

City of Verona
Minutes
Sustainability Task Force
January 27, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Verona Sustainability Task Force held its meeting as a virtual meeting. The Task Force did not meet in person. Members of the Task Force and Staff joined the meeting by using Zoom Webinar. Members of the public were able to join the meeting using Zoom Webinar via a computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by calling into the meeting via phone.

- 1. Call to Order:** Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Charlie Ryan, Kirstin Reeser, Katie Kohl, Geoff Guist, Heather Reekie, and Joe Zimer were present. Also present: Mayor Luke Diaz, City Administrator Adam Sayre, and Community Development Specialist Katherine Holt.
- 3. Approval of the minutes from December 16, 2020 Sustainability Task Force meeting.**
Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kohl, to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 Sustainability Task Force meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
- 4. Discussion and Possible Action – A presentation by Alliant Energy regarding renewable energy tariffs, electrification offerings, and question and answer.**

Jeff McCarthy introduced Heidi Parker and Zach Hill from Alliant Energy.

Heidi Parker gave a brief presentation regarding three tariff solutions, which are community solar, customer hosted renewables, and renewable energy partner. Each option has a different pricing model and capacity, but all can accommodate solar.

Community Solar has an upfront subscription fee and the ‘community’ can get solar credits. Customers can offset their energy usage. Alliant is working with the communities to determine the best solar location, which is local and can be seen. The energy goes to the grid to power the community. The subscribers get a credit off of their bill for the previous month’s solar collection for twenty years. Alliant will build and market this type of option. There is a one-time subscription fee, which helps to pay for the panels, construction, marketing, and land lease/rent.

Diaz asked if the City enacted a policy to place solar panels on all park shelters would Alliant Energy partner would the City and what program would accommodate this request?

Parker responded that it would be a combination of community solar or customer hosted program as the goal is to get as much solar power as possible, but need more information regarding the needs.

Zilmer asked how many solar community blocks are today. Have you considered making a solar block a combination for solar, geothermal, and turbine to not be totally reliant on a sunny day?

Parker responded that Alliant has a block that is live in Fond du Lac and almost 25% subscribed. We are actively looking for anchor tenants. We can always add battery for some of the programs if the community is interested in battery storage as they are self-funded programs.

McCarthy stated that Alliant has a bunch a solar to install in the next couple of years for solely Alliant's use and have not considered geothermal as a partner to solar. Alliant does have wind power in Iowa. Alliant will keep solar and wind separate at this time.

Reeser asked if you buy into the solar block in the beginning for twenty years, you should stay in a service area that is within Alliant Energy territory.

Parker stated that they would give you a refund for the credits that you purchased if you move out of the territory and if you stay within the territory the block credits will move with you.

Zach Hill presented information regarding Alliant's renewable energy solutions with a customer hosted program. Alliant has the ability to meet the customer's needs through the three different tariffs. Customer hosted is done on the customer's property and the customer receives lease payments for twenty years that could be up to three five year extensions. \$4,500 lease payment a year, which is set by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. They have placed butterfly habitats and pollinators in addition to the solar on roofs, which Alliant maintains. These are capped at 5 megawatt capacity. He recommended customer service is a good place for Verona to begin.

Zilmer asked who installs the solar panels.

Hill stated that Alliant will do due diligence for the site and how the electricity will access the substation. Alliant has a variety of preferences of people they do work. The customer hosted is owned by Alliant. Customer owned is done by third party operators that have advantages, but for larger facilities they have to put in a request to ensure that the electricity can safely access the substations. The customer would have to pay for upgrades if they are needed such as grid interface. Good candidates for solar panels are well suited, close to the substations, and good infrastructure when Alliant evaluates customer hosted sites.

Parker stated that Alliant can look at both programs to determine if a site would work.

Ryan asked if the customer hosted is sourced to allow for battery storage and if homeowners are required to be connected to the grid.

Hill has reservations about battery storage for customer based battery storage at this time. They do this for Alliant's larger facilities.

McCartney only knows of the DNR site that is currently off the grid in Baraboo that has battery storage as a back-up as it was a better cost than running a distribution line. A homeowner can be disconnected from the grid and takes on any problems that could occur with that.

Hill explained that their preference is 5-7 acres for a solar development. There are bifacial panels and trackers for panels allow the panels to be more efficient.

Zilmer how much energy do you deliver per year and how much is renewable?

McCarthy has a chart that contains the renewable energy that they have each year and believe it is about 25% per year. Alliant plans on being 100% renewable by 2050. Natural gas plants are their highest electric generators as they are new. 750 megawatts each and have eliminated coal plants, which are expected to stop in 2040.

Diaz asked if the timeline could go faster and Verona is here to support their progress.

Hill believes that they will continue to beat their long term goal that will become sooner and sooner instead of the 2050 goal. They have to balance new generation, customer rate increases, and decommissioning plants.

Wozny stated that Alliant publishes goals and hopes to lower them if possible especially with the various teams to improve upon

Zilmer asked if Alliant sets the buyback rate.

McCarthy replied that they do not as the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin sets the rates.

Rob Wozny and Jenn Knudtson from Alliant Energy presented electrification options.

Knudtson explained that electrification helps with reduce carbonization. She showed various charts and graphs that contain electric vehicle (EV) sales, EV investments, and combustion vehicle ban deadlines per country.

Wozny explained the benefits of EVs and sustainability impact. He presented a slide that contained Alliant's sustainability goals with years. Alliant answers questions for hydrogen, natural gas, and EV as they provide for both users and showed a table comparing vehicle types with cost of ownership. Alliant's goal is to electrify their fleet by 2030 by 100% for their light-duty vehicles. Most of their projects are customized for their customer. They stay abreast of funding opportunities and are interested in utility readiness with their fleet needs. Their goal is to help site equipment close so the runs are not long. If someone places solar on top of a parking structure, they would need to think about future EV charging and separate power meters for the structure. Alliant has rebate programs for chargers, grant money for transit, diesel emission reduction action has some money, heat pumps and battery storage as possible solutions to keep a well-rounded approach for customers.

Diaz appreciates any help with converting vehicle fleets to electric or hybrid vehicles would be helpful.

Wozny replied that Alliant has a path that they have to follow that would also be helpful for customers such as best practices. Wozny is the person to test chargers, verify installation, and ensure things are installed in a timely fashion and work. Eliminate fleet and having McCarthy help lead discussions on how to transverse these discussions.

Ryan stated that the City has discussed ordinance changes to require EVs. Have you witnessed other communities have in their ordinances that are good or bad for EVs?

Wozny has a list that they have compiled internally for EV especially with new construction per a certain amount of parking spaces. It is cheaper to install them in new parking garages or when a parking lot is completely redone. It would be feasible

overall for the community especially for new construction to include EV charging stations. Multiunit dwellings would be advisable to install them at the time of construction. 80-90% of charging is done at home.

Ryan agrees that there are lots of people interested in EV that live in apartments, but may not have access to this.

Wozny and Knudtson will provide a list to McCarthy who will submit it to Staff.

McCarthy stated that the City of Madison just established an ordinance for EV charging stations.

5. Discussion and Possible Action – Dane County Action Plan (CAP) supporter.

Sayre read the Dane County Action Plan goals that can be found at <https://daneclimateaction.org/climate-action-plan>. This is something that other communities have taken action on in other communities. This recommendation if approved would go to the Common Council on February 8th.

Motion by Zilmer, seconded by Guist, to recommend approval of the resolution to be a Dane County Action Plan supporter to the Common Council. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action – Creation of Sustain Verona website

Sayre asked that feedback is given to Holt. Guist also prepared the information that was sent to Holt to create the website.

Zilmer asked that the buttons for each site not open another tab, but go to another website.

Reekie wants to add solar to the energy options and base on the information that was provided by Alliant Energy tonight.

7. Next Meeting:

Sayre stated that a doodle poll will be sent and the next meeting will discuss outstanding items with additional information from Alliant and compost.

8. Adjournment:

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Zilmer, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.