

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

Agenda Date: July 19, 2010

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan – Implementation Plan funding

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council refer to staff and the Sustainability Committee for recommendation on alternatives to fund implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan, with an initial report back within six months.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was approved by the City Council in March 2010. At the meeting of July 6, 2010, the City Council approved the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan outlines 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.

DISCUSSION

The City has been successful in acquiring grants, solely or in partnership with other cities, that will fund some of the implementation strategies. The City is also working in with other agencies, such as Stopwaste.org and the County of Alameda, on collaborative efforts to achieve carbon emission reduction.

Over the next two years, the City will continue to work on implementing the short-term strategies, and will develop the medium to long term strategies. In order for the City to be successful in accomplishing these strategies and to reach the Council adopted goal to reduce emissions 25% below 2004 levels by the year 2020, the City needs to identify the funding needed for these efforts, and what alternatives currently exist or can be pursued to meet these funding needs. Alternatives include options such as grants, partnerships, fees, and taxes.

ANALYSIS

Staff recommends that Council refer the issue of funding to staff and the Sustainability Committee to develop a range of alternatives. Staff recommends a report back within six months on the available options, along with an analysis of advantages and disadvantages of each approach. It should be noted that the issue of what financial support is needed is to some extent dependent upon efforts undertaken at the state and federal level to reduce carbon emissions, the availability of grant funds, and the initiative undertaken by individuals and organizations in the Albany community. If these efforts are not forthcoming, it places a greater emphasis on requiring local funding to support the CAP implementation.

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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There will be staff time spent to work with the Committee to identify existing resources and future alternatives.