

Energy and Resiliency Advisory Board City of Vergas

The Energy and Resiliency Advisory Board met on Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:30pm, at the Vergas Event Center Meeting Room

Attendance:

2025	Aug 14	Sept 25	Oct 23	Nov 20	Dec
Julie Bruhn	P	P	P		
Alex Ohman	P	P	P		
Bruce Albright	A	p	P		
Cal Miller		p	P		
Jeff Laney		p			
Kara Trupka	A	A	A		
Virginia Satrom	A	A	A		
Luca Moser	A	A	A		
Guest: Dan Osbow			P		

• **P: Present. A: Absent**

- One addition to the agenda to discuss membership.
- Minutes from September 25, 2025 meeting were approved as written.
- Dan Osbow was a guest at the meeting to present his experience with residential solar energy. Dan's residence has had solar for 2 years. It is ground mounted and was purchased through Lake Region Electric with a 30% incentive. Does not have battery back-up. When building his home 2 years ago was wanting clean efficient energy. Previous home had geothermal, but not an option with new build. Based on usage the solar panels will be paid for in 7 years. Electric bills are difficult to interpret with sold energy and own energy used and available. Overall, Dan is very happy with solar and would recommend. The committee was invited to come out to his home and look at. Will consider this with spring. There is another home being built by Vergas that is installing solar. Will follow up with these owners and see if they would share their experience. Reviewed with Dan the city's solar plan at the event center. Dan's only caution was to ensure the roof can handle the additional weight of the panels and snow. Dan was thanked for coming and sharing his experience.
- Julie Bruhn provided an update on where the city is at with the energy grant. The city has received the funds for the solar panels and batteries. Post weatherization blower test pending. The company was wanting cooler weather. The installation of solar at the event center is scheduled to begin November 10 and continue into week of November 17th. Installation is estimated to take 5-7 days. This is followed by inspection and testing that can take up to 4 weeks. Looking at completion of the city energy & resiliency plan early 2026. Would like to have blower test and solar installation completed.

CERTS seed grant was submitted to fund a city energy fair. Funded recipients will be announced in January. Plan is for energy fair in March.

- Based on discussion at last meeting, Board members have been looking at sections of interest and expertise with GreenStep Cities best practices. Alex Ohman noted applying for Tree City USA; but based on the requirements would look at applying in 2026. Julie Bruhn noted the DNR evaluated proposed site for prairie garden at Lawrence Acres. Due to sloop of land and water collection, they deemed it was a feasible site. Members will continue to review GreenSteps with areas as previously discussed.
 - Incorporating solar into current city ordinance- Alex Ohman
 - Complete streets section- Bruce Albright

- Surface Water/Wast Water/Septic Systems- Cal Miller
 - Natural Resources Inventory/Assessment- Julie Bruhn
 - Community Trees- Alex Ohman
 - Incorporation of city solar installation and data- Julie Bruhn
6. Jeff Laney has resigned from the Board. He would be happy to volunteer when needs, as events. Discussed options for another member. Board members will follow up with some contacts.
7. Next meeting will be November 20, 2025. Hopefully we will be able to tour new solar installation and battery hub. Will be looking at a future meeting with WCI, CERTS, and Central Region RSDP.

No Recommendations for action for City Council

Recorder
Julie Bruhn