

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

Agenda Date: 12/05/05
Prepared Date: 11/28/05
Reviewed by: _____

SUBJECT: U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

RECOMMENDATION

Refer the agreement to the Social and Economic Justice Commission for its recommendations and an assessment of any further actions that the City might wish to take.

BACKGROUND

On February 16, 2005 the Kyoto Protocol, the international agreement to address climate disruption, became law for the 141 countries that have ratified it to date. On that day, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels launched an initiative to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol through leadership and action by at least 141 American cities. Mayor Nickels, along with a growing number of other U.S. mayors also led the development of a U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. (Agreement attached.) On March 30, 2005, the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was passed unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayors inside and outside of the Conference continue to formalize their commitment to the Agreement by signing on to the agreement for their own cities.

Under the Agreement, participating cities commit to take the following three actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system

As of November 9, 2005, 188 major cities representing over 40 million Americans have adopted a resolution pledging to take steps to reduce global warming (see attached list.).

DISCUSSION

It might be noted that the Social and Economic Justice Commission is currently reviewing the City's 2003 draft "Sustainability Inventory." Albany's participation in the Sustainability Inventory was funded by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Recycling Board and by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The environmentally related recommendations from the Sustainability Inventory are similar to the suggested commitments in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The SEJC will be reviewing the recommendations in the report and will then provide recommended action items to Council.

In addition, City of Albany staff is currently reviewing the steps required to become a Certified Green Business. While many of the requirements are already being implemented, further City actions may also coincide with the recommendations in the Climate Protection Agreement. Referring this issue to the SEJC will allow for coordination of the recommended actions from these three related environmental directives: the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; the Albany 2003 Sustainability Inventory; and the requirements of the Alameda County Certified Green Business Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. Any future costs would depend upon recommended actions.

Attachments

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

List of Cities that have adopted the Climate Protection Agreement