

Rockville Environment Commission

Draft Minutes of Thursday, January 12, 7pm - 9pm

WebEx Meeting

Meeting Attendance

Commissioner	Present	Commissioner	Present
Hande Apaydin	X	Clark Reed, Chair	X
William McClain	X	Monica Saavoss	X
Justus Getty		Pavitra Srinivasan	X
Susan Koester	X	Ted Stauderman	X
Sasha Mushegian	X		

City Staff: Amanda Campbell, Staff Liaison; Erica Shingara, Chief, Environmental Management Division (EMD); Joren Bender, Sustainability Program Manager

Councilmembers: Councilmember Monique Ashton

Meeting Commencement: Chair Reed convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes: The agenda was approved with no changes. Prior meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Community Forum: No guests.

Chair Report

- Chair Reed reminded members to share the Environmental Excellence Awards and nominate individuals or organizations.
- Discussion of 6 Taft Court renovations and whether it could involve LEED or Energy Star. The City's energy and green buildings codes apply to City facilities; however, there are not requirements for LEED or ENERGY STAR. The building will need to comply with future County building energy performance standards and could also exceed those and meet voluntary higher standards such as LEED or Energy Star.

Mayor and Council Report

- Complete the community priorities budget survey <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/951/Budget-Financials> Public hearings will be held March 6 and April 17.

Committee Reports

Energy Committee is working on natural gas leak detection and net zero codes.

Climate Action Committee formed a plan for the year and will examine Maryland bills in February, and discuss Climate Action Plan metrics.

Watersheds Committee is monitoring Maryland General Assembly for bills related to curtailing salt applications.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update

Rockville's 2020 greenhouse gas inventory shows a 34% reduction since 2005. This year the inventory also includes the balance of forest emissions and sequestration. Likely some of the reductions are due to pandemic slow-downs, and some is due to continuing trends away from coal and towards natural gas in electricity generation, reduced heating oil, and cleaner vehicles and buildings as they are replaced and renovated.

Maryland Legislation

The group discussed potential bills that touch on Commission priorities including Building Performance Standards, Climate Equity Act, Zero Emission Trucks, Empower Maryland program updates, Wind Power, and making the community solar pilot a permanent program.

Outreach Ideas

The Commission discussed ways to incorporate all the available incentives and rebates and other environmental programs in Farmer's Market outreach. Some recommended Climate Solutions workshops covering multiple topics and including a focus on renter resources. They asked for a presentation from Larissa Johnson with Montgomery County on project Porchlight.

Topic Introduction: Sustainable Procurement

Chair Reed provided an overview of model sustainable procurement language available from EPA, energy star, and other federal webpages that the City could consider. The federal government has a list of green product certifications available.

Climate Action Plan Progress Update

- [City FY24 Budget Development Process](#) schedule and survey posted
- Rockville Electric Vehicle Surveys for Residents and Organizations open through January 15 at <http://www.engagerockville.evplan/>
- Climate Action Plan 2022 progress report under development. (C-26)
- City received Community Wildlife Habitat re-certification
- The [Compost Drop-Off](#) program launched with 7.7 tons collected, and a second site is in the works (C-18).
- Several [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program](#) applications received (C-20)
- Staff is working on a solar power purchase agreement this year
- City now leasing 5 more electric fleet vehicles. More expected soon.
- [Radon testing kits](#) have nearly all been reserved.
- Last year's Climate Solutions Talks are posted [here](#).

New Business: None.

Adjourn: Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.