



Councilmember Kate Harrison  
District 4

## **Climate Emergency Declaration**

### **Ad-Hoc Subcommittee**

**Approved Minutes:** January 16, 2019 from 2:00-3:30pm

#### **Participants:**

- Councilmember Cheryl Davila
- Councilmember Kate Harrison & Chris Naso, Legislative Assistant
- Councilmember Sophie Hahn
- Tano Trachtenberg, Mayoral Legislative Assistant
- Kelly Hammargren, community member
- Tom Kelly, Kyoto USA
- Richard Rollins, Sierra Club
- Nicole Harris, Armando Davila & Isaac Silk, The Climate Mobilization
- Susan Silber, Founder and Director, NorCal Community Resilience Network
- Cate Ledger, Energy Commissioner
- Kathy Dervin and Jack Fleck, 350 East Bay
- Steve Nadel, Sunflower Alliance

**Review & Approve minutes from December 5, 2018:** Approved

#### **Updates:**

**1. 2019 East Bay Electrification Expo: Fight Climate Change with a Clean Energy Home**

BayREN, the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development and the Ecology Center will host the first East Bay Electrification Exposition at the Ed Roberts Campus, 3075 Adeline St., Berkeley on Thursday, February 7, from 3-8pm.

**2. Legislative updates: Councilmember Harrison**

Ad hoc committee met members of the East Bay Clean Energy (EBCE) Citizen's Advisory Board, who expressed caution about the timing and cost related to upgrading Berkeley ratepayers to Renewable 100. The committee also met with EBCE CEO, Nick Chaset. He expressed concerns regarding procuring long-term contracts, costs etc. if the Council upgraded all ratepayers. Separately, a referendum would likely be required if the Council were to upgrade all Berkeley customers to a long-term power purchase agreement contract for new renewable generation within Alameda County.

Bay Area Sierra Club representatives reiterated their preference that the Mayor and Council upgrade the default product to Renewable 100.

Councilmember Harrison explained that of the total 2016 Berkeley community greenhouse gas emissions inventory, some 10% is comprised of electricity-related emissions and 27% is natural gas-related. While City Staff are currently investigating energy efficiency reach codes, they will not be adopted for at least another year. Given that many tall buildings are being entitled and will come online soon, the City should consider exploring electric-ready codes as well as exploring legal options for phasing out natural gas.

Energy Commissioner Cate Leger concurred with Councilmember Harrison's assessment and expressed support for electrification and phasing out natural gas as soon as possible. She also noted that the Energy Commission is currently looking into solutions through its Fossil Fuel Subcommittee.

Kelly Hammergren noted an LA Times article detailing how California policies led to Arizona taking a lead in solar generation. She emphasized the importance of having California cities demonstrate a steady demand for renewables.

Susan Silber discussed a letter submitted by the Clean Energy Alliance expressing concern that a city-wide upgrade would exacerbate existing economic inequalities and could broadly undermine local green jobs community benefits as well as EBCE's financial stability.

Tom Kelly argued for opting to Renewable 100 as soon as possible because opt-out rates are low and due to EBCE's strong fiscal health.

Councilmember Harrison reminded the committee that impending new Power Charge Indifference Adjustment 'exit fee' hikes, charged by PG&E to CCAs, will likely result in financial consequences for EBCE and its customers.

### **3. Legislative updates: Councilmember Hahn**

Councilmember Hahn noted that the Council will be voting on perhaps the country's most ambitious anti-plastic legislation at the January 22 Council

meeting. Due to pushback from business interests and a possibility of a contentious vote, the Councilmember felt that the legislation was as strong as it could be. She encouraged community members to attend the meeting in order to secure passage.

The ordinance:

- Requires separation of compostable materials
- Limits disposable takeout ware
- Requires reusable eat-in ware within 1.5 years of adoption
- Features exceptions for small spaces

Council Davila Cheryl suggested that the Council submit an item requesting BUSD coordination with the new ordinance.

#### **4. Legislative updates: Councilmember Davila**

Councilmember Davila's office recently sent out a regional summit planning meeting invitation for Thursday, February 7, 2019 from 11am-1:30pm at the Bobby Bowen Center, 2540 MacDonald Avenue, Richmond. The UN Association announced that they are willing to help host the regional summit. She suggested September, 2019 as a suitable date for summit (one year anniversary of Governor Brown's global climate submit).

She also provided an update about the ongoing process to secure a Chancellor's Grant for a community town hall hosted by the Green the Church and an invitation for her to address an Australian climate emergency meeting in February.

#### **5. Presentation on Resiliency Hubs & BUSD Sustainability Project**

Susan presented her work developing a comprehensive BUSD sustainability plan including waste reduction, energy conservation and clean energy. She noted the difficulties of implementing the plan due to complications stemming from administrative issues and a lack of a dedicated sustainability lead/consultant. Her plan encourages students to take on some of the sustainability workload.

Councilmember Davila suggested having the committee encourage the BUSD declare a climate emergency. There was also discussion on expanding the district's climate curriculum, building capacity for grassroots organizations as well as resiliency hubs and disaster preparedness.

#### **6. Next Meeting:** February 6, 2019 11:30am-1pm.