

## **ANN ARBOR ENERGY COMMISSION – MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**December 9, 2008  
City Hall – City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor  
5:30 - 7:30 pm**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes**
- II. Public Input**
- III. Energy Report – Energy News from the Energy Office and Commission Members**
- IV. UM Student Project Update**
- V. Energy Futures Film Festival Update**
- VI. Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Energy Fund**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- VII. State Legislative Update – James Peters**
- VIII. Energy Plan Sub-Committee Update – and Outreach Plan Discussion**
- IX. Energy Conservation and Renewables Finance Sub-Committee Update**
- X. DTE Rate Case Update**
- XI. 5000 Solar Roofs Project Update**
- XII. Solar America Cities Update**
- XIII. Solar Access Zoning**
- XIV. Resolution to Replace Two Coal Plants with Conservation and Renewables**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- XV. Transition Plan for New Commission Chair**
- XVI. Environmental Commission Update – David Wright**
- XVII. Other Business / Public Input – Limited to 10 minutes maximum**
- XVIII. Adjourn**

Visit [www.a2gov.org/energy/](http://www.a2gov.org/energy/) to learn more about Ann Arbor's Energy Programs

Shown Live on CTN Channel 16 – Replays Thursday 12/11 at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday 12/14 at 2:00 p.m.  
Past meetings can also be viewed online at <http://a2govtv.pegcentral.com/index.php>

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**  
Energy Office P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107  
Phone (734) 996-3179 Fax (734) 994-1744

## **Ann Arbor Energy Commission – Meeting Minutes**

**November 12, 2008**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers

City Hall 5:30-7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Robert Black – Commission Chair, Wayne Appleyard, Jason Bing, Chuck Hookham, Dina Kurz, Josh Long, Bill Verge, Stephen Miller, David Wright

**Staff:** James Peters

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from October were approved.

### **Public Input**

Andrew Fileti and Deniz McGee announced preparations for an Energy Futures Film Festival and competition for the spring of 2009.

### **Energy News**

#### *Energy Office Updates*

- Andrew Brix is in Chicago, speaking at an LED conference.
- A Conference on Michigan's Energy and Economic Future is at Crystal Mountain this weekend.
- Roundtable yesterday on PA 295, hosted by Howard & Howard and JJR
- DTE Lunch and Learn Seminar November 17 at UM-Dearborn.

David Wright announced MPSC's receipt of a \$500,000 grant to develop a PAYS pilot program, to support both renewable energy and energy efficiency investments.

Josh Long noted that as he is no longer employed by Washtenaw County, he expects to have more time to work on commission matters.

Stephen Miller commented on the role that domestic oil supply (particularly offshore) has on crude oil and gasoline prices.

Jason Bing announced that interest in Recycle Ann Arbor's home energy audit program and that participants can receive rebates from DTE for natural gas-related improvements.

Dina Kurz suggested hosting a roundtable to discuss the next steps for promoting renewables at the state level. Chuck Hookham mentioned Energy Michigan's recent one-day conference, which discussed the implications of PA 295.

Robert Black noted out Al Gore's editorial in the New York Times, highlighting IPCC research and recommending 100% renewable energy within 10 years.

### **Millage Basics**

Mary Fales from the City Attorney's office described her work at the city, and outlined the process for a ballot initiative that could establish an energy millage. An initiative can either go through City Council or a petition drive.

For the council route, the process is roughly as follows:

1. Develop a council resolution and ballot language (100 words max., written in the affirmative with a clearly stated purpose), which must then be certified by city and county clerks 70 days before the general election at which it will be considered.
2. Michigan Attorney General's office must then approve the ballot language
3. Finally, the ballot initiative must be approved by election

For a petition drive, signatures must be gathered from at least 5% of registered voters, and certified (as well as ballot language reviewed as above) before being placed on the ballot.

One possible hurdle is the clarity of whether fossil energy reductions can be considered as a public purpose.

### **Burns Park Green Energy Update**

Nate Ayers gave an update on their activities, including a new collaboration with Agrarian Adventure, a small wind installation at Burns Park Elementary, energy audits through Recycle Ann Arbor, and a planned "pilot block" for energy improvements on Henry St. More info is available at: <http://www.burnsparkgreen.com>

### **UM Student Project Update**

Jojo Amonoo and the ME 451 student project team presented an update on their adaptation of Kassel, Germany's analysis of renewable energy scenarios for Ann Arbor up to 100%. Collecting detailed data has been challenging, but several commissioners offered to assist.

### **Old Business**

State Legislative Update: James Peters updated the commission on the MPSC's 90 separate open dockets for implementing Public Act 295, the new RPS legislation, including over, creation of the wind energy resource board, rate deskewing, rate decoupling for natural gas utilities, and RPS plans from the utilities.

Energy Plan Update: Robert Black updated the commission on progress toward developing a new energy plan for Ann Arbor.

Finance Subcommittee: Robert Black reviewed progress and encouraged contributions to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation's Energy Fund. Chuck Hookham asked about how to ensure the fairness of asking for a flat half-mill tax. Bill Verge outlined a plan that emphasizes audits and grants as a means of reaching out to more households. Discussion followed on how best to organize the project between ease of administration and longevity of the program.

DTE Rate Case: David Wright explained that the final decision is now in the MPSC's hands, but that there is no timeline for reaching that decision.

Solar America Cities: No updates on Solar America Cities.

Inputs on Downtown Development: No updates on downtown development

**New Business**

Transportation Forum Planning: Dina Kurz is waiting on city staff to set up a meeting with the appropriate parties. Jason Bing recommended talking to Megan Owens of TRU.

**Public Input** – There was no additional public input.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm