

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
**SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION**
2023-2024 WORK PLAN

SUBMITTED FOR ASSEMBLY REVIEW ON MARCH 28th, 2023

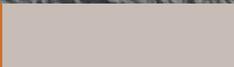
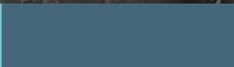


TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
-------------------	---

THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION	2
-------------------------------	---

Purpose, Duties, and Responsibilities	2
---------------------------------------	---

Members	3
---------	---

2023-2024 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT	4
---------------------------------	---

Priority Setting Process Outline	4
----------------------------------	---

Project Proposal Feedback and Qualitative Considerations	5
--	---

Selection of Priorities	6
-------------------------	---

ONGOING COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES	7
-------------------------------------	---

PRIORITIZED GOALS	8
-------------------	---

Develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy	8
---	---

Identify Opportunities for Solid Waste Reduction	9
--	---

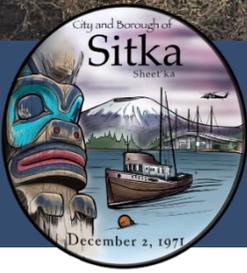
Create a Municipal Fleet Transition Plan & EV Infrastructure Plan	10
---	----

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Project Proposal Forms	11
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Appendix B: Public Survey Results	25
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CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainability Commission will act as an advisory body to the Assembly with the purpose of catalyzing and developing municipal and community-focused approaches that support the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the city. The commission will accomplish this by working towards the following actions described below:

1. Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.
2. Responsible use of natural resources.
3. Diminution of Sitka's supply-chain fragility.
4. Food security enhancement.
5. Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka's locally generated, renewable energy sources.
6. Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.
7. Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.
8. Other matters as the Assembly or Commission may deem beneficial for the City.



2023-2024 GOALS

1. DEVELOP A COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

SUPPORTS

A Community Renewable Energy Strategy will establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future. Components of the strategy could include but are not limited to refreshing the existing baseline assessment of community emissions; forecasting energy demands and identifying priority actions; recommending feasible renewable energy options for the city to pursue, and municipal policies for consideration to increase efficiency, such as electrifying heating and land/marine transportation.



2. ANALYZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

SUPPORTS

The current waste management contract is slated to be renewed in 2032. In order to ensure that Sitka's waste is managed sustainably, with lower costs and fewer resulting greenhouse gas emissions, this project will identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion and support the long-term sustainability of Sitka. Aligned with the 2014 Interim Solid Waste Management Report, this project seeks to conduct a baseline assessment of the composition of municipal solid waste.



3. CREATE A MUNICIPAL FLEET TRANSITION & EV INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

SUPPORTS

The City of Sitka has vowed to decarbonize city operations, which includes integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age. This plan will also help address questions, concerns, and logistics related to transitioning municipal vehicles and strengthen Sitka's ability to apply for federal EV charging infrastructure funds.





THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

PURPOSE

ORD. 2022-16S § 3

It is the intent of the Sustainability Commission to work towards catalyzing a healthy community now and in the future by proposing solutions to environmental, social, and economic concerns of the City and Borough of Sitka, its partners, and community members.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SGC 2.15.060

The commission will act as an advisory body to the Assembly with the purpose of catalyzing and developing municipal and community-focused approaches that support the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the city. The commission will accomplish this by working towards the following actions described below:

1. Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.
2. Responsible use of natural resources.
3. Diminution of Sitka’s supply-chain fragility.
4. Food security enhancement.
5. Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka’s locally generated, renewable energy sources.
6. Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.
7. Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.
8. Other matters as the Assembly or commission may deem beneficial for the city.



REPORTING

SGC 2.15.060

Annually, the commission will develop, identify, and present goals to the assembly for approval. The approved goals shall be the Commission’s primary focus for the following year. Concurrently with presenting goals to the Assembly, the commission will submit a report to the Assembly on progress towards the previous year’s goals and other activities which were approved and directed by the Assembly.



MEMBERSHIP

SGC 2.15.010

The commission is composed of seven members appointed by the assembly and, to the extent deemed advisable by the assembly and possible from the applicants, include at least one individual with background or training as a sustainability professional and at least one individual of Alaska Native heritage with understanding and appreciation of the historical importance of sustainability on Tlingit Aani. All voting members of the commission shall be at-large members and representative of a diverse cross-section of the community.

Name	About	TERM	
		Appoint.	Exp.
Katie Riley <i>Chair</i>	Born and raised in Sitka and graduated from MEHS in 2011, Katie works in policy and community development at the Sitka Conservation Society, fishes Bristol Bay in the summer, serves on the Planning Commission, and was a member of the Climate Action Task Force.	10/11/22	10/11/24
Angie Bowers <i>Vice Chair</i>	Angie has lived on Baranof Island since 2006 and is an Assistant Professor in Applied Fisheries at UAS, developing an intensive sustainable ocean farming training program. She enjoys spending time with her daughter and dogs on the water and in the woods.	10/11/22	10/11/23
Carol Voisin <i>Secretary</i>	A retired University Professor, Carol enjoys being an environmentalist, ethicist, and hiker. She volunteers at the White Elephant and serves on the Sitka Community Land Trust Board.	10/11/22	10/11/25
Elizabeth Bagley	Elizabeth works remotely for Project Drawdown, a climate solutions nonprofit. She uses her experience in education and science to work with community members to find win-win solutions that improve life for Sitkans and generations to come.	10/11/22	10/11/23
Kent Barkhau	Father, Forester, and Fisherman. Oh yes, and human, with all the complexity and limitations that come with that. Kent truly loves this place we live and wants to feel good about what we hand off to our children.	10/11/22	10/11/23
Aurora Taylor	Born and raised in Eagle River on Dena'ina Etnena, Aurora moved to Sitka in 2019 after getting her B.S. in environmental science. She works as a fishery biologist and enjoys feeding salmon scraps to her cat, Tundra.	10/11/22	10/11/25
Fernanda Zermoglio	Fernanda is a Senior Resilience and Climate Adaptation Advisor for USAID, where she works to integrate climate risks into development programs. When not deeply immersed in this task, she can be found anywhere outdoors with her boys!	10/11/22	10/11/24

ASSEMBLY LIAISONS

Kevin Mosher
Assembly Liaison

Thor Christianson
Alternate Assembly Liaison

STAFF LIAISON

Bri Gabel
Sustainability Coordinator

bri.gabel@cityofsitka.org
(907) 747-1856





2023-2024 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Sustainability Commission developed this work plan during their monthly meetings from January to March 2023 and outside meeting times individually or in informal working groups. Sustainability Coordinator, Bri Gabel, facilitated the process with support from Amy Ainslie, Planning and Community Development Director.

PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS OUTLINE

2023	TASK
 January 9	Commission Brainstorming
↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners and/or staff fill out project proposal forms Jan 24: Public survey opens
 February 7	Project Proposal Feedback From Commissioners
↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners and/or staff update project proposal forms City staff conducts feedback on project proposals Feb 28: Public survey closes
 March 7	Review of Public and City Feedback Selection of Priorities for Annual Work Plan
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work session to finalize work plan draft
 March 28	Chair and Vice Chair present priorities to Assembly

BRAINSTORMING & PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

At the January 9th meeting, commissioners brainstormed ideas and shared them with each other. Commissioners then identified ideas they might be interested in developing into potential projects. A collaborative approach to project proposals was encouraged and commissioners were given the opportunity to form groups of no more than three on ideas multiple members took interest in. Ideas that did not receive the indication of informal interest could still be developed individually.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FEEDBACK

A project proposal worksheet (Appendix A) was designed to help commissioners gather information necessary to communicate and build buy-in from other commission members, city staff, and the public. Commissioner feedback on project proposals was given during the February 7th meeting.

A city staff feedback rubric was also developed to provide insight from departments whose involvement may be required. The qualitative measures from the rubric have been incorporated into each project section. These scores were not meant to be used to rank or indicate endorsement of projects, but rather estimate the city's capacity to take on proposed projects if approved. City feedback was gathered via the Sustainability Coordinator and presented at the March 7th meeting.

Concurrently, an online public survey was conducted which asked the participants to pick up to five ideas that were brainstormed. Participants were then asked to rank those choices with one being the idea they would most like to see developed into a project. This survey ran from January 24th to February 28th and received 147 responses. Results can be found in Appendix B.

QUALITATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

To help commissioners and the Assembly understand the scope of work proposed in this work plan, the Sustainability Coordinator identified a series of qualitative considerations to deliberate.

Focus: Is the project limited to municipal operations or does it extend beyond and/or focus on the community? If limited to the municipality, does it improve an existing service already provided by CBS or does it extend beyond the current scope of service?

Fits Within the Existing Operational Budget:

No: The project does not fit within the current budget or would require adjustments to future/current budget. This will often apply if the project is a new service.

Somewhat: Parts of the project are supported by the current budget but may require additional support. This will often apply if the project is an improvement to an existing service.

Via Grants: The project is/can be supported via an external funding source. A funding source may have been identified in the proposal.

Yes: The project does not require any budget adjustments or grants and can be done with existing staff time. This will often apply to improvement to an existing service.

Intensity: To determine the level of effort needed from both the Sustainability Commission and city staff, both during and after the goals execution, goals were assigned an "intensity" score. These scores are estimates based on staff feedback and Commissioner discussion. The Sustainability Coordinator's time is not included as they will likely contribute the most time to each project and therefore skew the intensity. All goals proposed were chosen with the guiding principle that both the Sustainability Coordinator's time and identified city staff time must be available.

CBS Staff Intensity – During:

Low: 1-2 staff identified should be expect 3-5 hours a month answering questions.

Moderate: 1-5 staff identified should expect to spend 5-10 hours a month and may need to review and provide input at certain points.

High: 1-5 staff identified across various departments will need to attend regular meetings, provide frequent updates, input, and may expect to spend up to 5 hours per week on average on the project.

Substantial: In addition to the stipulations in *high* staff will have to spend more than 5 hours of time on average for the project to succeed.



CBS Staff Intensity – Post:

Low: Would make minimal/no changes to current workflow and/or time required by staff is minimal.

Moderate: Minor changes to workflow or some time required would be required to maintain.

High: Major changes to workflow and a significant amount of time would be required to be maintained, but current staff would be able to handle it.

Substantial: Would require new staff to be hired to maintain the project and/or would require dedicated staff time to maintain.

Commission Intensity:

Low: Could be done by commissioners individually working on it 1-2 hour per week. Would likely only need updates at regular meetings, or every other meeting.

Moderate: Could be done by up to three commissioners working 2-4 hours per week. May require informal work group sessions outside of regular meetings. May occasionally require time during regular meetings.

High: Could be done by up to three commissioners working 4-6 hours per week. Will require informal work group sessions outside of regular meetings and will take some time at regular meetings.

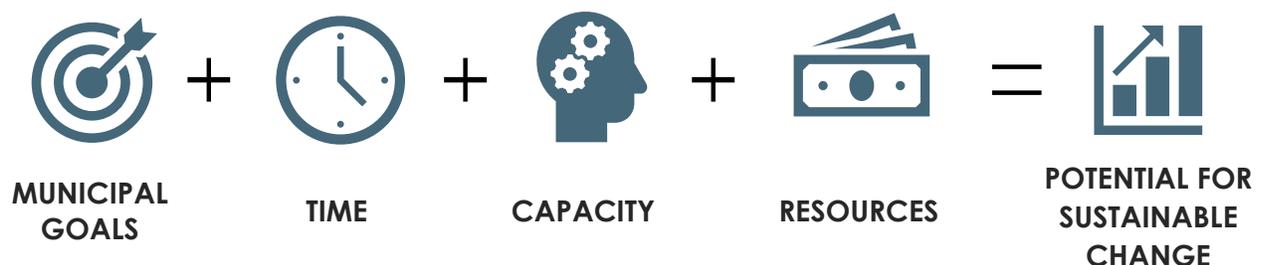
Substantial: Will require up to three commissioners working at least 4-6 hours per week. Will require informal work group sessions outside of regular meetings and significant time during regular meetings.

Timeframe: To ensure that projects had an achievable milestone within one year, Commissioners delineated a rough timeline of when certain milestones may be achieved. The timeline roughly illustrates the length the Commission anticipates executing prioritized projects throughout the remainder of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024.

SELECTION OF PRIORITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- More projects slow down speed and may reduce quality. Could make the Commission less efficient, lead to burn out, or work having to be redone.
- City staff with subject area expertise must have hours available to work on initiatives.
- The Sustainability Coordinator must have enough hours to track and coordinate all work plan initiatives in addition to their municipal duties.



The Equation for Sustainable Change: Commission prioritization was informed by balancing this equation in order to maximize the potential for success of the initiatives in the annual work plan.



VOTING PROCESS:

At the March 7th meeting, after reviewing public and staff feedback, Commissioners discussed each project proposal. Some projects were determined to be highly similar and should be combined to reduce the total number of projects proposed. Commissioners then anonymously ranked their own priority list. From the rankings of this list, the Commission decided what top projects could be accomplished with the available time, capacity, and resources. The top three projects were unanimously voted on to propose to the Assembly for approval.

RANKING:

Throughout the discussion, it became clear that the work required for each project would fluctuate. It was determined that projects should be pursued sequentially, with the highest prioritized project being the sole focus until there was a lull. At this point, the next project would begin. This would allow the Commission to maximize its efficiency as projects could be worked on semi-simultaneously as needed depending on the demand at any given time.



ONGOING COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the prioritized goals, the Sustainability Commission has ongoing responsibilities that will continue to enact throughout the year.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT

- Serve as a resource for city staff, other commissions, boards, committees, and task forces.
- As needed, review sustainability proposals and make recommendations during Sustainability Commission meetings.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Engage with community and serve as a liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals, and provide appropriate feedback.
- Cultivate relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, institutions of higher learning, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.





PRIORITIZED GOALS

1. DEVELOP A COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

SUPPORTS:



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

DESCRIPTION	This project is to develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy that charts the course for energy investments and community priorities for the City over the next 10 years and will establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future. Components of the strategy could include but are not limited to refreshing the existing baseline assessment of community emissions; forecasting energy demands and identifying priority actions, recommending energy efficiency and weatherization measures, and assessing feasible renewable energy options for the City to pursue, and municipal policies for consideration to increase efficiency, such as electrifying heating and land/marine transportation. The Sustainability Commission recommends applying to the 2023 Energy Transitions Initiatives Partnership Project (ETIPP) technical assistance program starting in May.			
INTENT	To shape a roadmap of community and policy action to achieve both sustainability and strategic goals.			
INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS	Planning, Electric, Public Works			
FOCUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Improves existing service	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Adds new service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community	
FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
PROJECT INTENSITY	Low	Moderate	High	Substantial
CBS STAFF	During	[Bar spanning Q2 2023, Q3 2023, and Q4 2023]		
	Post	[Bar spanning Q2 2023]		
COMMISSION	[Bar spanning Q2 2023, Q3 2023, and Q4 2023]			
TIMEFRAME	[Bar spanning Q2 2023]	[Bar spanning Q3 2023]	[Bar spanning Q4 2023]	[Bar spanning Q1 2024]
	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024



2.

ANALYZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

SUPPORTS:



Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

DESCRIPTION	The current waste management contract is slated to be renewed in 2032. In order to ensure that Sitkans' waste is managed sustainably, with lower costs and fewer resulting greenhouse gas emissions, this project will identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion and support the long-term sustainability of Sitka. Aligned with the <i>2014 Interim Solid Waste Management Report</i> , this project seeks to conduct a baseline assessment of the composition of municipal solid waste.			
INTENT	Identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion and support the long-term sustainability of Sitka by conducting a baseline assessment.			
INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS	Planning, Public Works			
FOCUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Improves existing service	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Adds new service	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	
FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> Via grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
PROJECT INTENSITY	Low	Moderate	High	Substantial
CBS STAFF	During	[Bar spanning Low to High]		
	Post	[Bar spanning Low to Moderate]		
COMMISSION	[Bar spanning Low to High]			
TIMEFRAME	[Bar spanning Q2 2023 to Q3 2023]	[Bar spanning Q3 2023 to Q4 2023]	[Bar spanning Q4 2023 to Q1 2024]	[Bar spanning Q1 2024 to Q2 2025]
	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024



3.

CREATE A MUNICIPAL FLEET TRANSITION & EV INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

SUPPORTS:



Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka's locally generated, renewable energy sources.



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

DESCRIPTION	The City of Sitka has vowed to decarbonize city operations, which includes integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age. While incorporating EVs or hybrids into the fleet, the city will need to address the question of how to charge these vehicles on municipal property, especially if fast charging is required. These learnings can be applied to create thoughtful planning that addresses site-specific needs for the installation of EV chargers for the public. This plan will also help address questions, concerns, and logistics related to transitioning municipal vehicles and strengthen Sitka's ability to apply for federal EV charging infrastructure funds.			
INTENT	The commission will work with city staff to develop a municipal fleet electrification plan that adjusts existing procurement and purchasing policies. This plan will assess and consolidate necessary information to install EV chargers on municipal property. This will lead to development of a broader EV charging infrastructure strategy to inform installation across Sitka.			
INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS	Planning, Electric, Public Works			
FOCUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Improves existing service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal - Adds new service	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	
FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> Via grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
PROJECT INTENSITY	Low	Moderate	High	Substantial
CBS STAFF	During	[Bar spanning Q2 2023, Q3 2023, Q4 2023, Q1 2024]		
	Post	[Bar spanning Q2 2023]		
COMMISSION	[Bar spanning Q2 2023, Q3 2023, Q4 2023, Q1 2024]			
TIMEFRAME	[Bar spanning Q2 2023]	[Bar spanning Q3 2023]	[Bar spanning Q4 2023]	[Bar spanning Q1 2024]
	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024





APPENDIX A:

Sustainability Commission Project Proposal

Develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy

YOUR INITIAL IDEA: *What result/outcome are you hoping for? Why should your project be prioritized by the Commission this year?*

This project will develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy that charts the course for energy investments and community action for the city over the next 10 years.

The 2021 ETIPP technical assistance documented the ability of our grid to accommodate intermittent distributed sources of energy, such as wind and solar, as well as projected demand growth that will exceed our firm hydropower capacity by 2030. Projections (2021 ETIPP) reflecting electrification of heating and vehicles show demand far exceeding our generating capacity of even high-water years (60-70% above our firm capacity of low-water years). Projecting growth in electric energy demand is subject to many variables and can be explored more deeply in the development of a Community Renewable Energy Strategy. As demand exceeds generating capacity, at first in low water years and subsequently in average and high-water years, new renewable generating capacity will be required before 2030 if Sitka is to avoid resorting to diesel fuel generation to supplement our hydropower. A diesel fuel requirement will increase electric utility cost in unpredictable ways because of the instability in fossil fuel markets and subverts our intent to lower our community carbon footprint. Although we have gained enormously from the first ETIPP grant, much remains to be done to fulfill sustainability goals. Specifically, Sitka needs a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory so that progress toward decarbonization can be measured. We need community involvement to plan a timeline for what renewable energy sources can be developed with possible federal subsidy. We also need to consider what municipal policies for the entire community can maximize conservation and efficiency to stretch our available renewable energy as far as possible as we build for future self-sufficiency.

1 Make it RELEVANT *What Sustainability Commission goal(s) does this priority help accomplish?*

- 1. Fossil fuel use reduction and development of local renewable energy resources.*
 - 2. Aligns with City Strategic Plan (2022-2027) Goal 1: To preserve the quality of life for all Sitkans and objective 1.3: Identify opportunities to relieve the burden of energy costs, while also meeting the city's sustainability ambitions.*
 - 3. Aligns with Section 2 of resolution 2022-18: "The city recognizes that the greatest opportunity to decarbonize rests with the broader community, which comprises the vast majority of the carbon emissions originating in Sitka, and City staff will look for opportunities to collaborate, incentivize, set policy and engage with local businesses, institutions, and residential and commercial developments to encourage similar decarbonization efforts in the private sector."*
-

2 Make it SPECIFIC *Specifics help clearly define what you want to do. Use action words such as facilitate, organize, develop, plan, study, etc.*

A Community Renewable Energy Strategy will establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future. The goal is to shape a roadmap of community and policy action to achieve both sustainability and strategic goals.

Components of the strategy could include but are not limited to: refreshing the existing baseline assessment of community emissions; forecasting energy demands and identifying priority actions; recommending feasible renewable energy options for the city to pursue, and municipal policies for consideration to increase efficiency (such as electrifying heating and land/marine transportation).

Public support for a Community Renewable Energy Strategy is critical and best developed through robust and continuous public involvement as a strategy is formulated.



3 Make it MEASURABLE *How will success be measured?*

What is the impact are you hoping to have?

A Community Renewable Energy Strategy with a 2022 emissions inventory will allow measurement toward goals to achieve energy independence by target dates, e.g. by 2030 and 2050.

A Community Renewable Energy Strategy will refine insights gained from the initial ETIPP assessment regarding additional renewable energy resources needed, feasible, fundable, and in what timeframe to meet the increasing demand for renewable electric energy as fossil fuel use is decreased and as our energy demands grow.

Well-researched municipal policy options to increase energy supplies, reduce emissions, increase efficiency and energy conservation. Such as up-to-date building codes (e.g. requiring electric heating and cooking in new construction, electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new congregate living buildings), incentivizing conversion of resistive electric heating to heat pump heating and hot water, facilitating businesses to obtain low interest loans (e.g. for a commercial property assessed clean energy program), and helping low income Sitkans to access financing for energy conservation measures and energy audits.

Public support of measures to leverage investment in new energy resources with federal or state grants; of policies that move the community toward decarbonization with the potential to ease the costs of living in Sitka and promote community health.

How will you know that you are having that impact? (indicators)

An updated 2022 emissions inventory.

Municipal endorsement of a Community Renewable Energy Strategy (a road map) reflected in seeking federal and state fiscal support. For example, funding potentially available from the bipartisan infrastructure act and Inflation Reduction Act which allows municipalities to apply for the equivalent of tax credits for renewable energy.

Audits or surveys conducted to establish possible efficiency gains in buildings, potential conversion to heat pumps, electric appliances, vehicles, and boats. Assembly ordinances and actions to encourage energy transition.

Robust discussion among stakeholders of options being considered by the Assembly through public town halls, ballot initiatives, and submission of comments.

Quantify your indicators. How will you measure your identified indicators? By how much?

The first two desired impacts are either accomplished or they are not. The impact of potential policy-related ordinances will be estimates of possible energy savings made in the plan itself. Public involvement in the development of a renewable energy strategy can be quantified by the number of public meetings, stakeholder consultations, and comments received, etc.

4 Make it ACHIEVABLE

Do you have the resources required to execute this project? If not, can you obtain them? Is the level of effort for this project on par with what achievement of the project will produce? How can this project be accomplished?

Current City staff lack the expertise and time to undertake the task of developing a detailed and comprehensive Community Renewable Energy Strategy. One pathway for the City to provide for such a plan would be to contract and pay for the capacity to complete an energy plan such as was recently done for the 2022-2027 Sitka Strategic Plan.

An alternate path, one that has many advantages, is to apply for a second grant from the Energy Transition Initiative Partner Program (ETIPP). Some of the advantages include;

- The ETIPP alternative would provide dramatic cost savings to the city.*
- More flexibility than a private sector contract.*
- Depth of technical specialty renewable energy planning.*
- The timing of the next ETIPP application period allows for quickly getting to work. Plan drafting and public engagement could begin relatively quickly (avoiding lengthy city budgetary allocation and contract procurement efforts).*



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Develop a Community Energy Strategy

- Synergy and efficiency potential resulting from NREL’s deep familiarity with Sitka’s energy “landscape” after having done the first ETIPP grant.
- Technical experts from the National renewable Energy Labs can help tailor a plan to promote competitiveness in grant applications.

There are other potential pathways not under City control where an entity other than the City and Borough of Sitka leads the effort to develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy, such as the Sitka Tribe of Alaska or a local nonprofit group. These options are not explored here.

Identify your stakeholders

Name	What is their role/capability/time commitment?
Sustainability Commission	Assist municipal staff to prepare either an ETIPP grant application or a contract request for proposal. The commissioners do not have the expertise to develop the Community Renewable Energy Strategy, but they could assist technical advisors or contractors to convene public participation for input and secure letters of support from the community.
Sustainability Coordinator	The coordinator has an oversight role in coordinating both efforts of the Sustainability Commission and municipal departments with expertise in developing a Community Renewable Energy Strategy. The Community Renewable Energy Strategy envisioned is a significant task and would require technical assistance with the required capacities. In either case the Sustainability Coordinator would be the lead City contact in the strategy development.
City Departments	In the event of an Assembly authorization for contracting a Community Renewable Energy Strategy, the Sustainability Coordinator would lead the Request for Proposals, evaluating responses, and administering any contract entered. The coordinator would also represent the project before the Assembly in terms of setting budget priorities and authorizing expenditures.
City Departments	A Community Renewable Energy Strategy will affect many departments. These include the Electric Department, which administers energy infrastructure, the Planning Department, which oversees housing development and land use, the Public Works Department, the Finance Department that might have to weigh in on incentives and policy costs, the Health Needs and Social Service Department to oversee implications for environmental justice, etc. Our Electric Department would likely be most impacted in the development of a grant proposal or contract, but other departments would need to have input into the development of the strategy.
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	As a parallel governmental structure to the City and Borough of Sitka government, the STA has an interest in the development of energy resources. In addition, the Tribe has access to unique resources provided in energy efficiency and the energy transition available to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Some of these resources are available for weatherization and electrification of low-income houses and transportation, which might impact electric load in Sitka. Collaboration between Sitka’s two governmental entities can only strengthen our ability to obtain federal assistance in developing a Community Renewable Energy Strategy paying special attention to issues of cultural and environmental justice.

Estimate financial commitment

Notes:

Initial Costs	\$ Staff resources	For an ETIPP application the initial cost would be limited to staff time in preparing a proposal in response to an open application period that is anticipated in February. This is considerable and would likely require reprioritization of efforts within the planning and electric departments. This application would have to be completed within a short time between when an application was authorized, and the closing of the application period
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APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Develop a Community Energy Strategy

<p>Future Costs</p>	<p>\$ >200,000</p>	<p><i>(likely mid-April to May). This poses some challenges but also limits the costs in staff time.</i></p> <p><i>In calculating the initial costs for the contracting option (to the point of having a signed contract), staff time estimates would have to allow for the preparation of a request for proposal, an evaluation of responsiveness, and then all procurement requirements. However, before work could begin on a RFP an estimated contract cost would need to be generated and authorization secured through Assembly budget deliberation.</i></p> <p><i>We anticipate the staff time required (costs) to administer either a partnership with NREL in an ETIPP grant or a contract with private industry to be similar. The difference lies in that we pay nothing for the technical assistance through ETIPP for developing an energy plan and we pay the full price of a contract. The estimated value of the technical assistance provided in the first ETIPP grant was \$200,000, this might be a figure to use for roughly estimating a cost of contracting.</i></p> <p><i>The costs that might be incurred from implementing recommendations from a Community Renewable Energy Strategy are not known. However, failure to plan for and invest in additional renewable energy sources will have profound effects on costs of electric utilities if the Electric Department must resort to diesel generation to supplement hydropower should it be insufficient.</i></p>
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Other Necessary Resources

Name/Item	Rationale/Method of procurement/other important information
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5 Make it TIME-BOUND

A commitment to a deadline helps focus efforts on completion of the project within one year. A timely project will usually answer the question: When? What can I do 6 months from now? What can I do 6 weeks from now? What can I do today?

Timeframe	Action Step/Milestone
1 Month	<i>Review and take stock of relevant resources and other energy strategies to inform the new application.</i>
March 28, 2023	<i>Assembly decision on potential ETIPP application</i>
3 Months	<i>Prepare application or request for proposals</i>
	<i>Work with the coordinator and key stakeholders to define the details and parameters of either the grant application or a contract.</i>
6 Months+	<i>Although this is dependent on the scoping results, potential actions could include: conducting audits/surveys to assess gaps that need to be addressed; identification of policies for motivating community emissions reductions; construction of feasible roadmap with projects scheduled in time to meet strategic goals.</i>

Your Project Pitch:

Suggested format: (I or accountable party) will (action word/s) (object of the priority) by (time) for the purpose of (relevance/results).



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Develop a Community Energy Strategy

This project is to develop a Community Renewable Energy Strategy that charts the course for energy investments and community action for the city over the next 10 years. Having the vision and roadmap positions us to compete strongly for federal and state money intended to support energy conservation efforts and renewable energy projects.

The city's latest electric demand forecasts show a growth in demand that will reach the firm power capacity of our hydroelectric assets soon. This is true even without a focus on decarbonization that is necessary to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions. Growth projections that estimate growth in demand associated with the electrification of heating and land transportation far exceed what we can provide. At current growth rates, without a focus or incentives for decarbonization, the anticipated load growth will exceed firm capacity in the very near future. The community of Sitka needs to define its energy future, consider sustainability and decarbonization goals, further evaluate feasibility, identify funding opportunities, and begin taking critical steps towards building the future we want.

OBSTACLES AND MITIGATION

What is the biggest challenge preventing you from achieving this goal?

The biggest obstacle to creating a Community Renewable Energy Strategy would be the failure to secure a grant for the technical assistance to develop the renewable energy strategy and fail in the alternative to authorize and contract for one.

Overextension of city staff.

Ambition to develop a significantly detailed GHG inventory not aligned with needs of the strategy.

What actions can you take to reduce or remove that challenge?

To have the best chance of having a successful ETIPP grant proposal, the Commission, Sustainability Coordinator, and Electric Department need the earliest decision that proposal preparation is a priority. If an application for the ETIPP grant is decided against or an application is unsuccessful, effort would then need to be applied to gaining authorization to pursue contracting for a plan.

Overextension can be addressed in part by reprioritizing the expectations of the Sustainability Coordinator and the staff supporting her. The Sustainability Coordinator will need to be supported by being temporarily relieved of other responsibilities while they work to complete an ETIPP application proposal in a compressed time frame following a potential Assembly authorization to do so in late March. Alternatively, if the contracting option is chosen, a similar prioritization for this task should be given to the city staff and the coordinator. Obtaining strong support from the Sustainability Commission and Electric Department will be critical.

There are many approaches to develop GHG emissions inventories, some of which can be quite extensive both technically and in terms of time commitments. However, the approach that is recommended in this proposal is a fit for purpose GHG inventory that would identify the relative emissions of critical community and city sectors to define potential entry points for GHG reduction across these major sectors. Furthermore, putting in place a replicable and updatable process for city staff with support from the Sustainability commission to periodically update this inventory should be a priority.

What resources are most critical to this project? Is it possible to change scope and/or scale if necessary?

The most critical resource is staff and commissioner time to prepare a proposal for a Community Renewable Energy Strategy. If this is not feasible, their time will still be needed to identify the resources needed to secure progress toward building a Community Renewable Energy Strategy that will guide decisions by the Assembly in providing a renewable energy future while preserving cost of living in Sitka.



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Develop a Community Energy Strategy

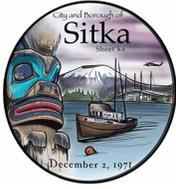
What are potential financial or other tangible benefits that may be realized if this project is prioritized?

- *A renewable energy strategy initiated in the next year will provide the direction and vision for targeted proposals for renewable energy sources that are likely to be supported by the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act. An energy strategy can also support conservation and efficiency measures, also supported by those two pieces of federal legislation, that can extend what our hydropower can support and lower the cost of living in Sitka.*

Is there any other information that is important when considering this project?

- *It is the considered opinion of this Commission that applying for the 2023 round of ETIPP assistance is the current best option and a great opportunity for our community.*
- *If a grant proposal is not successful this year, the preparation will strengthen Sitka's position to apply to other sources of funding, such that the time invested in proposal development will not be wasted.*
- *Staff and some commissioners have been told by the Alaska local partner of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the Renewable Energy Alaska Project staff, that federal technical staff for the previous ETIPP project enjoyed working with the municipal utility and felt that Sitka served as a good model for similar communities. The implication was that a proposal for a Community Renewable Energy Strategy through a new ETIPP grant would be well-received. This encouragement makes the investment of staff and commissioner time worth making, since the technical expertise and timeliness are hard to come by otherwise without considerable expense and difficulty in specifying the contractual expectations. Our previous experience is that the grantee and the national laboratories spend the first months narrowing the scope of the grant proposal requests. This exercise would help Sitka understand what remains to be defined in their future, while allowing the city to best obtain the resources needed for our future security and sustainability.*
- *Better defining our community decarbonization goals will help us build a clear path to achieving these targets in a timely way. We aim to learn from the experience of a growing list of communities across the US that have identified decarbonization targets aligned with the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degree Celsius. For Sitka to develop similarly aligned goals, would seem to be called for given our recognition by resolution of the climate emergency and the call for zero municipal emissions by 2030.*





APPENDIX A:

Sustainability Commission Project Proposal

Analyze Opportunities for Diversion of Municipal Solid Waste

The WHY: The City and Borough of Sitka pays to barge solid waste to Washington state resulting in increased greenhouse gas emissions, high utility costs, and potential pollution.

The current waste management contract is slated to be renewed in the coming years. In order to ensure that Sitkans' waste is managed sustainably, with lower costs and fewer greenhouse gas emissions, this project will identify policy levers and actions to increase waste diversion and support the long-term sustainability of Sitka.

How might we promote initiatives to encourage transforming our burden of trash management to treasure? How might trash be seen as a valuable resource that can be used in Sitka to improve our quality of life?

1 Make it RELEVANT

What Sustainability Commission goal(s) does this priority help accomplish?

1. To explore the range of solid waste diversion options that are feasible in Sitka's context
2. City Strategic Plan Goal 1.3: Identify opportunities to relieve the burden of utility costs

2 Make it SPECIFIC

Specifics help clearly define what you want to do. Use action words such as facilitate, organize, develop, plan, study, etc.

Explore policy levers for waste diversion that support the long-term sustainability of Sitka.

This project will reflect on the lessons and insights gained from the 2014 Interim Solid Waste Management Report, engaging with City staff and community members, while considering advancements in technology in waste management, to develop an options analysis for increasing waste diversion by a specific percentage (to be determined) from a 2022 baseline.

Aligned with the 2014 Interim Solid Waste Management Report, this project seeks to conduct a baseline assessment of the composition of the City's waste in order to identify levers for change at the upstream and downstream



3 Make it MEASURABLE *How will success be measured?*

What is the impact are you hoping to have?	How will you know that you are having that impact? (indicators)
<p>Aligns with SP (Affordability/Quality of Life)</p> <p>Stimulate economic opportunities and innovation related to recycling.</p> <p>Building awareness of the consumer responsibility for their consumption and waste creation</p> <p>Promote waste champions to divert waste, sparking innovation</p> <p>Reduce recycling contamination and costs</p> <p>Improved education on recycling best practices for City residents</p>	<p>Number of participants in the challenge</p>

Quantify your indicators. *How will you measure your identified indicators? By how much?*

Improvement from the baseline

4 Make it ACHIEVABLE *Do you have the resources required to execute this project? If not, can you obtain them? Is the level of effort for this project on par with what achievement of the project will produce? How can this project be accomplished?*

Identify your stakeholders

Name	What is their role/capability/time commitment?
Sustainability Commission	Lead analysis
Waste Management	Contribute data and knowledge
City staff	Contribute data and knowledge
Community	Contribute data and knowledge
Large waste generators (e.g., list in 2014 report)	



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Analyze Opportunities for Diversion of Municipal Solid Waste

Estimate financial commitment

Notes:

Initial Costs	\$
Future Costs	\$

5 Make it TIME-BOUND *A commitment to a deadline helps focus efforts on completion of the project within one year. A timely project will usually answer the question: When? What can I do 6 months from now? What can I do 6 weeks from now? What can I do today?*

Timeframe	Action Step/Milestone
Today	Outline critical questions to explore in waste diversion, building off the findings of the 2014 report.
6 weeks from now	Work with waste management entities to delineate and quantify the composition of the city's waste.
6 months from now	Identify viable waste diversion strategies for households and businesses
One year from now	Propose policy levers

Your Project Pitch: *Suggested format: (I or accountable party) will (action word/s) (object of the priority) by (time) for the purpose of (relevance/results).*

The working group of commissioners will analyze the City's current waste loads and identify opportunities to increase waste diversion through innovative priority actions and policy levers in order to reduce waste loads and their resultant greenhouse gas emissions and associated pollution.

OBSTACLES AND MITIGATION

What is the biggest challenge preventing you from achieving this goal?	What actions can you take to reduce or remove that challenge?
Limited awareness of waste diversion options by the community	Develop an awareness raising campaign that identifies the benefits of and opportunities for waste diversion at all scales
Businesses unwilling to engage in strategies to divert waste	Work hand in hand with commercial entities to identify viable alternatives for waste diversion



What are potential financial or other tangible benefits that may be realized if this project is prioritized?

Alignment with the City's Strategic Plan Goal 1.3. Potential to reduce shipped waste loads translating into cost savings for the City.

Is there any other information that is important when considering this project?

Learning from other successes:

- [San Francisco](#)
- [Santa Barbara](#)
- [City and Borough Strategic Plan](#)





APPENDIX A

Sustainability Commission

Project Proposal

Create a Municipal Fleet Transition & EV Infrastructure Plan

YOUR INITIAL IDEA:

What result/outcome are you hoping for? Why should your project be prioritized by the Commission this year?

The City of Sitka should implement a Municipal Fleet Electrification/Hybridization Policy aimed at integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age. This policy will accomplish 3 goals: 1) fulfill the intent to decarbonize municipal operations, specifically transportation, as outlined in Resolution 2022-18: [Municipal Operations Decarbonization Resolution](#); 2) reduce the long-term operating and maintenance costs of the current gas and diesel powered municipal fleet, contributing to cost savings; 3) help the city align with its own goals stated in the Ordinance 2022-16S: [Sustainability Commission Establishing Ordinance](#) while also serving as an example for the rest of the community, while troubleshooting issues that may arise as the community seeks to install EV charging infrastructure and increase EV adoption by the citizenry. This policy should be prioritized this year because once a vehicle is purchased, it can last up to 10 years. If the city seeks to fulfill their decarbonization goals by 2030, immediate integration of EVs and hybrids into the purchasing schedule is necessary.

1 Make it RELEVANT

What Sustainability Commission goal(s) does this this priority help accomplish?

1.SC goal: Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources;

2.SC goal: Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka’s locally-generated, renewable energy sources

3. CBS Strategic Plan Goal 3: Align resources and financial and economic policies for a sustainable community and Goal 4.2: develop asset management plans for future capital investments

2 Make it SPECIFIC

Specifics help clearly define what you want to do. Use action words such as facilitate, organize, develop, plan, study, etc.

The Sustainability Commission will develop a sample fleet electrification policy that is suitable for the City of Sitka’s needs. This plan will seek to adjust procurement and purchasing policy to curtail the City’s ability to purchase fossil-fueled vehicles for its internal operations, especially where a suitable alternative exists (such as light-duty vehicles). The Commission will gather information for how similar policies have been implemented in communities across Alaska and the United States, determine cost-benefits and savings, and assess what kind of EV charging infrastructure is needed to accommodate this transition. We will facilitate a plan for implementation between the Finance Department, Public Works, and the Electric department to accomplish this goal.

3 Make it MEASURABLE

How will success be measured?

What is the impact are you hoping to have?

- a) Reduction in municipal GHG emissions due to replacing gas/diesel-powered with electric or hybrid alternative
- b) cost savings for the community and keeping funds circulating in local economy
- c) discern challenges / opportunities with installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure elsewhere in the community

How will you know that you are having that impact? (indicators)

- a) will be accounted for in GHG emissions inventory report
- b) cost-savings analysis and comparison with gas/diesel vehicles; increase in income generated by using municipal electricity
- c) by installing their own charging infrastructure for their own EVs/hybrids, the city will necessarily have to figure out the answer to questions like



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Create a Municipal Fleet Transition & EV Infrastructure Plan

d) increase opportunity for community partners to install charging infrastructure through leading by example

location suitability, demand charges, how to balance charging with peak demand, etc
 d) through answering the questions above, the city will be able to help others install EV charging infrastructure and set up other entities to be able to resell power

Quantify your indicators. *How will you measure your identified indicators? By how much?*

The first two indicators are quantitative metrics measured through reduction in municipal GHG emissions as fleet is transitioned; and costs saved and monies kept in local community rather than leaving community as when gas is purchased (conveyed through annual financial report). The third and fourth metrics are qualitative, in that the city will have to problem-solve to address challenges that arise with fleet electrification, and then will be able to pass along this information to other entities seeking to install charging infrastructure or convert their fleets. By problem-solving the challenges associated with installing charging infrastructure, the city will enable other entities to install similar infrastructure and be able to resell municipal power to other customers.

4 Make it ACHIEVABLE

Do you have the resources required to execute this project? If not, can you obtain them? Is the level of effort for this project on par with what achievement of the project will produce? How can this project be accomplished?

Identify your stakeholders

Name	What is their role/capability/time commitment?
Sustainability Commission	Research and write fleet electrification policy. Has contacts with other municipalities that have implemented this policy. Time commitment would be approximately ~3 months work (through meetings with departments, public, writing policy, etc). Approx ~30 hours total
Sustainability Coordinator	Sustainability Coordinator would work with other city departments to get feedback and troubleshoot proposed policy so that the final ordinance has been workshopped by city staff. Estimated ~40 hours. Bulk of implementation will rest with other departments.
Finance Department	Finance department provides insight into current procurement/purchasing policies. Minimal time commitment. Would be responsible for follow up items of assessing and reporting on cost savings / fund reallocation.
Electric Department	Electric department would need to identify which city buildings are capable of hosting chargers, what kind of chargers needed, balancing how charging interacts with peak electric demand, figuring out how to address demand charges and avoid energy spikes, balancing load and generation capacity. Expected larger time commitment up front that will lead to system optimization over time.
Public Works Department	Public Works is currently responsible for the municipal fleet. They would need to assess time/resources associated with maintaining electric vehicles, needs of new fleet, consider retraining staff to be able to service electric vehicles, etc

Estimate financial commitment

Notes:

Initial Costs	\$ 0.0	Costs cannot be accurately projected as initial costs are minimal, mainly staff time. Chargers may need to be purchased and installed with the first purchase of an electric vehicle (averaging \$2k-\$30k, depending on the charger). Over time, costs will increase as new electric/hybrid vehicles are purchased. This cost will be comparable or less than the cost of new gas/diesel vehicles that would otherwise be purchased.
Future Costs	\$ high	



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Create a Municipal Fleet Transition & EV Infrastructure Plan

Other Necessary Resources

Name/Item	Rationale/Method of procurement/other important information
Current fleet replacement schedule / vehicle procurement policy information on electric load capacity of city buildings & suitability for EV charging data on vehicle usage: mileage per day	a) Internal city document that is needed to inform implementation schedule; gain insight on which vehicles have a suitable EV/Hybrid alternative available and which do not b) will provide insight into where EV charging of municipal vehicles is able to happen, how long it will take, where installation of infrastructure is most cost effective, etc c) will assist with the life-cycle analysis of EV/hybrid procurement and charging information

5 Make it TIME-BOUND

A commitment to a deadline helps focus efforts on completion of the project within one year. A timely project will usually answer the question: When? What can I do 6 months from now? What can I do 6 weeks from now? What can I do today?

Timeframe	Action Step/Milestone
March 2023	SC could select municipal fleet conversion as a priority
March - June 2023	SC drafts policy with city feedback
October 2023 - January 2024	City drafts fiscal notes, works to implement procurement/purchasing policy ahead of new FY2025, includes budgeting for any new vehicle purchase in budget for FY2025
January - May 2024	Budget discussions and analysis at assembly level

Your Project Pitch:

Suggested format: (I or accountable party) will (action word/s) (object of the priority) by (time) for the purpose of (relevance/results).

The City of Sitka should implement a Municipal Fleet Electrification/Hybridization Policy aimed at integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into the municipal purchasing and procurement schedule as gas/diesel-powered vehicles reach their maximum mileage or age. This will result in significant cost-savings for the city, keep money circulating in the local economy, and fulfill the city’s stated goals to decarbonize municipal transportation by 2030.

OBSTACLES AND MITIGATION

What is the biggest challenge preventing you from achieving this goal?

What actions can you take to reduce or remove that challenge?



APPENDIX A: Project Proposal: Create a Municipal Fleet Transition & EV Infrastructure Plan

- a) behavioral/cultural resistance towards EVs
- b) lack of motivation within municipality to effect changes proposed
- c) increasing ability of municipal buildings/central garage/other vehicle depots to provide suitable charging infrastructure and get training to service these vehicles
- d) funding
- e) lack of suitable EV/hybrid alternatives for some vehicle/equipment needs

- a) behavioral/cultural resistance is weakening as wide variety of market alternatives come online; policy set at the top will help reduce opposition at the employee level
- b) policy set by the assembly and the administrator will reduce resistance at operational levels
- c) with wide range of EVs available now, can work with car manufacturers to negotiate retraining of municipal staff; Electric department is also working on load management and increasing transmission line capacity and this will dovetail with supporting municipal buildings to install charging infrastructure
- d) More funding available for these types of conversions now than ever before; requires long-term view of fiscal responsibility as life cycle savings on EVs/hybrids will likely be more beneficial than gas vehicles
- e) advances in technology are happening quickly and market alternatives for most heavy equipment, police vehicles, fire trucks, garbage trucks are available now, with other municipalities providing proof of concept. Sitka is not a 'test' community for these vehicles, but there is the chance that we employ use of some vehicles that are currently unable to be transitioned. Flexibility must be adapted into procurement schedule to account for these difficulties

What resources are most critical to this project? Is it possible to change scope and/or scale if necessary?

The will of city departments to implement this change. The scope and scale of the change is gradual, seeking to adopt technology that is already proven and available at competitive market rates. As heavy equipment is decarbonized and electrified, the city can continue to acquire this machinery, but the target of this initial effort is specifically light-duty vehicles.

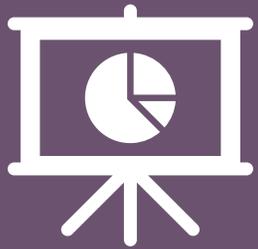
What are potential financial or other tangible benefits that may be realized if this project is prioritized?

- *Instead of purchasing fossil fuels and having that money leave the community, financial benefits will keep circulating in the local economy with the municipal fleet powered by municipally-owned electricity.*
- *Public health will benefit as GHG emissions are reduced, and toxins from idling are curtailed.*
- *Opportunity to increase EV uptake from other entities as the city will be able to inform how other businesses/orgs install charging infrastructure (thus increasing income to municipal utility).*
- *Good example of showing 'skin in the game' that will strengthen CBS position in applying for other sustainability funds*
- *Relatively easy and low impact activity; EVs are already very popular in Sitka and are widely available, and municipality is required to replace their existing vehicles after a certain mileage/age*

Is there any other information that is important when considering this project?

- Many municipalities in Alaska and across the US have already undertaken this initiative and there is a large existing body of expertise to draw upon
- The city already has funds budgeted for vehicle replacement
- The commission is able to do research and outreach that will address the pressing and relevant questions of the public works department, which will be responsible for maintaining this fleet





APPENDIX B: PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY

METHODOLOGY



ONLINE SURVEY

Participants were asked:

- Their residency: full-time, seasonal, or not a resident
- To pick up to five items off the January brainstorm list
- Rank those items from highest to lowest priority
- Optionally provide any other thoughts to the Commission



TIMEFRAME

January 24th - February 28th , 2023

LIMITATIONS

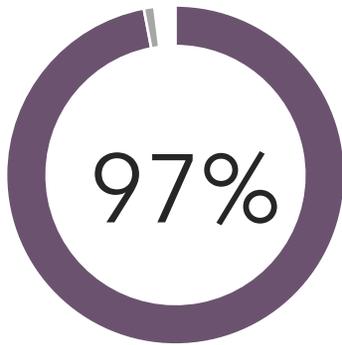
- The options for the public to choose from were brainstormed ideas, not projects that were subsequently developed by Commissioners. This means that high public support, or lack thereof, does not directly indicate the level of support for a proposed project. However, it may indicate areas Commissioners should consider developing projects for in the future.
- The survey was designed to take less than 3 minutes to complete and window of collection was quite narrow.
- This survey was self-selected and no demographic data was collected beyond participant residency. The diversity and community representation in this sample is unknown and may not reflect the opinion of the entire community.



PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

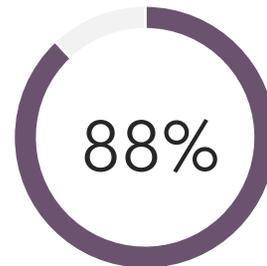
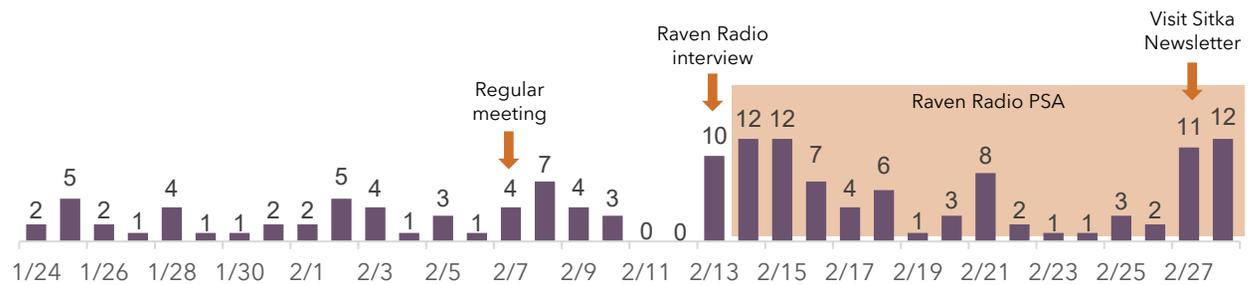
DATA TRENDS Responses Over Time

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE n = 147



were full-time residents

1% were seasonal residents
2% preferred not to answer



of participants completed the survey



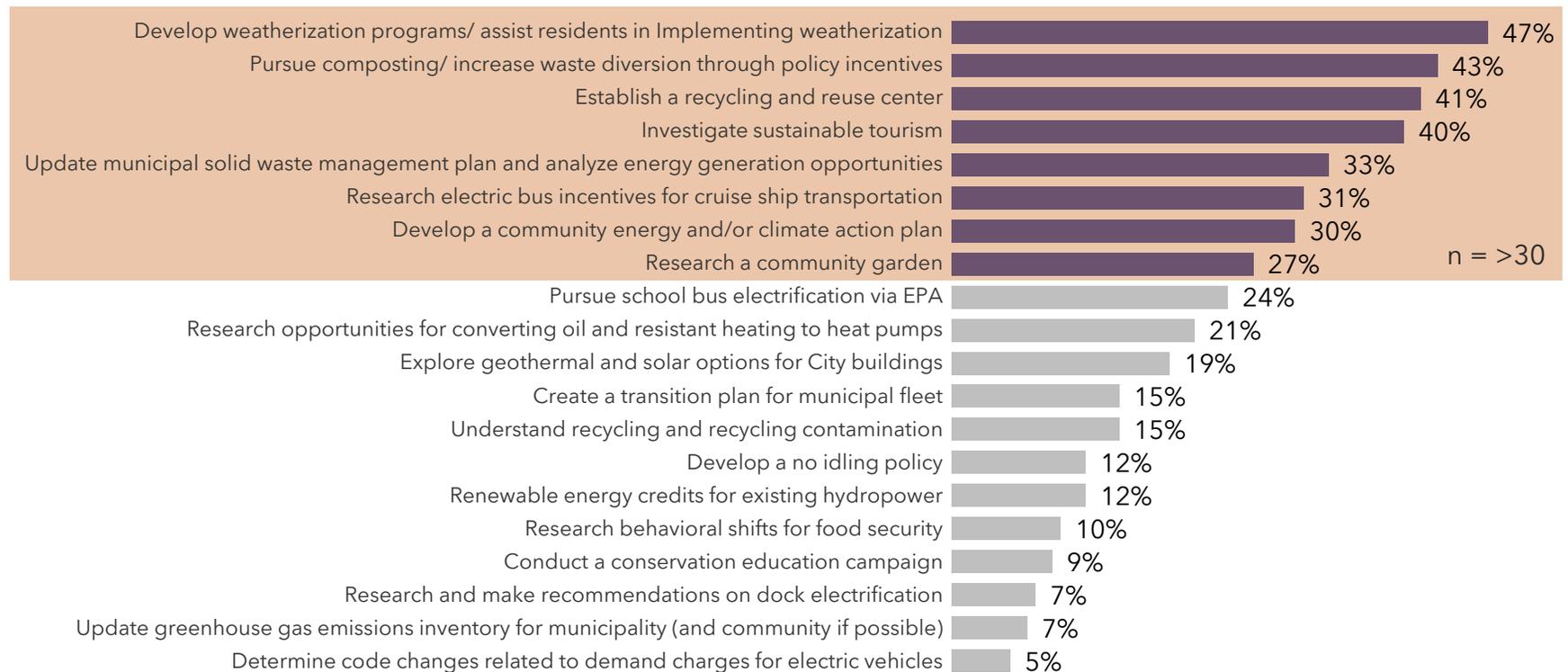
was the typical time participants spent taking the survey



FREQUENCY OF IDEA SELECTION

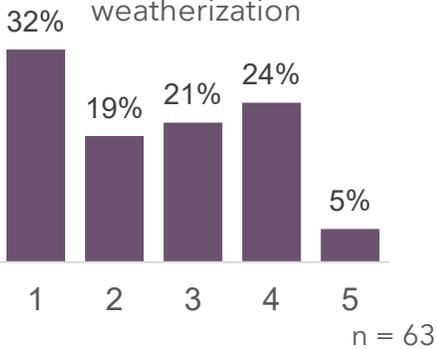
n = 135

- Results that received more than 30 votes can be considered “statistically significant”.
- The top 9 ideas received more than 30 votes and can be analyzed in more detail to determine if there was some level of consensus in responses.

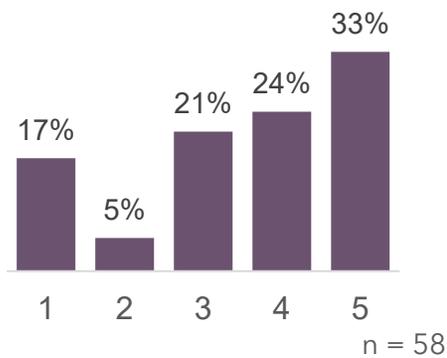


PRIORITY RANKING

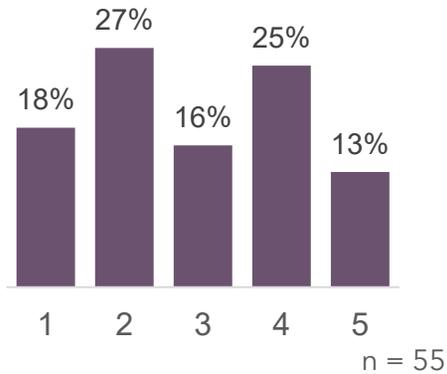
Develop weatherization programs/ assist residents in Implementing weatherization



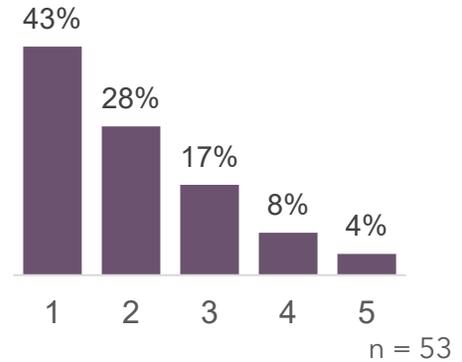
Pursue composting/ increase waste diversion through policy incentives



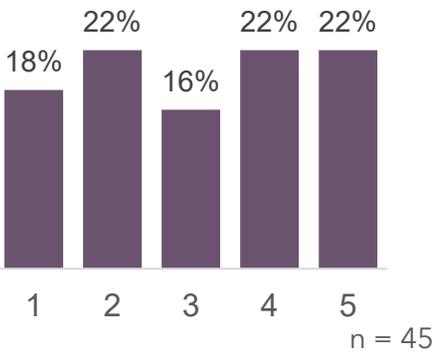
Establish a recycling and reuse center



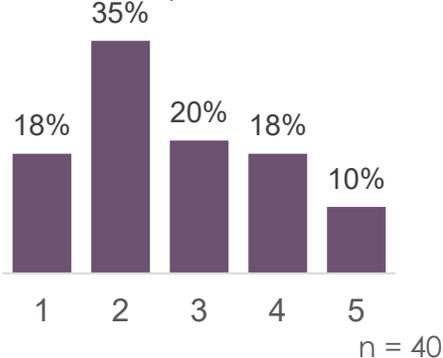
Investigate sustainable tourism



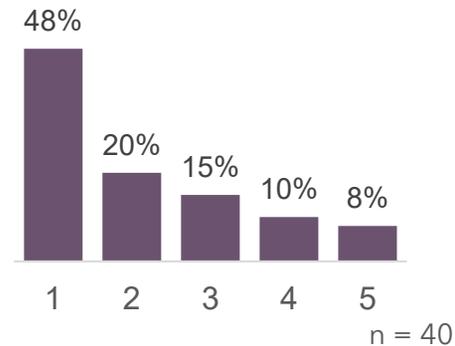
Update municipal solid waste management plan and analyze energy generation opportunities



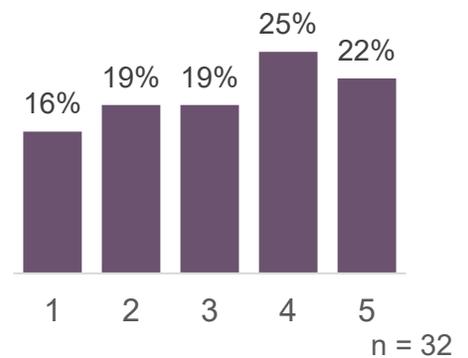
Research electric bus incentives for cruise ship transportation



Develop a community energy and/or climate action plan

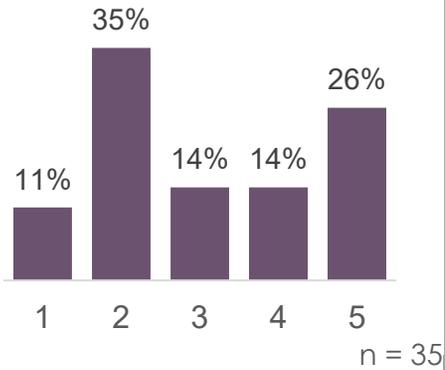


Pursue school bus electrification via EPA

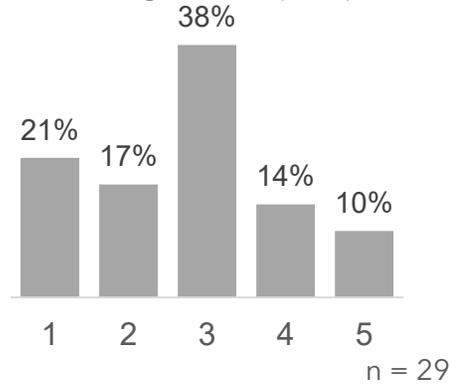


PRIORITY RANKING

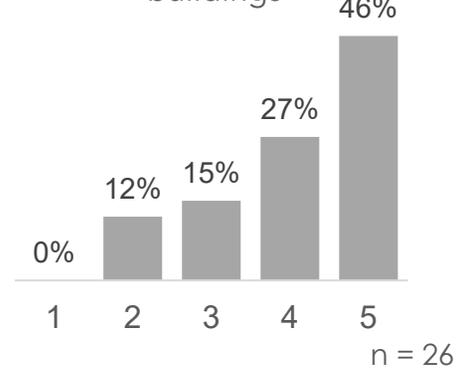
Research a community garden



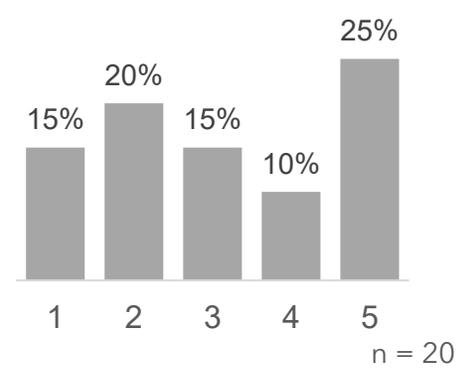
Research opportunities for converting oil and resistant heating to heat pumps



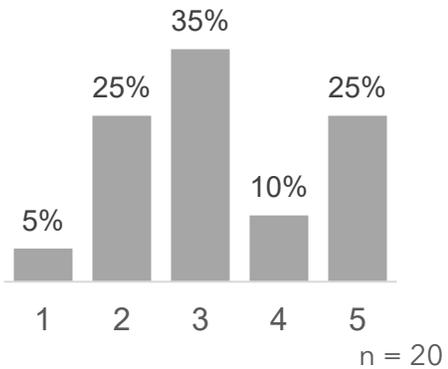
Explore geothermal and solar options for City buildings



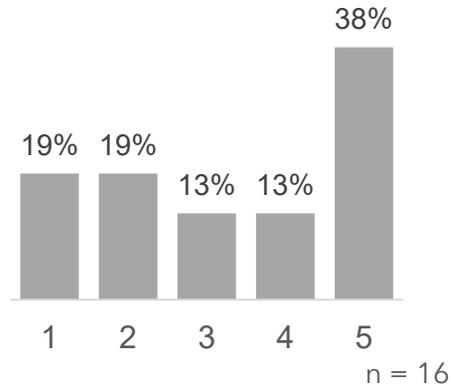
Create a transition plan for municipal fleet



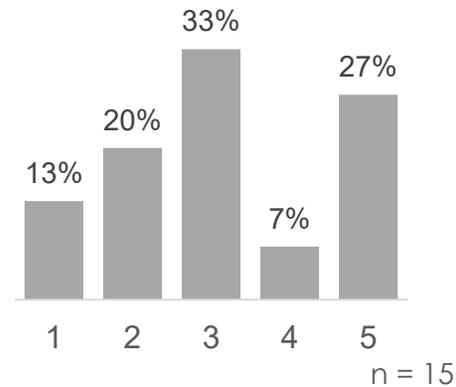
Understand recycling and recycling contamination



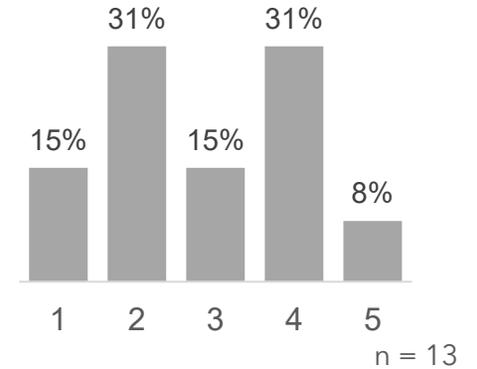
Renewable energy credits for existing hydropower



Develop a no idling policy

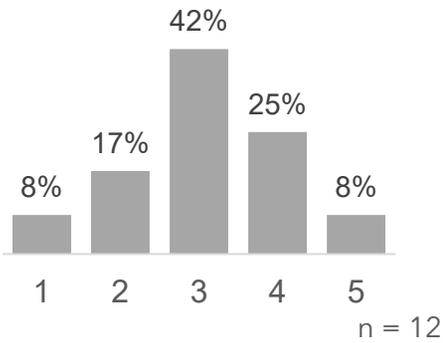


Research behavioral shifts for food security

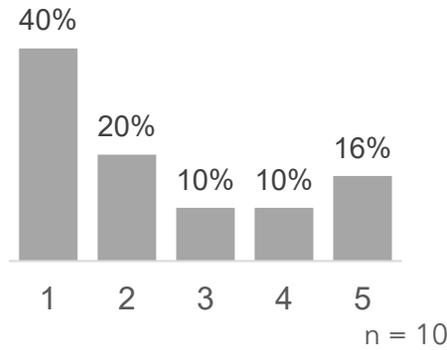


PRIORITY RANKING

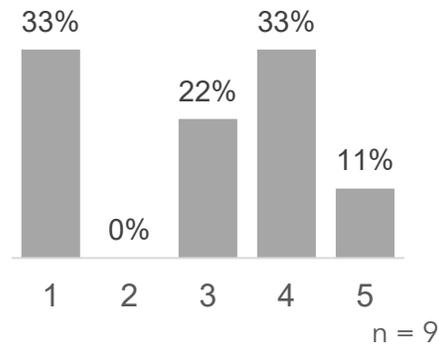
Conduct a conservation education campaign



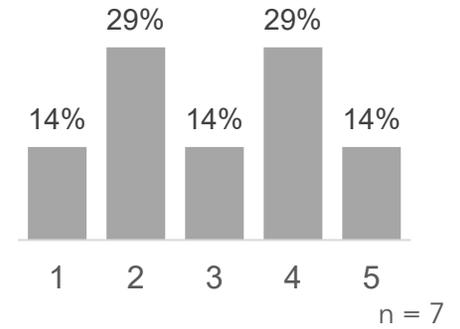
Research and make recommendations on dock electrification



Update greenhouse gas emissions inventory for municipality (and community if possible)



Determine code changes related to demand charges for electric vehicles



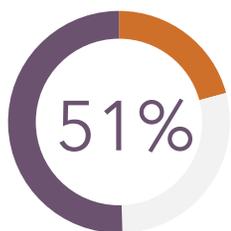
A CLOSER LOOK

Key:

High Priority = Ranked as 1st or 2nd priority

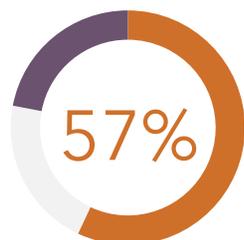
Low Priority = Ranked as 4th or 5th priority

Develop weatherization programs/ assist residents in implementing weatherization



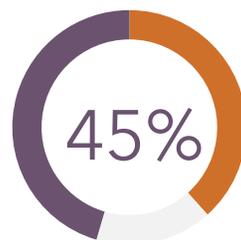
high priority
29% low priority

Pursue composting/ increase waste diversion through policy incentives



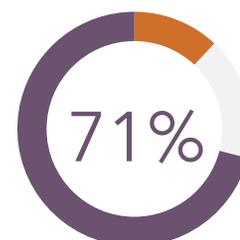
low priority
21% high priority

Establish a recycling and reuse center



high priority
38% low priority
No clear majority

Investigate sustainable tourism



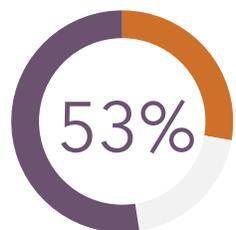
high priority
12% low priority

Update municipal solid waste management plan and analyze energy generation opportunities



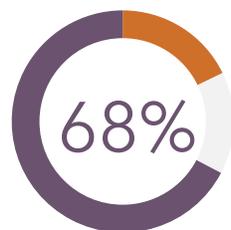
low priority
40% high priority
No clear majority

Research electric bus incentives for cruise ship transportation



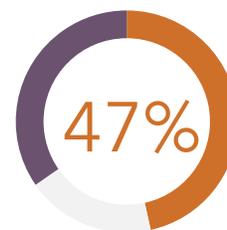
high priority
28% low priority

Develop a community energy and/or climate action plan



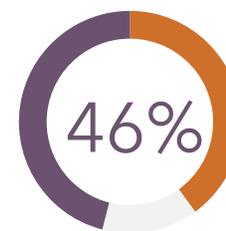
high priority
18% low priority

Pursue school bus electrification via EPA



low priority
35% high priority
No clear majority

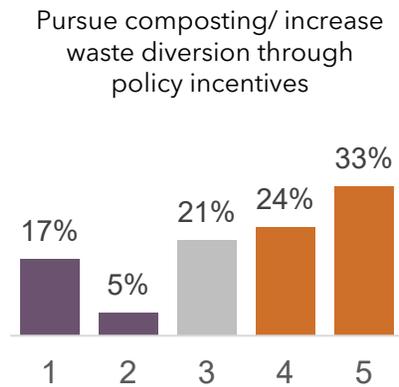
Research a community garden



high priority
40% low priority
No clear majority

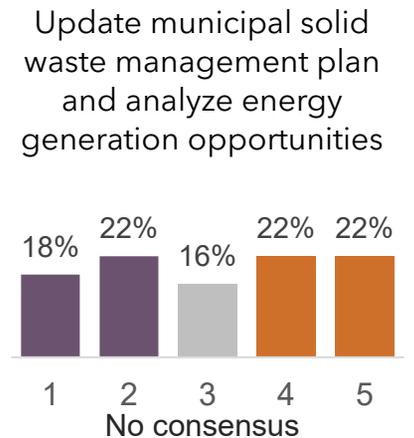
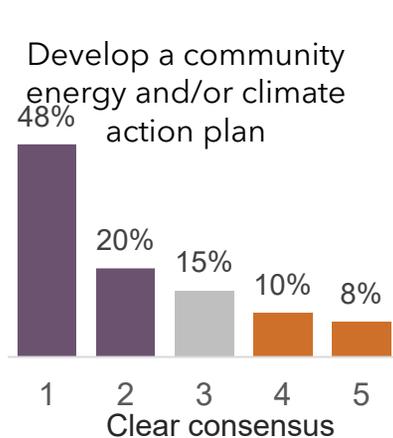


KEY INSIGHTS



The popularity of a project did not mean that was automatically ranked highly when asked to prioritize against other choices.

Example: Composting was one ranked #2 overall in overall popularity but when asked to rank amongst other choices, **57% of participants identified it as their 4th or 5th choice** while **only 22% ranked it as their 1st or 2nd choice.**



Respondents who chose certain ideas had clear consensus of what ranking they should be while others did not.

Example: **68% of ranked a community energy and/or climate action plan as their 1st or 2nd choice** while only **18% ranked it as their 4th or 5th choice.** Meanwhile, updating the municipal solid waste plan was almost evenly split across the rankings.

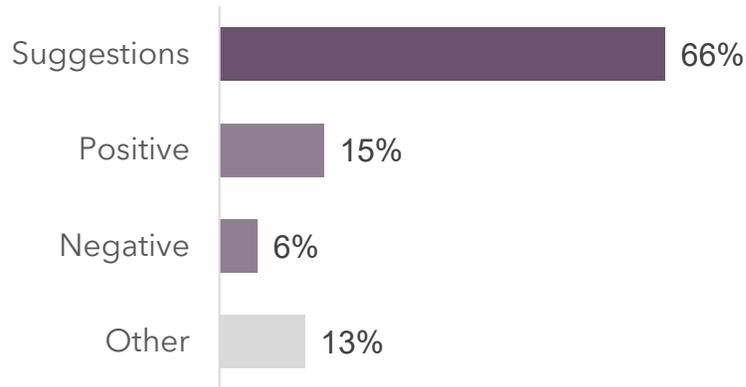


QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

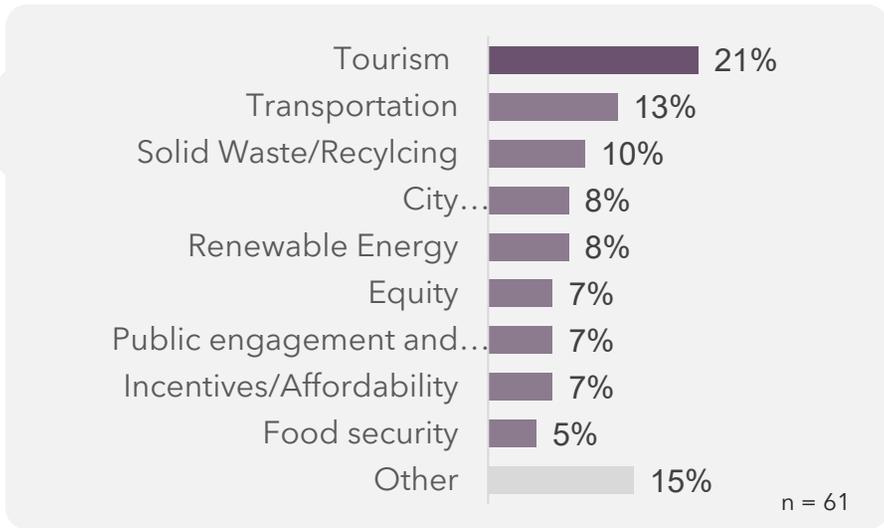
“Is there any other feedback you would like to provide?”

n = 68

Of the responses that gave qualitative feedback, **2/3 were suggestions on what to do and/or how to do it.**



Of those suggestions, **1/5 were related to tourism**



QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK EXAMPLES

Suggestions:

There are many new designs that other countries have created to provide wind, solar, electric and other sources of energy. We need to look at other countries and see what they are doing well. We don't need to re-invent the wheel.

Please use an equity lens with all policies and focus on making Sitka more livable for folks with fewer economic resources.

Please remember that sustainability is about more than environmental issues. Gender equality is actually part of sustainability...

Positive:

Thank you!

Thank you for your contribution to our healthy community.

Thank you for the work you do!

Great list of actionable goals! I trust the Commission to select the actions with the greatest impact on community sustainability.

Thank you for establishing this commission and reaching out for public input!

Negative:

Please just leave us alone...

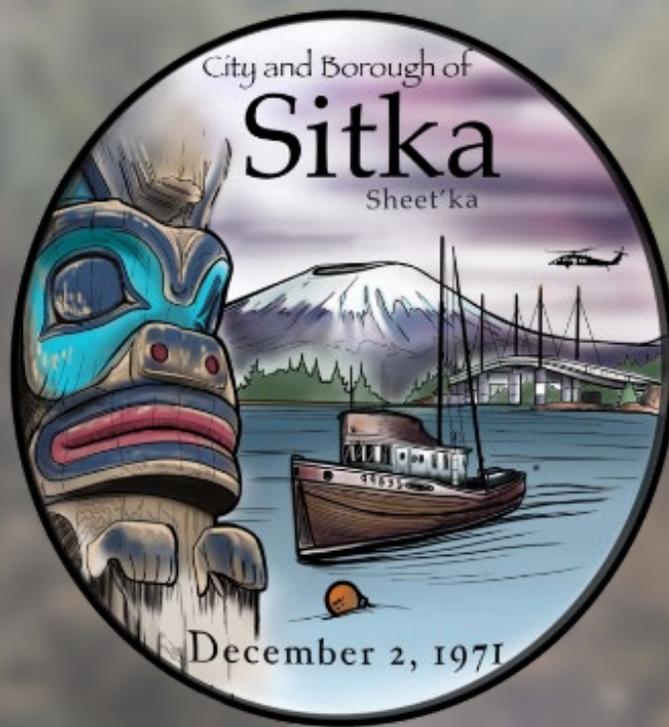
I find this survey to be rather odd... I am not at all sure of its usefulness except to check some kind of box somewhere that said a survey was conducted to get public input.

Other:

All the topics are worthy. Hard to choose 5.

Need more info on some of the topics listed to make good choices!





MISSION:

To provide public services for Sitka that support a livable community for all.