

EUGENE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FY 14 WORK PLAN

October 2013

Introduction

The FY 14 work plan for the commission reflects several continuing priorities from previous years. The commission will focus on the implementation of Envision Eugene, paying particular attention to how the seven Pillars are reflected in any outcomes or actions taken. The city budget challenges are also an important area of focus. The commission will provide input and advocacy during the development of the FY 14 budget to raise the visibility and value of city sustainability efforts and the cost-effectiveness of climate action in particular.

The link between land use and transportation planning remains an important theme this year and a number of priority work plan items are related to the development of the Transportation System Plan. Similarly, the issue of a carbon fee continues to be a priority as the state legislature completes its study of the concept later this year. The commission is also focused on championing the use of the Triple Bottom Line, implementing climate action planning and generally monitoring progress toward the significant sustainability goals City Council has adopted in the last five years.

As the commission advances the work detailed in the attached work plan, it will be important to maintain flexibility to take up new or revised priorities. Some issues, such as food policy, the new City Hall or the carbon fee concept, may take on greater significance as opportunities and needs emerge at the local, state or federal level. Other changes in priorities may be dictated by budget considerations and constraints. The commission will work with Council to adjust its course as necessary to address these emerging priorities.

In formulating this year's priorities and activities, the commission relied on several overarching goals that inform their work and define success, including:

- Promote aspects of sustainability within the three areas of the Triple Bottom Line.
- Provide relevant, timely information to City Council.
- Have more organizations within the community working on sustainability in an intentional way.
- Have a mechanism for climate adaptation/mitigation work at County and regional levels.
- Maintain alignment with commitments the City of Eugene has made around sustainability.

Matrix

The matrix on the next page(s) includes the primary topics the commission plans to address in the coming year along with specific activities for advancing the commission's goals in these areas.

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Topic	Topic description	Outcomes	Planned activities
Envision Eugene	Continued engagement in the implementation of Envision Eugene.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation actions are consistent with the Pillars of Envision Eugene. Advance climate action planning in Envision Eugene implementation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate that pillars be strongly reflected and consistently integrated in the implementation process. Regular (quarterly) briefings from city planning staff. Invite CLUTAC to join briefings. Determine commission's role and opportunities to engage in the process. Review projects that are part of the implementation phase (code changes, policy or other outputs).
Sustainable business practices	Investigate and develop a Commission report around how current City policy encourages or discourages sustainable practices within private businesses. Recommend changes in City policy that will encourage sustainable business practices.	Complete and submit to staff and council a report and recommendations about how to improve policy support for green business practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vet findings from FY 13 research and interviews with city staff. Craft report and recommendations. Explore opportunities for partnership with GreenLane, Chamber and others for implementing recommendations.
Transportation System Plan (TSP) and Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP)	Participate in development and adoption of TSP and implementation of PBMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSP is designed to meet fossil fuel reduction goal. Projects in the PBMP are implemented and get a mode shift toward active transportation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional coordination <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how best to fulfill the need for a regional transportation approach to transportation planning, perhaps a new regional committee or the repurposing of an existing committee. Review and participate in Scenario Planning project – bring forward ideas from project manager for commission input. Recommend transportation policies to be analyzed. Eugene TSP <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stay involved in the formulation of the TSP, through members serving in the TCRG, and through other opportunities to participate and monitor the formulation process and outcome. Stay informed through staff overview/timeline. CLUTAC review of TSP transportation project evaluation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update CLUTAC members and develop work plan Develop and support a “Complete Streets” policy for the City of Eugene. Such a policy would acknowledge that all road projects should include facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorized vehicles. Develop a policy to recommend to City Council that any transportation funds obtained by the City, which are not dedicated to the automobile, be expended preferentially for active modes of transportation. Work with City staff and BPAC to prioritize projects which are most important for changing modal split to favor active modes of transportation. Continue involvement in selection of an alternative for Willamette St. from 24th-29th Ave., and in further modifications to the

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Triple Bottom Line	Advise Council on use of TBL in staff analysis and council deliberations. Review Lane Livability Consortium analysis of TBL and evaluate ways to improve use of the tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective, timely and appropriate use of the tool. • Evaluate and improve tool. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Review policies for sidewalk infill and lobby to establish a budget for sidewalk infill. 1. Communiqué with City Council that addresses 1) importance of TBL for council decisions, 2) need for more intentional and systematic approach, 3) suggestions for types of projects to be analyzed, 4) commission review and feedback on TBL examples that come forward.. 2. Review recommendations from Lane Livability Consortium projects and Equity and Opportunity Assessment and determine any next steps. Incorporate relevant findings into communiqué with Council as well as other promising tools.
City budget process	Provide input and recommendations to the Budget Committee as it develops the FY 15 budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-light the cost-savings potential from implementing climate action plans. • Promote value of Sustainability Program in budget deliberations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create context and communicate urgency for ICAP, CEAP - quantify financial benefits. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Package and supplement existing information and analysis. b. Execute communication plan that includes outreach to partners: GreenLane, Chamber, City Club, Executive Management Team, Register Guard board. c. Message to Council and budget committee: importance of making investments and capturing long term savings. 2. Strategy for engaging in budget process, budget committee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine participation at meetings, providing testimony, etc. b. Include other work plan topic areas where appropriate and develop key messages. c. Encouraging TBL analysis in budget process. d. Liaison with Planning Commission, CLUTAC or other to develop budget recommendations. e. Investigate alternative structures – melding commissions or other approaches. Invite Corvallis representative to review their coalition.
Carbon fee	Investigate revenue neutral fee on greenhouse gas emissions, and bring back a recommendation on what effective action can be taken to advance.	Potential policy recommendation to bring forward to Council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coalition building – City of Eugene, EWEB and commission. Identify other potential stakeholders and regional sources of support (e.g. Sustainability Coalition in Corvallis). 2. Review initial report from legislature and bring forward findings to Council when report is released (December 2013). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Examine legislative report. b. Develop materials to present to City Council. 3. Monitor and review other related activities in the region, e.g. City of Portland. 4. Update data and conclusions regarding implementation of carbon fees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. British Columbia b. Microsoft c. Other 5. Advocate for acceptance and implementation of carbon fee

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Local food policy	Continue work with Council regarding recommendations on food policy submitted May 2012	Council work session discussion and direction for next steps.	<p>resolution by City Council.</p> <p>6. Meet with and provide materials on carbon fees for state representatives and senators representing the Eugene area.</p>
Work requests	Provide forum for new work requests from Council or community partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply vetting process adopted by commission in FY 2013 for identifying new work plan priorities. • Bring forward work requests that align with current work plan and capacity of commission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Debrief with team attending Leadership Academy on Urban Ag and Sustainable Food Systems (September 2013). Determine possible next steps and commission's role. 2. City Council work session (Oct. 23, 2013) – determine commission's role. 3. Cultivate partners for next steps. <p>1. TBD</p>