

Staff Report

DATE: October 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 and initial City actions to reduce green house gas emissions.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the Davis bottled water purchase policy resolution (Attachment 1).
2. Direct staff to complete a proposal for the formation of a community climate action team and return for final Council action in December (Attachment 2).

Council Goals

The set of recommended actions address the Council goal of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Specifically, the actions implement the Council objective of addressing global warming and reducing the City's carbon footprint.

Fiscal Impact

Costs associated with this implementation of these two initial green house gas (GHG) reduction measures identified in this report involve both initial and on-going costs. Staff resources will be required to support the work of the Climate Action Team. The restrictions on purchase/sale of individual servings of bottled water is estimated to result in a net cost of up to several thousand dollars per year based on preliminary estimates of conversion to alternative sources (e.g. water coolers for city sponsored events) and lost sales at City snack-bars.

Background and Analysis

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on City activities related to climate change and community sustainability and recommend immediate actions the City can take to reduce its green house gas emissions. 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 as resources and sequencing permit.

Based on the City Council action in spring 2007, staff has been pursuing GHG reduction measures on multiple tracks. The first track addresses the immediate and short-term measures the City can take to reduce its own GHG emissions. The second track addresses the plan that will guide the City's long term actions to reduce both its own GHG emissions and those of the broader community.

The bottled water policy fits into the category of actions that reduce the City's own GHG emissions. The climate action team proposal is in the category of actions that address the effort to reduce community wide GHG emissions. These two actions are the first in a series of GHG reduction measures that will be presented to the Council for consideration. The next set of measures will be brought forward in November. The Natural Resources Commission is scheduled to review this next set of measures on October 22nd.

In addition to the two actions recommended in this report, the City has recently initiated several other important GHG emission reduction measures. These existing measures are based on the direction Council provided in April and include:

- Joining the International Committee for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program and initiating a community wide GHG inventory. The CCP is described below.
- Initiating a Green Building Program
- Adopting Construction and demolition recycling ordinance
- Public outreach (Fall edition of Focus and new sustainability web page)
- Initiated an internal Sustainability Working Group to identify and analyze potential GHG reductions in City operations.

Additional information regarding these existing measures is included in Attachment 3.

GHG Reduction Planning –Community wide efforts

As part of its action adopting a climate change and sustainability strategy in April, the Council directed staff to begin a process that would produce a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan for the community. Based on this Council directive, as noted above, the City has joined the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP). The CCP is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability within their municipalities. The framework includes the following 5 steps:
Green house gas reduction planning milestones

1. Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.

2. Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year.
3. Develop a local green house gas reduction action plan.
4. Implement policies and measures.
5. Monitor and verify results.

The City is currently conducting an inventory of the GHG) emissions shown in milestone 1. The City has hired staff to research and collect the data necessary to complete the inventory. In addition, staff has been coordinating with its counterparts on campus to learn from their experiences in conducting a similar inventory. Staff anticipates that the inventory will be completed early next year. This inventory sets the stage for the remaining milestones.

In preparation for completion of the GHG inventory and setting of reduction targets (milestones 1 and 2), staff has worked with a sub-committee of the NRC to produce an initial draft reduction plan (milestone 3). The working draft plan is in a holding pattern until the completion of milestone 1 (GHG inventory). The measures discussed in Track 1 above will be considered for inclusion in the GHG Reduction Plan during milestone 3.

Community Climate Action Team

In a related measure, staff has received multiple suggestions and proposals for the formation of a community wide climate action team. This group would bring together specialists from the community to work with the City to plan and implement GHG reduction actions at the community scale. Staff has supported the formation of such a group since the initial action by the Council in the spring. One of the difficulties in forming this type of group in the early stages of planning for GHG reductions was that the City did not have adequate baseline data (GHG inventory) on which the group could base its recommendations. As the City approaches completion of the inventory, staff believes the timing is right to begin formation of a community based climate action team.

An initial draft proposal outlining the general purpose, structure, and membership of a community climate action team is included as Attachment 2. Staff is recommending that the Council provide general direction on formation of this type of group. If the Council accepts the recommendation, staff anticipates returning to the Council for formal action on the purpose, structure, and membership of the group before the end of the year.

Attachments

- Davis Bottled Water Resolution (Attachment 1)
- Draft proposal for formation of a community based climate action team (Attachment 2)
- Existing initial actions to reduce greenhouse emissions resulting from City operations (Attachment 3)

RESOLUTION NO. 07-XXX, SERIES 2007

CITY OF DAVIS BOTTLED WATER RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Davis provides fresh, clean, and healthy tap water to all its homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, City of Davis tap water is extensively tested and must meet rigorous purity standards; and

WHEREAS, this tap water is readily and conveniently available in every city facility; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 25 to 40% of bottled water originates as tap water before it is placed in the bottle; and

WHEREAS, nationally only about 1 in every 5 bottled water containers is recycled (in California recycling rates are approximately 60%), and these bottles are one of the fastest growing sources of municipal solid waste in the country; and

WHEREAS, it requires an estimated 1.5 million barrels of oil per year to produce the bottles, and substantial amounts of energy are also required to bottle the water, to transport it by ship, train, or truck to retail outlets, to cool it, and to process discarded bottles, and the amount of energy used for this purpose is both an energy efficiency concern and a national security concern; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors estimates that the energy used to manufacture bottles is enough to generate electricity for 250,000 homes or fuel for 100,000 cars each year; and

WHEREAS, the cost of bottled water can be more than 1,000 times the cost of an equal amount of tap water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Davis encourages all Davis residents and businesses to consider alternatives to the purchase of bottled water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Davis encourages citizens and businesses who do use bottled water to recycle those bottles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, except when required to maintain effectiveness of personnel responding to emergency situations (e.g. fire, police, EOC, etc.), no city funds will be used by any department or agency of the City of Davis to purchase single-serving bottles of water, including for city funded or sponsored events.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on this twenty-third day of October 2007 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Sue Greenwald
Mayor

ATTEST:

Margaret Roberts, CMC
City Clerk

AD HOC CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Climate Action Team (CAT) is to assist city staff in accelerating the development of a Climate Action Plan for the City of Davis and the community as a whole to address the issues of energy use and 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 Council Sustainability goals.

TIMELINE

This is an Ad Hoc and time limited effort. The development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan and community engagement process will be completed by June 30, 2008. The CAT will provide quarterly written status reports and formal presentations to the City Council beginning no later than December 31, 2007. The Climate Action Team shall be dissolved, unless extended by the city council, upon completion of the initial charge.

OBJECTIVES

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 Climate Action Plan for the City.
2. Conduct between one and three 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 Climate Action Plan.
6. Research programs in other cities, develop detailed descriptions of these programs, and report to city staff, including recommendations.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM COMPOSTION AND STRUCTURE

To constitute a small group of individuals from the community with expertise on the subject of energy use and climate change, the CAT shall consist of not more than 11 persons, as designated by the city council, including representatives from:

- The chairs of the Natural Resources, Open Space, and Planning Commissions;
- The Davis Energy Group, or other energy-efficiency business;
- The University of California at Davis Sustainability Committee;
- Pacific Gas and Electric;
- The Davis Joint Unified School District;
- The Sierra Club or other local environmental organization;
- The Chamber of Commerce or another representative of the business community;
- The Interfaith Group “Care for God’s Creation” or another member of the Faith Community; and
- Public at large.

Attachment 3
Recent green house gas reduction measures - City operations and community wide

Category	Measure	Description	GHG Reductions (est.)/Cost
General	Join the International Committee for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program and initiating a community wide GHG inventory.	The CCP is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability within their municipalities. The framework includes the following 5 steps: Green house gas reduction planning milestones <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast. 2. Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year. 3. Develop a local green house gas reduction action plan. 4. Implement policies and measures. 5. Monitor and verify results. 	GHG – The CCP is an inventory, assessment and planning tool. No direct GHG reductions. \$: Low Costs for materials none. Administrative costs moderate. Expected cost: Less than \$5,000/yr
Materials Management	Construction and Demolition recycling ordinance	50% diversion rate required in newly adopted ordinance.	GHG – Moderate potential. \$: Low Cost for materials low. Administrative costs low.
Buildings	Green building program	Existing voluntary education program for homeowners and builders/contractors. Requires training for Building staff.	Expected cost: Less than \$5,000/yr GHG – Moderate potential. \$: Low Material costs low. Administrative costs low.

City of Davis - Initial green house gas reduction measures - City Operations and Community Wide

Category	Measure	Description	GHG Reductions (est.)/Cost
Education	City Sustainability Web site	New web based effort to inform/educate city employees on existing/emerging city efforts to address climate change and sustainability	Expected cost: Less than \$5,000/yr GHG- Low. \$: Low Material costs none. Administrative costs low.
	Fall Focus Newsletter	Information on City efforts to address climate change and community sustainability.	Expected cost: Less than \$1,000/yr GHG- Low. \$: Low

City of Davis - Initial green house gas reduction measures - City Operations and Community Wide