



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

Board/Commission/Committee: CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE  
Name: JOEL HANSON Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number: [REDACTED]  
Length of Residence in Sitka: 20 YEARS Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Employer: RETIRED

Organizations you belong to or participate in:  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Explain your main reason for applying:

I AM SUPPORTIVE OF THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A SITKA SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES, AND HOPE A TASK FORCE MAY LEAD IN THIS DIRECTION.  
What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?

THOUGH I'M NOT A SCIENTIST, I HAVE BEEN A STUDENT OF CLIMATE SCIENCE FOR MANY YEARS. I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE LATEST CLIMATE RESEARCH AND THE LATEST PROPOSALS FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION/ADAPTATION.

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.

NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

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: 12/28/2020 Signature: Joel Hanson

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

Joel Hanson



December 28, 2020

Sitka Mayor and Assembly Members  
City and Borough of Sitka  
100 Lincoln Street  
Sitka, AK 99835

**RE: Letter of interest in serving on the Climate Action Task Force**

Dear Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members,

As long as carbon dioxide levels in the Earth's atmosphere continue to increase, then so will the Earth's average temperature at its surface and in its oceans.

The correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature has been understood by science for over a hundred years. It is as close to being a law of nature as the law of gravity. Some people argue that the current rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is due to natural variability. But scientists now universally recognize that it is certainly human caused, primarily due to the combustion of fossil fuels. Thus, humans must take on the responsibility of addressing this problem, otherwise temperatures will continue to rise to the point where the life support systems which have made our modern civilization possible will begin to fail us.

This is not to say that human survival is at imminent risk. We are, after all, an incredibly resourceful species, and we may discover temporary technological fixes to help keep the planet from overheating for a while. But the solution to the problem, ultimately, lies in stabilizing and reversing the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. And the most effective means of achieving this objective is for humans to phase-out the burning of fossil fuels as quickly as possible.

Individual people around the world, through our individual actions, can only hope to have a minor influence on the trend of global warming, or on the climate changes that it triggers. So, it has become clear to governments on every continent that they must play a leading role in developing and implementing meaningful carbon emissions reduction plans. That's what the Paris Plan was all about. That is why President-elect Biden is advocating an aggressive climate and clean energy agenda.

Communities like Sitka, which currently depend heavily on diesel for barge deliveries and commercial fishing, gasoline for our cars and jet fuel for trips off-island, must develop strategies for dealing with major changes to our normal operating procedures. Because major changes are coming, whether we want them to or not. And if we don't get ahead of these changes then they will simply overtake us. To quote Will Rogers: "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

I'd like to serve on the Climate Action Task Force to help this community plan for a new clean energy future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Hanson".