ZERO EMISSION BUILDING TASKFORCE
Executive Steering Committee

Date: February 24, 2020
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Host: San Francisco Department of Environment
Location: 1455 Market Street, Lobby Conference Room

Meeting Notes

UPDATES ON WORKING GROUPS

NEW CONSTRUCTION: Target – to have an actual ordinance

- Have draft of legislation to Supervisor Mandelman by April
- Technological challenges in new construction - efforts are looking to ensure it works for everyone
  - Cost, technologies, etc.
- Buildings currently in the pipeline - large developments that already have some building permits approved, the challenge is looking at projects that are still pending approval.

EXISTING CONSTRUCTION: Target - to have a roadmap that incorporates priorities for all existing construction

1. Existing Commercial
   - Building ownership (40%) of group, represent both local and national interests
   - We have shared risk and alignment of interests
     - Cost of failing to act – what is the cost of inaction?
     - Plan of at least 4 potential futures
   - Developers want to know what is the city going to do and what they must do to follow?
   - Time is going to be necessary
   - How do we orderly process a reasonable timeline and take advantage of opportunities that arise?
   - Working group is focused on determining what the details are for a plan
   - New construction is aiming for a specific policy to be introduced this year
   - Existing commercial is aiming to have a roadmap (not limited to policy)

2. Residential Equity Initiative
   - Residential Building Stock
     - Delivery process partnered with 2 powerful community partners
   - Updating CAS – Working group is helping articulate how to address the building sector, informed by detailed conversations with stakeholders
   - Working group is providing feedback on what to include in the roadmap
   - Aiming to be cognizant of building life cycle, equipment life cycle (how does building operations and maintenance happen over time)
   - Working group is also looking at housing stock and challenges
   - Series of 5 meetings
     - Workforce and labor
     - Derestricted affordable housing
     - Market rate housing (particularly for low-income communities of color)
     - Equity
     - Final findings
3. Municipal Building Task Force
   - 13 reps from different departments, plus a public rep
   - Reps have different backgrounds, and the group hopes to leverage expertise of all of them (planners, architects, engineers, etc.)
   - Looking at cost of inaction
   - Themes the working group is looking at (City leading by example):
     - Building scopes
     - Capital planning process
     - Education and Training of facility staff, maintenance, etc.
     - Electrification helps beyond

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- Successes – working towards a common goal

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES ON WHAT WAS PRESENTED:

- Thanking to SFE and Mayor's office for leadership
- Focus is not to only to build solutions but to build partnerships for the future
- Feedback on residential affordable housing- cost is extensive. How are communities feeling?
  - Team response: All three meetings have had developers attend, there is some receptiveness, but people are concerned about implementation
  - Affordable developers are really interested in having side conversations and getting additional support
- Cost of inaction might help move the needle
- Residential working groups have had participation from different affordable housing developers. Not all housing developers have the same level of support (building electric on their own). Some of them can’t build on their own.
- TND shared they are assessing their entire portfolio and identifying when capital equipment needs to be replaced
- Important to understand when equipment life cycles come to end
- There are some funding opportunities available for affordable housing
- Complexity of switching – applies to all groups
  - What is the cross pollination of ideas?
  - It’s not just about equity but how do we do it
  - Monterey's case where the electrical grid is outdated
- This group can do the cross-pollination and surfacing the challenges
- PUC is aware that there is reluctance to go all electric due to outages in the city. Is this theme coming up?
  - Team response: This has come up in sessions and has been addressed. Data shows that restoration of the electricity grid will be about 6 days after an earthquake. However, a natural gas system will take about 6 months to restore.
  - Only group that has continuity are people who have some form of storage
  - REQUEST: Barbara – wants to have the citations for the restoration of NG and electric grid from PUC
- PUC interested in knowing what SFE’s thoughts are on renewable natural gas
  - Team response: renewable natural gas is still methane in its raw form which may leak

IS THERE SOMETHING THAT WE HAVEN’T CONSIDERED YET?

- How will battery storage be incorporated?
  - Energy storage and resilience – SFE is working with PUC to understand how battery storage can be incorporated
- Looking at renewable energy distributed resources
- PUC is thinking of batteries. Looking to modify some of their projects to encourage storage. Adding incentives and coupling it with batteries. Things you can do behind the meter, but also at the utility level (battery storage onsite where electricity is being produced)
- Incentivizing towards a more integrated building design when thinking about new construction
- There are some concerns on battery storage
  - Fire department is very concerned with the energy that is being stored in case of an extreme event
- American Council on Energy Storage just released a practice guide for energy storage systems
- Ramping down on how new construction is addressing water
- Link natural gas use to health. There is a confirmed case of a child’s death in the UK that has been linked directly to natural gas use. (London)
- Where are discussions of retrofits happening?
  - City and Municipal retrofits – how these fits into capital planning
  - Low-income retrofits
  - Cyndy – we will address what are the resources we need as a city to make this successful, especially for marketing and outreach. Information campaign, and target outreach.
    - Existing Municipal buildings - key influencers – Capital Planning will be sharing process to understand how the capital planning process works vs how we wish it should work.
    - Existing Commercial Buildings - investment has occurred mostly in Affordable Housing.
- Decarbonization doesn’t mean costs will happen throughout the entirety of the building
- Steering committee will meet at critical points to have discussions around important topics and deliverables to provide feedback

**NEXT STEPS**

- (Cyndy) will send out note and will share data on electric grid and natural gas restoration times
- (EVERYONE) please reply to Cyndy directly if you have a suggestion on who to talk too
- (EVERYONE) please share ideas from this steering committee with your own circles
- Next meeting will be in April
- Announcements: Energy Fair taking place 2/25/2020