

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 20, 2018

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Claire Griffing, Sustainability & Resilience Manager

SUBJECT: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Contract

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany has conducted greenhouse gas inventories every five years to determine current emissions and compare to the Climate Action Plan's baseline inventory. Inventories serve several key purposes, including:

1. Determine what sectors emit the most greenhouse gases (GHG) to prioritize actions
2. Determine how close we are to meeting our reduction goal
3. Communicate that progress to the public

While inventories would ideally help us understand what affect our actions have had on emissions, there is currently no mechanism to estimate that.

Inventories have been conducted using 2004, 2010, and 2015 data. Staff provided Council [an update](#) on the current inventory (2015 data) in March of this year, as part of the larger CAP update. In order to analyze data during in the years in between these inventories, several Sustainability Committee members, in partnership with members of the community, have analyzed data and conducted unofficial inventories. These have not been presented by staff to Council and have not employed CAP tracking software, such as SEEC ClearPath.

DISCUSSION

Data Access & Methodology Concerns

Cities across the state have been experiencing data access issues due to the CPUC's 15/15 privacy rule. The City of Albany can no longer access our commercial and industrial electricity or natural gas data. MTC's methodology for calculating VMT data has changed over the years, and there are multiple ways to calculate the results, resulting in vastly different outcomes. Other cities in Alameda County have expressed concern over the accuracy of current GHG inventories and have asked that they not be made public until some of these data issues can be resolved.

2017 Inventory

In response to these challenges, Stopwaste and East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW) issued the attached RFP for consulting services to develop a tool for cities to more easily track emissions,

and they will be entering 2017 emissions data in the tool for all cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. By creating a tool to be used region-wide, they will help us work through some of the data access and methodology concerns, and will create consistency in measuring these in the future. They also offer add-on services if we would like to contract with them directly in the future. The contract has been awarded to Placeworks, and the tool and 2017 data should be available by the fall of this year.

The Future of the GHG Inventory

In the interest of transparency, the City will post graphs indicating emissions reductions once the approach has been standardized and the 2017 inventory has been finalized. One of the most exciting changes to the inventory will be seeing the difference once EBCE enrolls all customers, but a full year of data will not be available until 2020. If the Placeworks tool proves useful, the City will continue to use it to track progress.

The new CAP will determine additional metrics to track progress that are more concrete, easily calculated, and more accessible to the public. The City could use these, along with the inventory, to communicate progress and determine priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. East Bay Energy Watch Greenhouse Gas Inventory RFP