

**CITY OF ALBANY**

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 8, 2012  
TO: Sustainability Committee  
FROM: Nicole Almaguer, Environmental Specialist  
SUBJECT: CAP Update

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The following is intended to serve as a brief status update regarding current/ongoing CAP implementation projects.

Energy Efficiency Improvements – City Facilities

The HVAC replacement at the City's Childcare Center will be completed during the month of February. The new equipment replaces an outdated inefficient system with an energy efficient HVAC system.

Work has also been initiated on a energy management system for the lighting at the Civic Center.

Renewable Energy – City Facilities

In coordination with the Small Cities collaborative, the City has launched an RFP process for installation of solar panels on city facilities (Civic Center, Community Center, Childcare Center, and Teen Center). A total of 5 companies submitted qualifications. A pre-proposal meeting has been held and site visits will occur February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Energy Upgrade California – Homeowners Workshop

The recent workshop led by Stopwaste.Org with assistance from Senior Planner Anne Hersch was well attended with over 50 residents participating. We will collaborate with the staff overseeing Energy Upgrade California to determine how many residents take advantage of the available energy upgrade rebates.

Solar Trash/Recycling Compactor Units

The City has received 50 solar compactor trash/recycling units as part of the franchise agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County. Units will be placed along Solano/San Pablo Avenues and within Memorial Park. The first container was installed on 2/8 at the corner of Solano at Talbot. Photo included here:



### Countywide Ordinances – Single Use Bags & Mandatory Recycling

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (Stopwaste.Org) adopted the single use bag ordinance and mandatory recycling ordinance at their January 25, 2012 meeting. All cities within the county are covered by the ordinances unless a city chooses to opt-out by March 2, 2012. The City Council received a presentation from Stopwaste.Org staff on the proposed ordinances at the October 17, 2011 City Council meeting:

<http://www.albanyca.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=16975>

The item is scheduled for City Council review with a staff recommendation for approval on February 21, 2012.

### Correspondence from PG&E – UUT

PG&E has responded to the most recent inquiry made by staff regarding options for how the UUT is charged, identifying costs for an exemption for CARE and cost for an alternative to the current UUT billing process. These items are summarized as follows:

#### 1) 2% CARE exemption

This option would allow for the City of Albany to increase their UUT rate by 2%, and exempt CARE customers for the 2% increase only. The estimated cost for this change to our billing system would be approximately \$5,000.

#### 2) Implementing a 2% usage based tax

This option would allow for the City of Albany to implement a new 2% tax that is charged based on the customer's usage. The estimated cost for this change to our billing system is approximately \$575,000. As discussed, this potential change would require PG&E to update its billing system significantly in order to accommodate the City of Albany's request. This is an approximation based on a very preliminary understanding of the requirements.

### Grants

Staff has submitted a grant application to the Department of Conservation for purchase and installation of a combined trash/recycling container to replace the existing City public trash cans located along Solano/San Pablo/Masonic Avenues. These containers are

intended to compliment the new solar trash/recycling compactor units, and increase opportunities for recycling along our commercial area. The grant also includes purchase of outdoor recycling containers for the school district. Awards will be announced in early Summer 2012.

Staff is also in process of submitting a grant application to the Strategic Growth Council for a planning grant to initiate studies related to the General Plan Update. The grant would include three policy papers on topics including parking management, transition between commercial and residential zones, and development of a “Green Albany” green infrastructure plan. The submittal deadline for this application is February 15, 2012, with awards announced in May 2012.

#### Staff Recruitment

The job announcement for the Sustainability & Transportation Coordinator position has been posted and is scheduled to close on February 13, 2012. Oral board interviews will likely be scheduled for the week of March 5.