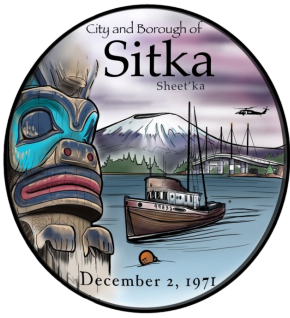


Appoint up to three Assembly Members to the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Team.






CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz & Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator 
Ron Vinson, Electric Utility Director 

Date: April 22, 2026

Subject: **Appoint an Assembly Member(s) to the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Team**

Background

As part of its first work plan in approved in March 2023, the Sustainability Commission proposed developing a community renewable energy strategy and recommended applying to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DoE) Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) for technical assistance. In late 2023, CBS was successfully selected as one of nine communities for the third cohort of ETIPP. After selection, the Sustainability Commission assisted City staff in scoping the technical assistance via a series of discussions and a public survey to guide engagement methods. The final scope was approved in February 2024.

The project was named the **Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)** and is intended to establish shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions by shaping a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision.

The technical assistance included:

- 1. A Community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory** to act as an energy baseline to support strategic planning, electricity demand projections, goal setting, and progress tracking. The Sustainability Commission provided significant guidance in the scoping of the inventory. Throughout 2024, Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) engineers created a custom inventory based on existing GHG inventory protocols as much as possible but created additional methods to capture the unique aspects of Sitka not normally included in community inventories. The Sustainability Commission advised throughout the development of the inventory and facilitated public input. **The final 2023 Sitka GHG Emissions Inventory was released in January 2026 and can be found at cityofsitka.com/GHG.**

- 2. Energy Education:** The Sustainability Commission identified energy education as a critical component necessary for community members to effectively participate in energy planning and strategy development. Based on results from the initial scoping survey, the Commission recommended eight educational modules be developed to provide information on Sitka's energy landscape while addressing topics of community interest and questions. **Currently, seven of the eight modules are available as webpages at cityofsitka.com/energy-education**, (Module 8: Sitka's Energy Future, will be created after the SCRES is complete). Additionally, a radio series connecting seemingly unrelated topics to Sitka's electric grid and webinar series covering the modules were also created, for both, recordings can also be found online at cityofsitka.com/SCRES-engagement.
- 3. Community Engagement** was also emphasized by the Commission and took many forms throughout the energy education module development but also through community workshops, which were held in 2025 to facilitate the creation of personalized visions and pathways to Sitka in 25 years. Using real data from Sitka's electric grid and needs and calculated through the GHG emissions inventory process, the exercise was formatted as a boardgame called *Energy Quest: Sitka's Path to 2050*. The purpose of this game was to help community members understand the complexity of energy planning as both a consumer and the electric utility. This then informed player's priorities of what can be electrified by when, and how additional demand can be met if needed. **Through this process, four guiding principles for Sitka's energy future emerged: affordability, reliability, self-sufficiency, and innovation.** The game and a detailed report of results from 12 workshops can be found online at cityofsitka.com/energy-quest.
- 4. Recommended actions and policies to advance Sitka's shared energy vision:** The final SCRES document will be a unique strategic plan that combines community and City actions that together will support an affordable, reliable, self-sufficient, and innovative energy future. The final strategic document is currently at a point where additional support is needed; see analysis section below.

Analysis

The technical team of PNNL engineers have identified a plethora of potential recommendations throughout the project. However, additional input is needed to fully adapt these recommendations for a community like Sitka. As essentially a strategic plan specific to the electric department, additional involvement from the utility's governing body (the Assembly) is requested to synthesize results from

previous engagement efforts and refine recommendations before releasing a draft list for further review. To facilitate this, a process similar to the development of the CBS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan is being followed, which involved up to three Assembly Members act as “core” team members. It should be noted that full Assembly involvement in the final strategy is intended to occur in the fall, along with additional opportunities for public involvement that are currently in development, like the upcoming [community energy planning workshop on May 11th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.](#) (flyer enclosed).

For the SCRES project, team members are expected to:

- Be involved on a more regular basis for the SCRES finalization process, with most of the work occurring over the next 3-4 months.
- Work with the Sustainability Coordinator and Electric Utility Director to align the technical team’s recommendations with the existing Comprehensive Plan and current CBS Strategic Plan.
- Collaborate with the Sustainability Commission to promote public and full Assembly engagement.

Recommendation

Appoint up to three Assembly Members to the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Team.

Encl:

Flyer for [SCRES Community Energy Planning Workshop](#), Monday, May 11th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.



A City and Borough of Sitka Project
**SITKA COMMUNITY
RENEWABLE ENERGY
STRATEGY**

SCRES

Join the Sustainability Commission,
energy engineers, and Spruce Root to

HELP MAKE SITKA'S ENERGY FUTURE

AFFORDABLE

RELIABLE

SELF-SUFFICIENT

INNOVATIVE

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING WORKSHOP

MAY 11TH 5:00-7:00 PM

HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL



cityofsitka.com/SCRES



QUESTIONS?

sustainability@cityofsitka.org

(907) 747-1856