
Joint Sustainability Committee

Strategic Planning Discussion

12/14/22

Context

The Austin Climate equity Plan was adopted in September 2021

Resolution 110 directed the addition of 5 new members to the JSC

Over the last year, we've had challenges meeting quorum

We've had a lot of back and forth about working groups / community task forces, with no resolution

The Office of Sustainability is not "in charge" of implementing the climate equity plan and we have no dedicated budget for projects from the plan

We've been inviting departments to present on their climate equity plan aligned activities for the past year, usually creating lots of Q&A

The JSC occasionally passes resolutions adopted by other commissions (in support of their work)

Seems like a good opportunity to pause and think strategically about what comes next

Who is the JSC?

The council creates the Joint Sustainability Committee of the:

Community Development Commission; Design Commission; Economic Prosperity Commission; Electric Utility Commission; Environmental Commission; Parks and Recreation Board; Planning Commission; Resource Management Commission; Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board; Urban Transportation Commission; Water and Wastewater Commission; and Zero Waste Advisory Commission. (12 commissions)

- + 1 Social Service Committee Nominee
- + 5 Mayoral Nominees

18 total members, quorum = 10

The council intends that the joint committee members represent a broad diversity of community stakeholders including: large companies and employers; small businesses owners and non-profit leaders; renters; central city residents and families; and suburban residents and families.

JSC By-laws

The joint committee shall advise the council on matters related to conservation and sustainability; and

review City policies and procedures relevant to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan, including planning, implementation, community engagement, goal setting, and progress monitoring;

promote close cooperation between the council, City management, City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with the politics, procedures, and implementation of the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan, with the goal of coordinating all similar activities within the City and the community in order to secure the greatest public benefit; and forward to the city manager all advisory material that the joint committee provides to the council, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, or City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.

The joint committee may:

advise the council, the city manager, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, and City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces on policy matters related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan;

ask the city manager for information related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan;

make recommendations to the council on relevant policies or procedures; and

establish advisory groups or working groups related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan.

Options

Background on the ACEP and creation, history of the JSC, reflection on what's worked and hasn't over time

5 new members and what is their role

Goals for the next year, what does success look like

Format / tactics of useful JSC meetings

Discussion of the mechanisms for commission action (q&a, passing recommendations, sharing information)

Commission functionality (quorum, communications, rules, attendance)

Working groups and potential topics that need a deeper dive, and which JSC members will step up to lead?

Session Specifics

The Meeting:

Needs to occur as a regularly posted commission meeting with quorum

OOS hire a facilitator to help plan / execute the meeting – I have ideas, provide recommendations.

Can this be done in 1 meeting, or do we need 2 (a background / framing meeting, then a workshop type meeting where the group makes more informed decisions)?

Date:

The Next two JSC meeting dates – Wednesday January 25 and Wednesday February 22.

Location: We can reserve a room at the Permitting and Development Center

Time: Maybe start at 5pm (have dinner available) and go until 8 or even 9?