



Juneau Commission on Sustainability

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DRAFT

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To: Denise Koch, Director, CBJ Engineering & Public Works

From: Gretchen Keiser, Chair, Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Subject: FY 2025 CBJ Legislative Priorities

The Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) again appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the City and Borough of Juneau FY2025 Legislative Priorities. As JCOS observed this time last year, we believe it is important to maintain some flexibility when identifying important capital projects so that CBJ can secure some of the massive federal funds under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. In addition to the projects identified in the draft FY2025 Legislative Priorities list, billions of dollars are becoming available under grant programs for projects that address energy efficiency, GHG reduction, air pollution reduction, equity, and climate resilience.

JCOS supports the following two projects:

Juneau School District-wide HVAC and Heating Control System Upgrades. \$6.4M. This project appears on the current year's list and should remain a high priority in FY25 list. Prioritizing this JSD project accomplishes three things:

- 1) places it on the State of AK/Legislature radar for consideration under the limited State capital funding targeting school maintenance;
- 2) highlights this project as a community priority that is useful for seeking federal clean energy funding, such as the *Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities* under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law;¹ and
- 3) directly addresses the substantial energy usage in Juneau's schools (as noted in the *Juneau Energy Use & GHG Inventory 2021* study completed this year).

¹ For example, this Dept of Energy competitive grant program awarded the Fairbanks School District funds in 2023 to conduct a complete energy efficiency upgrade to one of its schools.

Municipal Composting Facility Design & Construction. \$4.0M. JCOS supported this project last year and encourages its retention on the FY25 priorities list as it would enable substantive progress on Juneau's solid waste diversion efforts to extend the life of our existing landfill. Although CBJ was unsuccessful this year in obtaining EPA grant funding, identifying this as a community priority in FY25 list will help CBJ in next year's competitive grant cycle.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Keiser, Chair
Juneau Commission on Sustainability

NOTE TO JCOS MEMBERS at Nov 1 Meeting:

JCOS could consider identifying alternative projects to the two listed above. This would require fleshing out the nomination paperwork for each project. Two additional projects to consider would be:

An energy alternative: **Shore Power Infrastructure for the Two 16B Docks.** ~\$40M. In 2023, CBJ Docks & Harbors has been investigating vendors who could provide the components necessary to bring electrical power from AEL&P's substation to the city-owned cruise ship docks and construct ship-ready shore power. Although the Assembly endorsed shore power in 2022 with potential bonding and marine passenger fees as revenue sources, project costs have escalated and identifying this project as a FY25 legislative priority may enhance opportunities to seek federal funding.

A solid waste alternative: **Resource Recovery Subdivision Site Development.** \$4M. JCOS highlights action to initiate development of this site as a new 2024 goal the Assembly should consider at its upcoming retreat. According to Eng & PW staff, initial work preparing the 25-acre site could include grading, drainage, paving, and establishing electrical power.