



# Annual Report-Fiscal Year 2021

## Introduction

On October 26, 2020, the Sustainability Commission presented its fiscal year 2021 (FY21) Work Plan to City Council. The FY21 Work Plan reflected the Commission's intent to work on issues in seven specific areas, while also allowing for flexibility to address issues as they came up.

The priority topics included:

- Community Outreach
- CAP2.0 Implementation Plan
- Waste Reduction
- Equity Lens Development
- City Budget
- Areas for further research
- Emerging issues

## FY21 Work Plan Progress

Overall, the Sustainability Commission felt that this year was very productive and driven by an ambitious work plan. However, several Commissioners expressed disappointment regarding the lack of opportunity to bring recommendations to Council in a meaningful way. Still, the Commission expressed positivity towards Council for updating its processes to allow greater interaction with the Commission.

The Commission expressed appreciation for this past year as a sort of reset from the challenges and tribulations of 2020, and excitement about processes and work moving into the new fiscal year. The Commission discussed methods for working ambitiously this next year while keeping in mind limitations of the Council and staff. This is an area the Commission wishes to explore further – how to most effectually move their policy research from conception to operationalization.

Below is a highlight of accomplishments from FY21:

- Establishment of a Sustainability Commission GreenFund to support local sustainability events
- 11 Committees producing 9 recommendations, 2 commission updates and 3 resolutions provided to Council
- Key support for climate policy: CAP2.0 Dashboard, funding strategies and energy in buildings

**The Commission engaged the City Council 12 times in FY21.** The Commission sent 9 recommendations and 3 resolutions supporting Oregon legislative bills in environmental justice and clean energy. The commission also closed two committees that updated the bylaws to support financing a community grant and created the grant. The commission provided public comment in support of the recommendations, resolutions and other topics. The topic of each engagement is listed below.

## Recommendations to Council

- Food Security Committee (*June 2021*)
- Citizen Involvement in Waste Management Committee (*June 2021*)
- Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee (*May 2021*)
- Energy in Buildings Committee (*April 2021*)
- Sustainability Communications Process Letter (*April 2021*)
- Sustainability Funding Letter Committee (*April 2021*)
- Air Quality Committee (*February 2021*)
- CAP Funding Strategy Committee (*February 2021*)
- Waste Reduction Committee (*January 2021*)

## Other Work Products of the Commission

- Education and Outreach Committee, Green Fund Packet (*March 2021*)
- Resolution to support 100% clean energy bill (*February 2021*)
- Rules Revision Committee (bylaws updated, (*February 2021*))
- Resolution to support Sunrise Eugene Recommendations (*January 2021*)
- Resolution to Support Beyond Toxics and NAACP Environmental Justice Bills (*January 2021*)

## FY21 Work Plan Detailed Review

The following table includes an update on progress on each item included in the FY21 Work Plan.

1. Outreach	Description	Status
Grants	- Research, identify and implement a system to equitably provide small grants to local community organizations for sustainability in work, education, and a just recovery from COVID-19 in Eugene.	- Grant created and set up - 1 <sup>st</sup> grant approved 6/16 for Annie Mim's House Garden North, community mural - See appendix for more information
Bylaws	- Continue work to look at the commission's bylaws to adjust calendars and timelines for new commissioners and allow for grant approval.	- Completed Feb 2021, final update May 2021
Education and Community Event	- Develop and implement a community outreach event that provides community members education about sustainability efforts locally and ways individuals can live more sustainably.	- Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee worked with 350Eugene and other community members to present information about Fossil Fuel Risk Bond.
Marginalized Communities	- Expand community involvement in sustainability by engaging people from marginalized communities who don't see their place of belonging in the community.	- Wanted to initiate Mobile Commission but unable due to COVID restrictions on community gatherings. The Commission would like to come back to this when possible. - Commission completed research related to food

		insecurity in Eugene and provided a recommendation to Council
<b>2. CAP2.0 Implementation Plan</b>		
CAP2.0 Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue FY20 work on the CAP2.0 Dashboard to identify up to 10 metrics City Council and the City Manager can use to measure annual progress made by the CAP2.0.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input phase done through committee, can comment more when done or if asked</li> </ul>
CAP2.0 Community Recommended Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate and report out options for City Council and the City Manager to consider regarding ways to vet and incorporate the additional community recommended actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee received update on plan and supports staff plan</li> </ul>
Funding for CAP2.0 Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research policy options to fund the implementation of the CAP2.0 by researching the work of other communities to do the same. Identify strategies that tie in equity and climate work within implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A recommendation was made February 2021 and a work session has been approved to discuss this further by Council.</li> </ul>
Neighborhood Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research, identify and implement a system to reach out to the local community neighborhoods to communicate the work of the CAP2.0, gather community feedback and provide City Council and the City Manager details about community sentiments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID restrictions on community gatherings prevented this work. The Commission would like to come back to this when possible.</li> <li>- Laura Allen connect ESC work with ECJC committee</li> <li>- Public response to ESC</li> </ul>
<b>3. Waste Reduction</b>		
Sustainability at Large Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research policy options for City Council and the City Manager to explore regulating waste reduction and sustainability for large community events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A recommendation was made in January of 2021 and a work session has been approved to discuss this further by Council.</li> <li>- See appendix for more information</li> </ul>
Waste Reduction Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at avenues to reduce single-use plastics and other waste through a waste reduction committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners met with staff. Staff is forming a subcommittee of Lane County Waste Management group and plan to present to the ESC during Annual Rule Update Process.</li> <li>- See appendix for more information.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Equity Lens Development within work of the Sustainability Committee</b>		
Develop an equity lens to integrate into the work of the Commission and actively seek opportunities to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an equity lens to integrate into the work of the Commission and actively seek opportunities to equitable address sustainability and climate concerns, including in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission began to include questions related to equity in presentations from Staff and look forward to integrating that information into future ESC work.</li> </ul>

equitable address sustainability and climate concerns, including in presentations to the Commission.	presentations to the Commission.	
Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research policy options for City Council and the City Manager to explore that minimize the local use of single-use plastics and other plastic waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This item was tabled this year and will be addressed in a future work plan.</li> </ul>
<b>5. City Budget</b>		
Identify ways to address sustainability through the city's budget, as well as methods to maintain current funding for sustainability projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify ways to address sustainability through the city's budget, as well as methods to maintain current funding for sustainability projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission completed recommendations related to Climate Fund, see appendix for more information</li> <li>- The ATC expressed support for the funding recommendation made by the ESC to Council</li> <li>- The Commission provided a letter to the Budget Committee regarding funding needs for climate work</li> </ul>
<b>Areas for Further Research</b>		
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research factors impacting air quality problems in Eugene. Look for solutions that the City and partner agencies can implement and that are sustainable which would improve air quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A recommendation was made to City Council February of 2021. This recommendation was in partnership with Beyond Toxics and LRAPA, see appendix for more information</li> </ul>
Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research how we can localize the supply chain and increase resiliency of the physical landscape and local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission completed research related to food insecurity in Eugene and provided a recommendation to Council</li> </ul>
Urban Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore ways to expand fire protections and sustainability concerns related to urban Forestry in Eugene.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work continues on this topic as it is currently in committee. This committee will continue into FY22.</li> </ul>
Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore ways to mitigate financial risks associated with fossil fuel storage, transport, and combustion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This committee hosted a presentation for Council and the community and submitted a subsequent recommendation to Council May 2021, see appendix for more information</li> </ul>
Education and Long-Term Goals of City Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn more about City departments long-term goals, key metrics and trends to better advise City Council, the City Manager and staff regarding sustainability and climate issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission had many successful updates from staff and looks forward to additional updates from staff about long term goals and progress towards them in future years.</li> <li>- See Appendix for details related to presentations.</li> </ul>

Development of relationship with City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore ways to build a better relationship with City Council and the City Manager, improve flow of information between the City Council, City Manager and the Commission, and allow the Commission more time to present to City Council and the City Manager directly the ideas being proposed by work in committees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A letter was sent to Council requesting time to present to the Council and receive feedback about recommendations, Council has adjusted bylaws to allow updates. Council process is currently under revision to add 3 additional opportunities of engagements for boards and commissions annually</li> <li>- Two work session currently scheduled with City Council for Commission recommendations submitted in FY21</li> <li>- The Commission is exploring opportunities to make recommendation to Council regarding a mechanism for communication from the Council to the Commission.</li> </ul>
Emergency Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn more about what the city can do to add resiliency to the community in the way of emergency preparedness solutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This subject was referenced by several committees in FY21 include the Air Quality Committee, Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee and Food Security Committee</li> <li>- The Commission would like to hear from City staff about this topic in future years</li> </ul>
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore ways to support development of affordable housing in Eugene, monitoring the expansion of HB2001 and its impact on our community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This item was tabled for FY21.</li> </ul>
Governance Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore how to bolster work of environmental and racial justice in sustainability efforts throughout the City.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This item was tabled for FY21.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Emerging Issues</b>		
Address unforeseen, but important sustainability-related items presented by the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Commissioners, or the public, in accordance with the Commission's adopted operating procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution to support 100% clean energy bill (February 2021)</li> <li>- Resolution to support Sunrise Eugene Recommendations (January 2021)</li> <li>- Resolution to Support Beyond Toxics and NAACP Environmental Justice Bills (January 2021)</li> <li>- Continued conversation about how to incorporate ESC public comment into work of the ESC</li> <li>- See appendices for more information</li> </ul>