



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

December 10, 2024

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 12, 2024

New Business

2. Renewable Energy Ordinance Language

Old Business

3. Energy Action Plan Updates
4. Grant Updates
5. Outreach and Events Updates

Other Items

6. Update on Partnership between Growing Green Hearts and Fridley Public Schools
7. Informal Status Reports

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 12, 2024

Background

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 12, 2024.

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 12, 2024.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- November 12, 2024

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

November 12, 2024

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Klemz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Aaron Klemz

Sam Stoxen

Amy Dritz

Mark Hansen

Avonna Starck

Justin Foell

Absent: Heidi Ferris

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Emily Mashuga, Ampact Intern

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dritz. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of October 8, 2024 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to approve the October 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Solar on City-Owned Buildings Update

Ms. Workin shared proposed plans to add solar to City facilities.

Motion by Commissioner Foell to recommend accepting a Solar on Public Buildings grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce for \$72,000 to construct a solar array at the Moore Lake Park Community Building. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar on Public Buildings grant program for \$72,000 each to construct a solar array at the Public Works and Commons Park building. Seconded by Commissioner Foell. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Community Resilience Grant Application

Ms. Workin shared plans to apply for a community resilience grant from the MPCA.

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that CEE did another round of tabling at Fridley Terrace and distributed energy kits to 100 households. She also shared that there was information in the packet from Xcel Energy on city participation in different programs as well as citywide energy usage. There was a 137% increase in participants in energy efficiency programs as well as a 33% increase in renewable energy program participations from 2022 to 2023. 2023 was also a strong year for small business lighting projects and HVAC efficiency projects. There's also been 28 solar arrays participating in SolarRewards added since 2020. It was requested to see energy use by premise data. Commissioner Klemz also suggested that increased electrical use may be influenced by fuel switching from natural gas which decreases the City's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City was working with Rice Creek Watershed District to apply for a planning grant to update the stormwater retrofit analysis for Moore Lake.

6. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the baby gear swap at the ECFE Fall Festival was successful.

Other Items

7. Informal Status Reports

Commissioner Dritz shared that this was her last meeting as she was moving out of Fridley. The Commissioners and staff thanked Amy for her time on the EQEC. Ms. Workin shared that the City will be adopting a requirement of a two-foot freeboard above the regulatory floodplain elevation as recommended by the EQEC. Ms. Workin also shared that MnDOT would be hosting an update on the PEL on December 3 at Fridley City Hall from 5-7 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Workin

Environmental Planner



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Renewable Energy Ordinance Language

Background

The City of Fridley is updating its zoning code as part of a comprehensive recodification process. This chapter outlines requirements for renewable energy systems including solar arrays and wind energy generators. The current code includes language within each chapter specifying that roof-mounted solar arrays are allowed by right and that ground-mounted solar arrays and wind energy generators are allowed with a conditional use permit. The proposed language consolidates the ordinance language into one Solar Energy and Wind Energy section with the following changes:

- Consideration of solar carport structures
- Codification of the solar electrical permit
- Specification of height and setback standards
- Added provisions for the removal of abandoned structures

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the commission approve the proposed renewable energy ordinance language.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance Language

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

621.16 Solar Energy Systems

1. A conditional use permit shall be required for all ground-mounted solar energy systems and solar carports. Building-integrated and roof-mounted solar energy systems shall be permitted by right so long as the standards in this Section are met.
2. Setbacks.
 - (a) Solar energy systems must meet the accessory structure setback requirements for the underlying zoning district.
3. Visibility.
 - (a) Building-integrated and roof-mounted solar energy systems shall be limited to the following height when oriented at maximum tilt:
 - (1) No more than 10 inches above a pitched roof.
 - (2) No more than six feet above a flat roof.
 - (b) Where visible from the public right-of-way, ground-mounted solar energy systems shall not exceed 15 feet in height when oriented at maximum tilt.
 - (c) Solar carports shall not exceed:
 - (1) 20 feet in non-residential districts
 - (2) The height of the principal structure or 20 feet, whichever is lower, in residential districts
 - (d) All solar energy systems using a reflector to enhance solar production shall minimize glare from the reflector affecting nearby properties.
4. Lot coverage.
 - (a) The total collector area of a ground-mounted solar energy system shall not exceed half the building footprint of the principal structure unless specifically authorized by the conditional use permit. This provision shall not apply to solar carports.
5. Abandoned or Unused Systems.
 - (a) Abandoned or Unused Solar Energy Systems must be removed within 90 days of the cessation of operations unless an extension is approved by the Community Development Director. If an extension is not approved, such Solar Energy Systems will be considered a public nuisance. Such nuisances may be abated according to the procedures established in the Abatement of Exterior Nuisances Chapter of the Code.
6. Permit required.
 - (a) All solar energy systems require a solar electrical permit and building permit
 - (b) Applications for building-integrated and roof-mounted solar energy systems shall be accompanied by scaled horizontal and vertical elevation drawings, an electrical plan, and roof engineering report. The drawings must show the location of the system on the building.
 - (c) A site plan shall be provided for solar energy systems that require a conditional use permit. In addition to the materials required for a solar permit in provision (b) above, the following information shall be provided with the site plan application:
 - (1) Height, setback, lot coverage, and visibility standards as described by this section.
 - (2) Any screening or fencing plans;
 - (3) Ground cover plan; and
 - (4) Other requirements as requested by the Community Development Director in accordance with Section 650.02.

621.17 Wind Power Generators

1. Wind Power Generators shall be allowed with a Conditional Use Permit.

LIST OF DEFINITIONS NEEDED FOR THIS ARTICLE

EXISTING

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. For purposes of Chapter 205, “Right-of-Way” or “Public Right of Way” means the area on, below, or above a public roadway, highway, street, alley, bicycle lane, or public sidewalk in which the City, County, or State has an interest, including other dedicated rights-of-way for travel purposes and utility easements of the City, County, or State. A right-of-way does not include the airwaves above a right-of-way with regard to cellular or other non-wire telecommunications or broadcast services.

NEW

BUILDING-INTEGRATED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. A solar energy system that is an integral part of a principal or accessory building, rather than a separate mechanical device, replacing or substituting for an architectural or structural component of the building. Building-integrated systems include, but are not limited to, photovoltaic or hot water solar energy systems that are contained within roofing materials, windows, skylights, and awnings.

GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. A solar energy system mounted on a rack or pole that rests or is attached to the ground.

MOUNTING DEVICES. Racking, frames, or other devices that allow the mounting of a solar collector onto a roof surface or the ground.

PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM. A solar energy system that converts solar energy directly into electricity.

ROOF-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. A solar energy system mounted on a rack that is fastened to or ballasted on a structure roof. Roof-mount systems are accessory to the principal use.

ROOF PITCH. The final exterior slope of a roof calculated by the rise over the run, typically but not exclusively expressed in twelfths such as 3/12, 9/12, 12/12.

SOLAR CARPORT. A solar energy system of any size that is installed on a carport structure that is accessory to a parking area, and which may include electric vehicle supply equipment or energy storage facilities.

SOLAR COLLECTOR. The panel or device in a solar energy system that collects solar radiant energy and transforms it into thermal, mechanical, chemical, or electrical energy. The collector does not include frames, supports, or mounting hardware.

SOLAR ENERGY. Radiant energy received from the sun that can be collected in the form of heat or light by a solar collector.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. A device, array of devices, or structural design feature, the purpose of which is to provide for generation or storage of electricity from sunlight, or the collection, storage and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, daylight for interior lighting, or water heating.

SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM. A system that includes a solar collector and a heat exchanger that heats or preheats water for building heating systems or other hot water needs, including residential domestic hot water and hot water for commercial processes.

WIND POWER GENERATOR. A windmill that converts wind energy by means of mechanical rotation directly in to mechanical or electrical energy.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Energy Action Plan Updates

Background

At the November 9, 2021 meeting, the EQEC recommended adoption of Phase 2 of the Energy Action Plan. The following activities were completed since the previous EQEC Meeting:

- Submitted applications for Commons Park and Public Works for the Solar on Public Buildings Grant
- Submitted Energy Efficient Buildings application for Commons Park

The following activities are projected to occur:

- ICF to begin performing HES visits
- Electric Landscaping Equipment campaign

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Grant Updates

Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on sustainability grants held by the City.

Grants in the Pre-Application Stage

- MPCA Climate Resilience Implementation Grant for Commons Park

Grants Under Review

- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Commons Park
- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Public Works
- Wood Waste Utilization Grant for Custom Furniture Piece at Commons Park
- MPCA- Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants for Moore Lake Stormwater Retrofit Analysis Update in partnership with RCWD
- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Moore Lake (conditionally awarded)
- Regional Solicitation Grant- Safe Routes to School (awarded awaiting signature)
- BWSR Pollinator Pathways Grant with ACD (awarded awaiting signature)

Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44th Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County
- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- MnDOT Active Transportation grant for University Avenue Trails
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant Pt. 3
- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan
- DNR Shade Tree Grant
- MPCA Resiliency Grant for Electric Lawn Mower

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

- CCWD grant for improved street sweeping equipment
- Sylvan Hills Park stormwater system
- 2024 Street Project Rain Gardens
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 4
- MPCA Electric Landscaping Equipment Campaign

Grants Closed (1/1/2024+)

- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Apex Pond
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 3
- Dog Waste Stations in Moore Lake Park
- CDBG Grant for 61st Avenue Parcel
- SHIP grant for Bike Fix-It Station at Edgewater Gardens
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- RCWD grant for hydrodynamic separator in 2024 Street Project
- MWMO Grants in 2024 Street Project

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Outreach and Events Updates

Background

Outreach at community events is an important strategy to build environmental awareness and increase engagement. Events that have been completed since the last meeting as well as upcoming outreach events are listed below.

Completed events (11/12-12/10)

- None

Confirmed events and topics

- Environmental Fun Fair (5/17)

Potential Upcoming Events

- Winterfest (1/25)

Recommendation

- None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Update on Partnership between Growing Green Hearts and Fridley Public Schools

Background

Commissioner Ferris will share updates on the collaboration between Growing Green Hearts, Rice Creek Watershed District, and Fridley Public Schools including citizen science efforts conducted by FPS students.

Recommendation

- None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Informal Status Reports

Background

Staff and Commissioners will share informal status reports on programs happening in the City.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.