

MEETING NOTES

Energy Council TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Attendance:

County of Alameda: Ryan Bell

City of Albany: Claire Griffing

City of Berkeley: Billi Romain, Caytie Campbell-Orrrock

City of Dublin: Rebecca Parnes

City of Emeryville: Nancy Humphrey

City of Fremont: Rachel DiFranco (phone)

City of Hayward: Mary Thomas

City of Newark: Myvan Khuu-Seeman (phone)

City of Oakland: Shayna Hirshfield-Gold

City of San Leandro: Sally Barros (phone)

City of Union City: Kranti Malik (Civic Spark)

StopWaste: Heather Larson, Karen Kho, Miya Kitahara, Candis Mary-Dauphin, Teresa Eade

Guests: Pierre Delforge (NRDC), Meg Williams (Green Cities California)

Civic Spark: Fanny Yang, Christopher Sturken, Benjamin Davenport, Olivia Ashmoore, Jacob Strauss, Kranti Malik, Yoni Carnice

Meeting Notes

Fuel Switching in the Built Environment

- Fuel switching is adopted as an Energy Council priority. EC staff is investigating programmatic and regulatory needs and opportunities. A specific activity in 2017 is to support and partner with Green Cities California to convene a Fuel Switching stakeholder meeting at the end of the year.
- Pierre DelForge with NRDC provides an overview of decarbonization initiatives to date.
 - The state cannot meet its climate goals with just efficiency, must also look at additional strategies.
 - The emissions due to natural gas are relatively higher in CA and even more so in the Bay Area – even though there is a perception that it is “clean”
 - In residential homes half of gas is used for water heating, and space heating uses 37%, the heat pump technologies available for these uses include, heat pump water heater, heat pump space heating,
 - The value of heat pumps includes increased efficiency, GHG reduction and grid benefits due to storage inherent within technology

- The building code only looks at efficiency, not the GHG and grid benefits
- There are currently over 100 ENERGY STAR models on the market
- Solar thermal requires a backup heater in the winter. Due to this requirement, it is roughly the same amount of emissions as heat pump, but heat pump with solar PV is significantly less expensive

Heat pump technology needs about a \$1500 rebate to make it cost competitive
 Barriers faced include awareness, the perception that natural gas is clean, the availability of the technology, costs, regulatory barriers

Need to get to 5% market penetration, which is where there is contractor awareness, manufactures attention, and retailers start to stock the technology. We can get to 5% by:

- Raising awareness among contractors, governments, and the general public
- Removing regulatory barriers around building codes, incentives, rates
- Transforming the market

Intervention points for these strategies:

- Individuals – modeling through behavior and talking about it
- City involvement through ordinances, codes, training, outreach, financing, & influencing rates (at CCAs & municipal utilities)
- Air District incentives and regulations
- State level building code, CPUC (cost test), legislation, & ARB scoping plan

Incentives:

- Municipal utilities are not constrained, but the three-pronged test must be used for CCAs and IOUs
- Solar water heating incentive is expiring this year, Pierre would like to see incentive neutrality between solar hot water and heat pumps
- SMUD and Palo Alto both have \$1500 incentive for heat pumps

DOE appliance efficiency standards mandated that water heaters with 55 gallon and larger tank be heat pumps.

- Billi Romain with the City of Berkeley presents 2017 heat pump education and outreach plan

Workshop on Tuesday May 23rd in Berkeley. Geared to installers and building safety. Pacific energy center will also hold workshops in June one on water heating, and one on space heating.

After educating the contractors and installers, realtors may hold a workshop, and a few nonprofits are interested in hosting a more public-facing workshop in the fall

- Green Cities California Partnership: Sept 2017 convening *“Advancing Building Decarbonization through Renewable Heating and Cooling (RH&C) Systems”*

Will hold a convening, and work on addressing state barriers with building code, cost effectiveness requirements and prohibitions on fuel switching

Will look at ways to get to 5 % - and identify market sectors to target
StopWaste awarded GCC 10k grant for designing the convening

Utility User Tax Reform

- Claire Griffing, City of Albany presented a proposal for funding climate action plan with utility user tax
 - The restructured utility tax would reflect greenhouse pollution and,
 - Keep electricity tax the same
 - Increase natural gas tax based on GHG pollution
 - Reduce telephone tax to maintain neutrality
 - Include a CARE rate for low income
 - Goals of the tax are to align UUTs with climate goals and put a price on emissions
 - Complexities of the proposal include political feasibility, applying tax to variable electricity mix, PG&E billing system upgrade requirements & role of East Bay Community Energy

Sustainable Landscaping in Alameda County

- Teresa Eade, StopWaste discusses Bay Friendly Landscape Program Project statistics and currently available grants

Sustainable Landscapes report – 64 projects on 268 acres have been completed. Some of these projects were sheet mulched – 36 projects covering 29 acres. 12,000 tons of mulch and compost were used. 133k tons of waste diverted from landfills, 3.7 k tons of CO₂e prevented, 32 million gallons of water saved.

StopWaste sustainable landscape grants available for 15k, 10k, and 5k. Projects must have a landscape rater, and leave lawn in place

Bay-Friendly scorecard has been updated, and aligns with or exceeds new code. Bay Friendly is now administered by Re-Scape California. All new projects will have to use the new scorecard.

Scholarships report – 360 city staff have received Bay-Friendly training.

Training opportunities – city staff and designers can now rate their own projects. A training is coming up May 3rd & 4th. WELO training is coming up on June 15th. It is aimed at Landscape professionals and city staff. Lunch & Learns are also available upon request.

WELO checklist – now updated every 4 years. Talked to 14 member agencies on challenges. Received request for tools. Commonly requested tools were water budget calculator and model checklists.

State grant funding opportunities – Bay Area IRWMP - \$6.5 million for Prop 1 funds for disadvantaged communities on water issues outreach and another \$6.5 million is being awarded for implementation. Urban Greening grant solicitations due May 1 2017.

Program Updates

- CPUC Energy Data Access Committee met on Thursday. Amy Reardon tasked to draft staff resolution. There will be a 30 day draft period, and 30 day comment period. If there are 4 users in a sector a jurisdiction can get full data, if there are 1-3 users, a city can combine sectors and get the data. 40 of jurisdictions in PG&E territory get all needed data, even if aggregated, it would be 47%. StopWaste will be reaching out for support letters in next 40-60 days.
- Local Government Challenge grant – StopWaste’s multifamily grant was awarded, San Leandro, MCE and San Diego were also awarded grants in the same category.

Member Comments & Discussion

- Civic spark – EBEW is waiting for PG&E response to commit to providing funding yet for the upcoming round. Also a concern about stability of AmeriCorps funding
- Fremont is bringing forward a proposed ordinance on mandatory solar on new residential construction
 - Berkeley interested in getting a presentation from Rachel on ordinance
- Michael McCormick from OBR to present to TAG at a later meeting
- The group is still interested in a SunShares debrief. Heather will try to schedule at the next SAC, since Contra Costa jurisdictions also participated

NEXT TAG MEETING: May 16, 2017 1-3pm