



TOWN OF CARRBORO

Environmental Advisory Board

301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

RECOMMENDATION

January 11, 2020

Net Zero Discussion

Motion was made by Echart and seconded by Brandon that the EAB recommends:

Defining Net Zero

- Option 3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- The Town will need timely and defensible data to back up greenhouse gas emissions calculations
 - Search for more granular data (Duke Energy vs. NREL)
 - Published emissions data can be out-of-date so the Town will need to make some assumptions
 - Need to capture life cycle emissions from the production and transportation of the energy, especially natural gas

Defining the Boundary

- Option C: Off Site
- Develop solar energy anywhere on the grid, provided that it is owned by the Town
- Does not need to be Town property or within Town boundaries
- Look into Town parks, covered parking lots
- At some point the Town may need to examine creative yet feasible opportunities
 - Community solar
 - Buy a stake in a larger operation in another location; invest in solar farms
- The entire Carrboro community is a system, the location of the renewables is not as important
- However, on-site solar will minimize distribution losses

Additional Comments

Energy Sources

- The EAB recommends not locking the Town into natural gas usage
 - If the Town relies on electrification, it has more control and flexibility
- The makeup of the Town's energy sources is a moving target
 - The Town will need to take future trends into account

RECs

- Some EAB members are skeptical of RECs due to the fact that some renewable projects may already be in place and would not represent new emissions reductions

Overall

- The Town needs to work towards a goal of reducing fossil fuel use
- The Town should first pursue maximizing the energy efficiency of its buildings
- Next, the energy usage of the buildings must be offset completely by renewables in order for the Town to reach its goals of 80% reduction of 2010 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2030
- The building analysis is a great first step towards evaluating all municipal energy usage and ultimately, the community's energy usage

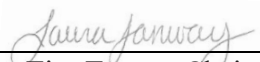
VOTE:

AYES: (5) Kaufman, Turner, Brandon, Schalkoff, Echart

ABSENT/EXCUSED: (1) Blanco

NOES: (0)

ABSTENTIONS: (0)


For Tim Turner, Chair

1-11-21
(Date)