

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 22, 2008
TO: City Council
FROM: Donna Silva, Parks and General Services Director
Mitch Sears, Sustainability Program Manager
SUBJECT: Climate Action Team – Update and Member Appointment

Recommendations

1. Adopt the revised Climate Action Team formation resolution to amend the target completion date and add a community education organization to the list of community representatives.
2. Invite Yolo Audubon to participate on the Climate Action Team filling the role of the second local environmental organization identified in the resolution forming the team.
3. Invite the Explorit Science Center to participate on the Climate Action Team filling the newly created community education organization role.

Council Goals

The formation of the advisory group addresses the Council goal of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Specifically, the action is a key step in meeting the Council objective of addressing global warming and reducing the City's carbon footprint.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact is associated with this action.

Background and Analysis

Update

The Climate Action Team has met four times (as of the date of the Council meeting). The group has identified four main local greenhouse gas emissions sectors and has formed sub-groups to focus efforts in those areas. The group is working toward a public forum in mid-June to share its initial findings and encourage public input on potential GHG reduction measures. The draft meeting notes from the April 17th meeting are attached for reference.

Target completion date

Due to a delay in the formation stage, the target completion date for work by the Climate Action Team is recommended to be extended from October 31 to December 2008. It is the continuing goal of staff and the CAT to present final recommendations to the Council by the end of 2008.

New CAT members

- Environmental organization

Appointment of Yolo Audubon to fill the role of the second local environmental organization is consistent with the objectives of the Climate Action Team resolution. Yolo Audubon is an established and well respected organization with close ties to the Davis community.

A second environmental organization whose Executive Director resides in Davis has indicated a strong interest in serving on the CAT as well. The World Parrot Trust is an international organization dedicated to the conservation and welfare of parrots. While the Executive Director is clearly dedicated to helping his local community address climate change and has provided valuable technical input at each of the CAT meetings, his organization is less established in the local community and therefore offers fewer potential local outreach opportunities than Yolo Audubon. Staff specifically encourages his continued insight and input as a individual at future CAT meetings.

- Community education organization

Creation of a community education based organization will assist in the effort to develop strategies to meet the critical need of increasing public awareness of the issues and efforts being addressed by the CAT. Appointment of the Explorit Science Center addresses this need with an environmental education organization with a broad reach in the Davis community.

Attachment

1. Revised Resolution - Establishment of the Climate Action Team and scope.
2. Draft CAT meeting notes – April 17, 2008.

H:\Davis - Sustainable Project\GHG Reduction Plan\Climate Action Team - Community\CC stfrpt - CAT formation v1.doc

RESOLUTION NO. 08-XXX, SERIES 2008

RESOLUTION FORMING THE AD HOC DAVIS CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

WHEREAS, the Davis General Plan establishes visions, goals and policies that guide the community away from impacts on natural systems and toward sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted resolutions supporting the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in 1999 and the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the adopted City Council goals for 2007/08 provide clear direction that action on climate change and related issues is a City priority and that many of the other Council goals (downtown, housing, infrastructure, etc.) are related to and affected by the approach the community takes to sustainability; and

WHEREAS, as part of its action in adopting the City of Davis Climate Protection/Community Sustainability framework Strategy in April 2007, the City Council directed staff to develop a long range plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City operations and the community; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the development of an effective long range GHG reduction plan requires engagement across all sectors of the community; and

WHEREAS, the objective of forming the Climate Action Team (CAT) is to develop a deeper understanding of the issues associated with climate change and to take advantage of the extraordinary talent that is unique to Davis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Davis City Council does hereby adopt the purpose, scope, and membership structure for the CAT as shown in Attachment 1 of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Davis City Council on this sixth day of May, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Sue Greenwald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Margaret Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Attachment 1 – Climate Action Team purpose and scope

R:\City Clerk\2008 Council Packet\05-06-08\Climate Action Team Update Att-1 RES.doc

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Climate Action Team (CAT) is to assist city staff in accelerating the development of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (Plan) for the City of Davis and the community as a whole to address the issues of greenhouse gas emissions. The CAT will develop and implement with the active involvement of designated city staff a process to facilitate community input and comment designed to increase overall awareness of the efforts as well as to generate innovative approaches and comprehensive strategies to address the City's goal of significantly reducing the GHG emissions of the City and the community as a whole.

TIMELINE

This is an Ad Hoc and time limited effort. The development of a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and community engagement process will be completed by December ~~October~~ 31, 2008. The CAT will provide quarterly written status reports to the Natural Resources Commission and the City Council beginning no later than May ~~March~~ 2008. The Climate Action Team shall be dissolved, unless extended by the City Council, upon completion of the initial charge as identified in this document.

OBJECTIVES

With a primary focus on community wide GHG emissions, the CAT will, as directed by the City Council, and under the general coordination of the City Sustainability Coordinator:

1. Work on defined objectives, within the defined time frame, to produce materials that will assist in the rapid development of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction for the City.
2. Plan, organize, and conduct public workshops to solicit community input and identify potential elements of an action plan for the city, including inviting appropriate speakers or others to make presentations at these forums.
3. Identify and interview persons with specific expertise important to the development of a city action plan.

4. Identify potential public education materials to promote the city's climate change program.
5. Identify potential partners and partnerships, which the city may wish to pursue in implementing a community-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.
6. Research programs in other cities, develop detailed descriptions of these programs, and report to city staff, including recommendations.
7. Assist in the identification and evaluation of potential community wide GHG emission reduction targets and measures for inclusion in the Plan.
8. In the interest of streamlining adoption of early GHG emission reduction measures by the City, the CAT will not have a primary role in the identification or evaluation of these early action measures.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

To constitute a small group of individuals from the community with expertise on the subject of climate change, the CAT shall consist of not more than 21 persons, as designated by the City Council, including representatives from:

- One member of the Natural Resources, Open Space, Bicycle Advisory Commission, and Planning Commissions;
- The Davis Energy Group;
- The University of California at Davis Sustainability Committee;
- Pacific Gas and Electric;
- The Davis Joint Unified School District;
- The Sierra Club, Yolano Chapter;
- The Chamber of Commerce;
- The Interfaith Group "Care for God's Creation";

- Yolo County;
- Associated Students of UC Davis;
- Davis High School Student Government;
- Davis Downtown Business Association;
- Local environmental group;
- Community education group;
- Five public at large members.

**City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)
 April 17th Meeting Notes**

Members Present

		John Ketcherside	Pacific Gas and Electric
James C. Cramer	Care for God's Creation	John Mott-Smith	Yolo County
Bill Dakin	The Davis Energy Group	Dean Newberry	Natural Resources Comm
Sid England	UCD Sustainability Committee	Julie Partansky	Citizen
Stacie Frerichs	Sierra Club, Yolano Chapter	Kemble Pope	Open Space & Habitat Comm
		Dorothy Rosenberg	Citizen
Jack Kenward	Bicycle Advisory Commission	Mark Rutheiser	Davis Chamber of Commerce
Bill Kopper	Citizen	Jenifer Segar	Citizen
		Ruth Williams	Citizen

General

Things to do/ Look into:

- CAT members should email any additional comments for the brainstorm of initial measures using the same format that we used at the meeting (identify which of the four categories it applies to) – to Mitch Sears at City of Davis (MSears@cityofdavis.org) within one week of tonight's meeting (by COB, Weds April 23rd)
- Email Mitch with request for documents in paper form
- Mitch will circulate Science Advisory Team (SAT) roster
- Mitch will write a sample "blurb" for newsletters/email distribution, announcing the first community workshop
- Standardize work of subgroups – Mitch will prepare a basic template that each subgroup could fill out, starting at the next meeting
 - Use city's internal form as place to start
- Still need to discuss/resolve:
 - Creating a mechanism for sub-groups to communicate
 - Website
 - Blog

Agenda Item 2. – Climate Action Team - Administration

- Election of Chair: Kemble Pope
- Election of Vice Chair: John Mott-Smith
- Review of Rosenberg's Rules of Order
- Report on Brown Act and the CAT: Since the CAT is an Ad Hoc Committee formed by the City Council, it must comply with the Brown Act

Agenda Item 3. – Approve Meeting Notes – April 3, 2008

April 3, 2008 meeting notes approved unanimously (Frerichs abstaining)

Agenda Item 4. – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 5. – Climate Action Team – Sub-groups

Final Sub-groups (4):

- Land Use
- Consumption and Waste
- Energy Use and Production
- Transportation

Initial Subgroup Members:

- Energy Use and Production
 - Jennifer Segar
 - John Ketcherside
 - Bill Dakin
 - Mark Braly
- Transportation
 - Jack Kenward
 - Bill Kopper
 - James Cramer
 - Kemble Pope
- Consumption and Waste
 - Dee Rosenberg
 - Stacie Frerichs
 - Dean Newberry
 - Julie Partansky
- Land Use
 - Ruth Williams
 - John Mott-Smith
 - Sid England
 - Mark Rutheiser

GROUP BRAINSTORM OF INITIAL MEASURES

Transportation

- Address green waste collection – safety for bicyclists
- Re-evaluate Unitrans' routes – access city center and local supermarkets
- Promote alternatives to automobiles
- Ease traffic flow out of town and make difficult to get into town
- Investigate ways that buses can carry more bicycles and assistance with loading
- Re-evaluate buses as transit for k-12 students
- City center – pedestrian only
- City center should also have buses, bikes, delivery vehicles
- Investigate expansion of mass transit to other communities like Sacramento, Woodland, Vacaville, Dixon, Fairfield, Bay Area

City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)
April 17, 2008 Draft Meeting Notes

- In areas of auto-congestion around schools and university and commercial areas, reduce autos in those locations
- Increase use of bikes
 - Streets like 5th St, make bikes ok on sidewalks (use as bicycle paths)
 - Change traffic rules so bikes can yield (not have to stop)
 - Improve bicycle circulation by reducing speed limits
- Put in more traffic circles rather than stop lights
- Improve municipal fleet utilization: right vehicle for right job
- Alternative fuels
- More bicycle pumps - at town
- City bikes –available for general use (like in Scandinavia)
- Only biofuel for sale in Davis
- Establish safe routes to all schools for bikes and pedestrians
- Shared car program
- Easy to turn off sprinklers on greenbelt bike paths except for between 11pm and 6am
- Double the amount of double-lined bike paths, then fine people who park cars or leave waste in the paths
- Traffic calming measures on ALL streets
- Bike infrastructure revolving fund
- Car sharing
- Bikes for employees
- Plan for older population
- Need more bike parking and better quality bike parking
- Institute full cost pricing for cars
- Bike rental
- Light rail to Sacramento
- Provide covered bike storage (e.g., rented) so people who live far away can leave a bike and ride public transportation
- Bathrooms downtown
- Get Google to add a bike/ped function to Google maps
- Availability of bio-fuels... there needs to be a public refueling station

Energy Use and Production

- Investigate solar production with regards to city charter status
- Incentivize energy upgrades in homes
- Build windmill farm
- Investigate money for street/park lighting and bulb wattage
- Allow excess generation from solar panels to be donated to PG&E for non-profits
- Establish green rating for re-sale
- Increase shade in homes
- Establish cooperative out at city's solar farm
- Zero net energy new construction

City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)
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- Allow for local carbon off-sets for Davis residents; establish solar fund for city
- Provide dedicated city staff for green building permits (“green concierge”) – like Philadelphia
- Look into legal status of City’s solar farm
- Create web-page for FAQ’s on energy use (energy calculator) and food choices
- Look into solar hot water and more compatible with the treed-part of Davis
- Educate about how rapidly installing solar pays off
- Encourage businesses to install solar
- City should turn off park/greenbelt lights at 10 or 11pm. Turn off streetlights at midnight.
- Ban leaf blowers!
- Encourage partnerships with adjacent counties with good wind access for tri-county wind farm
- Investigate energy efficiency financing strategies used in Berkeley, Marin, etc.
- Offer option on new construction money spent on marginal energy – saving features or same money contributed to saving more energy in existing homes. (Same money spent in old home upgrades saved much more energy)
- Consider social justice implications of policies that raise cost of housing and public services
- Develop position on VUC energy
- Fuel cell separation by solar
- City solar fund, tax or bond
- Require solar on new construction
- Retrofit ordinance
- Solar access ordinance
- Look into solar on low income housing
- Exceed Title 24
- “City Smart”
- “Thermometer” (Public Art)

Consumption and Waste

- Mandatory construction waste separation and recycling
- Salvage yard in front of dump
- Where we get our water, wells pumping out of Sac
- What we do with our waste water
- Encourage national storm water drainage and retention
- Look into use of solar for waste water treatment plant
- Disallow use of plastic bags and Styrofoam take-out
- Forbid heavy metal batteries
- Recycle more of our plastic waste (without having to drive/deliver to DWR)
- Bio-gas waste energy plant (like UCD)
- Educate public about benefits of growing, buying, and eating local

City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)
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- Ask state legislature to add sales tax for products with large impact on GHG, like gas-powered lawnmowers
- Expand composting and green waste
- Encourage local grocers to partner with local farmers
- Re-use wood from old fences
- Expand/promote use of website – Davis freecycle
- Encourage egg-producing chickens in back yards
- Change water charges to be more use-based to encourage water conservation
- City adopt zero waste goal – partner with UC Davis
- Encourage use of in ground water cisterns for rain water collection (irrigation)
- Reduce watering schedule on green belts
- Refrigerator replacement
- Start a zero waste event kit where citizens can rent dishes/water jugs etc. for the use in conjunction with city facilities
- Purchasing policy for city: encourage businesses joint/bulk purchase
- Expand curbside technical and computer waste
- Expand recycling to clothing that can't go to charities

Land Use

- Convert greenbelts to brownbelts and vegetable gardens
- Zero farmland conversion
- Expand Measure O
- Allow grey water use for irrigation
- Encourage drought-tolerant plants
- More trees in parking lots
- Mandatory shade coverage of parking lots
- Incentives for densification
- New construction to have two pipes for grey water and black water
- Re-use of grey water for irrigation like City of Oakland
- Promote opportunities to live and work in Davis
- Business incubators for businesses that manufacture locally
- Neighborhood grocery stores in each neighborhood
- Ban use of pesticides
- Complete development of off-road bicycle path system
- Partner with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Design housing so not oriented to auto
- Guidance to local farmers for crops they choose to grow
- Develop auto parking for commuters to Davis on the perimeter of the city linked to bike paths and Unitrans
- Limit area of lawn/turf that can be planted/installed
- Expand city integrated pest management program
- Fine irrigation water waste (after appropriate warning)
- Decrease parking standards

City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)
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- Narrow streets
- Climate change element in General Plan
- Add food calorie determination to EIR's for new development
- More community gardens especially for apartment residents
- Urban wood utilization
- City can promote edible landscaping
- Ag mitigation – buy a “farm easement”
- Community gardens

Overall Considerations

- Be conscious of social justice issues
- Identify changes to legal and regulatory infrastructure
- Identify other experts to help with analysis

Agenda Item 5. – Climate Action Team – Public Input

Goals for the June 19th public workshop:

- Give the public ownership of this project
- Get additional ideas from the public
- Get feedback on our ideas
- Have the public assist with prioritizing measures
- Educate the public about the work we have already done
- Educate/empower people to take action
- Have the public fill out a form at the meeting

Getting the word out:

- Send out a mailing
- Announce second public workshop in the Fall “Davis Focus” newsletter
- Include flier in utility bills
- Put ads in the newspaper
- Host a booth at Farmer’s Market
- Go to existing meetings and make presentations
 - Prepare media kit/presentation tool kit that CAT members can use to make presentations in the community
- Participate in “Celebrate Davis” at the City of Davis’ table
- Get the word out to schools via PTA newsletters
- Ask churches to help us get the word out
- Participate in Whole Earth Festival
 - Have information at Dean Newberry’s booth, & the Sierra Club booth
- Post signs around town
- Write a “blurb” for newsletters/email distribution
 - City to provide draft
- Include information on the Davis wiki

Agenda Item 7. – Communications

Next Steps: CAT Meeting Schedule and Format

- Clarification: The CAT will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, and on the 5th Thursday of the month as needed, from 6:30-8:30pm, at Veteran's Memorial Center, in the Club Room
- Next meeting dates: May 1st and May 15th
 - Meet initially as full CAT, then break into subgroups for the remainder of the meeting
- May 29th come back together as full group (entire CAT)
- June 5th
 - Entire CAT
 - In community chambers?
 - Televising the meeting?
 - Announce the upcoming community workshop
- June 19th – first community workshop
 - Have the public help prioritize the initial measures that have been identified by the CAT

Communications

- April 22nd - Earth Day
- May 30th and 31st - Summit on Global Climate Change through Center for Urban Horticulture (Fri & Sat)
- May 6th and 7th – regional perspective on global warming through UCD extension