

Memorandum

July 17, 2007

TO: City Council

FROM: Bill Emlen, City Manager
Mitch Sears, Open Space Planner and Sustainability Program Interim Coordinator

SUBJECT: Community Sustainability Project - Update

Overview and Background

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on City activities related to climate change and community sustainability. In April, the City Council adopted an overall strategy to guide City planning and action related to climate change and community sustainability. In summary, the recommended strategy includes the following five elements:

1. Assess the City's current programs and projects that support resource conservation and community sustainability.
2. Develop a short-term action plan to identify early action items to be implemented in less than 18 months.
3. Develop a mid-term action plan to implement multi-year projects that build on existing City programs/projects to achieve the City's climate protection and sustainability goals.
4. Initiate a visioning process to define a sustainable Davis that guides future decisions.
5. Develop a community outreach program to provide and gather information.

The Council directed that these elements be implemented on parallel tracts when resources and sequencing permit.

The following provides a summary of current activities and actions that have been initiated since April:

1. Current status - Document and evaluate what has and is being done.

Action	Status	Notes
Inventory existing actions/programs - City	On-going	Meetings with key staff in each City Department being conducted. Inventory of existing actions/programs to be completed by late summer.

2. Short-term action plan - Identify and implement early action items to be accomplished/up and running in less than 18 months.

Action	Status	Notes
Green Building Program	Implemented – First phase: green building check list submitted with each residential remodel building permit.	This program is being phased in as a voluntary, educational program; a community workshop is being scheduled for late summer for contractors, homeowners, and vendors.
Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling ordinance	Ordinance in draft form; consideration by Council in Fall 2007.	Requires recycling of 50% of C&D materials.
Pilot LED street light program	Researching feasibility of program.	Expected energy savings of 30% to 40% per fixture.
Solar roof inventory	GIS map of all roofs in the City over 10,000sf completed.	ID potential partners for PV installations.
100% post consumer content recycled paper pilot program	Initial pilot program complete, no adverse effects on copiers or quality observed	Researching vendors and cost difference v. current 35% recycled paper.
Sustainability Working Group – Each City department represented	Implemented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting bi-weekly • Drafted action evaluation system • Reviewing and evaluating potential early action items 	Employee advisory group organized to provide guidance and suggestions for City actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address sustainability.
Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program proposal	Submitted grant proposal to implement green building retrofits and photo-voltaic installations in lower income homes	Addresses sustainability principles of energy use, housing stock durability, and social equity.
Recycling improvements at City facilities and major community events.	Ongoing educational effort of existing programs	First major community event opportunity was 2007 4 th of July; next opportunities 2008 Celebrate Davis and 4 th of July.

3. Mid-term action plan - Identify, plan for and implement multi-year cornerstone projects (e.g. global warming pollution reduction) that use or build on existing programs/projects.

Action	Status	Notes
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction – City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial working draft plan complete • Joined International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). • Initiated data collection process to inventory City’s greenhouse gas emissions. • Developing timeline for data collection and input. • Considering advantages of also joining the California Climate Action Registry • Initiated green house gas emissions inventory 	Working with Natural Resource Sub-committees on development of draft plan and potential action items to reduce City’s GHG emissions.
Greenhouse Gas Reduction - Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions held with UC Davis and Yolo County on coordinated effort to address Community GHG reductions. 	

4. Initiate a visioning process to define a sustainable Davis that guides future decisions.

Action	Status	Notes
Research groups/consulting firms	Discussions with communities that have adopted sustainability plans and consulting firms who assisted.	No recommended direction at this time; anticipate scheduling Council discussion on this item in Fall 2007.
Sustainability principles	Working draft complete	No recommended direction at this time; anticipate scheduling Council discussion on this item in Fall 2007.

5. Community/Organization education. On-going.

Action	Status	Notes
Sustainability web page	In development. Will include City efforts, how to get involved, technical resources,	Anticipate going on-line in August.
Sustainability Working Group (see above)		

Action	Status	Notes
Focus articles	Fall edition of City Focus to include articles and information on what City has/is doing and what residents can do.	Fall 2007
Public outreach plan	Developing public outreach plan to guide City efforts to develop information and promote awareness.	
Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee	Participating in campus advisory group's discussion on sustainability, including outreach to students.	Opportunities to coordinate on sustainability and climate change issues with campus and student organizations.

The Community/Organization Outreach summary does not include the numerous discussions with community organizations, regional interests, businesses, media, staff from other jurisdictions, etc.

Conclusion

This update provides summary information on each of the strategy areas adopted by Council in April 2007. Most of the activity to date should be considered initial steps that prepare the City for the long term efforts required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward sustainability. Staff believes that, given current resources and the City's existing commitments, the amount of work that has been accomplished is significant.