**Albany Democratic Club General Meeting**

Albany Library

July 18, 2019

7 p.m.

The meeting started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.

The members in attendance then voted to fill the vacant seats for vice president and officer at large for the club. Brian Beall was elected vice president of the club to fill the seat vacated by Yali Lincroft.

**Climate action**

**Eric Larson**, a member of the the city’s [Climate Action Committee](https://www.albanyca.org/government/boards-commissions-committees/sustainability-committee) and  member of the [Albany Climate Action Coalition](https://www.albanyclimateactioncoalition.com/) -- a grassroots public group -- started with an overview of the coalition and the differences between the two climate groups.

Eric discussed how the  city’s Climate Action Committee acts as an advisory to the Albany City Council. The committee also works on the Climate Action Plan 2.0, a guidance climate-action document for the city.

Eric also discussed the city’s [carbon-free Albany website](https://www.carbonfreealbany.org/). Eric looked at the EBCE, or [East Bay Community Energy](https://ebce.org/), and Albany’s participation in the initiative.

Finally, Eric talked on [Albany’s Climate Action Plan](https://www.albanyca.org/departments/sustainability/climate-action-plan) and the work that goes into creating it and what the long-range goals are for the city.

[Berkeley Councilmember **Kate Harrision**](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/citycouncildistrict4/)talked about this week’s passage of the [Berkeley ordinance to remove natural gas from new construction](https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/07/17/natural-gas-pipes-now-banned-in-new-berkeley-buildings-with-some-exceptions) and how a similar ordinance might work in Albany to create new all-electric buildings. She looked at how it is already happening in Berkeley, including on campus. The ordinance also creates incentives to convert to electric. Seattle, Boston, Arcata are among the 50 cities that have contacted Berkeley about guidance on implementing a similar decarbonization ordinance in their area.

**JP Ross,** a senior director with [East Bay Community Energy](https://ebce.org/), a local electricity supplier in Alameda County, including Albany, with the goal of providing cleaner energy and reinvesting profits back into the county.

JP discussed specific goals, initiatives, and programs for bringing renewable energy and electrification in buildings and vehicles and making communities carbon-free.

**City government events**

City councilmember Nick Pilch and committee members Bryan Marten, Preston Jordan, and **TKTKHousingPerson** discussed recent city activities and decisions.

Club president Bryan Marten adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.