



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Agenda Via Zoom Due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

For the safety of staff and residents, in-person attendance is not permitted. Join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Join online at [https://zoom.us/j/91059757870?](https://zoom.us/j/91059757870?pwd=K3dDS0pObzE5aFRsVXlPY0V6MHZ2dz09)

pwd=K3dDS0pObzE5aFRsVXlPY0V6MHZ2dz09, Password: 048746; Description: Sustainability Committee; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Meeting ID: 910 5975 7870, Password: 048746. International numbers available at <https://zoom.us/u/ahwKbeuA>.

1. Approval of the July 9, 2020 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY MIN 070920.PDF](#)

2. Recap of LEED for Cities webinar on July 29th.
3. Overview of potential EV charging sites.
4. Review of existing roadmap/objectives.
 - A. Subcommittees - update on progress:
 1. Stormwater and greenspace. (Carmen Franks)
 2. Renewable energy. (Norman Robbins)
 3. High School Advisory Group. (Julianne Potter)
 4. Recycling. (Anne Williams)
 - B. City energy efficiency/conservation update.
 - C. City alternative fuel vehicle update.
 - D. Green Team update.
 - E. Solar demonstration project update.
5. Update on LEED for Cities progress.
6. Report of Sustainability Coordinator.

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES JULY 2020.PDF](#)

To request an accommodation for a person with a disability, call the City's ADA

Coordinator at 216-491-1440, or Ohio Relay Service at 711 for TTY users.



**Sustainability Committee Minutes
Thursday July 9, 2020
8:00 A.M.
Via Zoom Conference**

Members Present: Anne Williams, Committee Chair, Council Member
Carmen Franks, Citizen Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Nancy Moore, Copuncil Member
Julianne Potter, Citizen Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Torrey McMillan, Hathaway Brown School
Jessie Sun, Laurel School
Grace Zhang, Student at Hathaway Brown
Stefan Leonard, Student at University School

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Anne Williams at 8:00 A.M.

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Approval of the February 13, 2020 and June 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Julianne Potter and seconded by Nancy Moore that the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

It was moved by Nancy Moore and seconded by Sean Malone that the minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Presentation by Members of Shaker Youth LEEDs

In 2019, a group of high school students was convened to advise the city on achieving increasingly higher levels of certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s “LEED for Cities” program. Known as Shaker Youth LEEDs, this group includes students from Shaker Heights High School, Hathaway Brown School, Laurel School, and University School. The group was formed to include the voice of high school students, who have a long-term stake in the sustainability of the city, but whose voice is not often heard in governmental proceedings. Additionally, this generation is often more passionate and innovative than other stakeholders.

The group is advised and facilitated by Committee Member Julianne Potter and Torrey McMillan from Hathaway Brown, Jessie Sun from Laurel, and Michael Smith from University School. Stefan Leonard,

CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS

from University School, and Grace Zhang, from Hathaway Brown, presented the findings of the group, for which they provided leadership.

Mr. Leonard shared his recommendations first, focused on the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions “LEED for Cities” category. The primary goal would be to commit the city to reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, which would result in the city achieving all of the credits in this category, which has the most total points (30 out of 110) of any category. It was noted that the majority of emissions come from two sectors: electricity generation and transportation; therefore, if the city wants to adopt more sustainable practices it must move away from a reliance on carbon-based energy.

The recommendations focused on two specific credits, Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Economy, and included both short-term and long-term strategies that could result in 13 additional credits. Renewable Energy recommendations include:

Short-Term

- Encouraging residential solar installations, promoting community awareness (including a survey to residents), and streamlining the permitting process through the Architectural Board of Review.
- Adjusting the default power mix through the community aggregation program to default to 100% renewable.
- Increase the use of institutional solar panels, potentially by entering into a power purchase agreement for solar on Fire Station 1, Police & Courts, the Service Center, and The Dealership.
- Implement smart meters in the city to allow for real-time demand response and time-of-use tariffs.

Long-Term

- Install an Archimedes Wind Turbine, a more efficient, quieter, and more bird-friendly design ideal for an urban environment.
- Increasing access to alternative fuel infrastructure to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles.

Ms. Zhang focused on the Quality of Life credit category, with a specific focus on reducing housing and transportation costs to 45 percent of income by 2030. The importance of this goal is to complement the need to work for a more sustainable future by ensuring that it is also a just and equitable one so anyone can afford to live in a LEED-certified city and pursue a sustainable lifestyle. The current housing and transportation costs for Shaker Heights, based on the Center for Neighborhood Technology’s *HE&T Index*, is 65 percent.

The goal overlaps with several other categories and achievement could result in 22 credits (some of which may currently be attained). Recommendations were also presented as short-term and long-term and include:

Short-Term

- Encourage use of alternative transportation methods including biking, public transit, carpooling, etc. About 35% of car trips are under 2 miles according to the 2018 National Household Travel Survey. Private vehicles are expensive, especially compared to alternatives, so this is one method of lowering costs and carbon emissions. Recommendations include:
 - Promote bike use and ownership including events.
 - Educating students on how to use public transportation and its benefits; possibly reduced-price student passes.

- Promote Gohio Commute, a carpooling service from NOACA.
- Discourage driving by possibly making parking more difficult or expensive.
- More data on housing and transportation costs is needed, including:
 - Maps of sidewalks and bike lanes.
 - Alternative transportation statistics.
 - Survey of residents and how they use alternative forms of transportation.

Long-Term

- Increase number of small businesses and businesses in general to increase the commercial tax base (more data needed) and allow for more mixed-uses in existing buildings, for example adding commercial to the first floor of multi-family buildings; this may help offset some costs and make apartments more affordable.
- Increase the amount of affordable housing generally, possibly by creating an affordable housing trust. Additionally, review zoning laws to help encourage more multi-family construction and increase access to housing assistance (and the paperwork required).
- Build more infrastructure for alternative transportation options, including public transit, bike lanes, and electric scooter sharing.

Committee questions and comments included:

- Committee congratulated students on thoroughness and insightfulness of presentation and asked about next steps. Examples of next steps include surveys that could be authored by students, continued collaboration on these initiatives with the city, and pursuing grant opportunities.
- Additional information on Archimedes Wind Turbine.
- Reviewing possibilities of commercial space in multi-family buildings.
- Updating zoning code for sustainability (including pursuing grants to do so).
- Many of the recommendations echo initiatives the city is pursuing and these examples will hopefully encourage the city to commit to some of the goals mentioned.

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Subcommittee Updates

- Stormwater & Greenspace (Carmen Franks)
 - Recap of June 16th meeting:
 - Assisting with LEED Ecological Assessment.
 - Discussed green space inventory.
 - Content for city website on stormwater and green space info for residents.
 - Working on certified habitat program related to Laudable Lawns program and Pollinator Paths in treelawns.
- Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
 - No report this month.
- High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
 - With the assistance of this group, a grant was submitted to the US Department of Agriculture’s Urban Agriculture program for increasing community composting and reducing food waste. If awarded, this would be a two-year pilot to eliminate school

food waste in the city. The city, Shaker Heights School District, Hathway Brown, Laurel, The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Rust Belt Riders, and The Hunger Network contributed to the grant application. Awards will be announced at the end of August.

- Recycling (Anne Williams)
 - No report this month.

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Other Discussion Items

- City Energy Efficiency Updates:
 - To perform streetlight audit we are working with Cuyahoga County’s GIS department to license the appropriate technology. This will allow for mapping, confirmation of number of streetlights (and therefore FirstEnergy charges), and engineering needs for future LEDs.
 - Energy Audits recommended LED lighting retrofit, working on next steps.
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles Update:
 - Notified of EV charger grant from NOPEC, working on getting the electrician quotes required. Working with FirstEnergy for Thornton Park site due to capacity issues in the building.
 - Could possibly have funds for third site; still determining where that might be with goal of increasing public access to charging across the community.
 - Ohio EPA announced EV charger grant program, which will be very competitive in the county; encouraging city businesses and entities to apply.
- Green Team Update:
 - Updated Green team to re-engage; hoping to continue once return to office.
- Solar Demonstration Project:
 - Continuing to review power purchase and solar options.
- LEED for Cities Update:
 - Cleveland also working through program and collaborating on similar issues around data.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2020 at 8:00am.

Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Coordinator Activities: July 2020

Recent sustainability news of interest to Shaker Heights includes:

- NOPEC convened its second call of elected officials from Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, and Lakewood to receive feedback on the various communities' sustainability efforts. Only Shaker Heights and South Euclid were represented. Some highlights:
 - NOPEC can provide preferred pricing for municipal loads with renewable energy credits (Shaker Heights chose a supplier that could provide green-e certified renewable energy credits as it was more advantageous for the LEED for Cities program and is third-party verified).
 - The previous meeting included a discussion of easier methods for residents to enroll in the 100% renewable option and in this call included detail on why a recorded audio call or "wet signature" is required; NOPEC is investigating adding a call back feature that could help streamline the process.
 - NOPEC can supply communities printed copies of the green product flyer and social media content.
 - NOPEC periodically surveys customers and is in the midst of doing so; it will share the results concerning the green product at the next meeting.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for late August.
- A monthly call of local government officials and staff convened to discuss best practices regarding sustainability. South Euclid shared more detail on its recent adoption of legislation that will result in 100% renewable power for city operations by 2025 and the community by 2035. Shaker Heights is expected to present at the August call.
- The city, represented by Council Member Anne Williams, was one of three communities (with Sante Fe and Santa Monica) that presented to an international audience in a U.S. Green Building Council webinar on July 29th. The webinar focused on cultural identity, sense of place, and sustainability. The cities were chosen for their unique culture, geography, and history and highlighted how these attributes have helped to shape city programs and operations. A recording will shortly be available under the "Webinars" section of this website:
<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/tools-and-resources-leed-cities-and-communities>
- The Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit, organized by the Cincinnati-based organization Green Umbrella, is August 5th through the 7th. It was rescheduled from an earlier in-person event in May, and will be virtual. More information is available here: <https://www.midwestsustainabilitysummit.org/>

Summary of work conducted by category:

1. City Facilities' Utility Costs and Savings

- The streetlight audit is awaiting the technology tools from the Cuyahoga County GIS department, which are expected shortly. This will allow work to begin after a short trial run to set up the correct fields of data to be collected.
- Continuing implementation of the EnergyCAP utility bill tracking and analysis software. A recent update will allow for submission of data to an EPA benchmarking program.

2. Energy Conservation Measures for City Buildings

- The LED lighting retrofit suggested by the energy audits is being compiled into an RFP document as the next step in implementation.

3. Alternative Fuel Options for City Vehicles

- Worked with FirstEnergy and electrical contractors to determine the best options for charging at Thornton Park. FirstEnergy did a site visit and determined power could be supplied directly from a CEI pole on site, eliminating the need for an electrical upgrade within the building. This will save \$14,000-\$16,000 in upgrade costs and allow for a potential third charging location with the NOPEC grant dollars. It will require a new meter, but the monthly meter is cost is expected to be the same as other city meters: \$7.
- Non-profit organization Green Energy Ohio is planning an EV roadtrip in the spring of 2021 to highlight EV charging with renewable energy; the Unitarian Universalist Church on Shaker Boulevard, with its solar canopy and charging, was suggested as a stop on the tour.
- Suspended: acquisition of electric vehicle for city fleet.

4. Leading an Internal City Green Team

- Green Team update sent via email. The Green Team work will also be highlighted in an upcoming *Shaker Life* article.

5. Solar Power Generation on City Owned Vacant Lots

- Conversations to be resumed as time permits.

6. Other Green Initiatives

- Prepared slides and outline for Shaker Heights' participation in a LEED for Cities webinar on July 29th. Continuing to prepare data for certification submission, including waste generation calculations.
- Discussed the work of Beyond Pesticides Ohio with state and national contacts and how it might provide resources to the city.
- Shaker Youth LEEDS, the four-high school group researching LEED for Cities criteria, made recommendations to the Committee in July and will continue as a group for the 20/21 school year.
- Discussed sustainability initiatives with Marketing & Communications for *Shaker Life* article; reviewed draft.
- Waiting to hear on USDA grant submission; should be notified in late August.

7. Liaison to the Sustainability Committee and Green Team

- Attended monthly committee meeting and meeting of Stormwater & Green Space subcommittee.
- Prepared agenda and minutes
- Discussed subcommittee activities with committee members