



City of Wilmington

Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force

Kickoff Meeting

Meeting Summary

Zoom Virtual Meeting & Thalian Hall, Wilmington, NC

6 PM, May 26, 2020

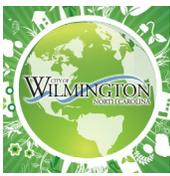
The City of Wilmington held the kickoff meeting for the Wilmington Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force (Task Force) on May 26, 2020. All Task Force meetings will be conducted in accordance with North Carolina public meeting statutes. The kickoff meeting was held virtually over Zoom and at Thalian Hall, Wilmington, NC, to accommodate participation from the public. The notes are a summary of highlights during the engagement. The topics discussed during the meeting included member introduction, the Task Force purpose and charter, and breakout group notes surrounding hopes and challenges for the Task Force.

Welcome and Orientation

The meeting began with Mayor Saffo and Council Member Spears welcoming the Task Force and emphasizing the importance of the work. Thom Moton, Deputy City Manager, provided context and direction for the Task Force. The Task Force will work with the City of Wilmington staff to make recommendations to the council on clean energy. The City Council desired to increase public engagement in policy development surrounding clean energy. Wilmington is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, an organization that adopted a 100% clean energy program in 2017 that falls on the heels of the United States withdrawing from the 2015 Paris Agreement. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is nonpartisan and comprises cities with a population of over 30,000. A campaign for the U.S. Conference of Mayors is supporting and utilizing more clean power and partnering with organizations to shift to renewable energy by 2050. The Task Force will undertake the following:

- ***Collaboratively work to understand clean energy***
- ***Actively seek to better understand current city environmental efforts***
- ***Examine policy development approaches***
- ***Tailor the recommendations to meet the needs of the City of Wilmington***

The goal for the Task Force is to lay the foundation to become a community, regional, and statewide leader in clean energy. The six-month timeline will produce a report on the findings that provide tangible recommendations on clean energy.



The Wilmington Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force Introductions

The Task Force comprises a membership of 34 members from various backgrounds, including academic professionals, public sector directors, and private organizations.

The attending Task Force members introduced themselves and answered the question, “What excites you about Clean Energy?” A majority of members expressed excitement about the possibility of clean energy and the opportunity it presents for the City of Wilmington. A consolidated list of key themes is below:

Clean Energy “What excites you?”

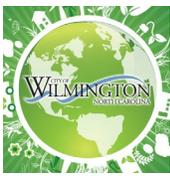
- Being part of a team with tangible results
- Development of a vision for future generations
- Living in a cleaner more energy efficient world
- Providing a sustainable future that improves the environment
- Influencing the potential for a change in policy and practices surrounding clean energy
- Creating shared understanding for the community and public on clean energy
- Leading the way on clean energy initiatives
- Implementation of local level clean energy projects
- Unifying to develop creative and simple solutions
- Consideration for the potential of economic development and clean energy

Breakout Groups

The meeting included seven breakout groups from all sectors in attendance. During the breakout groups one individual was identified to capture the main points surrounding two questions on the **Hopes** and **Challenges** for the Task Force.

What are your Hopes for the Task Force?

- Actioning policies and results focused on affordable clean energy
- Informed decisions based on smart numbers and not emotions
- Near and long-term affordable energy
- Building for a better near- and long-term future
- Ensuring technology is part of the solution and outcomes
- Considering the mental health component
- Partnership with the private sector
- Anchoring for today and staying synced with the now
- Developing connections between Task Force members
- Promote innovative thinking and solutions without hindrance of cost
- Seek, develop, and maintain best practice playbook
- Maintain momentum through meetings and in person engagements
- Measure change that is meaningful

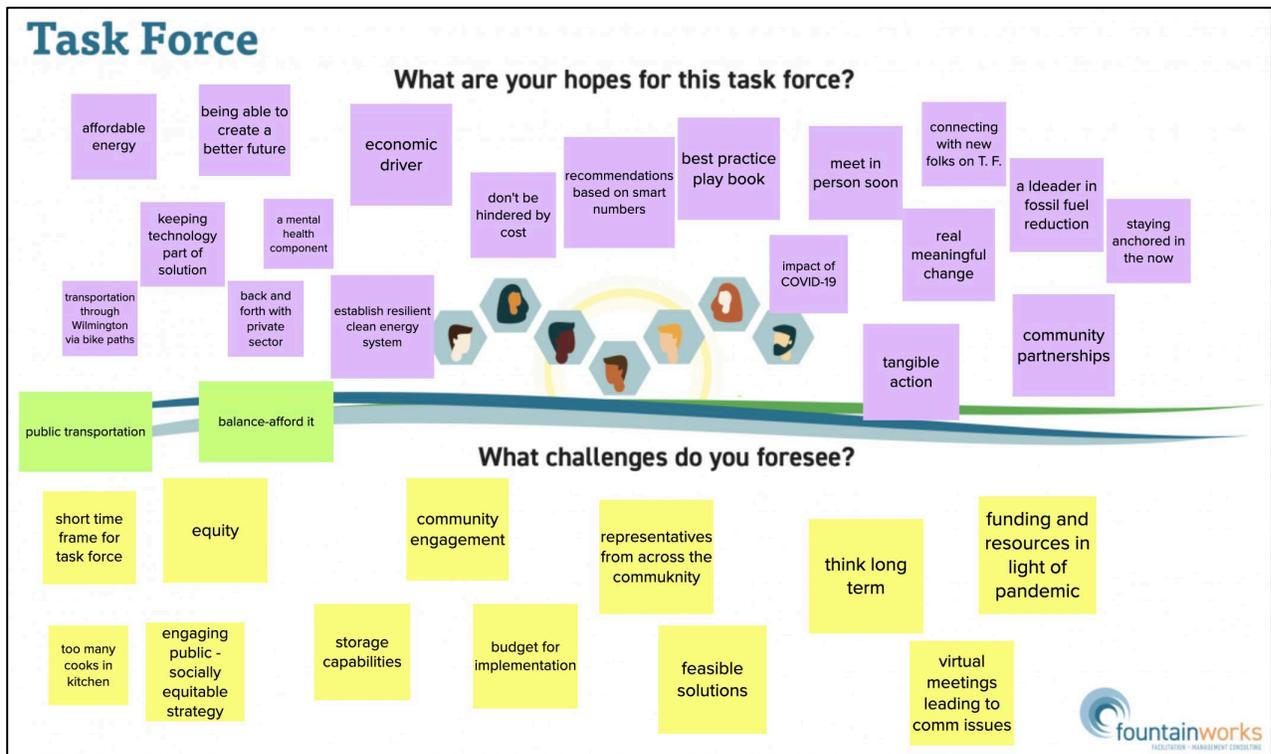


- Become a leader in fossil fuel reduction

What Challenges do you foresee?

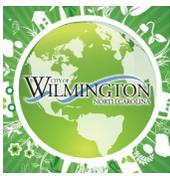
- Condensed time frame
- Implementing equity into the outcomes
- Constraints due to size of Task Force
- Creating understanding to the public on the strategy
- Consistently engaging the community
- Building a diverse representation across all sectors of the community
- Ensuring fiscal responsibility
- Developing feasible solutions
- Planning that for near and long term
- Impact of COVID-19 on resources
- Employment of sustainable solutions and projects

The graphic below is a depiction of the interactive mural board used to capture key themes surrounding Hopes and Challenges for the Task Force.



Purpose/Charter:

The Task Force shall be temporary and will expire October 31, 2020 (*may be extended 3 months due to COVID-19*). The Task Force shall advise the Mayor and Council, conduct research, study



best practices within North Carolina cities, counties, and nationally and make recommendations on matters related:

- 1) to adopt a clean energy policy, including a target for 2050;
- 2) to reduce the city’s reliance and use of fossil fuels in fleet and building operations;
- 3) to promote renewable energy and reduce harmful energy-related environmental impacts;
- 4) to create a socially equitable strategy that benefits all residents, especially low income; and
- 5) to provide strategies on how to engage Wilmington residents in support of a clean energy policy.

How Task Force Carries Out Its Charter

The Task Force shall research and make recommendations concerning the following matters:

- 1) Assess the merits of the city adopting a policy in support of the national initiative supported by the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy by 2050;
- 2) Review the city’s current 2006 and 2009 resolutions endorsing the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the city’s Sustainability Manager’s reports on greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies and progress;
- 3) Provide a forum to receive public input for policy adoption consideration;
- 4) Study strategies used by other communities to create a Clean Energy Policy and/ or Climate Action Plan; and
- 5) Assess how the North Carolina General Assembly supports currently the installation of renewable energy installations.

Subcommittees:

- 1) Planning to be comprised of the Task Force Co-Chairs, Sustainability Manager, Deputy City Manager;
- 2) Renewable Energy Technology & Policy
- 3) Transportation & Fleet Operations
- 4) Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption
- 5) NC Clean Energy Policy & Legislation

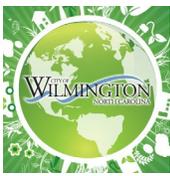
Membership

Co-Chairs:

Natalie English and Ron Sparks

Members:

Andy McGlenn	Kimberly Spader	PJ Klein
Ashley Daniels	Lindsey Hallock	Rev. Reginal Robinson
Bill Gage	Matthew J. Williams	Robert O' Quinn
Diana Hill	Natalie H. English	Ron Sparks
Girard Newkirk	Owen Wexler	Ruth R. Smith



Sean M. Sullivan
 Tracy Skrabal
 Danielle Laborde
 Garrett Grove
 Katherine Pohlman
 Keni D. Rienks
 Lindsay P. Lake

Molly Davis
 Richard D. Groves
 Scott Whisnant
 Steve Frank
 Richard F. Smith, III
 Amy McLane
 Brittany Bowen

Carson Wood
 James Ablard
 Andrea A. Bennett
 Beth Hansen
 Luke G. Foreman
 Paul F. Reinmann

Task Force Liaisons:

Mayor Bill Saffo and Councilmember Kevin Spears
 Deputy City Manager Thom Moton, Ex-Officio

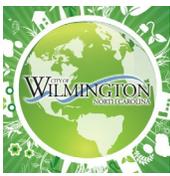
Staff and Support:

Dave Ingram, Wilmington Sustainability Manager (also a voting member of Task Force)
david.ingram@wilmingtonnc.gov or 910-341-1602

Fountainworks – Meeting Facilitators (Warren Miller, Julie Brenman)
warren@fountainworks.com or julie@fountainworks.com

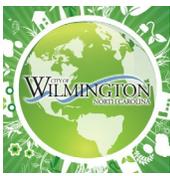
Overview of Task Force Timeline

Activity	Participants	Timeframe
Task Force Appointed; Co-Chairs Selected	City Council	Early May
Initial communication to Task Force; Solicit member interest in subcommittees	Task Force	Early May
Kick-off meeting <i>Virtual meeting (via Zoom)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory meeting • Meet members • Understand charge • Review timeline • Assign subcommittees • Current actions in Wilmington 	Task Force <i>Planning Subcommittee will meet prior to each full task force meeting and as needed</i>	May 26 @ 6pm
Regular Task Force Meetings Estimate 6 monthly meetings, usually 90-120 min	Task Force	Monthly: Late May through Late October (may be extended) 4 th Tuesday of each month @6pm



		June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27
Subcommittee Meetings Estimate 6 or more monthly meetings	Subcommittees: 1) Renewable Energy Technology & Policy 2) Transportation & Fleet Operations 3) Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption 4) NC Clean Energy Policy & Legislation <i>Note: subcommittees may include members of the Wilmington community that are not members of the Task Force</i>	Monthly: mid June through Late October (may be extended) June 9 will be first meeting of subcommittees – as a full task force
Community Outreach	Task Force and/or Subcommittees may incorporate community outreach work to solicit broad input; possible early brief survey to community; possible share draft plan	
Interim Report	Sustainability Manager will prepare an interim report to City Council	August (may be extended 3 months)
Concluding Task Force Meetings <i>Additional, more frequent meetings may be needed to gain consensus on final report</i>	Task Force	October (may be extended 3 months)
Final Report	Sustainability Manager will prepare a final report to City Council	October (may be extended 3 months)
Presentation to City Council	Planning Subcommittee	

Task Force Online Shared File Folder



We have set up a shared “Dropbox” folder as a location where we will save important documents for the Task Force. You should not need a Dropbox account to access the items. The folder can be accessed [here](#):

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Wilmington%20Clean%20Energy%20Task%20Force%20-TEAM%20FOLDER>

Meeting Attendees

Members

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Andy McGlinn | Robert O' Quinn | Scott Whisnant |
| Ashley Daniels | Ron Sparks | Steve Frank |
| Bill Gage | Ruth R. Smith | Richard F. Smith, III |
| Diana Hill | Sean M. Sullivan | Amy McLane |
| Girard Newkirk | Tracy Skrabal | Brittany Bowen |
| Kimberly Spader | Danielle Laborde | Carson Wood |
| Lindsey Hallock | Garrett Grove | James Ablard |
| Matthew J. Williams | Katherine Pohlman | Andrea A. Bennett |
| Natalie H. English | Keni D. Rienks | Beth Hansen |
| Owen Wexler | Lindsay P. Lake | Luke G. Foreman |
| PJ Klein | Molly Davis | Paul F. Reinmann |
| Rev. Reginal Robinson | Richard D. Groves | |

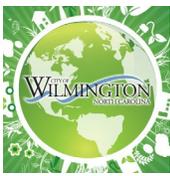
Non-Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mayor Bill Saffo | City of Wilmington |
| CM Kevin Spears | City of Wilmington |
| Ex-Officio Thom Moton | City of Wilmington |
| David Ingram | City of Wilmington |
| Julie Brenman | Fountainworks |
| Warren Miller | Fountainworks |
| Dan Alvarez | Fountainworks |

Next Steps & Other Announcements

The plan will be to conduct 6 monthly meetings coordinated through the City of Wilmington with notification of time and location posted 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Subcommittee meetings also need to be advertised.

- June 9** 6-7:30pm: Full Task Force Meeting – Orient Subcommittees
- June 23** 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting
Subcommittees meet
- July 28** 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting
Subcommittees meet
- August 25** 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting



Subcommittees meet

September 22 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting

Subcommittees meet

October 27 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting

May be extended 3 months due to COVID-19

Task Force Initiative Dropbox Folder where we will be sharing documents and other updates throughout the process: [Dropbox](#)

- Agenda and PowerPoints from May 26, 2020
- Summary Report for May 26, 2020

Administrative Items

- Send notification and announce next public meeting scheduled for June 9, 2020
- Draft and review survey
- Finalize subcommittees charges
- Continue to update website with clean energy resources

Preparation for next meeting: If participants have suggested ideas or background information in preparation for our next meeting, feel to contact:

- David Ingram, Wilmington Sustainability Manager (also a voting member of Task Force) david.ingram@wilmingtonnc.gov or 910-341-1602
- Fountainworks , meeting facilitators (Warren Miller, Julie Brenman, or Dan Alvarez) warren@fountainworks.com, julie@fountainworks.com, or daniel@fountainworks.com