

**CITY OF ALBANY
PLANNING AND ZONING AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: 04/28/09
Prepared by: JB
Reviewed by: NA

ITEM/ **6a**

SUBJECT: **Presentation by Janet Smith-Heimer, Sustainability Committee Co-Chair
Regarding Liaison Relationship between the Sustainability Committee and Planning
and Zoning Commission.**

SITE: **City-wide**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Zoning Commission discuss and provide direction to staff on how best to facilitate collaboration with the Sustainability Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Committee was established in 2007 to advise the City Council on policies, programs, and issues promoting environmental sustainability in the City of Albany. In addition, the Committee provides leadership, technical assistance, education and outreach to members of the public, schools, local businesses, and city agencies on innovative programs to promote environmental sustainability through energy conservation, solid waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, pollution prevention, transportation efficiency, and other means.

Of particular importance to land use planning, the Sustainability Committee is guiding the preparation of a climate action plan that consists of polices and measures that, when implemented, will enable the City to meet its target for greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Climate Action Plan is being prepared by the consulting firm EDAW, using grant funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. It is anticipated that many of the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan will ultimately be incorporated into the 2010 General Plan.

Attached is a brief statement prepared by the Sustainability Committee that identifies key elements of outreach to other Commissions and Committees. To the extent that the Sustainability Committee becomes involved in a formal way in the review of project applications, staff would recommend that predictable and objective standards of review be prepared.

The coordination should be structured in a way to avoid extending the amount of time required to process applications. Consideration also should be given to resources needed to monitor projects after approval to ensure compliance with Sustainability Committee-recommended conditions of approval.

Attachment - Process for Sustainability Committee Input to Major Projects and Programs

Process for Sustainability Committee Input to Major Projects and Programs

The Albany Sustainability Committee wishes to better integrate sustainable policies into activities undertaken by the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Waterfront Committee, and the Traffic & Safety Commission. This is particularly important during the period until the Climate Change Action plan is adopted and integrated into the General Plan.

In order to accomplish this, the Long Range Planning Subcommittee proposes the following:

1. Long Range Planning Subcommittee members be designated as “liaisons” to the three other groups as follows:

- Janet Smith-Heimer – P & Z
- Tom Cooper – Waterfront
- Dan Lieberman – Traffic & Safety

2. For each group, the liaison will:

- Request spot on each of the three groups agendas for 10 minute introduction and questions.
- Present a brief history of how Sustainability came to be (Ordinance for GHG reduction was adopted, Task Force process, Work Plan, SC appointment, then organized into three subcommittees). Also will describe what SC is working on now (e.g., food policy, Green Albany Day, wind on waterfront, advisory to CAP, etc.)
- Request that if group has long range major project or program it is reviewing, to cycle it thru SC if possible and appropriate.

3. Each liaison will also track the agendas each week for his/her other group, and if there is a major project or program being considered, the liaison will attend to request the opportunity to bring it to SC.