



Wake County Sustainability Task Force News

May 19 meeting summary

At our May 19 meeting we reviewed the draft Energy recommendations that came from the discussions of the Energy work group. WECO and Wake Co staff will now review the comments as a basis for revising Energy Recommendations to present at the June 16 task force meeting.

We also continued our discussion about what to do with the entire set of recommendations and final report the task force has been working on.

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Comments on the Draft Energy Recommendations

The draft energy recommendations presented at the may 19 meeting are a result of task force and presenter input dating back to January 2010, along with discussions by the Energy work group. The work group met twice, 2/21/11 and 4/14/11 . The energy work group meeting summaries can be found on the project website. www.ncsu.edu/weco/wake . The Energy recommendations can also be found on the website.

The recommendations were printed on posters and the task force was asked to write comments on them. They were also asked to go back and read the comments of others after everyone was finished. These comments, along with WECO responses, can be found on the project website.

Meeting participants were asked to share their thoughts and questions. These were captured on flipcharts and are recorded below.

The following comments were made during the discussion:

- Building maintenance, as it relates to energy, is very important. Need commitment among facility owners for this maintenance. This goes along with advanced commissioning. Commissioning alone is not good enough. Ongoing maintenance should be its own strategy.
- Building codes is missing from strategies. It needs to be listed specifically.
- If EPA attainment is required, why do we need it as goal #1? Attainment is achieved by joint work between many parties and governments. It is collaboration. If we have to do this then maybe this strategy should be more

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Final Meeting

Thursday, June 16

[Wake County Commons Building](#)

4011 Cary Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610

4:00– 6:00 p.m.

Meeting topic:

- Energy Final Recs
- STF wrap up

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of a ‘how’ than a ‘what.’

- What about “energy generation”? Is this about not building coal plants?
- There is nothing in there about nuclear.
- Can we make a recommendation about power reduction?
- What can Wake County do? Let’s stick to our jurisdiction.
- Wake does buy power though.
- We have purchasing power, as a county
- Anyone can buy power through NC Green Power
- What about biomass for energy production - it could be something that helps farmers/landowners.
- Support a strategy to eliminate all subsidies for all power generation and use.
- Without subsidies, we may squash innovation for nascent technology
- I support getting rid of subsidies.
- Counties and cities can offer incentives for adhering to local sustainability standards
- Change buildings codes to require things that we are currently saying to give incentives for
- Encourage/Lobby the state building code communities to require stronger energy efficiency standards.
- Support the idea of local incentives, to go beyond the requirement.
- I can’t support stricter building codes because it can drive out lower income homebuyers
- Remove the word “implement” from the recommendations about auditing. Implementation should be based on the benefit cost analysis. **END**

Presentation to BoC and Marketing Discussion

At our April meeting, we began a discussion about marketing of the recommendations and final report. Those ideas were included in the May newsletter and are reprinted on page 4.

At the May meeting, participants reviewed the earlier ideas and continued their discussion of how the county should present and market this final report. Comments, questions and answers follow.

- Work with the [Council for a Sustainable Triangle \(C-FAST\)](#)
- Work with the PIOs from the different municipalities, they are creative
- Many organizations could host a speaker at meetings. There should be a list of available speakers (a speaker’s bureau)
- All of our organizations can link to the report on our websites
- Who presents to the Board of Commissioners, and who talks to them individually to explain the STF and its recommendations more fully?
- If it is an official meeting of the task force with commissioners, then it becomes a public meet-

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ing. It was noted that Task Force members can meet as a citizen with any of the commissioners. Concern was expressed that meeting one on one looks like lobbying, though some STF members thought that was fine. Wake County staff commented that it isn't how County task forces have proceeded, though.

- What about a poster session for the Board of Commissioners?
- Wake staff suggests the final report and recommendations be presented to the Board of Commissioners at a work session, to allow for more discussion. There is flexibility in the way a work session is structured. The recent meeting about downtown banners to cover the parking deck is an example of a poster like session. The need for discussion time, not just presentation, was acknowledged by staff.
- The alternate views should be presented and need to be taken into account when plans are made for presentation or marketing.
- This should be staff-delivered since there are no member chairs. Staff should keep the STF

up to date with implementation. They should continue to use the listserv and send updates.

- Does Board of Commissioners vote on it? Usually they will just accept the recommendations and acknowledge the work of the task force. Then they ask staff to develop an implementation plan.
- I hope staff spends significant effort on an Executive Summary.
- Perhaps the executive summary should just be goals and some examples.
- One of the suggestions from April was to deliver the results in a presentable way, what does that mean?
- STF participants responded: Web based; Handout or factsheet; Make a press kit; Multiple slideshow presentations (geared to different audiences, such as county commissioners, town councils, businesses, etc.)
- Is this type of marketing setting a precedent for County task forces? Staff response— no, Wake County has done other outreach efforts for task force products (stormwater, watershed plan).

See the May 2011 newsletter for the initial list of outreach ideas. **END**

What about prioritizing goals?

The idea of ranking or prioritizing goals or strategies was raised in April. WECO agreed to come up with an online survey to prioritize the goals for implementation, for each topic area: Waste, Water, and Energy. The STF briefly discussed the idea of prioritizing goals or strategies.

Comments from the STF included:

- What does ranking/prioritizing mean?
- Prioritizing goals for implementation will be hard to do since we don't have the cost/benefit data yet.
- Does literature show if there is difficulty in prioritizing a large # of items? How many is too many?
- Prioritizing goals makes the most sense, as compared to prioritizing strategies.
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The purpose of prioritizing, as suggested by some TF members, is to indicate relative priority for implementing strategies to the Board of Commissioners. Prioritizing goals rather than strategies was suggested. The strategies linked to the higher priority goals would then be highlighted as higher priority. A list showing the corresponding strategies to each goal will be produced to aid the prioritization of goals. An online survey will be sent for Task Force participants, sometime in June (possibly following the June meeting).

END

Watershed
Education for
Communities and
Officials

NCSU Campus Box 8109
Raleigh, NC 27695-8109

Patrick Beggs
919-515-4525
patrick_beggs@ncsu.edu

Christy Perrin
919-515-4542
christy_perrin@ncsu.edu

www.ncsu.edu/weco



Wake County
Environmental
Services

Matt Roylance
919-856-7133
matt.roylance@wakegov.com

www.wakegov.com

Wake County Sustainability Task Force Products

Based on feedback from the TF, Wake County and WECO staff have created the following outline for the final products:

Executive Summary (this may be called something else)– a brief introduction to the Task Force process followed by the goals, recommended strategies, and alternative opinions for Waste, Water, and Energy.

Appendices to include:

- Introduction
- Supporting background chapter for Waste
- Supporting background chapter for Water
- Supporting background chapter for Energy
- Summary of the process
- Outreach plan
- Glossary and references

Staff are currently finalizing the recommendations (energy recommendations are to be finalized following the June 16 meeting), drafting alternative opinions for review by participants who provided them, and drafting the appendices. Feedback on the background chapters may be sought from the Task Force via online methods, depending on the status of the chapters when we go to meeting in June.

Wake STF Gathering on June 16

Some group members have expressed an interest in organizing a social opportunity after the last task force meeting. For those that are interested in attending, the group will meet at the Fox and Hound Pub in North Hills at 6:30. Participants will pay for their own food and beverages.

Fox & Hound Pub & Grille
4158 Main at North Hills Street
Raleigh, NC 27609-5778
(919) 781-4495
foxandhound.com