

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

Agenda Date: May 18, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Stopwaste.org “Green Packages” Program

REPORT BY: Nicole Almaguer, Environmental Specialist

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council authorize participation in the Stopwaste.org “Green Packages” program; and authorize allocation of funding contribution of \$10,000 or less to participate in the program, contingent upon stimulus funds received by the California Energy Commission.
2. That Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the California Energy Commission urging a per capita distribution of economic stimulus funds to all cities, including those with a population less than 35,000.

**BACKGROUND**

Assembly (AB) Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In December 2008, the California Air Resources Board approved the Climate Change Scoping Plan, which contains the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG emissions. Essentially serving as the state’s climate action plan, it requires local government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the reduction levels.

As a result of impending legislation and a local interest in taking aggressive action against climate change, Stopwaste.org has taken the lead to develop the “Green Packages” program. The “Green Packages” program will establish countywide building retrofit measures and specifications for energy efficiency, water and resource conservation and indoor air quality/health. The program is intended to provide a standardized countywide approach that identifies specific improvements to conduct green retrofits of existing buildings.

Stopwaste.org has asked all jurisdictions within the county to participate in this program, and has asked for a prompt response as they are pursuing several grant opportunities from a variety of sources including the state and federal government.

## **DISCUSSION**

Stopwaste.org has demonstrated its leadership at the countywide level on many related programs including waste diversion, green building, and bay friendly landscaping. The “green packages” program would include these existing programs and further expand them to include energy efficiency. In addition the “green packages” program also intends to:

- Develop a technical advisory group
- Conduct outreach at the countywide level
- Provide training of contractors, verification and tracking of projects
- Leverage funding for implementation (stimulus funds, other grants, municipal contributions)
- Provide economies of scale and scope for all jurisdictions within the county

Further, the “green packages” program will create a countywide approach to green building retrofits, which will serve to identify the county as a leader in the climate action arena. The program will also enable the county and its respective jurisdictions to be much more competitive for additional grant funding opportunities to expand the program in the future.

## **ANALYSIS**

As a smaller city with limited staff resources, participation in this program is beneficial given that Stopwaste.org will administer the program at the countywide level. Additionally, the city will benefit from the economies of scale and scope that will be provided as well as the competitive grant funding being sought out by Stopwaste.org staff.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Participation in the “green packages” program helps achieve the City’s greenhouse gas reductions goal of 25% below 2004 levels by the year 2020. Additionally, participation in this program is in line with goals expressed by the City’s Sustainability Committee.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Stopwaste.org has asked all jurisdictions within the county to participate in this program in order to make it a comprehensive countywide effort. Each jurisdiction will be required to provide a financial program contribution, which varies depending on the size of the jurisdiction. Many of the larger jurisdictions will receive stimulus funding in the form of non-competitive block grants, of which a portion can be contributed to this program. Smaller cities (with a population less than 35,000) will not receive block grant funding. A separate energy efficiency stimulus funding category for smaller cities will be administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC).

The CEC is currently outlining how the small cities funding will be structured, and considering the options of either a per-capita allotment or a competitive grant process.

Staff supports the concept of a per-capita allotment as it will require much less initial administration preparing the grant application, and provides an equitable approach for all small cities, similar to what was done for larger cities under the federal block grant program. A letter supporting the per-capita concept is attached to this staff report. Currently, Stopwaste.org is asking smaller cities, including Albany, for a contribution of \$10,000. This cost remains under discussion pending the final guidelines to be developed by the CEC regarding the small cities energy efficiency stimulus funds grant program.

If the City does not receive energy program economic stimulus funds, and funds are required from Albany to participate, staff will return to the Council for further action.

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from City of Hayward Mayor Sweeney & Stopwaste.org “Green Packages” program outline
2. Stopwaste.org “Green Packages” FAQ sheet
3. Letter to California Energy Commission in support of the per-capita allocation for small cities energy efficiency stimulus funds