

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Climate Recovery Proposal

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Meeting Date: May 27, 2014  
Department: Central Services  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: A  
Staff Contact: Matt McRae  
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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The City Council has previously approved targets related to reducing Eugene's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and use of fossil fuels. More recently at a work session requested by Councilor Alan Zelenka to consider an ordinance brought forward by Our Children's Trust, the council expressed interest in adding more structure and significance to climate recovery commitments.

Attachment A, Climate Recovery Proposal, outlines a plan that the council could approve in order to formalize goals that can be included in either an ordinance or resolution. The proposal includes the following components:

#### **Goals**

- By 2020, all City-owned facilities and City operations shall be carbon neutral, either by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero or, if necessary, funding of approved local carbon offset mechanisms or the purchase of approved offsets for any remaining emissions.
- By 2030, the City organization shall reduce its use of fossil fuels by 50 percent compared to 2010 usage.
- By 2030, all business, individuals and others living or working in the City collectively shall reduce the combined use of fossil fuels by 50 percent compared to 2010 usage.

#### **Assessment**

- Within six months of the council's adoption of the above goals and actions, the City Manager shall complete an assessment of current efforts to reach those goals.
- To reach those adopted climate action goals, the City Council shall establish numerical targets and benchmarks for achieving the required reductions.
- The City Manager shall propose options for meeting the goals and provide a triple bottom line (TBL) assessment of the options including a cost-benefit analysis.

#### **Review and Action**

- The City Manager shall present to the council for adoption, a numerical community-wide goal or "carbon budget" for greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with achieving 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere by the year 2100.

- The City Manager shall report to the City Council on progress in reaching adopted climate action goals following the council's adoption of the numerical targets and benchmarks. Progress reports shall be provided in specified time frames including an assessment after five years to determine greenhouse gas emission reductions to date and the status in reaching the established targets and benchmarks.
- If the five-year comprehensive assessment indicates that the City is not reaching the adopted targets and benchmarks, the City Manager shall conduct an analysis of possible actions to get back on track to achieve the next adopted benchmark, together with a TBL analysis of those options, as well as provide the council with potential revisions to the plan.

Once the council has finalized the Climate Recovery Proposal, the form in which the outlined commitments are enacted could be determined. Options are to either move forward with an ordinance, as suggested by Our Children's Trust, which is usually used to regulate the behavior of the community or move forward with a resolution.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Existing Eugene Climate and Energy Goals**

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

- Approved a formal goal of making all City-owned facilities and City operations carbon neutral by 2020.
- 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 (not per capita) community wide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030.

While the City of Eugene does not have ultimate control over community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, the City does have the power to convene and collaborate with partners, and support progress toward shared community-wide goals.

### **Existing Eugene Climate and Energy Plans**

#### *Internal Climate Action Plan*

The City developed an [Internal Climate Action Plan](#) (2009) which contains action items for reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with City operations and facilities. The Plan when fully implemented is designed to achieve a 55 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, with the remaining 45 percent of emissions addressed through the purchase of "carbon offsets." The purchase of offsets is estimated to cost \$122,000/year starting in 2020.

#### *Community Climate and Energy Action Plan*

The City developed the [Community Climate and Energy Action Plan](#) (2010), though it was not adopted by the City Council. The greenhouse gas emissions targets contained in the plan are aligned with those set by the State, including.

- 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 Climate Action**

### *Carbon neutral goal for City operations and facilities*

Recent progress reports to the City Manager indicate that the City is not on track to meet the goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2010 Internal Greenhouse Gas Inventory contains long-term organizational energy use trends. The report can be found on the City of Eugene website:

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9467>

### *Community fossil fuel reduction goal*

In spring 2013, staff released a 2013 CEAP Progress Report that summed up progress toward 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>.

## **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)

This proposal could effect:

- 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**

### Related to Contents of Climate Recovery Proposal

1. Approve Attachment A, Climate Recovery Proposal.
2. Revise and approve Attachment A, Climate Recovery Proposal.

### Related to Form for Climate Recovery Proposal

1. Direct the City Manager to draft a resolution based on the approved Climate Recovery Proposal.
2. Direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance and schedule a Public Hearing for July 21 based on the approved Climate Recovery Proposal.

## **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **SUGGESTED MOTION**

No motions provided.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

A. Climate Recovery Proposal

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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