

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 15, 2015

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Claire Griffing, Sustainability & Transportation Coordinator

SUBJECT: Potential Programs for Utility Users' Tax Funding

Background

On July 19, 2010, the City Council requested the Sustainability Committee prepare recommendations to fund implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Sustainability Committee formed a finance subcommittee to analyze a variety of funding scenarios, and submitted a proposal recommending an increase in the Utility Users' Tax (UUT). Council reviewed the proposal on April 7, 2014, and asked the Committee for more information on what the projected revenues would be used for. Council also requested more information on whether the Board of Education will have a tax measure on the November ballot. The item was brought back to Council on May 19th, 2014 with a list of potential programs. Council decided against moving forward with the ballot measure because of a competing measure from the school district, and asked to revisit the item for the 2016 ballot.

Discussion

The City Council has expressed interest in seeing a more detailed list of potential programs that will be funded by the tax increase. The Sustainability Committee should refine a list to bring to Council in September and add additional details on programs where relevant.

Below is the previous list approved by the Committee, which was brought to Council on May 19, 2014:

- Accelerate the sidewalk repair program to encourage pedestrian transport
- Improve striping and signage for bike paths
- Investigate feasibility of an electric shuttle
- Support community gardens and Farmer's Market
- Serve as a reliable source for required matching grant funds, (e.g. augment Complete Streets projects)
- Leverage staff time to augment grant writing, project management, and policy research

Below is a list of additional programs suggested by Chair Wei:

- Funds for home/commercial retrofits

- Various ways to implement - lottery/ escrow amt per sq. ft (\$/ sq. ft. of building upgraded)
- Funds for BESO energy audits
- Solar PV on schools (AMS/AHS/Cornell - 1 story schools have concerns of vandalism)
- Feebates (return revenue to taxees to incent lower use; penalize high resid. consumers)
- BART shuttle service

Below is a list of CAP priorities determined by staff:

- Serve as a reliable source for required matching grant funds
- Leverage staff time to augment grant writing, project management, and policy research
- Renewable power generation, energy efficiency, and energy management projects for City facilities
- Funding for energy assessments (for BEADO program administration and incentives)
- Incentives for energy upgrades