



# Orange County Sustainability & Resilience Committee Energy & Climate Action Sub-Committee MEETING MINUTES

WebEx Virtual Meeting  
Friday, August 14, 2020  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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## SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Castro	<u>Additional Board Members</u>
Jennifer Szaro	Byron Knibbs
Jim Bacchus	Suzan Glickman
Sam Choi	Kris Stenger
Derek Fehrer	Bill Bradford
Raquel Fernandez	Yara Watson
	Nicole Lombardo

## STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides  
Lori Forsman  
Jane Gregory  
David Jones  
Aimee Krivan  
David Gregory  
Jim Ward

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## SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

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Digital Archive complete with presentation materials, handouts, and meeting audio/visual recording are posted at this website: <https://ocfl.app.box.com/folder/118865147784>

### Call to Order

At 9:36 AM Jeff Benavides called the meeting to order.

### Public Comment

Byron Knibbs called on Public Comment. Devesh Nimrul, Counterpoint SE interested vendor and contractor on energy efficiency.

### Introduction/Meeting Expectations

Jeff Benavides reviewed the agenda and overall intent of the meeting.

### Community Activity & Discussion

Derek – Recommends the data to be 2020 not 2010 – Orlando is at 2010 for a baseline –

Jenifer added that our regional level baseline will be 2015 and then 2018 update

Chris suggested Stay in line with the science-based targets for the goals – look at what the global community is doing and where we stand with respect to those commitments

Chris – net zero carbon goal should be the lead by example – so we will leave the goal at 2030 and the subgoal is 2050 related to the utility commitments

Susan – local governments will struggle to get there – but it is better to look at it from a more social equity – residential households having solar –

Byron suggested we have a goal for energy access and affordable energy for our community. Low income families – majority of them are renters – we have to come up with other scenarios so that people can buy into it for community solar.

Energy intensity study as a benchmark for improvements – OUC did this and Duke should have this data too

Jenifer - Another sub piece – local economic development associated with clean energy – could use covid recovery efforts to help with job creation with clean energy industries.

## Recommended Commitments:

Jeff – We need to frame out the commitments we are considering:

1. Global Covenant of Mayors –Strong commitment and forces us to be reporting and create a sustainable system that requires us to report. We like the accountability aspect.
2. Climate Mayors – peer network
3. Climate Emergency – this is a more grass roots effort – City of Miami has joined – it is a pledge not really something with teeth to hold us accountable.
  - a. Byron has been following this – trying to get everyone together and have government really try to move this forward in their communities – they think that everyone should be taking this seriously
  - b. Jeff saw that the R2C addresses many of the topics in the MOU probably not intentionally
  - c. Addresses the climate justice – and social equity
  - d. Susan – this could be good because putting our voices in can never be a bad thing
  - e. Chris - don't have to necessarily sign this agreement to keep the focus of the words
4. Ready for 100% - sierra club – Mayors commitment – doesn't require council approval – Orlando set it as policy – we would be the only county -

Jennifer S – some of these commitments come with financial resources – and the benefits can support our goals – and we should focus on these

## Community Wide Goal Refresh

Jeff Benavides presented a summary of goals and strategies in the Mayor Demings Transition Team Report and the Our Home For Life Sustainability Plan that were previously developed.

## Reviewed Meeting Schedule and Next Steps

Meeting adjourned 11:27 am – Jeff Benavides

**Committee Chair: Sustainability & Resilience Committee**

**Date:**

**Prepared by Jeff Benavides**

## VIRTUAL CHAT NOTES:

from Chris Castro to everyone: 1:23 PM

I think Equity and vulnerable communities were not addressed in my remarks, but truly believe that the transition to 100% clean, renewable future must center our least fortunate community and often left behind in these transformations.

from Chris Castro to everyone: 1:23 PM

We must prioritize

from Chris Castro to everyone: 1:24 PM

We also need to focus on a "just transition" for those working in fossil fuel industry.

from Jeff Benavides to all attendees: 1:25 PM

feel free to input your vision in the comments here!

from Jenifer Rupert to everyone: 1:26 PM

without the music in my background, I would like to expand on the technology conversation and create the central florida center for materials innovation building off of our strengths in sectors including boating, aviation and turbines. solar in there as well.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:28 PM

We have the ability of test-bedding new and emerging technologies as a living lab City...Green hydrogen is an example being tested by OUC but can imagine us being a global hotspot for new tech that can achieve these goals.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:30 PM

Solar parking canopies all over! It's becoming much more cost effective...Advent Health is now finalizing over 850 kW of new solar canopy on their new parking garage.

from Jenifer Rupert to everyone: 1:37 PM

R2C regional ghg inventory goal will be 2015 baseline.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:52 PM

Good point, Susan...we cannot JUST rely on utility-scale solar...we must move towards distributed energy resources and rooftop solar to meet these goals...Microgrids will be key.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:53 PM

That will essentially be a state regulatory effort to change the "value of solar" and encourage more rooftop solar dev i addition to these large-scale solar farms.

from Olivia Williams to all panelists: 1:56 PM

I agree Byron, as a renter myself I have no choice in where my energy comes from because the property owners are in control.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:56 PM

Good point, Byron about owner vs. renter in low-income...and to Susan's point, the community solar never has an ROI and requires just continuing to buy the clean power. We have to find balance to ensure people are empowered and can benefit fully from the "value of solar"

from Susan Glickman to everyone: 1:56 PM

renter-landlord dilemma is a vexing problem

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:56 PM

There are plenty of ways to address this...the state regulatory framework makes these models illegal.

from Susan Glickman to everyone: 1:57 PM

the psc could allow renters to access some programs

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 1:57 PM

Solar is awesome but so are shade trees! Need energy solutions that allow trees and solar to live in harmony. :D

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:57 PM

Duke Energy has a low-income carve out for their community solar program that provides savings from Day 1!

from Derek Fehrer to everyone: 1:58 PM

Not sure what status of community solar in Florida is, but it should allow renters to be able to access solar. Perhaps OC can serve as anchor subscriber for new CSG with capacity set aside to provide power for lower income tenants, including renters

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 1:58 PM

Something OUC needs to consider for our program...Duke's program provides virtual net metering (VNM) benefits, making ti a true community solar. OUC's program is a "green tariff" that never provides value back

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 2:05 PM

Efficiency Delivered program of OUC is eligible for renter and owners...provides free home energy audit and \$2,000 of funding to improve efficiency and weatherization...it is subsidized by household income as well, and uses the utility bill as repayment mechanism... My preference would be to eliminate any of the repayment of ED improvements completely for low-income households under \$40,000 AMI.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 2:07 PM

We have a "2030 Solar Pledge" being launched later this year to have businesses pledge the 100% RE goals for Orlando...We have partnered with Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP) and the Greater Orlando Chamber to engage those businesses...The County will be able to leverage this campaign as well.

from Susan Glickman to everyone: 2:20 PM

Leadership is everything!!!

from Susan Glickman to everyone: 2:24 PM

I vote to prioritize the actions with teeth. That said, we are in a climate emergency for sure.

from Susan Glickman to everyone: 2:36 PM

check out Dream in Green

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:37 PM

I know Dream in Green from my work down in Miami-Dade Co. they do good work on multiple levels

from Nicole Lombardo to all panelists: 2:39 PM

google.com/sunroof

from Nicole Lombardo to all panelists: 2:40 PM

lots of ways we can extend some of data into other forms of content and applications - happy to chat offline

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 2:44 PM

Smells like money LOL

from Nicole Kennedy - City of Apopka to everyone: 2:49 PM

I echo Jane on the neighborhood participation...people want change but are not sure how.

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 2:51 PM

Maybe starting our focus with the property management companies such as Sentry would be a good place to begin

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:51 PM

When looking at getting a cultural or practices shift, I suggest tapping into the methodology that has been developed by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, Environmental Psychologist and expert on community-based social marketing: <https://www.cbsm.com/>

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:52 PM

\*Correction Doug McKenzie-Mohr

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 2:53 PM

The county paid for many staff to attend training with Doug McKenzie-Mohr several years ago. :)

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:54 PM

Good stuff, I benefited from some of those trainings in the Tampa Bay area some years ago as well!

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 2:55 PM

UF also has a certificate program on community based social marketing that is online. <https://ifas-aec-ccsm.catalog.instructure.com/courses/ccsm>

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:56 PM

That was my former employer, IFAS and its where I got my training!

from Devesh Nirmul to all panelists: 2:56 PM

Maybe good to identify some social marketing experts at local universities to work on a pilot program with HOAs starting with focus groups/listening sessions and developing a campaign pilot out of that.

from Nicole Lombardo to all panelists: 2:58 PM

thank you!