

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fall 2021 Meeting

Thursday, November 18



WELCOME & INTRO OF NEW FACES

RECAP OF 2021 ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Eric Kopstain & Linda Breggin, SAC Co-Chairs

PROGRESS: 2021 CLIMATE MITIGATION ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Kendra Abkowitz, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Metro Nashville

SAC PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 294 individual strategies across 6 topics
 - Energy
 - Green buildings
 - Mobility
 - Natural resources
 - Waste reduction
 - Adaptation
- Consolidated into 40 narrative, bulleted policy focus and priority actions intended to highlight actions that will produce greatest carbon reductions
- Highlighted targets, equity, leadership initiatives, and lock-in effects to avoid for each subcommittee category
- Presented to Mayor Cooper in January 2021



CLIMATE AND ENERGY: WHAT'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED?

- *Lead By Example*: Established renewable energy portfolio standard for Metro government with phased requirements for Metro Nashville to use 100% renewable energy by 2041
 - Currently about 57.4% of energy used by Metro is sourced from carbon-free resources (until 2022)
- TVA, NES, Metro Government and Vanderbilt Green Invest project to build 120 MW utility-scale solar (expected to be operational in 2024)
- 570+ participants in TVA-NES Home Uplift program to date
- Implementation of Power of Change round up program, supporting Home Uplift program
- *Lead By Example*: Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award received by General Services for Pursuit of Excellence
- Education and Outreach
 - Sustainable in the City (UGL, Zero Waste Nashville) hosted 21 programs for 2558 registrants
 - Dirt on Composting, Recycle Right, and panel discussions (Zero Waste Nashville) engaged 600 attendees
 - Socket continued engagement via social media targeting Metro employees and citizens of Nashville
 - *Lead by Example*: MetroConnect (Human Resources and General Services) engaged 200+ participants in 13 tours



CLIMATE AND ENERGY: WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

- NES \$1 million Green Invest project
- TVA-NES-Goodwill Home Uplift contractor/job training partnership
- *Lead By Example*: TVA-NES-Metro Government exploration of behind-the-meter solar installations on Metro properties, including use of 5% flex where suitable
- TVA-NES-Nashville recurring sustainability meeting
- Mayor's Office attendance at NES board meetings
- *Lead By Example*: "Smart Streetlights" Pilot, Streetlight LED retrofits
- Community (and Metro) GHG emissions inventory update
- Exploring pros and cons of local adoption of PACE ordinances and identifying next steps for standing up PACE financing
- Early conversations regarding sustainability in hospitality industry
- Harnessing federal, state, and other dollars to support climate and energy action implementation



GREEN BUILDINGS: WHAT'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED?

- Adoption of 2018 International Energy Conservation Code
- Appointment of 2 new NES board members, both with experience in topics germane to energy, climate, sustainability, etc.
- *Lead By Example*: Development of strategic energy management plan and energy retrofit program aspiring to achieve at least 20% reductions in energy and GHG emissions in Metro government facilities
- *Lead By Example*: General Services construction of 28 LEED certified buildings since 2010; in the past three years, these high-performance buildings have avoided more than \$1.5 Million in energy costs and 22 million gallons of water
 - USGBC Impact TN Awards for Fire Station #37 and Metro Nashville Police Headquarters and Family Safety Center
- *Lead By Example*: Established the Energy Savings Revolving Fund to invest in energy efficient upgrades in poor energy performing Metro facilities; utility savings reinvested back into other Metro facilities



GREEN BUILDINGS: WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

- TVA-NES-Nashville recurring sustainability meeting
- Cooper Administration active participation in NES President & CEO search
- Mayor's Office attendance at NES board meetings
- Exploring feasibility and effectiveness of energy benchmarking and reporting programs
- Exploring pros and cons of local adoption of PACE ordinances and identifying next steps for standing up PACE financing
- TVA-NES-Goodwill Home Uplift contractor/job training partnership
- Harnessing federal, state, and other dollars to support energy and other building efficiency implementation
- General Services hiring new FTE – Sustainability Project Manager



MOBILITY: WHAT'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED?

- Establishment of fleet electrification program; all motor vehicles owned by Metro must be zero-emission by 2050.
 - General Services manages a total of 72 free electric vehicle charging ports in 25 locations. 56 of these ports, at 23 separate locations, are available for public use free of charge
 - Consolidated city fleet includes 11 electric Nissan LEAFs. Over half of Metros 3,600 vehicles are flex fuel, CNG, or electric.
- Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure created
- Over \$40 million funding awarded to NDOT for general transportation, mass transit, sidewalks, bikeways, greenways, complete streets, safety projects, etc. since the endorsement of the transportation plan



MOBILITY: WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

- NES community EV strategy development with Metro involvement
- NES fleet transitions to EVs
- *Lead By Example*: Metro fleets transition to EVs (approach to vary by agency)
 - MNPS/NDOT application for RAISE grant for school bus electrification master plan
- NDOT update of the 2017 WalknBike plan
- Metro Nashville Parks 2021 Electric Bike Greenway Access Survey
- Jefferson Street Cap Project (retooling)
- Potential EV rideshare pilot
- Potential grant funding of traffic management center
- Harnessing federal, state, and other dollars to support transit, mobility, and EV project implementation



WASTE REDUCTION: WHAT'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED?

- Mayor's Food Saver Challenge with 40 participants
- Waste management plans required from all commercial and multi-family residential projects valued at \$50,000+; 300 plans reviewed to date
- All events receiving a Special Event Permit are required to provide recycling; event organizers required to submit a waste management plan detailing how material will be collected for recycling, who the recycling hauler is and where the material will be recycled.
- Food waste drop-off containers at all four convenience centers; food waste diversion at the convenience centers has increased over 50% this year compared to last year
- Increased recycling education and the deployment of an online widget and app focused on contamination reduction resulted in Metro's curbside recycling contamination reducing 17% and saving money on recycling processing.
- Expansion of Nashville's monthly curbside recycling program to every other week starting in 2022



WASTE REDUCTION: WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

- Residential organics collection pilot
- *Lead By Example*: Composting procurement policy pilot with Metro projects
- *Lead By Example*: Upcoming legislation to require recycling for Metro construction and demolition projects
- Exploring consistent operational and pricing model for all commercial businesses
- Exploring strategies to incentivize commercial business use of aluminum in lieu of glass
- Creating long-term solid waste operations plan
- Harnessing federal, state, and other dollars to support waste reduction strategies



NATURAL RESOURCES: WHAT'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED?

- Additional of tree maintenance issues to the hubNashville
- 20,000 trees planted as part of Root Nashville program
- Home Buyout Program
 - • 419 homes removed and 217 acres greenspace created
 - • 19 homes recently acquired
 - • 38 homes in process
 - • \$8.6M just approved by Council for purchases
- 800-acre Ravenwood Regional Park
- 622-acre Mill Ridge Park



NATURAL RESOURCES: WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

- *Lead By Example:* Green infrastructure projects at Metro properties pre-LID stormwater regs (Harris-Hillman and Meigs)
- *Lead By Example:* Exploring approach for reviewing capital projects for other Metro departments to add green infrastructure
- *Lead By Example:* Plantings on 5 MNPS properties planned this season
- Proposed legislation to provide consistent revenue stream for Root Nashville program, which restores tree canopy
- 25-acre Wharf Park
- Updates to Urban Tree Canopy Assessment in process
- Right-of-Way Planting Plan development to be initiated next year
- Exploring opportunities to better market existing street tree inventory and benefits calculator
- Exploring enhancements to Tree Enhancement Program for Metro properties
- Building flood resiliency into East Bank development process
- Exploring more equitable stormwater fee structure
- Harnessing federal, state, and other dollars to support projects protecting and preserving natural resources

PLANNED SAC ACTIVITIES, LATE 2021 AND 2022

Eric Kopstain & Linda Breggin
Kendra Abkowitz

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SAC?

- Business community convenings
- Education and outreach activities
- SAC Projects (initial, more to come!)
 - Quarterly educational offerings on sustainability topics
 - Advisory panel for model public participation processes
 - Educational offerings on sustainability topics for youth and families
- Look for an email
 - Gauge your continued interest in serving on the SAC generally
 - Gauge your interest in volunteering to support one of the 3 initial special projects
 - Communicating SAC meeting dates for 2022

MAYOR'S OFFICE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Kendra Abkowitz

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON TAP FOR METRO

- Implementation of priority climate action plan recommendations
- Continued coordination with SAC
- Environmental indicators dashboard
- Electricity FAQs for Nashville
- Metro Nashville department sustainability and resilience roundtable
- NES relationship building
- Renewable energy exploration
- Fleet electrification and community EV infrastructure planning
- Zero Waste Plan implementation – food waste and C&D recycling
- Model public participation process

THANK YOU