



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD

MINUTES

February 01, 2023
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Voting Members:

Juilee Malavade (chair), Wilson Salls (vice chair), Sherry Taylor (secretary), Katie Barnhill-Dilling (at large), Wafa Khalil, Matt Kopac, Chi Vo, Corie Hlavaty, Miran Bhima, Melanie Allen, and Anjali Boyd.

Ex Officio Members/Staff:

Paul Cameron (General Services), Tobin Freid (Durham County Sustainability Manager), Amy Armbruster (City of Durham), Sydney Miller, Mary Tiger (Water Management), and City Council Member DeDreana Freeman.

Presenters: Tobin Freid & Paul Cameron

Attendees & Panelists Total: 17

-
- I. Call to Order at 6:07 pm
 - II. Approval of January 04, 2023 Minutes
 - III. Announcements
 - a) Next EAB meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2023, 6-8 pm at City Hall.

IV. New and Continuing Business

a) LEED for Cities and Communities

Presenter(s): Tobin Freid & Paul Cameron

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design(LEED) is a green building certification program used worldwide. Durham was able to achieve LEED Gold and is only 1 of 3 local governments to reach the Gold designation in North Carolina. It is the first time in the nation that a multi-jurisdictional applicant in the US (joint city and county) have achieved LEED Gold certification together.
- LEED for Cities & Communities is like LEED for buildings, but for government. It evaluates aspects of the government and the community as a whole (our programs, policies, and achievements as a community instead of a specific building).
- To achieve the designation, the applicant must get a number of points (within categories). Some point values are required. We had categories where Durham did well and have noted areas for improvement.
- Durham must re-certify every five years for the LEED certification. It is a long process that requires the input of city staff, county staff, and many partners.
- For one of the point categories called Integrative Processes, we able to include the Comprehensive Plan, as it was a far enough along to show we are establishing a clear vision and strategy that aligns well with sustainability.
- We may want to establish a voluntary program for the disclosing of energy data from privately owned buildings. This would require a full-time position.
- Natural Systems & Ecology Category. The benchmark is to have at least 851 square feet of natural resources per capita. Durham had more than that per capita.
- Resilience Planning - We participated in regional residence assessment several years ago. Information from that and subsequent assessments helped in this category.
- We do have a lot of green space in Durham, however we are not doing so well in how close in proximity people are to designated green space like parks (trees, fields, and forested areas do not count for this metric). We have space to improve there.
- Transportation & Land Use Category. We had higher than the minimum score for transportation based on vehicle miles traveled per capita on transit.
- Water Efficiency Category. Water quality is consistently high and water meters are automated to monitor consumption. In 2020, the water department conducted over 30,000 tests and found that tested substances were 30% below regulatory thresholds. We also did well with water conservation, receiving a score of 100%. Water audits are conducted and cover all types of systems.
- One area for improvement is stormwater management. This would mean that 35% of Durham land has designated green stormwater management practices in place. This would help combat climate change and the extreme rain events in Durham.
- Energy & Greenhouse Gas Category. We were able to show that our emergency facilities and essential services are resilient to prolonged power outages from extreme weather events. We received a performance score of 78 out of 100 on greenhouse gas emissions compared to similar sized communities (we did very well). The lower the energy use per capita, the higher the score. Residents and businesses are doing a great job conserving energy and lowering our carbon footprint. We reduced our carbon emissions between 2016-2018.
- Quality of Life Category. We received points for community focused areas like having generous time for early voting, a human relations commission, large number of small businesses, low unemployment rate, delivery of short-term and long-term homelessness

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

services, integrated community policing practices, many residents have a high school degree, and having local advisory boards/commissions that reflect the diversity within the larger population.

- Durham is also doing very well in weighing and monitoring special waste streams (textiles, household hazardous waste, tires, and electronics). In 2021, 16% of all waste was diverted from landfills and incinerators.
- Areas in need of improvement are comprehensive housing policy, government projects with at least 20% of material sourced responsibly to be required, recovering high value materials from the waste stream (circular economy), and reducing resident exposure to environmental justice concerns/environmental pollution.
- Additional areas that could be improved include providing smart waste management systems (several different ways to do this) for at least 20% of collected waste, increased resident participation as volunteers, and demonstrate that community facilities like libraries, parks, and recreation centers, and schools are as accessible to low income residents as the broader community based on walking distance.
- Innovation Category. We got points for five programs, including the Healthy Homes & Green Jobs program (weatherization for low income residents, green infrastructure installations, and green job training in schools).

Comments:

Juilee Malavade: Can you explain a little more about the point system for LEED Gold and how Durham was awarded points?

- *T. Freid:* There is a score sheet and guide with the categories. We also looked at previously submitted applications from North Carolina and other jurisdictions as a guide. The points are set by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

Matt Kopac: Is there a requirement to show improvement over time to maintain the certification? If not, what is our plan to address the areas in need of improvement and increase our score over time?

- *T. Freid:* There is not a requirement to improve over time from USGBC. We would like to of course, move toward Platinum certification. They do change the criteria every few years, so to maintain Gold, we will have to improve over time.

Matt Kopac: Are the greenhouse gas emissions criteria based on intensity or the Paris Agreement (1.5 degree Celsius)?

- *P. Cameron:* It was based on intensity. We had to show a reduction over a three year period even during economic growth.

Matt Kopac: What are some of the easiest improvements we could make and what are the most aspirational improvements on the list?

- *T. Freid:* There is not a requirement to improve over time from USGBC. We would like to of course, move toward Platinum certification. They do change the criteria every few years, so to maintain Gold, we will have to improve over time. The street lighting and working with Duke (as new ones are installed) is an ask we can make that would be easier to resolve. We have a

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

great opportunity with this Board, our partners, and the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to address some of the other areas of improvement highlighted.

Adjourn at 7:08 PM

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov