



**Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions
City and Borough of Sitka**

Board/Commission/Committee: Climate Action Task Force
Name: Kent W. Barkhau Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number: [REDACTED]
Length of Residence in Sitka: 40 yrs Registered to vote in Sitka? X Yes No
Employer: Self employed business owner

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Co-leader of Sitka chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby
Member of the Alaska Climate Action Network, the Alaska Climate Alliance, and the
Alaska Climate Action Community of Practise.

Explain your main reason for applying:

I see earth ecosystems threatened by rapid climate change that is the result primarily of human activities. We humans need to get busy responding to this threat in an attempt to avoid very bad outcomes. I feel it is my responsibility to offer my help in our community's response.

What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the Task Force:

I have been a Sitka resident for over 40 years. I have an educational background in forestry and ecology. I have work experience in forest management with the US Forest Service and as a small business owner with a family run commercial fishing enterprise. I have been active for the last several years in various efforts to address climate change.

Please attach a letter of interest, outline, or resume which includes your education, work, and volunteer experience that will enhance your membership.

→ (To be considered, your application must be complete AND be accompanied by one of the above supporting documents.)

Date: 1-2-2021 Signature: [Signature]

Your complete application and resume should be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

Please note: all information submitted will be made public and published online. Appointments are normally made during open session of an Assembly meeting, however, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? Yes X No

Return to:

Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist, 100 Lincoln Street
Fax: 907-747-7403 Email: melissa.henshaw@cityofsitka.org

Application to Sitka Climate Action Plan Task Force

Kent Barkhau

I am Kent Barkhau. I am applying for a seat on the Climate Action Plan Task Force. Recently, if asked to give a brief self introduction, I have offered “father, fisherman, forester”. I view my interest in “climate advocacy” as a responsibility born of my roles as a father of two teenage sons, a fishing family deriving a living from the ocean, and a student of ecology. We can not deny the effects we are already experiencing and that the matter is urgent. I believe how we deal with the climate emergency both in the near and long term is critically important. My sense of responsibility directs me to offer what I can as a member of our community Task Force.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry and had a thirty year career with the Forest Service, all spent here in Sitka. My career in forest management with a focus on observing, studying, and applying ecological concepts gives me a useful background understanding local forest ecology. In the early 1980's I also began participating in commercial fishing. Over the years, I at first, and then my wife Linda and I have owned and operated a series of fish boats. Since retiring early from the Forest Service in 2010 our family has earned our living on the ocean trolling and longlining. After years working and playing in our southeast Alaska home I have become very concerned about our changing climate.

My concern has nudged me to become active in efforts to address the perceived threat. After searching around for what I thought would be a good effort to get behind, I helped start and co-lead our Sitka chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby(CCL), an international volunteer organization that is tightly focused on market based, bipartisan climate action at the national level. As a liaison between CCL and Senator Lisa Murkowski I have led and participated in numerous meetings with the Senator and her staff advocating for a market based carbon pricing policy.

At the State level I am a member and/or participant in numerous climate initiatives including the Alaska Climate Action Network, the Alaska Climate Alliance, and the Alaska Climate Action Community of Practise. These groups and others have goals to help communities in Alaska adapt to the changes we can not avoid, and to assist community planning for a successful energy transition. Locally, in 2018 I was an active member of the Sitka Health Summit's CO2 reducers group. I helped lead the effort resulting in the City Assembly Resolution 2018-04 supporting national carbon pricing policy. I have more recently used my voice locally to advocate for a citizens commission to inform and help the City Assembly promote the sustainability of our community in face of the changing climate. I really appreciate the Assembly vote to reestablish the Climate Action Task Force with Res. 2020-29A.

Since that November 2020 vote I have been considering applying and thinking a lot about what the job, or task of this special committee will be. I assume, at a minimum, that the Assembly wishes a review and update of the 2010 Sitka Climate Action Plan(SCAP). The 2010 SCAP was developed with guidance provided by membership in the international organization Local

Governments for Sustainability and was part of a broader commitment made by the Assembly through endorsing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in December of 2007. In 2009 the City set a goal for a municipal greenhouse gas reduction of 25% from 2003 levels by 2020. The first Sitka Climate Action Plan Task Force was formed and asked to find actions that would reduce the City's emissions and meet this goal.

I think this really well done 2010 CAP is a useful starting point and a place from which the reestablished Task Force can build and strengthen. We now have clean electric generating capacity beyond what existed at the time of the 2010 plan and can update accordingly. Opportunity may exist for strengthening sections in the plan that address mitigation and emissions reductions in the broader community beyond municipal operations and actions. I also think it is necessary to broaden a strategy for energy transition. A strategy that links our efforts to reduce GHG emissions, estimate and accommodate economic growth, and our capacity to produce and wisely use our existing and future clean energy generation capacity (incorporating the Electric Dept. Energy Plan). I view this link between our current and future capacity to generate clean energy (of any kind) and our ability to be successful in reducing GHG emissions with an eventual energy transition, to be very important. The Assembly may choose to provide further guidance for the Task Force as they did for the 2010 Plan in the form of an emission reduction goal.

I recognize that all Assembly decisions must be informed and constrained by cost/benefit. There may be steps toward our goals of mitigation and emission reduction that cost little or nothing, and there are certainly potential actions that could have large and/or far reaching impact to City finances. Of course, these financial considerations will have profound influence over Assembly decisions. Working for the Assembly, the reestablished task force should investigate ways and means the Assembly can support a more sustainable municipality and community with minimum financial impact to other City services. I also believe the Task Force should look for ways to inform the Assembly about how they might endorse State and National policy that support sustainability goals across Alaska, the Nation, and the planet, realizing there is a limit to what we can accomplish locally.

I request your consideration of my application to serve the Assembly on the Climate Action Task Force. For me this is one more opportunity to give my earnest effort to a challenge I expect to be engaged with in many ways for the rest of my days. This challenge, while formidable, is absolutely solvable. Solving it will yield many great benefits and will help us avoid enormous costs, many of which are incalculable.

Thank you.
Kent W. Barkhau