012), Initiatives (2012), Energy (2014-2015), Energy/Greenhouse Gas (2009-2011), Solid Waste (2014-2016), Sustainability Chapter/Comprehensive Plan Update (2014), Built Environment, City Operations, and Transportation; Outreach /Accountability (2014-2015).



## Juneau Commission on Sustainability

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May 27, 2022

To: Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members  
From: Gretchen Keiser, Chair, JCOS  
Subject: Projects for the 1% Temporary Sales Tax Extension

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) offers three suggested projects for your consideration. Our focus is on projects that JCOS believes further Juneau's community sustainability and economic resilience into the future. These projects would address the community's vulnerability to the high cost of heating/heating fuels and to the future costs for municipal waste handling. Undertaking these projects in the mid to late 2020s using a portion of the 1% sales tax revenues will have long-term benefits by tackling some basic utilities that drive the cost of living in Juneau.

1. **Waste Reduction and Waste Diversion Projects.** In the next 1-2 years, CBJ will investigate zero waste/ waste reduction planning to reduce/divert the community's solid wastes in order to prolong the life of the landfill and reduce GHG emissions. That effort is expected to identify pilot projects where CBJ can undertake public-private partnerships that reduce waste and divert wastes into reusable resources locally. These funds could also provide a match for grant opportunities for local waste reduction and resource recovery. Request: \$500,000
2. **Electrification of Heating in CBJ Facilities.** To support installation of renewable energy- sourced heating systems in CBJ facilities, to reduce long-term operational costs and to meet CBJ climate and renewable energy goals. Request: funding for Glacier Fire Station ground-source heat pump (GSHP) and to plan for the infrastructure needed to allow downtown CBJ buildings to connect to the proposed new district heating system. \$2.5 million.
3. **Energy Efficiency Upgrades to CBJ Facilities.** Beyond routine maintenance, CBJ should add funding to continue to invest in energy efficiency improvements when addressing deferred maintenance. Examples include upgrades to HVAC, lighting, and building envelope components, including reroofing, of CBJ facilities. These investments pay for themselves through energy cost savings while contributing to sustainability goals. CBJ Building Maintenance, together with Engineering and Finance, is developing an Energy Management tool to allow decision makers to target investments to the improvements with the biggest bang for their buck. Request: additional investment in the energy efficiency component of CBJ deferred maintenance projects. \$1 million.