

From: cball@ashevillenc.gov <cball@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 11/30/2015 4:46:19 PM
To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
Cc: soniamarcus@gmail.com, Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org, Jason.Walls@duke-energy.com, julie@mountaintrue.org, JNoor@roberts-stevens.com, GJackson@ashevillenc.gov, AWeaver@ashevillenc.gov, Wanda.Greene@buncombecounty.org, Jon.Creighton@buncombecoun
Subject: Re: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

I think Melissa is in the process of scheduling the meeting. She has a few "hold the dates" out there now.

Cathy

On Nov 30, 2015, at 3:02 PM, Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

â€œm looping Jaime in to help us schedule. Could Jason and Cathy get a list of folks to Jaime for the initial "small" group meeting?

From: Sonia Marcus [<mailto:soniamarcus@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Brownie W. Newman
Cc: Walls, Jason A; Julie Mayfield; John Noor; Gary Jackson; cball@ashevillenc.gov; Amber N.G. Weaver; Wanda Greene; Jon Creighton; Esther Manheimer; David Gantt
Subject: Re: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

Hey all -

I like the idea of convening a new, limited-term regional task force on clean energy planning. I don't think that we should limit it to Asheville and Buncombe County (the more inclusive it is, the better) but we also don't need to force the issue of representation if we can't wrangle appropriate folks from other municipalities, counties or regional entities.

I agree with Jason -- we should put our heads together first to discuss how this would operate, who would be invited to participate, what exactly the charge would be, etc. I am ready, willing and able to take part.

Thanks in advance to Esther for convening this smaller steering committee. Ultimately, I don't think it's necessarily the City's job to assume this role but it will certainly help to get the process launched. I wonder if it's relevant to think about having someone from Land of Sky regional council participate from the get-go. Bill Eaker perhaps?

Sonia

On Mon, Nov 23, 2015 at 10:08 AM, Brownie W. Newman <Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org> wrote:
Jason,

Of course! Sorry if that wasn't clear.

Brownie

Sent from my iPad

> On Nov 23, 2015, at 9:58 AM, Walls, Jason A <Jason.Walls@duke-energy.com> wrote:
>
> Brownie,
>
> I agree with keeping the initial meeting small with city/county folks, but I would ask to participate from Duke.
>
> Best,
> Jason
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Brownie W. Newman [<mailto:Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org>]
> Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 9:04 AM
> To: Julie Mayfield
> Cc: Walls, Jason A; Sonia Marcus; John Noor; Gary Jackson; cball@ashevillenc.gov; Amber N.G. Weaver; Wanda Greene; Jon Creighton; Esther Manheimer; David Gantt
> Subject: Re: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

> I think this all sounds very positive. I am copying David Gantt. I suggest we keep an initial meeting fairly small with mostly city and county representatives. Once we have had this initial meeting and reach agreement on the purpose for this new group will be, we can discuss who are all the people who we will need to brought in to achieve those goals.

> Brownie

> Sent from my iPad

> On Nov 20, 2015, at 4:55 PM, Julie Mayfield <julie@mountaintrue.org<<mailto:julie@mountaintrue.org>>> wrote:

> â€™ve added Gary Jackson and Esther to this thread.

> We do seem to be thinking along the same lines. I would suggest we at least touch on the questions I listed below in this initial meeting and I would strongly urge that we include in this initial meeting at least Dave Hollister with his rooftop solar hat on and Kelly Martin who can bring examples of national partnerships. I think Richard plans to pursue a different conversation directly with Robert, and we can bring Sam Ruark in perhaps as one of the appointees if that makes sense.

>

> If this makes sense, who can take the lead in setting up the meeting? We should start now since it could take a couple of weeks before we find a date that works for everyone.

>
>
> Julie
>
> From: Walls, Jason A [mailto:Jason.Walls@duke-energy.com<mailto:Jason.Walls@duke-energy.com>]

> Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 2:16 PM
> To: Julie Mayfield <julie@mountaintrue.org<mailto:julie@mountaintrue.org>>; Sonia Marcus <soniamarcus@gmail.com<mailto:soniamarcus@gmail.com>>
> Cc: brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org<mailto:brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>; John Noor <JNoor@roberts-stevens.com<mailto:JNoor@roberts-stevens.com>>; Gary Jackson <gjackson@ashevillenc.gov<mailto:gjackson@ashevillenc.gov>>; cbhall@ashevillenc.gov<mailto:cbhall@ashevillenc.gov>; Amber N.G. Weaver <AWeaver@ashevillenc.gov<mailto:AWeaver@ashevillenc.gov>>; wanda.greene@buncombecounty.org<mailto:wanda.greene@buncombecounty.org>; jon.creighton@buncombecounty.org<mailto:jon.creighton@buncombecounty.org>
> Subject: RE: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

>
> Julie,
>
> Thank you for your note. We are absolutely committed to working closely with the City and County to help deliver the savings needed to avoid the 3rd power plant, but it canâ€™t happen without collaboration from all. Overall, you make several good points and suggestions that need to be worked out and further defined. I also think that youâ€™ve spelled out what I believe is an effective â€œboardâ€ and â€œcommitteeâ€ structure.

>
> As you and I have discussed, the creation and appointment of the Asheville-Buncombe Energy Innovation (Task Force, Team, Oversight Board, etc.) is a good place for the three formal partners (City of Asheville, Buncombe County and Duke Energy) to put together a longer-term vision for the partnership. From that group, I foresee multiple committees that will be crucial for various aspects of this important work.

>
> I would suggest that this team be established through a joint city/county resolution â€ in support of the companyâ€™s new plan. Each group could assign four members (12 total) to represent their interests in the larger initiative. All of these participants have to be solution oriented.

>
> This groupâ€™s first order of business, beyond adopting its operating charter with clear and measurable goals, could be to design the larger process for broader stakeholder engagement â€ including your questions 1-7. I would suggest the following people meet before Dec. 15 to talk about the structure of the oversight body and agree on the initial 12 members:

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>
> 1. Esther Manheimer â€ City of Asheville
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> 2. Julie Mayfield â€ City of Asheville
>
> 3. Amber Weaver â€ City of Asheville
>
> 4. Sonia Marcus â€ City of Asheville
>
> 5. Cathy Ball â€ City of Asheville
>
> 6. David Gantt â€ Buncombe County
>
> 7. Brownie Newman â€ Buncombe County
>
> 8. Wanda Green or Jon Creighton â€ Buncombe County
>
> 9. Jason Walls â€ Duke Energy (I will represent Duke Energy and pull in other support as needed)

> If supported by you all, I could envision a joint city/county resolution announcing the group and endorsing the work in early January.

>
> As to ways to capitalize on peopleâ€™s enthusiasm, I would recommend a joint promotion on the companyâ€™s EnergyWise program. This program is established, focuses directly on reduction in peak energy demand and relevant to the upcoming cold weather season. Our team is working on some marketing materials that will hopefully be ready in the coming weeks that we can all use to promote this program.

>
> I hope this is supportive of where you would like to go and we can get there and start doing some cool work. I welcome your thoughts.

>
> Best,
> Jason
>
> Jason A. Walls
> Duke Energy | District Manager â€ Asheville Area
> w: 828.258.5019 | c: 803-818-7593
> Jason.Walls@duke-energy.com<mailto:raig.debrew@duke-energy.com>

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> [cid:image003.png@01CE2BAF.853D95C0]
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> From: Julie Mayfield [mailto:julie@mountaintrue.org]
> Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 12:13 PM
> To: Sonia Marcus
> Cc: brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org<mailto:brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>; John Noor; Walls, Jason A; Gary Jackson
> Subject: RE: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

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>
> *** Exercise caution. This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. *** Hi Sonia I hear that, but I think the partnership is now much larger than just the Cityâ€™s framework and we need to have more people in the conversation about what happens next. There is also an efficiency issue here â€ Iâ€™m looking at having the same conversation with my own people, with Duke, with City staff, with you and brownie to talk about the city-county-Duke partnership moving forward and I think we would all benefit from getting in the same room. In an effort to do that, Iâ€™ve added both Gary Jackson and Jason to this thread.

>
> Hereâ€™s what I envision: a larger meeting with key people who can be helpful in designing a process going forward that would address at least the following questions (all of which are coming up in my conversations with Duke and my own people):

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> 1. Whatâ€™s the goal of the partnership â€ avoiding a new 190 MW plant in 2023 or something else? Could this be a pilot project for Duke for community partnerships going forward and, if so, does that change anything?
> 2. Scope of the work: is it just City/County Buncombe or is Duke planning to work more broadly throughout the region and are there opportunities for more cooperation with other local governments? (Jasonâ€™s counterpart in Henderson County alluded to this earlier this week.)
> 3. How do we all see the bigger partnership playing out over the next few years? Who needs to be at the table, whatâ€™s the role of the public, does that process need a facilitator?
> 4. Do we need a process and small team now to develop the longer process? If so, what does that look like and how quickly can we pull that together?

> 5. Whatâ€™s the role of the cityâ€™s recently adopted framework in the larger partnership? In light of a more concrete goal, do we need to revisit that and be more aggressive or just different?

> 6. Are there some immediate things the city-county-duke-outside groups can do to capitalize on peopleâ€™s engagement while the longer process is being developed?

> 7. Can Duke tell us what resources they are prepared to bring to the partnership?

>

> Hereâ€™s who I think needs to be part of that conversation:

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> * Sonia Marcus--SACEE

> * Julie Mayfieldâ€™City Council (it seems I will be the SACEE liaison)

> * Amber Weaverâ€™City Staff

> * Cathy Ballâ€™City Staff

> * Brownie Newmanâ€™County Commission/Large scale solar

> * Any county staff Brownie wants to bring

> * Robert Sipesâ€™Duke Energy

> * Jason Wallsâ€™Duke Energy

> * Craig Debrew - Duke Energy (Jasonâ€™s southern counterpart)

>

> I also think itâ€™s important at this point to engage outside people who have given a lot of thought to these partnerships, are already working closely with Duke at other levels, or have experience in this kind of work. Others may have additional suggestions for people to add, but my list for those additional people are:

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> * Dave Hollisterâ€™Small scale solar

> * Kelly Martinâ€™Sierra Club

> * Richard Fireman

> * Sam Ruarkâ€™WNCGBC/formerly with PB&E who brings experience administering utility-funded community energy efficiency partnership

>

> There will likely ultimately be work happening on several levels â€“ staff, council, SACEE, outside groups - but I think we would all benefit from getting some clarity and hopefully unity of vision at this point so we can get started. Sorry to blow this up bigger than you might have wanted, but Iâ€™ve already had the same conversation three times in the last week and just want to bring them all together.

>

> I look forward to hearing what others think.

>

> Julie

>

>

> From: Sonia Marcus [mailto:soniamarcus@gmail.com<<mailto:soniamarcus@gmail.com>>]

> Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 6:17 PM

> To: Julie Mayfield <julie@mountaintrue.org<<mailto:julie@mountaintrue.org>>>

> Cc: brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org<<mailto:brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>>; John Noor <JNoor@roberts-stevens.com<<mailto:JNoor@roberts-stevens.com>>>

> Subject: Re: Discussing next steps for City/County/regional clean energy?

>

> Hey Julie,

>

> Maybe I didn't make this clear but Duke is slated to meet with City staff. It's just that they are going to be meeting on their own. So City staff is stepping up and taking hold of the partnership framework, which is good news as far as I'm concerned.

>

> I've asked Amber to provide an update at our next SACEE meeting regarding progress. Certainly doesn't preclude us from calling another meeting with Jason Walls. But I would like to honor City staff's interest in guiding the particulars of the partnership at this point and calling on us for help and/or guidance as they see fit.

>

> Sonia

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> On Thu, Nov 19, 2015 at 1:25 PM, Julie Mayfield <julie@mountaintrue.org<<mailto:julie@mountaintrue.org>>> wrote:

> Hi Sonia - I am happy to meet, but I wonder if a joint meeting with duke and staff is the best next step. Yes, we have the framework, but with Duke coming to the table in a bigger way, we have the chance to go way beyond that plan. I know that duke is thinking big and we should too.

>

> Does that make sense? I just don't want to divorce the framework from what we may do jointly going forward. We should look at it as the basis but it is no longer the limit.

>

> Julie

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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> On Nov 19, 2015, at 11:31 AM, Sonia Marcus <soniamarcus@gmail.com<<mailto:soniamarcus@gmail.com>>> wrote:

> Hi Julie and Brownie,

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> First of all, thanks for all that both of you have done and continue to do to support clean energy projects in our community and region.

>

> I'm hoping we could find a time to talk about the recent steps that have been taken in the City of Asheville to advance and accelerate clean energy projects and also the potential for other activities that could involve more regional participation, particularly in regards to Duke's modernization project.

>

> I gather that Amber Weaver, COA sustainability officer, will be sitting down with Jason Walls from Duke tomorrow to talk about the partnership agreement again, now that the implementation framework has been formally adopted. I get the sense that City staff would like to take the lead on that which is probably appropriate at this point.

>

> What I'd like for us to explore in the meantime is what our respective roles are or could be going forward in regards to a) keeping that process on track, b) continuing to extend our efforts out beyond Asheville and beyond City-owned facilities and operations and c) taking advantage of specific involvement opportunities (like e-Lab) to support our strategic collaboration.

>

> Would that make sense? Including John Noor on this email as well who serves as SACEE's Vice Chair.

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> Here are some times that I could meet:

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> * Wednesday December 2: Anytimeâ€™ other than 11-12pm

> * Thursday December 3: 8â€™- â€™9am

> * Friday December 4: Anytimeâ€™ other than 11-12pm

> Warm regards,

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> Sonia

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