



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

(907) 586-0715
CDD_Admin@juneau.org
www.juneau.org/sustainability
155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

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To: Katie Koester, Director, CBJ Engineering & Public Works

From: Gretchen Keiser, Chair, Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Subject: FY 2024 Legislative Priorities

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the CBJ's FY2024 Legislative Priority Projects process. JCOS is pleased to learn that the project list is not intended to be a comprehensive list. We believe that flexibility in identifying (and shifting) project priorities will be critical to CBJ's ability to leverage once-in-a-generation federal funding opportunities provided by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Cities can unlock funding opportunities by identifying priorities, estimating budget needs, pinpointing funding gaps and targeting the appropriate federal funding sources. Billions of dollars will become available for projects involving energy efficiency, electrification, GHG reduction, equity, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

JCOS fully supports Project #5—Electrification of Dock 16B—and urges you to move it to the top of the priority list based on its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and reduce noise in downtown Juneau, contribute to economic development, and function as a springboard for conversion of the tourism shore-based vehicle fleet to electric. The project may be a good fit for funding opportunities provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

JCOS also nominates the Municipal Composting Facility Design & Construction project as a priority to be included on the FY2024 list (Attachment). This project would provide a commercial-scale facility to divert organic wastes from the landfill as part of a broader zero waste plan for the community. The project has multiple benefits including the reductions of landfill odor, methane gas emissions, and the high organic loading experienced at the wastewater treatment facilities.

In general, JCOS also supports a flexible and more comprehensive approach to large, multi-year projects that may meet the above-mentioned federal funding opportunities and address the long-term sustainability of the Juneau community. Such an approach would focus on

- Energy efficiency upgrades to Bartlett Regional Hospital, schools, libraries, fire stations, etc. This would include ground-source heating, district heating (Civic Center), other HVAC improvements, and insulation;

- CBJ fleet electrification and community EV charging infrastructure (such as multi-agency use of EV charging in a reconstructed State Office Building parking garage); and
- Upgrading the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important task.

Attachment: Municipal Composting Facility Design and Construction – Nomination Form