

MINUTES



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
8:30 a.m.



Members/staff present: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Penny Delaney Cothran, John Epting, Gretchen Lambert, Zach Laprise, Bob Petrulis, Clint Shealy, Tameria Warren, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

Guests: Zach Greene and Lacey Shaver, RWI; Stacey Washington, SC Energy Office; Robert Gudeau, Larry Cook and Matt Kisner; University of SC, Priscilla Preston, Sierra Club.

Dr. Z. called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m., and invited guests to introduce themselves.

Minutes from the April meeting were presented. Gretchen Lambert made a motion that they be accepted as presented; Bob Petrulis seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Z. introduced Zach Green with WRI, who presented about Large-scale Renewable Procurement & Aggregation. ([Click here to access the presentation.](#)) Zach explained that there are three ways to achieve renewable goals:

1. Purchase unbundled Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) which function as offsets and don't bring any new electricity to the grid
2. Produce clean energy on-site, such as a solar farm at the Waste Water Treatment Plant
3. Purchase large-scale, off-site sources, an off-site power purchase agreement, which isn't available in Columbia, OR use green tariffs, a physical power purchase agreement (PPA) where the utility is involved as an intermediary.

He said that local governments, universities and corporations cannot efficiently purchase the renewable energy needed to meet their goals without a large, off-site transaction. The green tariff option can also decrease prices, create jobs and workforce development, positively impact public health and create economies of scale.

He then explained the RWI and RMI were coordinating a cohort that would help local governments join forces with other buyers to acquire large scale solar by sharing expenses, maximizing economies of scale and create a built-in peer network.

Zach and Lacey then answered questions about the cohort, in which Clint Shealy and Mary Pat Baldauf both plan to participate.

City Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy then updated the group about conversations with Dominion SC for large-scale solar installation. He has been inquiring weekly, but Dominion is still gathering data. He expects to hear something soon. He also mentioned looking into the legal possibility of the City requesting that Dominion to provide a certain percentage of renewables as part of the City's franchise agreement. There is talk of bringing other entities to the table, including Richland County, USC and other colleges and universities, but that won't happen until there is more meat on the bone.

Dr. Z. then called on Bob Petrulis and Tameria Warren to update the group on a June 17 "cooling event" webinar/ Bob reported that they're hoping to use both recorded and live presenters, address the needs of renters, promote the CPD's "Fan the Heat" program, feature a DIY project and to explain how energy efficiency is related to climate change. The event will be promoted with a flier and social media, and once those pieces are ready, Mary Pat will ask for the appointees' help in getting the word out to their audiences. Matt Kisner mentioned that he has a good working list of other organizations and that he would assist.

Next up, Gretchen Lambert provided an update on the idea of an energy labeling program. She, Dr. Z. and Stacey were on a recent call with Missouri, who has a real estate rating program. Missouri has a statewide law policy and they wondered if that could work in SC. Their plan is to engage realtors and perhaps establish a small pilot program in Columbia, perhaps a neighborhood or small group. They noted that a possible program was on the table for both renters and buyers, but that bill disclosures makes working with renters more difficult.

Mary Pat reported that she was registered for three cohorts:

- RWI's Large-scale Renewable Procurement & Aggregation Cohort
- RWI's EV Curbside Charging Cohort
- ICLEI's Sustainability Planning Cohort

She's also coordinating production and promotion of the June 17 cooling webinar, as well as working with Bob communications plan. Following up on an item discussed at the E&I meeting, she's also followed up with Anne Sinclair and stated CPAC's support for the possibility of the Columbia Housing Authority re-building sustainably.

Dr. Z. announced that Appointee Marty White had resigned, citing workload and inability to fully to participate. With that, there are seven non-voting appointee seats and one voting appointee seat available.

At 10 a.m., the appointees will meet with the advisory members; Mary Pat shared the link in case any guests wanted to join in. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Large-scale Renewable Procurement & Aggregation