



# sustainable **FREDERICK**

## Sustainability Committee

Minutes

March 7, 2022, 6pm

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

### **In attendance:**

Committee Members: Katey Grogan (KG), David Berliner (DB), Natasha Browne (NB), Will Cotton (WC), James Baker (JB), Phil LeBlanc (PL)

Alderman: Ben MacShane

Guests:

Staff: Jenny Willoughby (JW), Sustainability Manager

1. February minutes approved.
2. Compost Pilot and Sustainability Report—JW reports that the Compost Pilot contract will go to Mayor and Board Public Meeting for approval on April 7. The Sustainability Annual Report was presented to the Mayor and Board Workshop on March 2.
3. EV-Readiness Policy—The County Council will vote on their updated policy that includes Amendment 2 on Wednesday, March 9. Staff will be putting together a package of information to take to a Mayor and Board workshop. JW requested the Committee draft a specific letter with recommendations for commercial and residential EV-readiness that can be included in the package.

DB volunteered to draft the letter from the Committee for this project once the package is complete.

Alderman MacShane asked about commercial properties and noted that if everyone is driving electric vehicles, how many of the parking spots need to have an electric charger? Most drivers do the bulk of their charging at home so commercial multi-family would be more critical than a grocery store or other commercial parking area.

PL mentioned that he would like to see requirements on existing construction.

It was noted that multi-family should be included in the policy, even if other commercial is left out. Alderman MacShane noted that it might be good to consider 30 years out and potentially require more than 20% with the hope that more drivers will be able to electrify.

The Committee were against incentives for going beyond the requirements.

4. Discuss solar in the community—DB discussed two ways that residents could participate in solar and how to get more people to participate in the programs that are available. He discussed the potential to ask the Mayor and Board to pass an aspirational goal to get more solar in the community.

JW said that the City and County were again joining the Solar United Neighbors Co-Op program again this year, but there were very few signups last year. DB said having a web page for the Mayor and Board to point to would be helpful. PL mentioned that we might be able to put together another video for Channel 99. Marketing funds will likely help get more people to participate.

The group agreed that the push is to get people to sign up for the SUN Co-Op so they can learn about solar. It would be beneficial for the Mayor and Board to push this idea and set a target. DL volunteered to draft a letter requesting a proclamation for solar for the City.

5. Discuss Frederick Energy Rating home proposal—DL introduced a program that the Department of Energy offers, which is similar to a mpg sticker on the car, but it's for the house. Whenever buying or selling a home, the house needs to get a rating to let potential buyers understand if what they are purchasing is energy efficient or will need more work to bring it up to standard.

NB mentioned the historic homes where it might be difficult to retrofit. DB noted that this won't require anyone to make upgrades, but just provides a rating guide for buyers. KG mentioned that Potomac Edison used to provide audits, but was unsure if they still do that.

6. Other administrative Items and Future Meeting Topics
  - a. Next meeting **Monday, April 4**
7. Public Comment—no comment