



Meeting Notes  
Community Advisory Board (CAB)  
September 15, 2021  
2:00pm – 4:00pm  
Virtual Meeting – WebEx

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Meeting attendance available [here](#). | Recording of the meeting available [here](#).

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Introductions

- We'll be posting a recording of this meeting on the web. Meeting is being live streamed through YouTube.
- Objectives
  - Continue presenting the potential Action Areas to include in the Clean Energy Plan. This session we will:
    - Finish the “Buildings and Energy” pathway
    - Start the “Community,” “Environment,” and “Transportation” pathways

Action Areas: Buildings & Energy Options

- What are Action Areas?
  - Represent “levers” or “pathways” through which to advance CRE transition
  - Can include mandates, voluntary programs, resources, and more
- Action Area Topics: Once we finish collecting CAB feedback on each Action Area, we will report out the findings and ranking/prioritization to the group
  - Buildings & Energy
    - Financing, Regulatory, Information, Programmatic, Technology (July & August meetings)
  - Community
    - Programmatic, Information, Financing, Regulatory (August meeting)
  - Transportation
    - Financing, Regulatory, Programmatic, Technology (August meeting)
  - Environment
    - Financing, Regulatory, Information, Technology (August meeting)
- Today we will cover the categories (remaining Action Items will be covered during 9/1 supplemental CAB meeting):
  - Buildings & Energy
  - Community
  - Environment
  - Transportation
    - Discuss likes and dislikes for options provided



CAB Action Area Worksheet: Buildings & Energy, Technology

Action Areas	Definition	Notes
<b>Municipal Efficient Equipment Procurement Policy</b>	Require that energy-using products purchased by municipality meet efficient equipment standards.	Green procurement requirement. having the city put in a procurement standard and require them to meet certain demands. Challenge: requires certain amount of internal and political buy-in to get adopted. Higher upfront cost.
<b>Install LED Streetlights and Traffic Signals</b>	Invest in street and area lighting in order to improve municipal energy efficiency in cities.	Many of the lights the city owns is already updated to LED. Most that is left if from Jackson or Walton. But there are some policy agreements that need to be resolved before we can change the rest.
<b>Develop Local Micro-Grids for Critical Infrastructure</b>	Partner with utility to develop microgrid projects; provide local leaders with an understanding of what microgrids are and how they can serve communities.	It allows microgrid participants power if the main power goes down & allows small subset the clean energy. These could only be used for under privileged communities to ensure these neighborhoods have reliable energy. These are not cheap and somewhat redundant. These are not always clean energy. Pittsburgh airport is a good success story. How much are one micro grid? and how area does one MG covers? - this is too specific to the grid and what resources power it.
<b>Improve Lighting in Municipal Buildings</b>	Take advantage of savings opportunities through high-efficiency interior and exterior lighting solutions in municipal properties.	80% is LED and is mostly completed by ACC.
<b>Floating Solar Options</b>	Investigate and install floating solar on suitable water bodies.	2 likely options in ACC are Chapman and Bear Creek Reservoir. -These would be like rooftop, but more expensive. However, it gives a purpose to unused space.
<b>Develop and Deploy Smart Grids and/or Meters</b>	Allow households and businesses to monitor and adapt their energy usage patterns through smart-grid and smart-meter technologies.	Good example is Oklahoma, and it helped with customer's rate increases. GA power currently doing, but Walton is not. These allow power provider to help get lines back up and running during power outages. It is a lot of information for the customers. ACC think good potential here

CAB Action Area Worksheet: Community Pathways



Action Areas	Definition	Levers	Notes
<b>Incentives Education Programming</b>	Promoting awareness of existing programs and opportunities.	Financing	Who do we target and how do we get this information out? This can be small or large. ACC is hiring an Environmental Educator in the next month to help with educational resources. The website will also be updated.
<b>Water Efficiency Business Certification</b>	Encourage business owners to obtain a water-efficient certification for their buildings.	Information	Water audit standards help identify opportunities for improvement. There is a foundation in Athens to build off of. Water audit standard for commercial buildings - <a href="https://www.cityenergyproject.org/resources/water-audit-guidance-for-commercial-buildings/">https://www.cityenergyproject.org/resources/water-audit-guidance-for-commercial-buildings/</a>
<b>Community Engagement and Communication on Clean Energy Efforts</b>	Ongoing outreach to keep the general public aware of progress towards sustainability goals while continuing to receive citizen input.	Information	Very necessary for an equitable clean energy transition. Important to empower the public to make decisions.  Sierra Club Shared Accountability Framework that Matt referenced - <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100-toolkit/campaign-roadmap/implementation-and-beyond">https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100-toolkit/campaign-roadmap/implementation-and-beyond</a>
<b>Workforce Training Collaboration</b>	Collaborate with technical colleges and trades to develop a	Programmatic	This is a way to train new people entering work force and helps create job opportunities overall. Challenge: if the jobs don't materialize and there aren't policies to support it, then people won't put serious effort in developing the workforce. Very important to the ACC plan.



	clean energy workforce .		Case studies on workforce: <a href="https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/cities_workforce_development_v2_0_2.pdf">https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/cities_workforce_development_v2_0_2.pdf</a>
<b>Clean Energy and Equity Planning</b>	Ongoing outreach to keep the public aware of progress towards an energy efficient and equitable goal and to continue receiving citizen input.	Programmatic	Goes hand in hand with community engagement, and is already going on in ACC

Action Areas	Definition	Levers	Notes
<b>Solarize</b>	Community-based solar energy group purchasing campaigns.	Programmatic	Offers savings, registration is limited time usually. High-moderate income levels usually do well with these programs. commercial customers and low-income customers don't usually benefit from these efforts. Upfront costs limits access. Successful examples to help engage lower income group is usually pairing it with grants or financing. E.g revolving loan fund or equitable green bank. Formally these don't exist yet in Athen's, but there are informal community groups/leaders work on making solar accessible.
<b>Energy Efficiency Demonstration Programs</b>	Support or implement innovative energy efficiency projects.	Programmatic	Living Buildings are examples. Help get people thinking of new building techniques.  These efforts don't scale always, and don't have immediate change. However these do act as catalysts.



<p><b>Community Solar</b></p>	<p>A solar power plant that shares electricity across more than one property.</p>	<p>Programmatic</p>	<p>2 prominent designs Utility providers will build a large installation and then sell the power to customers. Allowing clean energy. This does not guarantee this is close to the customers, and a premium is provided.</p> <p>Some are built in communities, but these are less likely.</p> <p>Option that ACC could be a part owner of the installation and provide energy to multi-property housing. ACC needs to investigate the evaluation &amp; investment.</p>
<p><b>Community Choice Aggregation</b></p>	<p>The municipality purchases electricity from a power generation source on behalf of residents and businesses within their community.</p>	<p>Regulatory</p>	<p>Not legal in GA currently. Allows local gov to enter into contract without becoming a power provider. These have become the most popular option for customers in the states these are legal. We would need to go to the state house to get enabling legislation passed. It would be worth it with multiple cities forming a coalition, otherwise would not be a serious route.</p> <p>This type of program is an easier way to becoming 100% renewable.</p>

Cab Action Area Worksheet: Environmental Pathways

Action Areas	Definition	Levers	Notes
<p><b>Water Efficiency Bulk Purchasing</b></p>	<p>Reduce cost by bulk-purchasing water-saving equipment.</p>	<p>Financing</p>	<p>Similar to a Solarize program and helps purchase a large amount of water efficient appliances and offset upfront costs.</p> <p>This has not been deployed elsewhere but is an alternative to rebates. Water loss intervention is a better option and fixing the chronic leaks. This is paired with education. Federal funds could also help with this infrastructure. The repairing and replacing can also be a way to increase job opportunities/trainings</p>



<p><b>Round-It-Up Energy and/or Water Efficiency Program</b></p>	<p>Fund low-income efficiency by "rounding up" participant utility bills to the nearest dollar.</p>	<p>Financing</p>	<p>Helps provide funds to low income, but the customers need to agree to participate.</p> <p>Knoxville is a good example and has been in place 10 years and provide millions to low income. GA power you can also set aside a donation in the power bill.</p> <p>To start we go to utilities and work with them to start the program. ACC already has a shared program with some public utilities, and these programs work best with partnered nonprofits.</p>
<p><b>Renewable Energy Credit Procurement</b></p>	<p>Organized bulk purchases of credits for renewable energy generation.</p>	<p>Financing</p>	<p>Grants the buyer the credits of a certain amount of megawatt hours for the energy used to generate energy elsewhere.</p> <p>RECS will have to be a part of the discussion, and prioritize the most local options. This will help low-income residents meet the requirement as this energy can be provided at or below cost.</p> <p>You can't always know where or how the RECs are generated and thus can't always calculate the carbon emissions.</p>
<p><b>Carbon Offsets</b></p>	<p>Compensating for local GHG emissions by canceling out emissions somewhere else in the country through the purchase of carbon offset certificates.</p>	<p>Financing</p>	<p>Buying the removal or reduce of CO2 of emissions. There is a push for removal instead of reduction methods.</p> <p>E.g is delaying tree farm removal as a way to offset.</p> <p>The offset funds can help with equipment upgrades for low-income residents.</p>
<p><b>Update and Publish Greenhouse Gas Inventories</b></p>	<p>Create a streamlined way to update an existing or new inventory for tracking greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Information</p>	<p>Will be important if we want to meet our goals and demonstrates accountability. Implement on a community wide basis. Would need an estimate of level of commitment and cost for implementation.</p> <p>Con: can be implementation, not properly knowing the regulation and classification of the emissions. Reports can often be off by 30%. It is a lot of data collection and will require staff time (time/staff varies). Need for standardization.</p>



### Conclusion & Wrap Up

- Key Takeaways from Today
  - Continued review of Action Area options (Part 3 of 4)
- Objectives for September Meeting
  - Recap CAB's compiled Action Area feedback and ranking/ prioritization
  - Clean Energy Plan writing review
- Reminders
  - Option mid-cycle CAB meeting Wednesday, September 1
    - Review CAB Action Area worksheet (Part 4 of 4)
  - Supplemental 1:1 phone calls