

**Madison Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2021**

1. **Call to order** by Chairperson Claire Whitcomb via Zoom
2. **Announcement of meeting notice**

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: Read by Claire Whitcomb, Chairperson.

3. **Present:** MEC members Trina Mallik, Claire Whitcomb Joan Maccari, Bridet Daley, Kirsten Wallenstein, Ellen Kranefuss; John Hoover as BC liaison;
4. **Guests:** Rachel Ehrlich as BC liaison for Utilities; Kathi Caccavale and Peter Fried from Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee

Climate Action in Madison

EV ordinance: Rachel said since its budget season they haven't had time to look at the draft we sent them (that Chatham is also currently considering). Also, its part of a broader conversation, e.g. smart meters to encourage charging at night. It should be looked at in May

Meeting with Department Heads: Rachel commented that it was very encouraging that the meeting happened with Claire and Kathi and that Ray Codey requested that they each present what they are doing in terms of climate actions. A range of actions were presented, e.g. LED lighting, reduced paper use, hybrid police vehicles, electric leaf blowers.

Action: Claire is requesting a follow up meeting

BPU'S Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) of Municipal Buildings: Peter said that an energy audit was conducted on five municipal buildings.

Action: Peter and Kathi are requesting follow-up meeting to find out which of a broad range of recommendations make sense to implement.

Madison's Carbon Footprint: Peter provided a detailed presentation of Madison's carbon footprint so that we can identify actions to lower its GHG emissions.

- John Hoover asked how we can incentivize more EVs. Peter has a list of action that the municipality can do, e.g. location of charging stations. We are dependent on federal and state financial incentives. We can also make residents more aware of their important role in reducing our carbon footprint.
- Kathi asked if Peter is also calculating how to achieve building energy use reduction (similar to the chart he produced that shows the uptake in EVs we need by 2025)

- Claire brought up how we can change municipal energy purchasing. Rachel provided background on the process.
- **Action: Rachel will request a meeting with Jim and us to go over details on energy purchasing contracts.**
- A discussion of the utility ensued, along with questions about how to make energy efficiency, smart meters and increased solar usage profitable. Jim is wrestling with many of these questions. Action: How can the current systems be reimaged as part of a Climate Aciton Plan?
- Ellen mentioned we should identify obstacles, e.g. we don't know solar rates, lack of EV charging stations, etc.

Communications Plan: Kirsten presented the communications plan she created with Bridge, and Claire

- Rachel responded that we should think about the plan in relation to our carbon footprint (buildings and transportation are the biggest impacts). We should educate people about the big picture more- inspire them to be climate activists. When she canvassed she saw people's hunger for climate action and we shouldn't underestimate that. Be more bold.
- Peter, Kathi, and Bridget said we should provide a metric of how people are doing, e.g. a thermometer, a dashboard showing long and short term goals

Working with Chatham Borough: Trina provided a brief overview of our collaboration with Chatham Borough, including EV ordinance, climate resolution, and a climate action plan since we have similar footprints. The group recommended presenting a climate resolution to the Zoning and Planning Boards for their awareness.