

AGENDA

Meeting: Energy Committee

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Time: 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: BOE – Room 123B or MS Teams

Time	Topic	Presenter
4:00	Welcome / Introductions / Review of initial meeting	Superintendent Johnson
4:05	Review of Initial Meeting / Review of OE:3 Board Presentation	Superintendent Johnson
4:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions from Committee on the Board Meeting what this means for our work ahead Feedback from the group on initial Governance & Annual Report 	All
4:50	Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate Feedback into Annual Report Deliver Annual Report to the board Identify a contractor / timeline to help with emissions testing 	All
5:00	Next Committee Meeting Date	All
5:10	Closure / Announcements	All

Upcoming Energy Committee Meeting Dates:

Thursday, December 1; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 26; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 23; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

***Thursday, March 23; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** – Spring Break Week

Thursday, April 27; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 25; 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Summary/ideas from Oct. 27, 2022 Meeting

- ECASD County Lands – “Carbon Sinks”
- Inflation Reduction Act – offers a 30% reduction in solar panel costs and installation – currently waiting on guidance from IRS on how application will work.
- Energy Innovation Grant Program – ends in January, 2022

- Turf Fields – find a company committed to turf recycling when installing new turf fields. Average life span is 15 years, currently not accepted in landfills. General practice now is to throw on a piece of land and let them sit.
- ECASD Properties, based on observation, are almost exclusively Ash Trees. Emerald Ash Bore will ultimately kill all of our trees. As we establish new lands, ensure we are diversifying our trees to protect from future tree diseases. UWEC has over 100 different trees to increase biodiversity and prevent from future full scale wipeouts. Trees have labels on them so students can learn about them. UWEC has a policy that ensures there is not more than 10% of any one kind of tree on campus.
- ECASD students expressed value in marketing / advertising what we already do in our district – RAISE AWARENESS.
- Inflation Reduction Act – Students could take part in planting trees in a biodiverse environment.
- In terms of emissions testing, there is an intern who may complete this for \$5,000. We may not want to consider the COVID Years. This year would be a better indicator of future trends. The city of EC went back to 2015 when trending emissions. The further we are able to go back the more accurate our trends will be.
- Eau Claire Student Transit is using Sawatch Labs to conduct a suitability assessment pertaining to electric vehicles.
- Building the capacity of our students at a young age, build awareness – “engage in a composting program at school” – Model after “Eco Warriors” at Memorial
- Exploring an AP Environmental Science course option for students with a high degree of interest as it pertains to the environment and sustainability.

Specific to the annual report:

- Goals listed at the end of the document are specific to electricity and do not include gas, propane, etc.

Feedback from Madison Guo, Memorial:

- **Student/Staff Awareness:** I believe students aren't aware of the district's initiatives. The district's goals would be helped by promoting steps the district has taken towards carbon neutrality and ways students could help mitigate their own carbon footprint. This could be done through posters/banners (i.e. poster reads, "ECASD is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050," "ECASD currently uses 85% renewable energy," or "Carpooling with a fun friend cleans up our air." Additionally, if not currently in place, informational guidance for ECASD staff on the district's plans and ways to contribute to the goal.
- **Preparation for EV transportation:** My understanding from the annual report is that transportation is a major contributor to the district's carbon output; however, switching to EVs soon is not feasible because the technology is not available and there are still many other logistics with unknowns. I believe the district would benefit from a plan in advance for this upcoming technology, which has huge potential to get the district closer to carbon neutrality. Setting up plans for funding, needed facilities/equipment, and public support in advance will prepare the district to implement EVs as we wait for the old carbon-reliant vehicles and technologies to time out.

- **Offsetting Carbon Emissions:** The district will always have carbon emissions and cutting it to zero will be almost unachievable. However, to offset the inevitable emissions, I wonder if the district could invest in green industries (such as carbon-capture) which innovate and create technology that would offset carbon emissions. Would the investments towards these industries count towards the district's neutrality?