



Climate Council Meeting – Work Plan Reveal
Monday, May 17, 2021 – 2:30-4PM

1) Welcome (Mayor Indya Kincannon)

- a) Attendees
 - i. Mayor Indya Kincannon, City of Knoxville
 - ii. Amy Hathaway, Forest Heights Neighborhood Association
 - iii. Allie Hemmings, Sunrise Knoxville
 - iv. Nancy Nabors, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
 - v. Stephen Smith, SACE
 - vi. George Wallace, Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace
 - vii. Stan Johnson, SEEED
 - viii. Cortney Piper, TN Advanced Energy Council
 - ix. Liz Upchurch, TVA
 - x. Gabriel Bolas, KUB
 - xi. Brian Hann, Dewhirst Properties
 - xii. Erin Gill, City of Knoxville
 - xiii. Brian Blackmon, City of Knoxville
 - xiv. Erin Rose, Three³

2) Budget Announcements (Mayor Kincannon)

- a) 2021-22 budget proposal includes \$1.3M matching funds for KAT for EV charging; over \$2M for bike/ped projects; over \$150k for new public EV charging ports; funding for greenway improvements (\$1M in East Knox, \$2.5M for existing greenway connection in NW Knox). \$60k to enroll Convention Center in KUB Green Switch Match program. KUB has purchased 500 MW of solar; community solar project underway next to the Public Works Complex.

3) Review of Process (Brian Blackmon, City of Knoxville)

- a) Recap - Role of Council
 - i) Provide high-level, cross-sector leadership to chart a path to reduce Community Emissions 80% by 2050.
 - ii) We knew going into this process that community emissions have to be the focus of our work, feeding into the new Work Plan.
 - iii) The Work Plan is not a list of shovel-ready projects or budgetary line items directly related to emission reduction projects. We know that there is a spectrum of funding that will be required from public and private sources.
 - iv) We wanted this process to reflect the Knoxville community's priorities in terms of climate action. The HIPs are not a 100% comprehensive list of all possible mitigation strategies.
- b) Summary of the past year
 - i) At least 65 participants between Climate Council and Technical Working Groups (plus others that work with participants)
 - ii) Over 35 community organizations.
 - iii) 20 meetings (6 Council, 14 working group).
 - iv) 508 subject matter surveys (131 EWG, 377 public).
- c) Multi-pronged approach

- i) View the Work Plan as a visioning document. Steps would be: Public unveiling of the plan; Update to City Council on priorities.
- ii) After that – update the City’s website to reflect new plan priorities and additional metrics – but updated more frequently.
 - (1) Draw direct connection to budget and funding in a dynamic setting.
 - (2) Highlight partner programs that support those goals.
 - (3) Create and add trackers for additional metrics identified.
- d) Mayor Kincannon: Making sure that transparency and availability of data/key indicators are there via dashboards or other tools is important.
- e) Stan Johnson: Where are we in terms of 2020 emissions compared to benchmark or prior years?
 - i) Brian Blackmon: Will get into those details later in the meeting.
- f) Erin Rose: Can you clarify ‘metrics/indicators for success beyond climate mitigation’?
 - i) Brian Blackmon: Metrics for success came directly from stakeholders in this process. Some of those metrics track mitigation, but equity working group did not name tangible indicators. We have some observations and context from the EWG (like Three3’s memo) that we can include as an appendix to the work plan.
 - ii) Erin Rose: As projects become more shovel-ready, how would equity metrics be incorporated?
 - iii) Brian Blackmon: We are very open to any metrics that the EWG would suggest – particularly any more specific indicators. We are committed to equity work and want to see it continue.
- g) Stephen Smith: How do we envision engaging with City Council – do we have an idea of timing of making the Work Plan available to them?
 - i) Brian Blackmon: Best case scenario, we could have the document design finalized by mid- to late June. If you feel strongly about getting it out earlier, we have the data and content to have a good conversation sooner.
 - ii) Stephen Smith: Timing would be ideal when it is still warm i.e., late Summer (to avoid climate deniers). Another driver is the potential federal infrastructure plan, where people might see connections with that. That could be coming to a head in late August or September.
 - iii) Stan Johnson: Is this process / the City in line with the federal infrastructure plan?
 - (1) Mayor Kincannon: Yes, there is definitely alignment and we are working with federal partners.

4) **Priorities and Evaluation (Brian Blackmon, City of Knoxville)**

- a) Centering Equity
 - i) EWG conducted several surveys to gather community input and applied screening questions to proposed strategies
 - ii) Three³ delivered a memo summarizing EWG findings and recommendations to staff in April.
 - iii) Staff deferred to EWG rankings overall and adjusted rankings to reflect equity priorities, with 1 exception: composting strategies. EWG comments reflected concerns about placement of a large composting facility in marginalized communities, which doesn’t affect strategies such as curbside organics collection or backyard composting.
- b) Ranking visualizations
 - i) potential emission reduction: We used a visual 1-5 scale represented by CO2 clouds
 - ii) length of time experts thought it would take to start: We used a visual 1-5 scale represented by clocks
 - iii) potential community benefit/likeliness to advance positive equity outcomes: We used a visual 1-3 scale represented by people.
- c) Priorities: Council stakeholder rankings + public rankings
 - i) Transportation: Expand bike/ped facilities, make investments in public transit, accelerate community adoption of EVs, work with commercial fleets to transition
 - ii) Buildings & Energy: Commercial and multifamily energy reduction, residential energy reduction, amplify opportunities to invest in renewables, promote opportunistic thermal electrification
 - iii) Waste: Commercial organic diversion, increase recycling, promote consumption-reduction, residential organic diversion.

- iv) Public survey aligned very closely with Council stakeholders.
- d) Discussion
 - i) Stephen Smith: There is still a need for public education around transportation given that sector emissions are moving in the wrong direction. Might be a good opportunity from the Mayor or others to use their bully pulpit to continue driving home the message on carbon reduction from transportation.
 - (1) Mayor Kincannon: That's a good point, I think there is opportunity for education and promotion, especially when there's overlap with responsible fiscal policy (going green can save money). Keeping the focus on rewarding people rather than shaming them is also important. A good model would potentially be an Orchids Award analogue ("Mayor's Climate Award"). Could be corporate awards as well as neighborhood-scale awards.
 - ii) Amy Hathaway: I feel like most people cannot afford electric vehicles – what is equity/community impact of those strategies?
 - (1) Erin Rose: There is potential for increasing accessibility, but at this point it was not very highly ranked by the EWG.
 - (2) Brian Blackmon: I've been working from 2017 to make CoK public charging free to the public. This has actually been more efficient financially for the City and helps make public access a little bit easier.
 - (3) Cortney Piper (chat): encourages everyone to check out EV adoption myths at <https://www.electricforall.org/ev-myths/>
 - (4) Erin Gill (chat): This is part of the importance of this being a longer-range plan... it leaves a lot of flexibility to reflect the rapidly changing market conditions, including the approaching cost-parity of EVs that can make them more affordable in future years.
 - (5) Stephen Smith: As more vehicles are manufactured there will be a secondary market that would result in more affordable EVs.
 - (6) Stan Johnson: EWG talked about rebates for low-income communities for used EVs.
- e) Strategy Ranking & GHG Impact Projections
 - i) Brian utilized available data or expert input; used growth models for energy consumption/sales and population. Ran approximately 20 individual projections to see what could meet 80% by 2050 goal.
 - ii) Critical Drivers for emission reductions: Electrification of private transportation and Decarbonization of energy systems. Electrification without significantly lower / net zero carbon electricity is inadequate.
 - iii) Targets/2050 Scenarios: Multiple scenarios that would get us some or most of the way to the 2050 80% reduction target – also showing Business-as-Usual and target scenario.
 - (1) Erin Gill: What's driving the inflection point at 2030?
 - (a) Brian Blackmon: The model is accounting for energy growth projected into those different pathways through 2050. 2050 is also much further out than 2030, so with the assumptions of transportation electrification and decarbonization, the reductions start to become far more dramatic after 2030.
 - (2) Liz Upchurch (chat): www.tva.com/carbon has TVA's new carbon report released this month.
- f) Next Steps
 - i) Brian Blackmon: I'd like everyone to take the next week to digest – then let me know if there is anything that is mission-critical that they cannot live with. After that, we want to start moving toward public unveiling; then update to City Council on priorities.
 - (1) Propose scheduling next MCC meeting in late Fall for check-in (Nov/Dec 2021).
 - (2) Between now and then, want to start building out Sustainability website to reflect new priorities.
 - ii) Brian Hann: Is the graphic from the Work Plan for public consumption?
 - (1) Brian Blackmon: Yes
 - iii) Liz Upchurch (chat): Why no goals for resilient communities?
 - (1) Brian Blackmon: Wanted to make sure we got through the mitigation planning in one year; also, mitigation is the priority of our work at this point.
 - iv) Erin Rose: There are no projects currently on the docket that would benefit/burden Knoxville communities?

- (1) Mayor Kincannon: We are looking that the infusion of money from the federal government that could catalyze many items in this work plan; would welcome the opportunity to have a discussion about that with this group.
- v) Stephen Smith: Might be good to reconvene prior to the end of the federal budget year. The clean electricity standard is important for ensuring utilities get to a target goal by a certain time. I would hope that people will weigh in on the debate that goes around the infrastructure bill.
- vi) Mayor Kincannon: I think this has been a fruitful process – and as federal dollars start to come through we can apply that to our priorities and to the work plan. We should definitely set a meeting for late October/early November, but have an ad-hoc meeting about the infrastructure dollars. We want to make sure that communication strategies are also being rolled out and worked on to make sure the community is aware of these efforts.
- vii) Erin Gill: Just wanted to give a shout out to TVA on their 2050 aspirational target for net-zero electricity.
- viii) Stan Johnson: Want to make sure we can get young people to work, so we have to keep up these efforts.

5) **Close**

- a) OS asks Council members to provide any feedback on the Work Plan in the next week – by 5/24.
- b) OS will plan to host late fall check-in meeting.