



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

Board/Commission/Committee: Climate Change Task Force

Name: Leah Mason Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone:

Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number:

Length of Residence in Sitka: 6 years and 11 months Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer: Freelance Communications and Research Specialist

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

I am currently a member of the Sitka Citizens' Climate Lobby, the Sitka Decolonizing Dialog Group, and a board member of the Sitka Community Land Trust. I have also worked with the Bags For Change group.

Explain your main reason for applying:

I am applying to become a member of this group because I believe that I have skills, knowledge, and experience that will be of use to the community. I am concerned about the current level of awareness and capacity for responding to the social, economic, and physical impact of change arising from significant shifts in our expectations about climatic conditions.

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

As a researcher in issues of sustainability, I have reviewed literature regarding the potential social, economic and physical impacts of climate change on communities, and various industries. I have also developed monitoring and evaluation frameworks for emissions reduction programs, and assisted in creating community programs for increasing energy efficiency. These will all be helpful in working with the city and the community to address challenges presented by climate change.

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.

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: 01/04/20 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 ☐ No

Return to:

Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist, 100 Lincoln Street

Fax: 907-747-7403 Email: melissa.henshaw@cityofsitka.org

 **Leah Mason****Contact Details:** +

Dear Assembly Members

I am writing this letter of introduction as support for my application to become a member of the Climate Change Task Force. Some of you are already acquainted with me through our work on different community projects - I met our Mayor on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in 2014, and Kevin Knox provided advice to myself and others for the ballot measure to restrict the distribution of plastic bags in 2019. I have worked with Crystal Duncan on increasing access to higher education for Alaska Native people at UAS, and have continued this relationship with the Sitka Decolonizing Dialog group. Some of you may be familiar with my work in the Climate Connections column that has been running in the Sitka Sentinel for almost two years. For those who don't know very much about me, I hope this summary of my views, experience, and hopes for what can be achieved by the Sitka community will be useful.

Firstly, I was born in Arizona, and have lived in Sitka for almost seven years. I moved to Sitka here in February 2014, after living for several decades in Australia. I was introduced to this beautiful place by my sister in 2011, and visited several times before deciding to make my home here.

My involvement with climate change began in the early 1980s, when my father introduced me to the greenhouse effect and how different gases help warm the earth to the point where life as we know it can exist. Several years later, in the late 1980s, my mother worked with the Australian Science, Technology, and Engineering Council which exposed her to the emerging consensus that the naturally occurring greenhouse effect could be amplified by doubling the amount of carbon dioxide. I gave my first presentation on global warming in 1989, and since that time I have closely followed the development of our knowledge of how this could impact communities. This includes pressure on important infrastructure, challenges to supplies of products and services, and health/safety issues that come with such changes.

As a researcher with the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), I have participated in research that supported the Australian federal government document and monitor the effectiveness of programs to reduce greenhouse gases, and helped develop programs to assist communities identify and reduce their greenhouse gas contributions. In 2012/13 I developed and led a research project that documented the likely impacts of global warming on Australian mining and mineral production, as well as the skills and knowledge for addressing the challenges of global warming that is already present in the mining and metallurgy profession.

You will find my research profile at <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Leah-Mason>

I am an able communicator and have a long history of community organizing around sustainability issues. I believe that our community can rise to these challenges and I would like to offer the City and Borough of Sitka my skills, knowledge and experience to create a better future for Sitkans.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours, sincerely,

Leah Mason