

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 4/8/20, 9am - 11am

Remote Access Only



Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 9 - 11am

Remote Access Only

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Jennifer Light, Ryan Vanden Brink, Tori Heroux, Liz Hoekstra, Sasha Pollack, Kari Schlosshauer, Melissa Powers, David Heslam, Rick Hodges, Amanda Zuniga

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Lynch, Sara Mihm, Knowledge Murphy, Silvia Tanner (Office of Sustainability), Jae Douglas, Andrea Hamberg (Environmental Health)

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability** will:
 - Follow up with ACSI re: consideration of action on indirect sources of emissions
 - Share Climate Action Plan 2015 Progress Report draft when available
 - Identify opportunities for ACSI members to engage in community green tariff process

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Tori Heroux** shared that the Department of Environmental Quality voted against moving forward with consideration of the indirect source rule as petitioned. Multnomah County, as well as other local governments, had written a letter of support for the rule, which addressed indirect sources of air pollution like construction sites, railyards, warehouses, and distribution centers. Ryan Vanden Brink referenced a previous ACSI letter which said that if the EQC rejected the rule that the County should look into adopting a rule locally.
- **Jae Douglas** shared The County is monitoring reports from other cities on how the connection between COVID and air pollution may be affecting people in Multnomah County. Illness surveillance and response and containment of the epidemic is marshalling all of the Health Department's resources and attention. We currently do not have data for Multnomah County yet, but the prompt exists to see if morbidity associations are present locally. Will be meeting with leadership this week to address concerns over elevated levels of particulate matter, mostly due to wood burning and greater occurrence of air inversions. Currently relying on the state's data collection systems for more information. Currently responding to woodsmoke complaints on an individual basis. In conversation with the Office of Sustainability (who is in contact with a Commissioner about the issue) to address a strategy out of the Health Department to engage in the topic.
- **Andrea Hamberg** shared that Environmental Health is tracking local health data and looking at possible policy interventions. Looking forward to seasonal hazards and identifying how health affects may be different and how info communicated to the public may be different under COVID-19, as well as recommendations. Example: Heat event: Open cooling centers. What will this look like when we have to socially distance? How do we handle this when we don't have

natural cooling spaces available to us? Regarding healthy homes, looking into multiple periods of stay and shelter in place at the state/local level and how that will impact vulnerable people. 3 easy communications messages were developed around indoor air quality, trips and fall hazards, and about toxics exposure (lead paint, exposure to cleaning pollution).

- **Sasha Pollack** shared emerging data on the race and ethnicity of COVID patients and indicated the importance of how the intersections of health risks are at play and will share a dashboard that tracks this information.
- **Tim Lynch** described current thinking from Office of Sustainability around intersection between climate change and COVID-19, and how the County (and City) are thinking about new approaches to its climate work. Recognized that carbon emissions reductions are plateauing and not on track to meet long term goals, while at the same time need to focus on how the actions that we're taking to address carbon emissions are getting to the root of health/racial injustice. Recognizing new community leadership, how does government work connect the dots and lift up the work already taking place, like PCEF, to support work that is in the purview of the community. Exploring how to create a space that brings these pieces together, work of government and work of community.
- Staff are ready to move beyond our cloistered space to test ideas and assumptions around what the community wants to see with a new approach to climate governance, as well as working with City/County leadership to ensure they're on board with a new approach and committed to making sure it happens. Creating a durable governance structure that lives beyond any elected official and will advance climate justice in our community. The challenge has been to get down what a specific pathway may look like.
- **Sasha Pollak** commended Multnomah County to step into a leadership role to be forward thinking about this work and lead in a way that hadn't necessarily happened in the past.
- **Tim Lynch** noted that staff are still working on a progress report to the 2015 Climate Action Plan and will circulate a draft for ACSI members to review as soon as possible.
- **Silvia Tanner** introduced the concept of a community green tariff, a tool that will allow local governments to opt its businesses and community members into 100% renewable sources of electricity. It will allow local governments, like Multnomah County, to meet its local energy and emissions goals ahead of the statewide Renewable Portfolio Standard. Invited ACSI members to participate in these discussions, and will follow up when opportunities to do so arise.

COVID-19, CLIMATE, AND RESILIENCE

- **ACSI members and staff** discussed the intersections of the COVID-19 crises (health, social, economic) and the climate crisis. The recognition of the need to look beyond a return to normal. Noted risks of being seen as co-opting the current crisis to push forward on climate goals, but also recognizing that community members are eager to talk about a recovery from COVID-19 that addresses both.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN