



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wei at 7:32pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Committee Member Cooper, Committee Member Golem, Committee Member Hartley, Committee Member Uhrhammer, Chair Wei

Members Absent: Committee Member Smith-Heimer, Committee Member Yiu

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. Approve minutes from January 21, 2015 meeting

Approved with minor edits.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from Catherine Sutton regarding Transition Streets program.

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Griffing provided the following updates:

- The County is still working on the structure of the proposed CCA Steering Committee. Staff expects the committee to have about 30 members, including some Board appointees and some City appointees.
- Committee members should have received a link to the new required advisory body training videos.
- Enrollment is currently open for the Civics Academy.

Committee Member Uhrhammer sent the Committee a reference document regarding global energy use.

### 6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

#### A. Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee Update

Committee Member Cooper provided an update – The subcommittee met to discuss sponsorships, the kid's zone, and exhibiting electric vehicles. Committee Member Hartley suggested looking into Toyota's new fuel cell vehicles.

Public comment received from Catherine Sutton, who suggested contacting Tesla for electric vehicles.

#### B. Update on Presentation of 2015 Work Plan to City Council

Chair Wei provided an update – City Council approved the Committee's 2015 work plan.

#### C. Outreach Meeting Update

Chair Wei provided an update – The outreach group met in January and discussed a group name and meeting schedule. Committee Member Hartley suggested reaching out to the business community. The Committee discussed the possibility of using time during regular Committee meetings for outreach purposes. Chair Wei suggested using the time for public workshops

regarding greenhouse reduction actions, such as energy efficiency retrofits, solar panels, and PACE financing.

Committee Member Hartley suggested using the time to develop and implement outreach strategies for items the Committee is currently pursuing instead – like outreach related to RECO. They agreed to bring the conversation back to the next meeting.

Public comment received from Catherine Sutton, who suggested the Committee focus on outreach that directly supports their policy work and that the separate outreach group can put on workshops.

#### **D. Discuss Possibility of Drafting a Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO) or Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO)**

Griffing provided an update – Berkeley is repealing their RECO and CECO and adding the revised BESO, which requires energy assessments at time of sale for single-family dwellings (SFDs) and at specific time intervals for MFD/Commercial. The time interval assessment requirements for SFDs have been eliminated. The revised item will go back to the Berkeley City Council. Their biggest issue, aside from push back from the residential community, is that they currently don't have any approved service providers to offer assessments. PG&E only provides in-home audits to low income customers, and these assessments are free.

The cities of Berkeley, San Francisco, and Hayward are moving away from the RECO/CECO model. Staff has not been able to identify other successful RECO/CECO examples. Stopwaste is currently seeking funding to help support disclosure ordinances. Jeff Bond provided a presentation on Albany retrofits in 2014.

Committee Member Hartley suggested looking at average square footage to determine a threshold based on building size in order to get the largest energy users to upgrade first. Vice Chair Golem suggested determining thresholds based on energy consumption and looking at requiring both seismic and energy retrofits to protect buildings. Committee Member Cooper said that if the City doesn't have the resources to enforce a RECO then it may be pointless because upgrades won't happen. Vice Chair Golem said at least with a BESO people are guaranteed to get an education. They discussed replicating Berkeley's BESO, which would be much easier for staff and for the Committee to sell at a policy level. Also, the process would be quicker, and Committee Member Hartley said it is important to get something in place as soon as possible. A RECO would require more research and outreach. The Committee discussed the possibility of having a BESO with incentives for upgrades rather than a requirement. A UUT could fund an incentive program for upgrades based on required energy assessments for each property. The City of Berkeley also allows people to use a percentage of the transfer tax on energy upgrades. They asked if a UUT could pay for a staff person to administer a program. Chair Wei asked what the issues are with RECO and the cost to the City. In addition to political and enforcement difficulties, a RECO would require a costly cyclical evaluation to stay ahead of title 24 requirements.

Staff will work on answering questions from the Committee and adding their suggestions in the matrix for the discussion next month, including adding information on enforcement needs and costs.

Public comment from Preston Jordan who pushed for a RECO/CECO because there are no energy savings required by a BESO. Public comment from Catherine Sutton, who said required upgrades are a good idea and asked them to look at taking the best of both policies.

#### **E. CAP Target Subcommittee Update**

The subcommittee provided an update, including a pro/con analysis using a per-capita vs. absolute target and the Committee discussed the possibility of a net zero target for 2050. They also discussed removing the emissions from Western Forge & Flange from the original inventory for a more accurate reading of

the City's progress. Committee members asked for an explanation on how this goal could be reached and information on what other cities are doing. The subcommittee will look at intermediate targets and prepare a memo for the next meeting.

Public comment was received from Catherine Sutton, who encouraged a net zero goal to send the right message. Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who encouraged the decision to remove Western Forge & Flange from the original inventory, not using a per capita calculation, and considering setting an intermediate goal for 2030.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a discussion on the green building ordinance, as well as continued discussions regarding the CAP target, RECO/BESO, and the Arts & Green Festival.

### **A. Next regular meeting – March 18, 2015**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.