

Climate Action Steering Committee

Council Caucus, Room 108, City Hall

Monday, October 21, 2019

1:00PM



Committee Members in attendance: Sandra Santos-Garcia (Jersey City Housing Authority), Jennifer Fogliano (NJTPA), Brian Messler and Ruth Mogro (Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority), Barkha R. Patel (Jersey City Division of Engineering), Mira Prinz-Arey (Councilperson, Ward B), Lindsey Sigmund (Jersey City Division of Planning), Allison Cucco (Jersey City Environmental Commission), Florence Baron (Jersey City Economic Development Corporation), Moriah Kinberg (New Jersey Future)

Staff: Kate Lawrence and Carolina Ramos (Jersey City Office of Sustainability)

1. Introductions

2. Background Information

- Kate Lawrence and Carolina Ramos of the Office of Sustainability provided information on the City's climate change-related efforts to date and what is planned for 2019-2020

How did we get here?

- Jersey City completed a Communitywide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory for the baseline year of 2016 in collaboration with the PSEG Institute of Sustainable Studies at Montclair State University. A GHG emissions inventory measures the amount of greenhouse gases that are being emitted city-wide and identifies what sources they are coming from.
- The next step is to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP).

What is a Climate Action Plan?

- A CAP is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related climatic effects. The Plan will bring together our City's leaders, experts, community members, and advocates.
- Community Outreach for the CAP will take place throughout fall 2019 and winter 2020. In addition to public meetings and the Climate Action Steering Committee, working groups are being created for each of the sectors that make up the City's GHG emissions: one for Energy, one for Transportation & Land Use, and one for Waste. Each group will consist of about 10 members of the community who will look in-depth at how the city should be reducing emissions in that specific area. The recommendations from each working group will inform the final CAP.
 - Moriah Kinberg suggested adding a working group dedicated to equity.
 - Barkha Patel discussed how equity was incorporated into all of the action items during the Vision Zero process.
 - The Steering Committee discussed how proposed climate action strategies will affect populations differently and some groups will bear the burden of climate change more than others.
 - Based on this conversation, an equity working group will be added to measure social impact

3. Role of Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee will provide input and guidance on the planning process, recommendations, and finished documents. It is expected that the Steering Committee will have between 3 and 5 in-person meetings over the course of 8 months and that members will periodically review documents and materials related to the CAP.

4. Review of Plans and Documents

- Ms. Ramos discussed the various outreach activities that the Office of Sustainability will be utilizing to gain input into the Climate Action Plan.
 - Public survey - The first survey will be launched during the first public meeting on November 7. The survey will continue to be distributed to members of the public until the end of December.
 - “Meeting in a Box” is a kit that community groups, neighborhood associations or interested community members may use to gather at a convenient time and location to share information and their opinions on the Climate Action Plan.
 - The kit will contain everything needed to host a meeting including: 1) instruction sheet for hosts, 2) climate change overview information, 3) a copy of the GHG inventory, 4) terminology sheets, 5) a printed copy of the community presentation, 6) climate conversation starters, 7) surveys, and 8) event feedback forms.
- The Steering Committee discussed edits that should be made to the survey and climate conversations. Edits will be made to the survey based on the suggestions shared during the meeting. The Office of Sustainability will send all documents discussed to the Committee members so that they can provide additional edits and comments.

5. Open Discussion

- The group discussed meeting logistics and it was determined that 3pm meetings on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays would work for everyone. The Office of Sustainability will set up a Doodle poll for future meetings.
- The Office of Sustainability asked how long the group would need to review documents. The consensus was that two weeks minimum would be provided whenever possible.
- The group discussed incentives to get people to participate in surveys and other outreach activities.
- Survey respondents will be entered in a weekly or biweekly raffle to encourage survey participation. Incentives will include solar phone chargers and programmable thermostats.
- In order to engage different communities, gaps will be identified in areas that may not have neighborhood associations or other community groups. Council members will be asked to help identify contact persons and other community leaders.
- Sponsorship opportunities and volunteer programs will be explored to assist in the outreach component of the Climate Action Plan.