

# LARAMIE/ALBANY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 6:00 PM

Please join the Laramie/Albany County Environmental Advisory Committee meeting  
via Zoom:

[https://cityoflaramie.zoom.us/j/84917410367?  
pwd=MkNaa1VLeGlxa0xvYlFseDJrYmNsdz09](https://cityoflaramie.zoom.us/j/84917410367?pwd=MkNaa1VLeGlxa0xvYlFseDJrYmNsdz09)

Meeting ID: 849 1741 0367

Passcode: 987806

Find your local number: <https://cityoflaramie.zoom.us/u/kc2STN1Tq5>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**
  - 2-A. **Changes and Approval of Agenda**
  - 2-B. **Thursday, September 9, 2021 EAC Meeting Minutes**

Documents:

[EAC MINUTES 9-9-21.PDF](#)

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS- Non-Agenda Related Topics- No Action Can Be Taken**
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND STAFF: Reports And Comments**
  - 4.A. **City Of Laramie's Participation In The US Department Of Energy's SolSmart Program - Darren Parkin / Joseph Shahidi**

Documents:

[10971.PDF](#)  
[10971 \(1\).PDF](#)

5. **DISCLOSURES**
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - 6.A. **Support Mrs. Ommen's 3rd-5th Grade Class Recommendations To City Council - Harry Plendl**

Documents:

[SPRING CREEK ELEM.PDF](#)

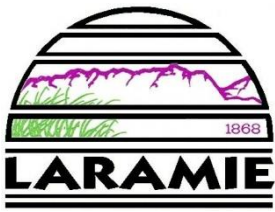
- 6.B. **Albany County Renewable Energy Subcommittee Report - Mary Grace Bedwell, Chair**
- 6.C. **Landfill Emissions Update - Landfill Subcommittee, Rhiannon Jakopak Chair**
- 6.D. **Albany County Casper Aquifer Protection Regulation Update - Pete Gosar / David Gertsch**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- 7.A. **City/County CAPP Selection Committee Report - Ramsey Bentley / Harry Plendl / Erin O'Doherty / Darren Parkin**
- 7.B. **Climate Action Planning Taskforce - Mary Grace Bedwell / Erin O'Doherty**

**8. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING- December 2, 2021**

**9. ADJOURN**



# City of Laramie

City Manager's Office  
P.O. Box C  
Laramie, WY 82073

Telephone: (307) 721-5213  
(307) 721-5304  
Fax: (307) 721-5248

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**MINUTES**  
**Laramie/Albany County Environmental Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM

Members present: Ellen Currano (Chair), Rhiannon Jakopak (Vice-Chair), Eric Krszjanek, Ramsey Bently, Mary Grace Bedwell, and Harry Plendl.

Members absent: Evelyn Hill

There was a quorum present at all times.

Council Liaison: Erin O'Doherty (present)

County Commission Liaison: Pete Gosar (present)

Staff Present: Darren Parkin Natural Resources Manager, Nancy Bartholomew City Clerk, & Tyler Shevling, Mosquito Supervisor

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**2-A. Changes and Approval of Agenda**

MOTION BY KRSZJZANIEK, seconded by Plendl, to approve the agenda as written.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and raising hands.

**2-B. Thursday, June 3, 2021 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

MOTION BY KRSZJZANIEK, seconded by Bedwell, to approve the Minutes as written.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and raising hands.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS - Non-Agenda Related Topics – No Action Can Be Taken**

Monika Leininger, Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE) – will be presenting to City Council and the County Commissioners on September 28.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND STAFF: REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

City/County Work Session on September 28, Topics are the AEM Telephone Canyon I-80 study and Alliance for Renewable Energy. Invitation was extended for EAC to join this meeting - Parkin

Explanation of the Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Task Force – O’Doherty and Jarad O’Brien (ARE)

MOTION BY KRSZJZANIEK, seconded by Bentley, to appoint Mary Grace Bedwell to Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Task Force.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and raising hands.

**5. DISCLOSURES — Ex-parte communications; potential conflicts of interest**

No disclosures.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

**6.A. CAPP Update Joint Subcommittee/RFQ Advertisement**

Speaker/Presenter: Erin O’Doherty and Darren Parkin

MOTION BY JAKOPAK, seconded by Bentley, to appoint Harry Plendl to be on the review committee for the CAPP RFQ.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and hand raising.

MOTION BY PLENDL, seconded by Jakopak, to appoint Krszjzaniek to be the alternate to Bentley and Plendl on the CAPP project Selection Committee.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and hand raising.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.A. City of Laramie Mosquito Control 2021**

Speaker/Presenter: Tyler Shevling

**8. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING – October 7, 2021**

**9. ADJOURN**

MOTION BY JAKOPAK, seconded by Plendl, to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: 6

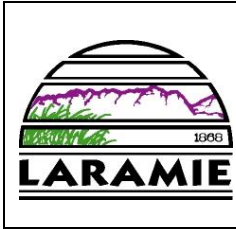
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote and raised hands.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Minutes taken by: Nancy Bartholomew, City Clerk (Print)

Contact me at: (307)721-5220 (phone number)



**Agenda Item: Resolution**

**Title: Resolution No. 2021-62, recognizing the City of Laramie's commitment to solar initiatives through the participation in the US Department of Energy's SolSmart program**

**Recommended Council MOTION:**

Move to **Approve** City Council Resolution No. 2021-62, recognizing the City of Laramie's commitment to solar initiatives through the participation in the US Department of Energy's SolSmart Community, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign.

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**Administrative or Policy Goal:**

To promote, facilitate, and improve the feasibility of residential and commercial solar throughout the Laramie community in an effort to support the City's sustainability efforts and improve the bureaucratic approval process for current and future citizens.

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**Background:**

SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of a mature local solar markets. Led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, along with a team of partners with deep expertise in solar energy and local governments, SolSmart uses objective criteria spanning 5 categories to designate communities that have successfully met these goals. These 5 categories include;

- Permitting and Inspection,
- Planning and Zoning,
- Government Operations,
- Community Engagement,
- Market Development.

Though many who have installed solar panels are finding that solar drastically reduces utility costs and provides extra security in the face of electric grid failure, "soft costs" significantly impact the affordability of solar energy systems. "Soft Costs" refer to business processes or administrative costs that can increase the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system, which is then passes down to customers. To address solar soft costs at a local level, SolSmart provides technical assistance and national designation with funding allocated from the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office.

While City staff believes that prior efforts to include solar on City facilities as well as additions, updates and modifications to the Unified Development Code have improved the feasibility of solar in the community, it recognizes that there are opportunities to improve. The technical assistance provided by SolSmart will allow city staff to consult with industry leaders to ensure the implementation of industry best practices in city processes which will improve the likelihood of residential and commercial solar within the community.

In order to start this process, the City must indicate their commitment to supporting solar development within their community through this resolution. The City hopes to leverage the Sol Smart program to;

- Reduce barriers to solar installation
- Reduce community wide carbon emissions
- Improve community resilience by diversifying energy systems
- Promote Laramie as a Solar Community

Following the completion of the program the City will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity and the number of installations across sectors. Please review the following link called the "[SolSmart Program Guide](#)" for more information and detail about this program.

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

N/A

**BUDGET FISCAL INFORMATION:**

**REVENUE**

Source	Amount	Type
Fees/Charges for Service		
Grant		
Loan		
Other		
Total	\$0.00	

**Responsible Staff:**

Derek Teini, Planning Manager, AICP  
721-5245  
Joseph Shahidi, Planning Intern

Future dates are subject to change

Advertised	
Public Hearing (PH) Held	
PH Advertised	
Introduction/1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	September 21, 2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading	

Attachments:

- Proposed Resolution No. 2021-62

**RESOLUTION NO: 2021-62**

**RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LARAMIE'S COMMITMENT TO SOLAR INITIATIVES THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION IN THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SOLSMART PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, SolSmart is a national program led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) which provides technical assistance to improve a municipalities' solar friendly practices; and,

WHEREAS, energy and electricity consumption are the highest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Wyoming since 1990; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie is interested in improving energy efficiency and incentivizing the creation and use of alternative forms of energy; and,

WHEREAS, this commitment is supported by council priorities, including an environmental stewardship goal adopted via resolution 2021-12, a milestone which is to "continue renewable energy installations and/or efficiencies at city facilities", and via resolution 2020-14 which seeks to "immediately reduce carbon emissions from municipal government operations and to pursue a net zero, carbon neutral future for the City of Laramie"; and,

WHEREAS, this commitment is supported by council priorities, including maintain and improve city services to residents goal adopted via resolution 2021-12, a milestone which is to "continue technology efficiency program, specifically enterprise resource planning software replacement, to improve customer service and lower cost-of-government"; and

WHEREAS, this commitment is supported by the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan, including Housing Goals and Action Statements via Chapter 5: Housing and Neighborhoods, a goal which is to "encourage development of energy efficient housing or LEED certified housing in the community. Similar methods of 'fast tracking' done for affordable housing should be considered for energy efficient housing"; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Laramie has improved energy efficiency of its own buildings through the installation of solar panels through Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, The SolSmart Initiative focuses on improving Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Governmental Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development which provides benefits for solar customers, local governments, and solar companies; and,

WHEREAS, The commitment to this initiative further promotes the policy goals and objectives by the Governing Body of the City of Laramie which promotes the overall efficiency and effectiveness of City services and facilitates community building for current and future generations.



**THEREFORE, THE LARAMIE CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:**

**Section 1.** That City Council shall approve and commit to the continued improvement of City processes to facilitate the creation and use of solar energy through the participation in the SolSmart Program

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 21st day of September 2021.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Weaver, Mayor and President of the  
City Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Bartholomew  
City Clerk

Mrs. Ommen's Class  
Third Grade Gifted and Talented Education  
Spring Creek Elementary School  
Laramie, WY  
2-22-2021

Dear Laramie City Council Members,

We are very thankful for your service and we all feel that living and growing up in Laramie is a privilege and a gift. We have a concern that we would like you to consider that would make our community even better. We strongly feel that the trash in the East part of Laramie (near Laramie High School and especially near the Walmart) should be contained and removed more consistently. We feel this is important for several reasons and we have suggestions.

We feel that the trash near the East part of town has gotten out of control and that is detrimental to our community for many reasons. First, the trash should be removed near the Walmart for three reasons. One, if it isn't contained, it is blown by the wind directly into the Pilot Hill natural area. This causes plastic litter to contaminate a beautiful area that many citizens enjoy. Second, it could lead to microplastics that could contaminate the ecosystem, including our watershed. Third, that area is the first part of town many people see who are driving in on Grand Avenue, and all the trash makes a horrible first impression. Many people are visiting Laramie in order to go to the high school. The trash that is currently littering that area of town is giving a bad impression of our community that doesn't accurately reflect our pride and love for nature.

We have some suggestions that we would like you to consider. We hope that fencing could be improved to catch the trash that is blown from the Walmart area. A volunteer or business-led group could help monitor and periodically gather up that litter. We suggest signage in the Walmart parking area to increase awareness of littering. As a group, we will be advocating ideas with the Walmart directly to incentivize broader use of reusable bags. Also, as a group, we will be organizing a volunteer trash pick-up day to jump start the pickup of litter in this area. We will collect all the trash we can on Earth Day, 2021.

Again, thank you for your service and we look forward to working together to improve this area of our community.

Sincerely,

Third Grade GATE at Spring Creek Elementary

Lily Ommen  
Prayer  
Margaret  
Andrew Carlina  
Calvin Hulley  
William Howard  
Emercy Johnson  
James Dreier  
Giana-Blaney  
Ansel Decker  
Addie Ommen  
Alma Ommen  
Aryaan Geister  
Henry Aldridge  
Peter Mofson  
Samuel Huntington  
Ricky  
Annemarie Bushman  
Muanza  
Audrey Parling  
Jack Randall  
Helen Gelwicks  
Liam Kelly  
Anaea  
Margaret Smith  
Urachel  
Marshall White  
Timothy Eastman  
Noelle  
Mikels Steegen  
Calvin Hulley  
Cadence Gose  
Isaiah Flores