

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
JOINT CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE MEETING
This meeting will be held by teleconference hosted from the
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

February 11, 2021 at 1:00pm

Please click the following link to join the webinar:

<https://fnsb-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1601902463>

To join by phone, dial 833 568 8864 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 160 190 2463

AGENDA

A. ROLL CALL

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Further discussion and consideration of potential options or revisions to the goals and objectives for the JCCTF – Action Item

C. SCHEDULING AND WORK PLAN

D. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

E. MEMBER COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

F. ADJOURNMENT

From: [Terry Chapin](#)
To: [Nancy Fresco](#); [Kristin Timm](#); [Rick Thoman Jr](#); [Jessica Girard](#); [Kristin Peters](#); [Margi Dashevsky](#); [Odin Miller](#); [Cathy Walling](#); [Anne Vollertsen](#); [Charley Basham](#); [Diane Preston](#); [Brittany Smart](#); [Jimmy Fox](#); [Abigail Marie](#); [Savannah Fletcher](#); [Lisa Baraff](#); [Elisabeth Dabney](#); [Alyssa Quintyne](#); [Jamie Hansen](#); [Kasey Casort](#); [Mindy O'Neall](#); [Amy Lauren Lovecraft](#); [Sarah Trainor](#); [Scott Rupp](#); [John Davies](#); [Todd Brinkman](#); [Charlene Stern](#); [Enei Begaye](#)
Cc: [Terry Chapin III](#)
Subject: A coordinated climate action strategy for Fairbanks
Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021 8:56:15 AM
Attachments: [Fairbanks Climate Action Strategy.docx](#)

Hi folks,

Over the last year I've been extremely impressed with the large number of efforts that address various dimensions of climate change in Alaska. It appears to me, however, that, despite this, Fairbanks does not yet have a cohesive strategy for climate-change planning and action and that many current efforts are not as closely coordinated as they might be.

With the increased interest in climate action at both federal and local levels, I wonder if now would be a good time to think carefully about what might be the major elements of a coordinated climate-action strategy for Fairbanks and which groups are best poised to take leadership in implementing various components of this strategy.

I've attached a straw-dog draft climate-action strategy that suggests specific entities that might take leadership of different types of action, specifically:

1. The University of Alaska as the lead in providing understanding and communication of climate-change science
2. Community organizations as the lead in community engagement and advocacy around climate action
3. Government entities as the lead in implementing those actions for which they are authorized and responsible.
4. Businesses as the lead in exploring and facilitating business economic opportunities and economic risk reductions associated with climate change
5. Tribes as the lead in designing and implementing actions that foster their cultural integrity and sustainable interactions with their lands in the face of climate change

In this VERY INCOMPLETE strategy outline, I've focused mainly on one science entity (UAF), one community organization (FCAC), and one government entity (FNSB), emphasizing what each could contribute to an overall strategy for Fairbanks rather than how they should do it. A more complete climate-action strategy would need to address other entities (e.g., businesses and tribes) as well as the interactions of climate change with other risks and opportunities in ways that promote equity and social justice.

I'd appreciate any comments and suggestions and whether it would be worth developing a climate-action strategy of this sort in more detail. Would you be interested in participating in a zoom call for such a discussion?

Cheers,

Terry

Fairbanks Draft Climate-Action Strategy
(Terry's Draft outline, Feb. 3, 2021)

Justification

Despite substantial scientific expertise, evidence of, and expressed community concern about climate change, Fairbanks has no coherent strategy to respond and adapt to climate change. This strategy document proposes a framework by which government entities, the university, and citizen groups could work together to understand, plan for, and take coordinated actions to minimize the impacts of climate change on Fairbanks residents and the surrounding region. This document is intended to be a starting point (i.e., **DRAFT**) for discussions about which entities have the greatest passion, capacity and authority to take leadership in a multi-pronged collaborative climate-action initiative.

The understanding and communication of climate-change science

The *University of Alaska Fairbanks* has world-class scientists who are experts in the climate-change science and policy of the North, including Fairbanks and the surrounding region. These scientists collaborate nationally and internationally with scientists at other universities and government agencies and are well-poised to describe recent and projected climate-change impacts in the Fairbanks region and to communicate this information to the public as a knowledge-based foundation for addressing climate-change impacts and opportunities.

Public engagement to advocate for climate-change actions

Several community organizations are focused on various aspects of climate change in the Fairbanks region and can play important roles in fostering learning, public dialogue, and advocacy for climate-change actions. In this section, I describe the potential interactions among several groups of organizations in the context of *The Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC)*, which is an umbrella organization that bridges among many climate-concerned groups. Each of these sets of organizations would need to decide how they might best coordinate and take action on these different sets of issues.:

- The Renewable Energy Working Group works with GVEA to expand the role of renewable energy to meet Interior Alaska's energy needs; with Solarize Fairbanks and the Alaska Center to reduce energy use and solarize homes and businesses; and with Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center to promote smart, efficient energy technologies in Interior Alaska
- The Policy and Politics Working Group works with the Alaska Center to raise the visibility of climate-change action among Fairbanks leaders and the public by sponsoring election debates, letter-writing campaigns, and review of government plans and legislation.
- The Keep It In the Ground Working Group works with other groups such as the Gwich'in Steering Committee to promote legislation that would reduce Alaskan economic dependence on oil and its environmental and cultural impacts.
- The Regenerative Economy Working Group works with groups such as Native Movement, the Alaska Center, and the Interior Alaska Environmental Center to ensure that climate action fosters a more just and equitable future for all Alaskans.

- The Interfaith Working Group works with Fairbanks faith communities to support their efforts for Creation Care and the protection of climate-vulnerable people. Together, they work with UAF to foster respectful conversations across worldviews about climate change

Other local community organizations that actively support actions on climate change include...

At the statewide level, the Municipal Climate Community of Practice coordinates climate action efforts (especially those by borough and city governments) across Alaska.

Climate action by local cooperatives, foundations and unions

The Golden Valley Electrical Association (GVEA) is a member-owned cooperative that provides electricity to residents, businesses, and government entities in the FNSB. It seeks to provide affordable energy for Fairbanks and to expand the supply of renewable energy.

The Fairbanks Foundation Health Partners is a community-owned and managed foundation that provides health care to Fairbanks residents through the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the Tanana Valley Clinic, and the Denali Center. It addresses the consequences of climate-related pollution from wildfires and urban pollution sources.

The Tanana Valley Farmers Market and Community-Supported Agriculture promote food security through the growth and sale of local foods.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Unions (IBEW) trains their union members in the installation of renewable energy

Government actions to implement climate-change actions

The Fairbanks North Star Borough, as a second-class borough, is authorized to provide many local government services to borough residents, including planning, health and safety, social services, hazard mitigation, public transportation, waste management, and recreation. The mayor, assembly, sustainability commission and joint climate-change task force are borough entities that could ensure that climate-change impacts are addressed by borough plans and actions.

The Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole are responsible for.... The mayors and city councils could ensure that climate-change impacts are addressed by all city departments and commissions.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is responsible for K-12 education in the borough. The School Board could ensure that students learn about climate change and

The State of Alaska (DNR--wildfire management, DOT--road construction and maintenance), and other state agencies

Federal agencies (USDOJ, EPA, the military, etc.).....

Business leadership in climate action?

Tribal leadership in climate action?

Climate interactions with other threats and risks (e.g., economy, health, inequities)