

January 23, 2024 Climate Action Task Force Meeting

Attendees:

- Brent Morton, City of Mission Public Works
- Sollie Flora, City of Mission Mayor
- Rachel Meier, Lotus
- Ally Mark, Lotus
- Robin Dukelow, Planning Commission
- Emily Randel, City of Mission Deputy Administrator
- Penn Almoney, City of Mission Parks & Recreation
- Jacque Gameson, Parks, Recreation, & Tree Commission
- Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Sustainability Commission
- Ben Chociej, City Council
- Karie Kneller, City of Mission Planner
- Robert Meyers, Police Department
- Hillary Thomas, City Council

Not Present: Josh Thede

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions – 5 minutes
- II. Discussion of Task Force Purpose – 10 minutes
- III. Overview of Greenhouse Gas Goals Informed by Inventories – 30 minutes
- IV. Discussion of Reduction Strategies and Modeling – 30 minutes
- V. Review of Next Steps and Meeting Schedule – 5 Minutes
- VI. Adjourn

Notes:

II. Discussion of Task Force Purpose

- We can be flexible here. Build on previous, ongoing work.

- Goal to be intentional about climate work and leverage great energy on boards and commissions from the community and City departments.
 - **Capture and count existing efforts** towards climate action work.
- Looking internal to City ops, out to community, and maybe even looking to the wider region.
- Beginning of 2023: updates to actions and inventory. Always planned to **identify larger scale goals** with this group.
- Need to plan for budget discussions in late Spring and early summer.
 - Figure out **what resources are needed** to fund high impact actions.
- Tentatively thought of 4 meetings to align priorities, acclimate with stronger data, focus on budget.

III. Overview of Greenhouse Gas Goals Informed by Inventories

Review of major sources

- Largest sector is commercial and industrial buildings, followed by transportation. Residential buildings third.
- Electricity dominates commercial and industrial building use.
- Residential use leans electricity.
- Gasoline makes up majority of transportation.
- Landfill is most of waste emissions.

Trends

- Climate in KS - warmer winters impact energy sources used.
 - Natural gas often used in HVAC so usage is lower than colder places.
- Emissions from **building energy** decreased as a result of the greening grid.
 - More renewable energy in the grid will reduce electricity emissions to zero if utility hits its targets.
- **Transportation emissions** decreased from 2007 inventory.
 - Not comparable because methodologies differ and have improved.
 - Personal vehicles are the main source of emissions.
 - Opportunity to encourage public transit and EVs.
- **Waste and wastewater** - mostly landfill which means reducing waste sent to landfills will make the biggest impact.

Comparison

- **Changes from previous inventory** – confident in building sector impact, drop in emissions is real but not quite sure how much.
- **Municipal emissions** smaller than community-wide; to be expected.
- **Consumption-based sources** created the most emissions in 2022 (80%).

- Not required for submission in GHG inventories.
- Harder to address because it includes construction, paper, food, etc.
 - While difficult to eliminate these emissions, opportunities to reduce impact with purchasing swaps, policies for how much is printed, finding lower carbon content concrete, etc.

Municipal operations

- Consumption: cement creates the most municipal emissions.
- Electricity is biggest without considering consumption-based; employee commuting is comparable.
- Natural gas also buildings, so buildings are about half.
- **Because electricity is increasingly clean, City should look to address other sectors of GHGs.**

Discussion

- Non-apples to apples comparison is a tough story to tell.
- Anticipate that with Lotus model, be able to keep more consistent.
 - **Storytelling and goal setting, plus measuring progress** will be easier from this point forward.
 - Josh's thoughts: Sustainability commission looking at communication. Setting goals and showing progress of Council's achievements, work that other communities haven't done yet, **communicate our journey to zero**. Great project after Emily leaves, to get people engaged.
- **Question:** Does the total community-wide metric tons of GHGs change if you remove the consumption-based emissions?
 - Not perfect overlap between inventories; sources in the municipal inventory don't always appear in the community-wide or are changed due to differences in boundary between City and community-wide.
 - Rachel can calculate what percentage of City ops are included in community-wide.
 - Overall numbers indicate city ops are 10% of community's emissions, sizable portion for us to impact.
- **Question:** What goes into commuting emissions?
 - Survey sent out to employees to collect info on how people get to work, commute distance, type of vehicle they drive, etc.
 - Calculate impact from responses and scale up to account for missing employees. Miles driven by different vehicle types.

IV. Discussion of Reduction Strategies and Modeling

- Often part of a CAP, Lotus models strategies to assess impact on emissions.
- Take a baseline year and develop a **business-as-usual model** to forecast if nothing changes, emissions out to 2050.
 - Account for factors like population growth, utility renewable goals, etc.
- Use BAU results to see the **most important sectors to address**, then develop strategies that could tackle those sectors.
- Estimate based on research **how much strategies will reduce GHGs by**.
- Add up all those impacts to **create goals and a roadmap to GHG reductions**.
 - Iterative process with the City, scenario planning, impact assessment, what is feasible with City, what it will take to hit targets, etc.
- Existing task force recommendations are great starting points, stepping stones to bigger strategies.
 - Recommendations currently would not add up to achieve City's goals.
 - Bigger steps are the more expensive ones that will take longer, more planning and analysis to figure out how to do well.
- Work with Lotus to develop more robust analysis – what data do we need? Take leading priorities and test the waters with leadership.
 - Not everything has been assessed through the lens of GHG reductions.

Potential Strategies

- Building code updates and optional code packages.
- Building benchmarking and performance standards.
- Pushing electrification – take natural gas out of buildings and replace it with electric equivalents.
 - Incentive program, stacked with utilities' incentives.
- EV or e-bike incentives. Utilities sometimes have incentives too so people can stack.
- Climate tax to fund work. Indirect emissions impact.
- Municipal side
 - Solar installations.
 - Electrification and energy storage. Great for resilience too and could be designated as hubs for when disasters hit.
- Work from home policies and remote work options to save commute emissions.
- Transit passes are a toss up depending on where people live.
- Free membership to e-bikes or scooters.
- Recycling and composting at city buildings.

- Compost collectives - partner to help exposure and serve as a dropoff.
- Partner with schools to do it.
- Leakage from HVAC system refrigerants - federal law is addressing this.
 - Internal policy to use lower GWP refrigerants. Try out new alternatives, especially at community centers.
- Continuing fleet transition, think critically about speeding that up.
- **Modeling** = if you do x, it would cost y, then it would reduce emissions by z.
 - Cost estimates are important to sizing our actions.
 - Residential energy audits, weatherization. Develop those next steps.
 - Opportunity to communicate with larger businesses.
 - Face pushback from state legislature. Need to engage policymakers.

V. Review of Next Steps and Meeting Schedule

- Connect Lotus with our lobbyist? Top triggers that would cause pushback from the state. Already limited on types of taxes we can levy.
- Does Lotus have thoughts or recommendations on grant money? Adopting building codes?
 - Yes, we've helped clients apply for grants and develop building codes.
- Scheduling: Feb 27th, Tuesday evening (6:30pm central/5:30pm mtn).

Adjourn.