

## SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING NOTES

Thursday, February 26 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Joe Coffey, Pete Fleischer, Scott Kellogg, Shadi Khadivi, Kate Lawrence, Randy Milano, Peter Sheehan, Chris Spencer, Bill Trudeau, and Frank Zeoli, Jennifer Ceponis, Ewa Sobczynska, Lori Quillen

1. Call to Order. Pete Sheehan (chair-Jillian Kasow was not present) called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; SAC members were provided agendas.
2. Kate Lawrence announced the public comment period. Members of the public were present and there were three speakers:
  - a. Emily Ayers- Brakes Coffee House: 227 Lark Street  
Programming on climate change.
  - b. William Saxonis- Department of Public Service and Energy Program  
Evaluation consultant with 30 years of experience. He is interested in working with the SAC
  - c. James Manning- Tierra Coffee Roasters: Roof garden, looking for grants for funding green innovations.
3. Kate Lawrence discussed forms of spreading the word about SAC: update Facebook page as well as the website
4. Power point presentation by Kate Lawrence, City of Albany, regarding NYPA 5 City Plan- graphics comparing the focus and interest for the City of Albany. Diagrams represent that Albany has the least dense population of the five cities but uses the most energy per capita compared the other 4 cities.
  - a. Build Smart NY: 5 Cities Energy Plans effort is Gov. Cuomo's BuildSmart NY Initiative initially launched by *Executive Order 88*<sup>1</sup> in 2012.
  - b. Focuses on Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers
  - c. City of Albany made a commitment to energy efficiently and sustainability through its participation in the STAR communities Rating System (STAR) and the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.
  - d. **Energy Planning and Coordination**  
Initiative 1: Implement the Albany Green Business(GBC)Program
    - 13% of citywide energy consumption to support environmental improvements in the sector.Initiative 2: Support a green jobs training program

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<sup>1</sup> Aims to improve the energy efficiency of NY State buildings by 20% in 2020.

Initiative 3: Develop a long-term energy supply strategy (gas and electricity) and the City of Albany will assign staff and or hire a consultant to assess energy pricing risks and maintain long-range energy use forecasts.

Initiative 4: Create a Citywide Energy Manager Position to monitor energy consumed by the City's buildings, manage projects aimed at reducing consumption.

Initiative 5: Use a web-based energy data management tool to track and monitor municipal energy use, procedures and policies on a monthly or quarterly basis.

**e. Energy Efficiency in Buildings**

- i. Tie in with current efforts for ReZone Albany

**f. Transportation Efficiently**

The document is online: <http://www.nypa.gov/AlbanyEnergyPlan.html>

5. Frank Zeoli, Director of Recycling at the Department of General Services gave introductions on 2008 Recycling Plan for the City of Albany. Successes include:
  - a. City of Albany public schools recycle.
  - b. New program for all the city buildings
  - c. Light bulb collection program
  - d. 2010 City of Albany incorporated Solar Big Bellies to reduce frequency of pick up. Success has proven to
  - e. DGS has electronics drop off- Recycle program
6. Questions included:
  - a. Ewa Sobczynska: Has the City of Albany considered textile recycling?
    - i. F.Z.- Acknowledged the question and the significance of it, but at this point suggested that there are places for textile drop off at Salvation Army
  - b. Shadi Khadivi: Questions about composting pick-up and questioned why Albany did not consider this as an option with our landfills filling up.
    - i. F.Z.- Acknowledged the question and value in composting and encouraged residents to compost in their backyard. But the City is not in a place to implement a program because it is cheaper to send compost to trash, until prices go up there is no incentive for the City of Albany to change.
7. Questions and focus on recycling include:
  - a. How can we create a community and youth that is excited to learn about recycle? Currently the website there is no curriculum in the education
  - b. Invitations to schools to bring the trucks in- would be nice to make the connections and focus on the younger kids that excited to learn.
8. Committee discussed several topics at hand:
  - a. Next speaker: Capital CarShare

- b. Next steps to organize the ground work for our annual report. It is important for the active members of the SAC (not including actual City of Albany employees) to focus and develop ideas for Common Council.