

Notes from October 14 Energy and Carbon Working Group

Public members attending: 24+

Sustainable Madison Committee Members Attending:

Raj Shukla
Bradley Campbell
Sam Breidenbach
Jeannette LeZaks

1. Reviewed available carbon and energy inventories
2. Discussed potential goals appropriate to changing science and technology related to climate change, emissions reductions and clean energy.
3. Shukla suggested a starting point for discussion:
 - a. 100% carbon-neutral in Madison by 2040 (?)
 - b. 100% carbon-neutral in city operations by 2025 (?)

Action Items:

Provide specific recommendation for updating carbon goals to be agreed to and advanced to the full Sustainable Madison Committee on November 18. Hope to advance updated Carbon and Energy goals to Common Council in December.

Major Issues

Need to assemble research to back up those goals

Homework:

Get clarification from Jeanne about when we can talk together.

Options for how to get there

4% per year?

100% in full by then.

Summary of Public Comments

1 - Disappointment with MGE. Support dismantling MGE. Something akin to stadium tax to retire MGE coal plant debt. Then encourage alternative co-generation.

2 - Unclear of mandate for committee, and so needs to raise the awareness. Push hard to get Madison off of fossil fuels. City of Madison just revised all building codes - but nothing done to include generation or efficiency.

3 - Wants to get rid of coal for asthma purposes.

4 - We need to set more ambitious goals for reducing the inputs to climate change. Do not get stuck on having all answers.

5 - City and nation has to get off of coal. In general we have to get off of fossil fuels. Also in favor of third party solar agreements.

6 - Introduce letters from citizens to encourage change. Want greater goals. Figure out how, but formalize ambitious goals ASAP.

7 - Wants to lay out what is manageable. Energy goals need to be real and ambitious. Coal free and Carbon free dates. Set renewable goal. Energy reduction goal for the city. Along with that, establish interim goals.

THEN, community involvement - what we need to do to achieve these goals: This is where we need to be to lay out the framework for others. Might be in conjunction with the county and other municipalities; who to involve, what to do, etc.

8 - Saddened that natural areas are being threatened. Goal of 30 by 2030 is too small to matter.

9 - Feeling of urgency to get moving. Received email recently that talked about climate change adaptation - saddened that no longer talking about stopping change. Need to take steps immediately. Los Angeles has decided to go 100%. If those cities can do it, Madison should be able to do it. We need to go.

10 - Where Madison fits into the picture. Climate change is real, it is manmade, it is urgent, and we need to do something about it. We are past 400 ppm, and we need to do something at every level right now.