

AM No. 10-008

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

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DATE: January 5, 2010

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: GREEN AGENDA UPDATE

Staff met with the Council during a study session in June 2009 to discuss the topic of sustainability. Council direction from that meeting included several key initial actions. The purpose of this memo is to brief the Council on the current status of those actions and receive direction for an upcoming study session later this winter.

Carbon Footprinting

Staff is in the process of data collection for establishing the carbon footprint for City operations. The City became a member of International Consortium of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and is using their Clean Air Climate Protection (CACP) software to determine our carbon footprint. The benchmark year is 2008 since it is the most recent complete data set available. Preliminary findings on energy (natural gas and electricity) consumption are now available as well as City water usage. Vehicle fleet data is currently being compiled along with other necessary building information in order to determine the footprint. This analysis will allow us to set a baseline for ongoing measurement. The CACP software includes a community analysis, and this will be addressed upon completion of the City operations carbon footprint.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracking

Recent State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rules require jurisdictions to collect this data. We have established protocols for measuring greenhouse gas emissions for development proposals. The City's SEPA checklist has been modified to collect this information. Projects exempt from SEPA will be tracked by staff. This includes capital projects as well. Staff has coordinated with King County and is using the same methodology for data collection. This will allow for comparisons across these entities.

A record of greenhouse gas emissions from development projects has been created from January 2008 to present. This database will continually evolve as new data is entered.

Sustainability Web Site

Work is moving forward on the City's sustainability web site, as identified in the 2009/10 adopted budget. The design (look and feel) is near completion. Once this step is done, we intend to contract out for all of the technical back-end web development work.

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

At the June study session, Council concurred with staff's recommendation on allocation of the \$272,000 EECBG funding. This allocation is directed to municipal facility upgrades/energy retrofits (\$107,557), LED street light conversion (\$10,000), a residential energy use outreach partnership with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and other Eastside cities (known as the C-7 partnership, comprised of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton and Sammamish, estimated at \$58,500) and additional funding for the green lifestyles/green buildings budget offer (\$75,000). The remaining funding (\$20,943) is being used for regional initiatives and offsetting administrative costs of grant administration.

Future Work

- **Community Carbon Footprint**: As noted above, this will follow after the completion of the City operations' analysis for carbon footprinting.
- **Energy Element**: Staff is beginning to prepare an Energy Element to the Comprehensive Plan. We want to make sure the infrastructure is in place and alternative energies are identified to meet future demand. This includes solar, geothermal, and wind energy as well as setting the framework for electric vehicle charging stations. Incidentally, the City was awarded a Department of Commerce grant for advancing this element.
- **Climate Action Plan**: With the well-documented trends towards wetter winters and drier summers in the years to come (global climate change) staff recommends that the City consider writing a Climate Action Plan for Redmond. This was mentioned during the Council's study session in June.

Next Steps

Staff has provided a status update on the City's Green Agenda. We would like to follow up with Council at a study session on March 9, 2010, to share more details on the above accomplishments and gain input from the Council to ensure we capture sustainability programs you believe are necessary and appropriate for our city in order to move towards a greener future. For that study session, are there specific issues that you want us to address or focus on?