



## Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

200 College Street, Room 310

June 10, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

#### Subcommittee Members Present

Chairman Newman, Commissioner Wells, Meg Jamison, Lena Hansen, and Maggie Ullman

#### Staff Members Present

Sybil Tate, Jeremiah LeRoy, Jessica Hughes, Michael Frue, Jennifer Harrison, Ashley Featherstone, Evan Couzo, James Raiford, Mike Matthews

Commissioner Sloan called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

#### Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- *Brownie Newman made a motion to approve the June 10, 2022, agenda and May 20, 2022 minutes, seconded by Meg Jamison, and the motion passed with the vote.*

#### Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

#### Air Quality Update

- The mission of the Agency is to protect and monitor the area's air quality to safeguard the public health and the environment.
- Three types of pollution in WNC: temperature inversions, bowl effect, and locally-generate pollution.
- Air Quality is under an inter-local agreement pursuant to NCGS 143-215.112 Local Air Pollution Control Programs. Governed by a 5-member board and has several community members on an advisory committee.
- Air Quality is responsible for monitoring Air Quality for compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), implementing federal, state, and local air quality regulations, and education/outreach.
- Open Burning Regulations:
  - Open burning is regulated under Asheville Buncombe Air Quality Code Chapter 4 Section 1900
  - Burning of household trash, construction materials, asphaltic materials, card board, processed wood, and papers are prohibited at any time
  - More toxic air pollution is emitted by one burn barrel of trash than a municipal solid waste incinerator.
  - Civil penalties-\$25,000 Maximum
- Buncombe County residents can burn natural vegetation that originates from their own property on burning days between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Burning is not allowed where there is public pick up for yard waste (City of Asheville, Towns of Weaverville, Black Mountain, Woodfin, Montreat, and Biltmore Forest)
- Permits are no longer required by this Agency for the burning of machine piled brush, that is the result of land clearing. However, all land clearing must comply with the regulations: 500' from the nearest occupied structure, no logs or stumps over 12" diameter, and no dirt.
- Air Quality is 100% funded.



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- Please see Air Quality Update presentation for full report.

### NC GHG Inventory

- Pollutants: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)
- 2022 Update to statewide GHG emissions inventory
- Years covered: 1990-2018
- Projections for 2019 to 2030 based on forecasted changes to fuel use, population, historical trends.
- Used to benchmark progress on GHG reductions against state goals and policies to determine which sectors offer opportunities for future reductions.
- Between 2005 and 2018, North Carolina reduced gross GHG emissions by 16% and net GHG emissions by 23%, while North Carolina's population and real Gross State Product grew by 19% and 24%, respectively.
- By 2030, net GHG emissions are forecast to decrease by 39% relative to 2005 baseline emissions, with the inclusion of the electricity sector reductions mandated by House Bill 951.
- The inventory's emission projections do not include all reductions expected as a result of policies enacted after 2020.
- The Transportation sector accounts for 36% of the state's gross GHG emissions and is projected to decrease emissions at a much lower rate compared to the projected decrease in electricity generation emissions by 2030.
- Forests, natural lands, and agricultural lands sequestered an estimated 26% of the state's gross GHG emissions in 2018.
- Between 2005 and 2018, North Carolina reduced gross GHG emissions by 16% and net GHG emissions by 23%.
- During this same time period, North Carolina's population and real Gross State Product (GSP) grew by 19% and 24%, respectively.
- By 2025, net GHG emissions are projected to decrease by 30% relative to 2005 baseline emissions.
- By 2030, net GHG emissions are forecast to decrease by 39% relative to the 2005 baseline.
- The 2025 and 2030 projections do not include all reductions expected as a result of policies enacted after 2020.
- Carbon dioxide emissions currently account for approximately 82% of total GHG emissions.
- The primary source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is fossil fuel combustion.
- GHG emissions from fossil fuel combustion have decreased by 21% between 2005 and 2018. This is due to both a shift in fuel use, from coal to natural gas, and increased energy efficiency.
- Methane emissions currently account for approximately 11% of total GHG emissions.
- The primary sources of methane are Waste Management and Agriculture.
- Emissions from Waste Management and Agriculture have not changed significantly since 2005, even with a growing population and economy.
- While previously the largest contributor to GHG emissions, Electricity Generation and Use is now the second largest emissions sector and represents 33% of all GHG emissions.



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- Transportation sector emissions are significantly higher than estimated in the previous inventory, reflecting the impact of the new onroad vehicle emissions estimation methodology that utilizes EPA's state-of-the-science emissions modeling system.
- To see full report please see NC GHG State Inventory

### Carbon Plan Intervention Letter

- Jeremiah LeRoy stated he is working with local community partners to create a mapping tool that will help locate where the best locations would be for carbon reduction sites.
- At this time the program Jeremiah LeRoy is helping facilitate the program but there is not any more information to share other than it is a work in progress and he will keep the Subcommittee informed.

### Floating Solar Resolution

- Jeremiah LeRoy shared a solar resolution letter for approval. Please Solar Resolution for more information.
- Maggie Ullman made a motion to approve the floating solar resolution, seconded by Terri Wells and the motion passed on the vote.

### Review of Future Meetings

- Jennifer Harrison presented a review of future meetings.
- The next meeting will be on July 15, 2022 in-person at the East Asheville Library

### Adjourn

- *Terri Wells made a motion to adjourn at 12:00pm, seconded by Maggie Ullman and the motion passed with all in favor.*