

Philadelphia Stakeholders Climate Action Plan Meeting

December 10, 2019

Notes from 12/10/19 meeting bringing together many groups to discuss what we want as immediate climate action.

Present were (in order of seating): Nidhi Krishen, Emily Davis, Jeanne Myers, Freyda Kornblum, Pratima Agrawal, Bernard Reed, Audra Wolfe, Dave Moscatello, Brent Groce, Lynn Robinson, Cameron Walker, Lisa Hastings, Peter Winslow, Caleb Colvin, Ray Bailey, Francis McCloskey, Meenal Raval, Eugene Chislenko, Judy Morgan, Jason Sandman (20 people)

Groups represented were (alphabetical): All Together Now PA, Climate Dads, ESWA, Extinction Rebellion, Green Party, NAGP, NWPhillyCAN, POWER, Ready for 100 Philly (9)

General discussion:

There was concern about the overall goals and process.

It was agreed that the Ready for 100 resolution passed by Philadelphia City Council (all renewable electricity in municipal buildings by 2030, all renewable electricity citywide by 2035, and renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050) does not reflect the urgency of the transition to clean energy. Some had hoped the planning group would arrive at a shared new deadline for the transition; others felt that was not important, and that we should simply **move as fast as we can**.

Some felt a lack of clarity whether this was going to become a coalition, or simply an effort to **develop a document with a plan and timetable**. No consensus was reached on this yet.

There was a concern that there be a clear statement of agreements on goals and process that will be read at each meeting.

All agreed that equity must be part of every topic of discussion. We did not decide whether equity should also be its own topic.

There was acknowledgment that we don't know how this process will unfold, but that the goal is to engage people who care about climate in Philadelphia to share a process of

developing a clear vision and set of goals for transitioning the city. It was agreed to move on to the plan stated at the beginning of the meeting, of having breakout groups in key areas.

Reports from breakout groups (reporter's name in parentheses):

Strategy (Pratima, with Audra, Judy, Peter, Caleb, Frances)

Some felt we need to be very organized and do a Power-Mapping process to clarify strategy. It was agreed that we need a clear statement of goals, vision, process. This will require more than three meetings; we should have an ongoing process. All agreed with the need to work with diverse groups including minorities and labor, though there is not a clear path to accomplishing that. Labor groups, especially, can be very difficult to connect with. The idea of a hub and spoke organization combined with modified consensus was noted as a good organizational approach (a central coordinating group made up of two representatives of each area working group, seeking consensus but resorting to 2/3 or 3/4 majority when time is short). Pittsburgh Ready for 100 team was very successful in focusing on one low-income neighborhood, going door to door talking with residents to get support for programs improving energy efficiency of their homes – 200 residents turned out for a meeting on this.

Outreach (Bernard, with Cameron)

In the long term, activists need to conduct outreach which works well in low income communities, where many people do not have access to social media: in person conversations, paper literature, outreach tables at stores and parks, door-to-door canvassing, dramatic activities that draw people into engagement, and then following up personally with each person who expresses interest. Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA) already has training programs in several of these areas, including non-violent direct action. Possible opportunities for outreach: Some businesses are encouraging climate social gatherings -- a bar with 'climate beer night' and a coffee shop with climate coffee gatherings.

Transition to 100% renewable (Dave M)

Stopping all fossil fuel infrastructure is a key ask, need a permitting process that reflects climate concerns. Energy-efficiency is always the most cost-effective option. Need to address the concerns of low-income people at every point.

Utilities (Brent)

Transitioning will cost a lot of money, and we need to be aware of this, and not allow the cost to trickle down to poor people, as so often happens. Democratic control of PECO may not be possible, given the current structure. PGW may be more open to adapting its mission to reflect climate, since it is publicly owned. The money PGW brings in could be directed to low-income concerns in transitioning.

Overarching points:

- All demands need to be **measurable** and a designated agency as **accountable**
- We have to be conscious of the high cost of many of the things we seek and the limitations of the city to come up with significant money for these things. How do we address this? An example is using PPA's which cost the city nothing up front.

Actions to consider:

- Leverage contracts the city has with PECO to pressure for
 - faster transition to renewables
 - subsidy and/or on-bill financing of electric heat pump transition (as this is new business for them)
 - implementation of Time Of Use tariffs
- Pursue alternative electricity sources if PECO remains resistant (PPA's, Community Choice Aggregation, ???)
- Use PGW payments to City to transition LI homes to heat pumps

Concerns:

- We aren't sure how much leverage the City has with the PUC (not sure who we can ask on that), so while we should seek to pressure them on issues we might spend that energy on things more under City Council/City control.
- We worry that low income families are already under pressure and we should seek more protections for them in the transition away from fossil fuels (eg., reduce the % max they pay for energy, reduce shut-offs)

Urban agriculture (Ray)

Need to incentivize urban agriculture, since it would reduce packaging, transportation and reduce CO2 emissions. Urban farming can remediate land and biodiversity degradation degradation in the city. Neighbors can be supported by the city to start

farming cooperatives, prioritizing support for low-income communities. The City just appointed first urban agriculture director, and we learned that is a Food Policy Advisory Council appointed by the Mayor, under the Office of Sustainability.

For next meeting:

Look at the planning document on Google Docs that Meenal will send around, which includes ideas from many sources for action steps.