



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Dec 13, 2023**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at Permitting and Development Center.**

**Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:11 pm.**

**Board Members in Attendance in Person:** Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Kaiba White

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Heather Houser, Melissa Rothrock, Chris Campbell, Jon Salinas, Rodrigo Leal, Haris Qureshi, Anna Scott, Charlotte Davis, Diana Wheeler, Amy Noel, Yure Suarez

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Franklin, Bertha Delgado, Alice Woods, Stephanie Bazan

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Rohan Lilauwala, Amanda Mortl, Tasnuva Udit

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

N/A

**6. Approval of minutes from the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.**

- Need a correction on item 10. Should say 'Leal motions, Wheeler seconds'
- Wheeler motions to approve with correction, Leal seconds, passes on 11-0 vote (Noel and Suarez off Dais)

**1. Sustainable Procurement Update – Amanda Mortl, Office of Sustainability**

- Discussions around accuracy + relevance of spend-based inventory
  - Current work is estimate. When further analyses done are measurements, we can't compare to estimate. We're on the cutting edge, methods are still evolving.

- Inflation factored in, uses EPA database
- These are cradle-to-purchase measurements, only uses production emissions

### **3. Air Quality in Austin – Scott Johnson**

- Discussion on importance of air quality.

### **2. Regional Air Quality – Anton Cox, CAPCOG**

- Discussion on top sources of air pollution and opportunities to improve air quality
- No budget for incentives, requires voluntary action
- Request for Anton to provide NOx inventory and detailed list of measures taken
- High impact thing Austin could do – replace high emitting generation facilities (Decker, Fayette) would make a big difference

### **4. Updates from the Electric Utility Commission on Austin Energy Generation Plan Updates – Kaiba White**

#### **7. Resolution on Austin Energy Resource Planning.**

- Discussion around issues with AE proposal for natural gas/hydrogen plant, including lack of transition plan, identified source, green hydrogen standard, assumption that hydrogen will be same price as natural gas, lack of delivery clarity.
- Assumption that transition to hydrogen would happen in 2027-2028.
- Qureshi motions to approve recommendation, Scott seconds, passes on a 11-0 vote (Campbell abstains, Suarez off dais).

#### **5. Discussion of amendments to the Austin Climate Equity Plan spurred by council action.**

- White is hoping to include ARR disposal rate goal while ACEP is being updated.

#### **8. 2024 JSC Meeting Schedule.**

- Campbell motions to approve, Davis seconds, passes 11-0 with Suarez and Houser off dais.
- First choice – city hall boards and commissions room.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update from Water and Wastewater Commission (Maxwell-Gaines motion, White second)
- Update from Electric Utility Commission (White motion, Maxwell-Gaines second)
- Update from Environmental Commission (Qureshi motion, White second)
- Update from Design Commission (Salinas motion, White second)
- General discussion of bylaws (Davis motion, White second)

Wheeler adjourns meeting at 8:52 pm with no objections.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or

alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Zach Baumer with the Office of Sustainability at 512-974-2836, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer at ([zach.baumer@austintexas.gov](mailto:zach.baumer@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2836).

**Approved at the January 24, 2024 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee on a 12-0 vote (Commissioner Qureshi motion, Commissioner Wheeler second with Commissioner Maxwell-Gaines off dais).**