

Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2023

Introduction

On November 14, 2022, the Sustainability Commission presented its FY23 Work Plan to City Council. The FY23 Work Plan reflected the Commission's intent to:

- 1) Advance the Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0) by making it more accessible to members of the community;
- 2) Build understanding of many of the high priority City initiatives in progress;
- 3) Focus on meaningful work that amplifies current City initiatives.

FY23 Key Accomplishments:

- Developed a foundation for how the ESC can do public outreach and engagement by setting up an Outreach and Education committee. The committee created a PowerPoint presentation that increases awareness within the community about sustainability actions that will advance the CAP 2.0.
- The ESC reviewed and commented on projects that the City is moving forward, including Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC), Move EUG and new street design standards, and Eugene's 2021 greenhouse gas inventory.
- Reviewed and commented on projects that external partners are moving forward, including the IMERF at Short Mountain Landfill, and an EV car share pilot program through EWEB/Forth Mobility.
- Submitted letter of support and testified in front of Council in support of the Public Health Overlay Zones and new residential building electrification ordinance.

Topics listed in the FY23 Work Plan:

- Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rules
- Lane County Waste Management Reduction Goals
- Urban Forestry Vision & Action Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Transportation System Plan
- Community Outreach and Education
- Building Electrification
- Street Bond Street Tree Project Review
- De-escalation Training
- Education and Outreach Committee

FY23 in Review

The following table includes an update on each topic that was addressed by the ESC in FY23.

Topics Addressed in FY23	Description	Status
Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities	CFEC is new statewide ruling to encourage denser development in designated areas and reduce emissions from transportation. Staff shared the anticipated implementation plans and timelines and sought feedback from the Commission specifically on the rules that call for reducing or removing parking mandates.	The ESC was able to better understand the potential impacts of CFEC rules. The ESC agreed that the best option for CFEC parking rules would be to remove parking mandates citywide and unbundle parking from housing.
IMERF at Short Mountain Landfill, Lane County Waste Management	Lane County Waste Management is seeking project funding to construct an Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF) at Short Mountain. The facility would process solid waste, recycling, and organic waste to produce marketable recycling commodities and biogas for transportation.	The ESC asked questions to better understand how this could help address some of the challenges related to waste management and recycling in the community.
Complete Streets Design Standards and Move EUG	The City is in the process of adopting a Complete Streets Design Guide. Staff shared the goals and next steps and sought feedback from the Commission if there were concerns or opportunities. Staff also talked about Move EUG, an engagement campaign to identify projects for the voter approved 2022 Street Repair Bond.	The ESC provided feedback on how the design guide might be applied. They brought up considerations related to how it might be applied in specific neighborhoods and streets, around schools, on streets with overlapping jurisdictions, and what the impacts could mean for bike/ped safety and sustainability. The ESC was asked to help the City identify proposed locations for improvement on the Move EUG map.
Car Share Pilot Project	EWEB, presented on their partnership with Forth Mobility to implement an EV car sharing program at three different sites in Eugene.	This was mostly an informational topic. The Commission had questions about ease of use, low participation rates and accessibility concerns; and discussed possible solutions.
Eugene's 2021 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Staff gave a presentation on the most recent Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory from 2021. This data helps the City measure progress against the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO) goals.	Commissioners were able to better understand how the City is tracking progress on CRO goals and ask questions about how that data is collected.
FY23 Committee Topics		
Education and Outreach Committee	Explore opportunities to build community capacity and understanding related to City initiatives. Provide public education and gather feedback to help inform Council and staff in advancing sustainability work.	The Commission formed a committee in November 2022. The committee developed a slide deck to present at community meetings like neighborhood associations and brainstormed a potential survey. The committee conducted an initial trial of outreach by

		tabling at the Southeast Neighbors Association Picnic.
<i>Proposed Committee Topic:</i> Gas Powered Leaf Blower Committee	Research the use and environmental impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers, identify stakeholders and stakeholder needs, and evaluate potential alternatives to generate recommendations for City Council.	The Commission proposed setting up a committee but was not able to get City Council approval in time. It was decided this committee topic would be rediscussed for inclusion in the FY24 workplan.
Recommendations to City Council		
Building Electrification	In Winter 2023, City Council was exploring possible ways to restrict fossil fuels in new construction.	The ESC sent a letter to support restricting fossil fuel infrastructure in new residential buildings (November 2022).
Public Health Overlay Zones	A Public Health Overlay Zone is a planning tool that adjusts the zoning and land use rules in a designated area for the purpose of protecting public health. Beyond Toxics presented on the concept of placing a Public Health Overlay Zone on the industrial corridor along Roosevelt Blvd and Hwy 99.	The Sustainability Commission wrote a letter to City Council to support Beyond Toxics' concept for a Public Health Overlay Zone. (February 2023)
Revenue Committee	City Council directed COE to establish a revenue committee in order to identify new potential revenue streams to address the budget deficit in the General Fund and to fund City Council's priority areas of homelessness, downtown and climate.	The ESC sent a letter to City Council recommending that a member of the ESC be a part of the Revenue Committee. Attached to the letter were recommendations previously submitted by the ESC that included possible revenue streams for climate work (June 2023).