

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Draft Minutes

December 12, 2024, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

1.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS-

PRESENT: Piper Banks, Kiera Reitz, Gary Shaff, Sharon Dohrmann, Bryan Sohl, Richard Barth, Sidney Brown, Mark Morrison, Eric Ahnmark, Becs Walker, Jennie Christopherson

ABSENT: Kip Barrett

1.1. CITY COUNCIL: Bob Kaplan, Jeff Dahle

1.2. STAFF: Chad Woodward, Jordan Rooklyn

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. Minutes- Approved.

Motion to approve made by Dohrman. Seconded by Brown. Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum – Restricted to Non-Agenda Items

3.1. None present.

4. Updates/Announcements

4.1. Council Update –

4.1.1. Jeff Dahle- Time yielded to Kaplan.

4.1.2. Bob Kaplan- Resp loan funding discussed per Woodward's recommendations. 3-month timeline puts it on the 2025 agenda. Electrification ordinance first reading to be finalized and sent out 30 days prior to January 21, 2025. CEPAC members can request to present questions to council at Second meeting in January. Council & Avista to receive draft at the same time.

4.2. Staff Update –

4.2.1. Chad Woodward

4.2.1.1. Ordinance moving forward in legal. Language being finalized. Will become public within 7-10 days, then it will go to Avista.

4.2.1.2. USDA Resp loan going to council to determine what statute to use to secure funding. Pros & cons to each option. Recording available that discusses each option. Goal is to have program advertised by Earth Day 2025.

4.2.1.3. Conservation funds allocation meeting- Presented in favor of replacing EV chargers since EnelX no longer serves the infrastructure we have available. Some of funds needed to roll out RESP loan because Grant Funds aren't allowed to be allocated for staffing. Determined how to assist customers who are considered "hard to reach"- Renters, low income, etc.

4.2.1.4. Home energy score- in need of development. Work to be done over the next two months to hopefully launch in January. Department of Energy (DoE) additional capacity funds potentially available to city.

4.2.1.5. Car Share has moved to corner of Pioneer & Lithia- in a Justice 40 zone so hopefully it will be utilized more frequently. Car cleaner needed.

4.3. Chair Update –

4.3.1. Mark Morrison-

4.4. Other Committee Members Update-

5. Old Business

5.1. Small Engine Plan

5.1.1. Schaff- Presentation provided. Report details impact on air quality & direct impacts on human health, climate impacts, and noise pollution. Recommendations to be established in 3 Phases-

- 5.1.1.1. Phase 1- initiation of education & information, focused on human health, environmental, and adverse climate impacts of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment (GPLG).
- 5.1.1.2. Phase 2- provide incentives to purchase battery powered GPLG
- 5.1.1.3. Phase 3- Adopt ordinance leading to mandatory phase-out of GPLG blowers, weed whackers, lawn mowers, chainsaws, and hedge trimmers for non-commercial use.
- 5.1.2. Information, ordinances, & incentives are the most effective way to motivate people to change their behavior (swap from GPLG to battery powered options).
- 5.1.3. Comments from local businesses & SOU maintenance regarding cost & life span of battery power equipment has determined that the cost of maintenance will increase the cost of service, according to all. Cost impact of transitioning to all-electric is significant.
- 5.1.4. Strong support from local commentators, per survey responders. Timeline discussed for phasing out each type of equipment.

I move that CEPAC enforce the subgroups recommended phase in plan with options, as may be needed, and ask the city council to convene a study session to review the report and determine direction, made by Barth. Seconded by Sohl. 6 in Favor. 2 Sustaining.

6. New Business

6.1. Critique and Edits of Chad CEAP Update report

- 6.1.1. Seeking group's detailed and thought through critiques to prioritize groups' work moving forward, based on available data, to achieve CEAP goals. CEAP to be reviewed and reassessed every three years.
 - 6.1.1.1. Morrison- revising 8% per year requirement in limiting gas emissions. Goal hasn't been met in the past, due to most drastic cuts being required in the first few years that were not achieved. Mathematically, the percentage no longer makes sense. Metrics are also difficult to assess.
 - 6.1.1.2. Schaff- requested measuring groups' progress & understanding changes that lead to a reduction in emissions are multi-fold. Determine a way to track local miles traveled to understand Ashland's regional impact.
 - 6.1.1.3. Walker- Discussed waste stream. Outreach and education on consumption and waste reduction is important to reach goals. Reduction is more important than diversion.
 - 6.1.1.4. Ahnmark discussed waste diversion goals based on what's attainable for Recology. Annual report that is prepared for DEQ is publicly available for review.

6.2. AVISTA Franchise Agreement Renewal

- 6.2.1. Sohl- important for CEPAC to make a recommendation to Council regarding what they see as important in the Avista franchise agreement.
- 6.2.2. Require Reporting on City-Wide Gas usage- Current franchise agreement is a ten-year contract that lowers to year-to-year thereafter. 180 days' notice required to terminate. Recommendation for future agreement could include requiring gas-usage data, increase in license fee to franchisee, and right-of-way restrictions.
- 6.2.3. Changing the City Franchise Fee – hardship and equity concerns- Previously discussed other cities in Oregon have higher fees for gas infrastructure- increase in natural gas fees could disproportionately affect lower-income families, instead of the gas company. Recommendation to be delivered to CEPAC in January meeting.
- 6.2.4. Right-of-way limits on new fossil fuel infrastructure- Council omitted new infrastructure in public right-of-way ban from the clean air ordinance. Important for CEPAC to re-recommend adding that to the new franchise agreement.

7. Updates/Announcements Part 2

- 7.1. Acting Chair – Mark Morrison
 - 7.1.1. Schedule of upcoming meetings-
 - January 8th Study Session in Lithia Room from 3-5pm
 - January 9th CEPAC Meeting in Siskiyou Room from 4-6pm
 - End of Year committee appreciation meeting on December 16th.
 - 7.1.2. New Committee Member Rules
- 7.2. Other CEPAC members
 - 7.2.1. Walker- SOU Student member would be an asset to the committee.
- 7.3. Other committees
- 8. **Wrap Up**
- 9. **Adjourn-6:00pm**

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Work Session Minutes

December 11, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
51 Winburn Way, Ashland, OR 97520

- 1. **Call to Order 3:00**
- 2. **Attendance**
 - 2.1. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Sidney Brown, Gary Shaff, Jennie Christopherson
 - 2.2. **CITY COUNCIL:** N/A
 - 2.3. **STAFF:** Chad Woodward
 - 2.4. **OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Dylan Bloom
- 3. **Land Use Discussion**
 - 3.1. Gary opened the meeting with a review of public input and the task to determine if there is a recommendation to CEPAC.
 - 3.2. Goal to give CEAP more substantive strategies to work on
 - 3.3. Climate Friendly Areas –
 - 3.3.1. Council discussion at a study session to not include CFA's covered.
 - 3.3.2. Changed 17 & 18 on draft strategy to reflect post CFA's discussion
 - 3.3.3. Croman Mill – in Transportation Committee Packet – presentation to TAC also.
 - 3.3.4. Discussion – about downtown areas inclusion in CFA's.
 - 3.4. Review of strategies # 17/18 from handout and discussion about questions on these.
 - 3.5. Discussion of priority timing of other strategies
- 4. **Adjourned 5:00**