

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: July 6, 2010

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan – Implementation Plan

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the proposed Implementation Plan for the Climate Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was approved by the City Council in March 2010. As part of the approval of the CAP, staff was directed to return to Council with an implementation schedule and potential funding mechanism(s).

DISCUSSION

The proposed Implementation Plan aims to outline an implementation schedule with the ultimate intent of reaching the Council adopted goal to reduce emissions 25% below 2004 levels by the year 2020. The Climate Action Plan identifies six climate action strategies, and a total of 40 greenhouse gas emission reduction measures (GHG reduction measures).

The 40 GHG reduction measures have been categorized into three categories within the Implementation Plan:

- Short-term implementation (implementation is underway or anticipated in FY 10/11 – 11/12)
- General Plan implementation (implementation is contingent on General Plan update)
- Medium-long term implementation (implementation is anticipated in FY 11/12-12/13)

The Implementation Plan also includes consideration of a number of related factors that impact implementation including but not limited to staff capacity, available funding, need for technical assistance, availability of regional partnerships, opportunity to achieve significant GHG reductions, and ease of implementation. Additionally, the Implementation Plan recognizes the variability of climate change science, and that it is very likely that the implementation schedule could change at times due to new advances in GHG emission reduction methods, regional opportunities, or other innovations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The Implementation Plan is intended to help the City achieve tangible GHG emission reductions while also providing a number of co-benefits including safer opportunities for alternative modes of transportation, increased green spaces, improved air quality, and community building.

The City's Sustainability Committee reviewed the draft Implementation Plan with a focus on increasing the number of measures for short-term implementation. The Sustainability Committee also plans to identify particular measures that they may lead given the level of technical expertise that exists amongst the members.

As identified in the Implementation Plan, it is recommended that the Sustainability Committee serve as a Climate Action Plan Implementation Task Force (CAP Task Force) as this would enable the group to have a direct role in implementing the CAP. Additionally, the CAP Task Force would have the ability to liaison with the community, other community groups, and help steward study sessions, educational workshops, or other public outreach/planning processes that will be needed to implement particular GHG reduction measures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The short-term tasks proposed for 2010-11 can be accomplished within the adopted budget and grants that have been approved or that are in application process. The Implementation Plan outlines available funding, particularly in the form of grants that have been awarded or are being pursued.

Additional funding mechanisms will be necessary for the tasks proposed for medium/long-term implementation. The Implementation Plan discusses some of the potential funding sources including development of a permit parking system and a utility tax. There are also a number of regional programs under development that will likely be funded by ARRA Stimulus Funds, which will benefit the City by way of programs established for the county; however the City will not receive this funding directly.

Attachments

Draft Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan – July 2010
Grant Summary Chart