

COMMUNITY & ENERGY STEERING COMMITTEE

GRAND HAVEN CITY HALL

519 WASHINGTON STREET

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.,

Council Chambers of City Hall, Grand Haven, MI.

1. **Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Garry Post**
 2. **Roll call:**
 - i. Members Present: Ryan Cotton, Deanne Brink, Patti Nelsen, Erik Booth, Paul Cedarquist, Garry Post, Nancy O'Neill, Ashley Latsch, Steve Nagen, and Craig Bessinger
 - ii. Members Absent: Karen Sherwood, John Job, David Mann, Will
 - iii. Montgomery, Mike Fritz, and Dr. Pietrangelo
 - iv. Consultants Present: John Kinch, David Gard, Michael Larson. Absent: Brittany Goode
 3. **Call to Audience** - Jim Hagen thanked the city for positioning the DPW Garage for rooftop solar. He projected carbon reduction equivalent of X trees for ten years (X acres of forest).
 4. **Approval of agenda:** Approved with the addition of discussion of date of March 14th in the morning and an itinerary for a Field Trip to Holland.
 5. **Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Deferred to the next meeting on March 7, 2024, at 12 noon (or at 4:30 PM)
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6. **Appointment of a new Chairperson:** Ryan Cotton nominated Garry Post as the next Chairperson, Patti Nelson supported. The vote was unanimous. Ryan Cotton indicated John could not continue in his role due to too many work travel obligations. The group thanked John Job for his service.
 7. **Update on Data Gathering and Analysis:** MEO/5Lakes – David Gard presented.. He used the US EPA Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool. He put an emphasis on electricity and gas inventories. His date compared 2012 to 2022. This comparison showed a huge reduction in stationary combustion from about 350,000 to 120,000

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MT CO₂e – metric tons of carbon or CO₂ equivalents) primarily due to closure of Sims coal plant and the BLP's purchase of renewable energy recs.

The overall decrease from all sources was 24%. Per capita market based emissions went down from 19.7 to 14.5 metric tons per capita over the last ten years (36% reduction).

David then projected out several scenarios. For the most comprehensive one, he assumed the rec's could go from 22% to 50% and a 20% energy savings could be achieved, as compared to 2022. If these "best" scenarios occurred, then the current carbon pollution would go from 120,000 metric tons to 60,000 metric tons (or cutting carbon pollution in half).

Ryan Cotton said this is what he had hoped for and thanked the consultants for the user- friendly slides. John Kinch said there is more robust analysis and data to come in relation to include refinements to account for agriculture, marinas, etc.

8. **Community Outreach and Website Launch:** MEO - John Kinch showed a new Community Energy Plan website. The draft was very attractive. Ryan Cotton suggested the title wording of "BLP Service Area" or "GH, FB, GHT Community Energy Plan." Garry suggested placing a parenthesis underneath Grand Haven CEP and mentioning the communities who are involved. Ryan moved to amend the name accordingly, Patti supported. Approved unanimously.
9. **Update on Affinity Groups:** John reported on the meetings held and the ones planned below:
 - Community Foundation
 - GH Visitors Bureau - Marci Cisciernos
 - Ottawa County Conservation District
 - GREEN Club
 - Lining up equity, transportation conversations with Goodwill
 - Steve Negen suggested including the school's last time. (Note: He suggested a fun solution as long as there could be a \$750 budget adjustment. He is creating an energy saving game ("draft dodgers" is one of the working titles) A pizza party could be held for to winning class. He is having a conversation with the schools and superintendent now and Vicky with the Chamber is working on it as well. Ryan Cotton moved to approve the \$750 dollar limitations mentioned. Nancy O'Neill supported, approved unanimously. Steve will report back.
 - Secondly, John Kinch will send us a link to the beta web site and passed out a copy of a draft community survey. Lots of ideas associated with the

opportunity to drive clicks on green energy, rebate opportunities, and home energy audits were made, for example. Suggestions were to also be more specific, especially related to wind and solar energy options/preferences, although there was no consensus.

10. **Community Solar Link:** It was suggested that each of the Sustainability and Energy Commission members could learn from signing up and getting a building energy label to display. For community solar, go to [Green Energy Program - Grand Haven Board of Light & Power \(ghblp.org\)](https://www.ghblp.org/). Works for commercial properties too. Share with your friends!
11. **DPW Solar Grant Opportunity:** John said he reported on this previously. Kinch's presentation on community solar. See: https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bcde0cdd/YMgJAeJ_bUuTnXOwoaDLlw?u=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1vK2URKzAQ
12. **Questions:** Steve Negen informed members about a book about how the energy crisis could be alleviated. He gave away his extra copies. Go to the Library, the web, or Steve to get: Brighter: Optimism, Progress, and the Future of Environmentalism by Adam Dorr. Ryan Cotton endorsed its recommendations starting on p. 213.
13. **New Business / Other:** All agreed on a Holland Field Trip. Ryan Cotton gave attendees people a summary agenda and promised more to follow...
14. **Call to Audience** - *Jim Hagen said the graphs that were shown here today would be great to use to populate the sites that exist. The group uniformly endorsed his idea.*

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.