



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

## Meeting Minutes - Approved SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE

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Monday, August 27, 2018

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
City-County Building, Room 357

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Shukla called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., following verification the meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum present.

Staff present: Jeanne Hoffman, Karl van Lith.

Shukla asked to shift order of published agenda to accommodate presenters and shorter updates. Voice approval by committee.

**Present:** 13 - Stacie A. Reece; Rajan V. Shukla; Michael J. Vickerman; Lance E. Green; Richard J. Pearson; Jesse J. Shields; Bradley Campbell; Jeannette E. LeZaks; Maria A. Schletzbaum; Kyla H.S. Beard; Richard A. Heinemann; Samuel J. Dunaiski and Joseph M. Ryan

**Excused:** 2 - David Ahrens and Sam J. Breidenbach

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Heinemann, seconded by Dunaiski, to Approve the Minutes of June 25, 2018. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

### PRESENTATION

1. [52960](#) Recycling Program (including Organics Pilot)

Attachments: [2018SustainabilityCommitteePresentation.pdf](#)

Johnson reported on current issues with the recycling efforts. Pelliteri organization processes recycling services for city currently. No changes as to what goes into recycling bin. China law changes in 2017 has impacted recycling purchases across the US. China has set stricter standards on what can be imported and this, along with low commodity prices, has impacted the revenue generated by the City's recycling program. The 2019 recycling budget is likely to be stressed by these changes. Revenues help cover most costs of the recycling. West coast US recyclers "compete" in the domestic market against Madison with Mid-west buyers of recycled products. China has also stopped taking rigid plastic items, thereby causing the City to stop their collection program on these items.

Organics. The pilot began in 2011 and by 2018 had 1100 households and about 40 businesses, primarily small restaurants and UW cafeterias participating. The 2016 City capital budget called for a bio-digester, but it has been pushed back several years due to borrowing constraints. Two bio-digesters that the City has used had complaints about the mixing of garbage, particularly plastics, in with the organics. The organics program is currently on hold due to the challenge of trying to control what goes into the organic waste stream.

Johnson feels that in order for the program to succeed a composter/bio-digester needs to be nearby, that there needs to be a way to look at what goes into the bin before it is collected and that perhaps a monthly fee needs to be assessed. Also changing the name to be more descriptive would be helpful—something like "food scraps recycling" to make it clear to all that it is different from refuse and other recycling. He also noted that Madison should celebrate that it has been a leader in recycling for 50 years and that we recycling 60% of our waste, versus a national average of 34%.

## ACTION ITEMS

2. [52961](#) Creating a Working Group to study and make recommendations regarding Solar Zoning and Permitting Fees and Process

Vickerman communicated to committee that installers have two categories of cost. One, is hardware (actual panels, wiring, etc.) and the other, is soft costs, particularly permit fees and other transactional fees—which account for 2/3rds of the costs. He felt that Madison's costs are high compared to the rest of the state. Creation of the working group was moved by Green and seconded by Campbell. Approved by voice vote. Sam Breidenbach, Michael Vickerman along with two local solar installers will make up the committee.

3. [52962](#) Creating a Working Group to Study Sustainable Purchasing Policies for the City of Madison's Purchasing and to Research the City's Ability to Regulate Plastics

Ald. Palm and Hoffman proposed creation of a working group to look into sustainable purchasing policies. Some efforts were made in 2007 and 2009, but more could be done to look at sustainable purchasing. SMC was reminded by van Lith that 4 APMs (mayoral –executive orders for city employees) around green cleaning product, printers/paper/cartridges/, disposal of electronic equipment and purchasing of fuel efficient fleet vehicles. Some APMs have been followed or partially followed, but enforcement and education have not been consistent. Ald. Palm will draft a more encompassing resolution. Hoffman will check with Office of the City Attorney (OCA) as to what legal options City has to regulate plastics. Moved by Campbell to approve. Seconded by Dunaiski. Voice vote approval. SMC members Reese, LeZaks and Schletzbaum will form working group—support from van Lith and Hoffman.

#### UPDATES

4. Jeanne Hoffman to update SMC members on 100% Renewable Energy Plan

Hoffman has seen draft and she felt it was not ready to present to committee. Discussed with SEG and is now working with San Francisco office to make it less technical and more visually oriented. Will be ready for SMC members to review one week before September meeting. Campbell and Green both commented that detail is important to see along with strategies. Campbell and Green, and other committee members, were displeased with the amount of time the report has taken to generate and that details may be lacking. Hoffman will pass on concerns to consultants and ensure that committee members have time to review it prior to September 17th meeting.

Hoffman reminded the committee that they had longer than one meeting to review the document and that strategies outlined in report will be subject to usual City budget process review. Heinemann reminded committee of work already being done on topic through Energy Plan discussions with MG&E. Vickerman expressed that there still was a need to come to an agreement on what the target year for the 100 renewable and Net-Zero emissions goals. Hoffman agreed on need for target, but that it may vary for each of the goals depending on budget deliberations and strategies used.

5. Jeanne Hoffman to update SMC members on City/MGE Agreement and Working Groups

Group is researching large scale solar projects. Dane County is looking to have a large solar project at the airport and MGE is studying the interconnection to their grid. Benchmarking is being more fully outlined and building energy use is being correlated to some specific types of buildings. A target marketing plan will also be developed for this benchmarking program. (Still voluntary.) Electric vehicles infrastructure is also being discussed. Group had tried for a Rockefeller grant on this issue, but it was denied.

6. Jeanne Hoffman to update SMC members on progress in hiring Sustainability Program Coordinator

**Members of the hiring panel will be meeting with 14 candidates on 8/30 with the hope of finding someone to start in the position in September.**

7. Possible update from Jeremy Kane on the Urban Forestry Task Force

**Kane unable to attend meeting, so item was referred to next meeting.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**None.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Heinemann, seconded by Shields, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**