



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
July 8, 2024**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at Austin Energy Headquarters.

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Diana Wheeler

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Lane Becker, Kaiba White, Heather Houser, Jon Salinas, Alberta Philipps, Anna Scott, Rodrigo Leal, Melissa Rothrock, Chris Campbell, Haris Qureshi

Board Members Absent: Larry Franklin, Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Yure Suarez, Amy Noel, Charlotte Davis

City Staff in Attendance:
Rohan Lilauwala

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Diana Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from the Jun 24th meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.

- Salinas motions to approve with amendment to include all members absent, Scott seconds, passes 10-0 with Qureshi off dais.

2. Recommendation of investments the City should fund as part of council resolution 20240215-025 'Environmental Investment Plan'.

- Leal – where did the \$250-300 million number come from?
 - White – number discussed by council subquorum. Should be \$250-350 million range.
- Qureshi provides minor copy edits
- Qureshi amendment to increase number to \$250-300 million
- Leal - What about water conservation?
 - White – city-owned solar can offset Austin Water's energy costs to allow for reinvestments into water conservation. Conserving land improves source water quality.
- Scott motions to approve as amended, Campbell seconds, passes 11-0.

3. Recommendation in support of a ‘Climate Fee’ as outlined in the staff response to council resolution 20240215-025 ‘Environmental Investment Plan’.

- Discussion of progressive vs regressive nature of tax. Intention to steer options to reduce impact on low-income earners.
- White amends last paragraph to “This new fee should be structured to be equitable and responsive to Austin’s wealth gaps and the fee should provide predictable revenue. A legal analysis of options that could be paid by residents, businesses, corporations and/or visitors should be conducted and presented to the City Council for consideration as soon as possible.”
- Scott motions to approve as amended, Phillips seconds, passes 11-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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