



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

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Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members,

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) thanks you for your ongoing commitment to promoting a sustainable local government and community. Among all the issues you constantly juggle for the benefit of local residents, your leadership on climate action, housing, and solid waste in the past continues to yield progress:

- CBJ now has an updated (2021) *energy use/GHG emission inventory* that provides a baseline for actions to accelerate Juneau's transition to renewable energy.
- CBJ tracks energy use in about 60 General Gov't facilities, and current/pending energy efficiency upgrades are estimated to reduce fuel use by 18% in the next five years.
- CBJ-supported Alaska Heat Smart has assisted over 1000 Juneau households complete energy efficiency measures, cut costs, reduce GHG emissions, and improve home health. Homes with heat pumps realize energy savings of \$1,200 - \$1,800/year and cut 5.5 tons emissions. Using federal grants (with CBJ match), AHS is assisting nearly 300 lower to middle income families surmount the up-front costs of efficiency upgrades.
- The FY24 Legislative Priorities lists *Juneau School District HVAC and Heating Control System Upgrades* (#6) – a project that addresses the substantial energy use in Juneau's schools as reported in the 2021 *energy use/GHG emission inventory* study.
- CBJ supports Juneau's EV growth through investments in public EV chargers, and has applied for federal funding for major upgrades to the system.
- Capital Transit's 7 Gillig electric buses are slated for delivery in late 2024, with bus barn upgrades and charging infrastructure underway.
- Planning for the Municipal Composting Facility started in 2023.
- The 1st step in Juneau's zero waste plan - a waste characterization/audit - will occur in 2024.
- CBJ Docks & Harbors has diligently investigated vendors that can provide the multiple, state-of-the-art components for shore power systems at the 16B docks.

JCOS encourages the Assembly to keep supporting and moving forward on these efforts so Juneau can truly optimize its sustainability. As you approach your annual retreat, JCOS recommends the following goals for your consideration.

Assembly Goal #1 – Housing

- **Goal 1B Substitute:** Implement projects and strategies that advance the goals of the Housing Action Plan. Incorporate energy efficiency and electrification explicitly into CBJ actions in order to dramatically improve housing affordability while also contributing to Juneau’s energy and climate goals.
- **New Goal 1:** Initiate an update to CBJ residential and commercial building energy codes. Participate in and build off of a 2024 federally funded Alaska Housing Finance Corporation project to update community energy codes.

Assembly Goal #5 – Sustainable Community

- **Goal 5A Substitute:** Undertake actions identified in the zero-waste plan. Staff has laid out a sequence of steps for planning and implementation of waste reduction in Juneau. One timely action would be to revisit CBJ’s 1993 landfill study and update the financial analysis of solid waste options.
- **New Goal 5:** Continue to develop the Zero Waste Subdivision with the municipal composting facility as the first anchor. Initial site development of the approx. 25-acre subdivision (e.g., electrical power, grading, paving) could be initiated in 2024.
- **Goal 5B Substitute:** Identify and prioritize the most cost-effective energy efficiency and electrification upgrades in the General Gov’t facilities. The baseline energy data compiled by staff can be used to undertake a system-wide analysis of CBJ facilities in order to identify projects that would produce the optimal energy use reductions and life-cycle savings and contribute to CBJ energy and climate goals.
- **Goal 5C Substitute:** Support financing and funding of clean energy in the building and transportation sectors to advance the goal of reliance on 80% renewable energy sources by 2045. JCOS is willing to assist on a collaborative effort among CBJ Finance, JEDC, AEL&P, JCOS, financial institutions, non-profit organizations, etc. to undertake a broad examination of available financing options, partners, and funding sources.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Keiser, Chair
Juneau Commission on Sustainability