

**MINUTES OF THE  
OXFORD CLIMATE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 18, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

**Per Ohio House Bill 404, this meeting was  
via videoconference and/or teleconference only**

**MEMBERS**

Present were Mark Boardman, Jason Bracken, David Gorchov, Joan Potter-Sommer, David Prytherch, and Sandra Woy-Hazleton. Adam Sizemore represented Miami University. Jessica Greene represented the Office of City Manager of the City of Oxford. Andor Kiss excused.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

The agenda was approved unanimously.

The minutes of the February 18, 2021 minutes were approved with corrections. Mark moved approval, Joan seconded, all voted to approve.

Jessica provided an update from the City Manager's office about progress on the PSP teams (community-wide GHG inventory and resilience assessment) and hiring of a sustainability staffer. The search for a sustainability coordinator is on hold after lack of success in hiring a top candidate at the part time level. City Manager's office regrouping and considering next steps.

The Committee discussed possible greenhouse reduction/neutrality target(s) and year. It reviewed the science of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which indicates compliance with the Paris Climate Accords requires net neutrality no later than 2050. Review of small community signatories to the Global Covenant of Mayors shows a range of targets and years, but most fall within a range of 80-100% reduction by 2050. David P. proposed that we make an ambitious yet realistic goal based both on the science and cognizant of the realities (e.g. lifespan of existing infrastructure like furnaces or purchases like cars). Jason argued that 2040 is an ambitious yet achievable target based on projected, rapid technological change. David G. argued that 2050 is itself an ambitious target, especially if we consider what we count and don't count (e.g. household consumption). There was consensus the City should focus on those major emissions sectors for which data can be collected and over which the City has some ability to affect through regulations or incentives.

David G. moved that the City of Oxford's goal be carbon neutral by 2050 with 80% reduction by 2040. Sandi seconded. There was discussion. Jason argued for a more ambitious goal like 2040. Mark B. and Sandi advocated an interim target of 50% by 2035. David P. agreed with Jason on a draft target that is more ambitious (maybe 2040), but which could be backed off if we find that

to be infeasible upon further research. Adam suggested the City might look at how the municipality might work with the Township perhaps on offsets.

David G. accepted a friendly amendment to his motion that the community-wide target be neutrality by 2045, 90% reduction by 2040, and 50% reduction by 2030. Sandi suggested such goals are meant to be both “aspirational and inspirational.” All voted in favor.

Suzi provided a brief update on the upcoming resiliency planning presentation, and schedule ahead for this team and the GHG inventory team, with presentations to be scheduled around the end of semester.

Jason shared some initial research -- in consultation with the EPA -- on the landfill, which suggests methane emissions may be worth capturing or burning. More information to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.