

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

Board/Commission/Committee: Climate Action Task Force

Name: Molly Grear Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone:

Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number:

Length of Residence in Sitka: 6 months Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Sitka Cycling Club, Sitka Marine Mammal Stranding Network

Explain your main reason for applying:

I am interested in contributing to my town becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change, as well as contributing to policy recommendations and planning efforts

What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?

I completed a PhD at the University of Washington studying how to create renewable energy from the ocean and have worked for the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (2012-2018, 2020-present) designing renewable energy systems to be more environmentally friendly, as well as combining marine renewable energy projects with coastal resilience efforts. From 2019-2020, I worked for the National Science Foundation, leading their efforts in federal and international ocean policy.


Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

n/a

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: 1/3/2021 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 ☐ No

Return to:

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

Molly Grear



January 3, 2021

Dear Sitka Assembly Members,

I am writing to apply for consideration as a member of the newly reestablished Climate Action Task Force. I am enthusiastic about this opportunity as I recently moved to Sitka and am eager to get involved in the community. Further, the topic of this task force is well suited to both my interests as well as my professional skills.

For most of my career, I have worked for the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where I conduct interdisciplinary research coordinated among biologists, engineers, and policy makers. My work has focused on the environmental impacts of offshore wind and marine renewable energy, as well as working to understand how to permit this emerging technology. Much of my research has centered on community driven design approaches to creating new renewable energy technology. A recent project has focused on understanding the energy needs of the emerging kelp industry in the US, helping to encourage this new industry to thrive sustainably. I believe this breadth of experience with renewable energy, ecological design, and community approaches will be valuable on the Climate Action Task Force.

In addition to renewable energy work, I have experience with coastal resilience and ocean policy matters that are likely to be relevant to Sitka's climate planning. I served as the National Science Foundation's ocean policy lead in Washington, DC. During this job, I contributed to federal and international policy positions, including the input to a new United Nations treaty about biodiversity in the high seas, as well as the national strategy for mapping the U.S. exclusive economic zone. This work required coordination and collaboration among many federal agencies to create science-based ocean policy decisions about topics ranging from ocean acidification to marine plastics.

As a member of the task force, I hope my engineering research expertise can contribute to solutions-oriented problem solving around climate change issues in Sitka. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to serve my community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Grear".

Molly Grear

Molly E. Grear

Coastal Sciences Division
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Education

- 2018 **Ph.D.** in Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Washington
- 2016 **M.S.** in Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Washington
- 2012 **B.E.** in Engineering Sciences: Environmental Engineering
Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College
- 2011 **A.B.** in Engineering Sciences
Dartmouth College

Research and Work Positions

- 2020 – present **Ocean Engineer**, Sitka, AK *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*: Research in providing power from marine renewable energy sources to resilient coastal communities and at sea applications, alongside investigations of the environmental impacts of that technology
- 2019 – 2020 **Ocean Policy Specialist**, Washington, DC *National Science Foundation*: Represented the National Science Foundation in federal, interagency, and international ocean policy.
- 2018 – 2019 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Seattle, WA *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*
- 2014 – 2018 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Seattle, WA *Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Washington*
- 2017 **Marine Renewable Energy Outreach Coordinator**, Seattle, WA *Washington Sea Grant and Pacific Marine Energy Center*
- 2014 – 2018 **PhD Intern**, Seattle, WA *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*
- 2012 – 2014 **Post-Bachelor's Research Assistant**, Seattle, WA *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*
- 2011 **Environmental Engineer**, Ketchikan, AK *United State Forest Service*

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

- 2018 **John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship**
- 2018 **Charles H. Norris Award** award for the structural engineering graduate student having the best record for a given academic year.
- 2018 **Forbes 30 Under 30 in Energy**

Service

- 2020 **Sitka Marine Mammal Stranding Network Volunteer**.
- 2017 – 2019 **San Juan Island Marine Mammal Stranding Network Volunteer** *The Whale Museum*. Assisted in necropsies and response to marine mammal strandings in the San Juan Islands.
- 2017 – 2018 **Engage Board of Directors** Engage is a science speaker series and seminar program promoting science communication. www.engage-science.com
- 2017 **Puget Sound Renewable Energy Leadership Institute** *Bonneville Environmental Foundation*. Taught 11 K-12 teachers about marine energy, relating marine energy curriculum to the Next Generation Science Standards.
- 2016 – 2018 **Graduate and Professional Student Senate** *University of Washington*, senator representing Civil and Environmental Engineering
- 2016 – 2017 **Campus Sustainability Committee Member** *University of Washington*, member of the committee allocating \$400,000 per year to projects fostering sustainability on campus.
- 2014 – 2018 **Engineering Discovery Days** *University of Washington* Engineering demonstrations to schools grades 4-12 for hands on learning about research and classes on campus

Certifications

AAUS Scientific Diver in Training, PADI SCUBA Open Water, Engineer-in-Training (EIT)