



## **JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2022 - MAY 2023**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) continued to be engaged and productive this past year. The Commission's work is typically researched and drafted by its committees, and the full Commission conducted 11 regular monthly meetings, numerous work sessions, two special meetings, and a December 2022 annual retreat.

The JCOS charter, and resolutions for the *Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan* (2011) and *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy* (2018), identify its duties:

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 Governance, Priorities, Accomplishments and Pending Work**

#### **A. GOVERNANCE**

The Commission experienced considerable turnover in membership in 2022, with former members moving on because of business and work commitments, personal health, and graduate school. Remaining members provided orientation sessions, 1:1 guidance, and led an abbreviated work load while new members came up to speed. The commission's December 2022 retreat provided new members the opportunity to step into committee and leadership roles.

In 2023, the Commission established a consistent day/week schedule for JCOS subcommittee work sessions, in order to optimize Eng/PW liaison support and in recognition of staff workloads.

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## B. PRIORITY - ENERGY

### 1. Implementation of the *Juneau Climate Action Plan* and the *Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy*

#### a. JCOS Actions

- actively engaged with CBJ staff to monitor and advocate for energy-related components in CBJ projects.
- actively participated with E&PW Dept on the contract with Dynamhex (now Constellation) to obtain an updated *Juneau Energy Use & GHG Inventory* for 2021. Conducted three review sessions of report drafts with the consultant at JCOS meetings.
- provided specific sustainability recommendations to the Assembly for its annual retreat goals-setting.
- prepared for the Assembly a JCOS Report: *Juneau's Climate Action and Sustainability & Proposed Action Plan* (December 2022). The report
  - summarizes the actions undertaken in the community over the 5 years since JRES was adopted;
  - offers JCOS recommendations on “next steps” moving forward; and
  - identifies 40+ potential clean energy/climate action funding opportunities in the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

#### b. Pending Work

- make a presentation at 6/5/23 Assembly COW on the 2021 Energy/GHG Inventory analysis, recent/current actions, and recommend next steps to meet the community's GHG emission and renewable energy goals.
- seek Assembly approval for another year of analysis of Juneau's energy profile/GHG inventory for year 2022.

### 2. Transportation

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

- Provided input to CBJ Docks & Harbors that was incorporated into CBJ comments submitted to EPA which sought public feedback on how to structure a new grant program. The program, directed at reducing air pollution in ports, may be a potential funding source for dock electrification in Juneau.
- Recommended the use of Marine Passenger Fees (MPFs) in 2023 for several projects:
  - prepare bid-ready engineering/design and environmental permitting and order the two load tap transformers for the 16B docks electrification;
  - conduct a beneficial electrification impact analysis with 3<sup>rd</sup> party consulting

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services to assess and evaluate alternative approaches and CBJ investments in the downtown/port area electrical infrastructure; and

- provide local matching funds for a federal grant application in 2023 for downtown electric bus circulators.
- Recommended 16B Dock Electrification as a community project for CBJ's *2023 Legislative Priorities* list.

**b. JCOS Actions: Electric Vehicles**

- advocated to use MPFs for local matching funds to a federal FTA Low No grant application for downtown electric bus circulators (which was not pursued in the 2023 grant cycle).
- actively monitored the Alaska Energy Authority's (AEA) development of the State of Alaska's EV Plan, a requirement to receive substantial federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. Participated in a summer 2022 AEA workshop to represent Juneau/SE Alaska input.
- engaged with the Juneau International Airport (JIA) manager to determine and recommend how the JIA parking lot improvements in 2023 include EV charging stations. This follows up on JIA's commitment for EV chargers as part of JCOS's waiver of airport LEED requirements in 2019.

**c. JCOS Pending Work**

- continue to monitor the State's allocation of federal EV funds through AEA.
- assist CBJ staff on grant applications for EV program funding.

3. Space Heating

**a. JCOS Action: Financing for Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Upgrades**

- conducted background research and education of commission members about C-PACE (Commercial-Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing for upgrades to multi-family housing and other commercial buildings.

**b. JCOS Pending Work**

- Advocate for and assist in an examination of potential CBJ participation in clean energy financing and identify federal funding opportunities and requirements.

4. CBJ Energy Management

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

- engaged with CBJ staff on energy efficiency components to renovations to Centennial Hall and new construction at Bartlett Regional Hospital.

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- received an update and applauded CBJ Facility Maintenance staff actions to track energy data and establish separate billing records for approx. 600 CBJ facilities.

**b. JCOS Pending Work**

- offered to work with CBJ staff to re-examine the 2011 LEED ordinance and current “green” building certification programs.

**C. PRIORITY – SOLID WASTE**

**a. JCOS Actions**

- toured the City of Whitehorse waste management facility and met with staff (June 2022) to consider successes/failures of the City’s waste planning.
- re-established a Solid Waste Committee of JCOS.
- recommended the municipal composting facility design and construction as a project to be included in the CBJ’s 2023 Legislative Priorities list.
- Attended the “Talking Trash” public meeting in April 2023 organized by Eng & PW staff and Assembly PWFC.
- Provided a letter of support for a CBJ grant application to EPA for funding to augment the congressional grant for a municipal composting facility.

**b. JCOS Pending Work**

- present a memo to the Assembly PWFC regarding CBJ’s approach to seek consulting services for design/build/operations of a municipal composting facility.

**D. PRIORITY - OUTREACH**

**1. Public Education and Community Awareness**

**a. JCOS Actions**

- conducted a JCOS Sustainability Session in May 2023 on the public review draft of the *2021 Juneau Energy Use and GHG Emissions Inventory*.
- drafted for the mayor two energy-related proclamations
  - Juneau Participation in the National Drive Electric Week EV Road Rally (September 2022) and
  - Earth Day/Litter Free (April 2023).
- maintained a website under the CBJ/Eng& PW website and also has a Facebook page. Sustainability sessions are recorded and posted, as are JCOS reports, meeting minutes, and useful articles.

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## 2. Collaboration with AK municipalities

### a. **JCOS Actions**

- regularly participated in bimonthly meetings of the Alaska Municipal Climate Network of local elected officials, staff, and advocates around the state to share information and actions. Presented an overview of JCOS duties, procedures, and actions in February 2023.
- Met with members of the newly established Sitka Sustainability Commission in March 2023 and provided information about JCOS governance, duties, priorities, and procedural approaches.

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

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

## E. PRIORITY - CLIMATE IMPACTS/SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

### a. **JCOS Action**

- Presented the *Juneau Climate Impacts* Report, a collaborative effort by UAF and UAS scientists and others, to the Assembly (July 2022).

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

- develop sustainability indicators/metrics as part of a CBJ Comprehensive Plan update.

## 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. In June 2022, the Commission liaison support switched from CDD to Eng&PW staff to be better aligned with most of JCOS work priorities. The Commission’s membership reflects environmental, social, economic, and governmental perspectives unified by the common interests of sustainability.

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The JCOS members currently serving are:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b><i>Gretchen Keiser</i></b>	6/30/2024, Chair	<b><i>Laura Achee</i></b>	6/30/2023
<b><i>Jessica Barker</i></b>	6/30/2024	<b><i>Duff Mitchell</i></b>	6/30/2025
<b><i>Marian Call</i></b>	6/30/2025	<b><i>Steve Behnke</i></b>	6/30/2024
<b><i>Jim Powell</i></b>	6/30/2023	<b><i>Nick Waldo</i></b>	6/30/2025
<b><i>David Teal</i></b>	6/30/2023, Secretary		
<b><i>Maria Gladziszewski</i></b>	CBJ Assembly Liaison (non-voting member)	<b><i>Nina Keller</i></b>	Planning Commission Liaison (non-voting member)
<b><i>Denise Koch</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison	<b><i>Dianna Robinson</i></b>	CBJ Staff Liaison (assistant)

A special thanks to former commissioners Lisa Daugherty (Solid Waste Chair), Anjuli Grantham (Outreach Chair), and Colin Peacock for their commitment and superb work. Also, JCOS thanks Assembly Liaison Carole Triem and Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers who served on the Commission during the past year. And a special shoutout to Beth McKibben for her valuable support as JCOS liaison at CDD for several years.

For additional background about the Commission, see Attachment 1.

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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, Lisa Daugherty, Robert Deering, Susan Ely, Catherine Fritz, Myrna Gardner, Anjuli Grantham, 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, Colin Peacock, 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, Carole Triem.

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

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

**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; 2017-2023), Energy/Greenhouse Gas (2009-2011), Solid Waste (2014-2016; 2020-2023), Sustainability Chapter/Comprehensive Plan Update (2014), Built Environment, City Operations, and Transportation; Outreach /Accountability (2014-2015); Outreach/Education (2018-2023).