

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Climate Recovery

Meeting Date: March 10, 2014
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This is a work session requested by Councilor Alan Zelenka to consider an ordinance related to climate recovery, originally brought forward by Our Children's Trust.

BACKGROUND

State Climate Planning

The State of Oregon has been a leader in addressing climate change. The state has maintained a Global Warming Task Force since 1988, a greenhouse gas reduction strategy since 1990 and a Climate Adaptation framework since 2008. The state has also adopted state wide greenhouse gas reduction targets:

- 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020
- 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050

Existing Eugene Climate and Energy Goals

In 2008 and 2009, upon recommendation from the Sustainability Commission, Eugene City Council:

- Unanimously adopted a formal goal of making all City-owned facilities and City operations carbon neutral by 2020.
- Unanimously directed the City Manager to develop a community climate and energy action plan that includes a carbon emissions reduction goal and that will aim to reduce total community-wide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030.

In 2010, after the development of Eugene's Community Climate and Energy Action Plan, Eugene City Council:

- Unanimously directed the City Manager to implement actions that support the Community Climate and Energy Action plan goals and objectives subject to best practices resources collaboration with community partners and approval by the council of future policy changes.

Existing Eugene Climate and Energy Plans

Internal Climate Action Plan

The City of Eugene maintains an Internal Climate Action Plan outlining actions to achieve carbon neutral operations by 2020.

Community Climate and Energy Action Plan

The City of Eugene maintains a Community Climate and Energy Action Plan with the combined goals to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
- These targets mirror the Oregon State greenhouse gas emissions targets.
- Reduce community wide fossil fuel use 50 percent by 2030.
- These targets are unique to Eugene.
- Identify actions to adapt to climate change and rising and volatile energy prices.

Progress on community-wide climate action

In spring 2013, staff released a 2013 CEAP Progress Report that summed up progress toward the local climate and energy goals:

Community-wide energy consumption continues to trend downward. Total electricity use has been flat over the last few years but is down 15 percent since 2000. Gasoline and diesel consumption has dropped 16 percent since 2005 including two percent over the last year. Natural gas consumption, down about one percent in 2012, has declined more than 12 percent since 2006. All of this while Eugene's population continues to increase, growing eight percent between 2005 and 2011. These are hopeful trends that demonstrate we are succeeding in substantially reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Looking at individual actions, in the 12 months between September 2011 and September 2012, several recommendations contained in the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan were completed while others remain unchanged.

The full 2013 CEAP Progress Report can be found on the City of Eugene website:

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/sustainability>.

Community attitudes about climate change

A 2011 quantitative survey of Eugene area residents found that residents believe in climate change, understand that humans are the cause, and support climate action.

- 77 percent of Eugene residents agreed that climate change is occurring because of human causes like burning fossil fuels.
- 71 percent agreed that the long-term impacts of climate change will likely be catastrophic.
- 81 percent of respondents felt that climate change requires the community to entirely rethink its behavior.
- 75 percent of respondents felt that climate change requires much stronger regulation of

greenhouse gas emissions.

- 74 percent of those surveyed disagreed that individuals are incapable of solving climate change and that their own actions won't make a difference.

More survey results and research reports are available on the City of Eugene website:

www.eugene-or.gov/sustainability.

Our Children's Trust proposed ordinance

<http://ourchildrenstrust.org/sites/default/files/EugeneClimateRecoveryOrdinance.pdf>

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The City has existing adopted greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel consumption targets:

- Achieve carbon-neutral internal operations by 2020
- Reduce total community-wide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030

The Community Climate and Energy Action Plan contains a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions target:

- Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050

The City maintains a number of policies directly related to community-wide energy consumption including, but not limited to:

- Growth Management Policies
- Green Building Policy (2006)
- Sustainability Resolution (2000)
- Environmental Policy
- Sustainable Practices Resolution (2006)
- Sustainable Procurement Policy (2008)

The proposed Climate Recovery Ordinance would influence a number of existing City plans including, but not limited to:

- Eugene Community Climate and Energy Action Plan
- Eugene Internal Climate Action Plan
- Eugene Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan
- Regional Transportation System Plan/ Eugene Transportation System Plan
- Metro Plan/ Eugene Comprehensive Plan: Envision Eugene
- Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan
- Eugene/Springfield Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is a discussion item only.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager does not have a recommendation at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motions provided.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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