

EUGENE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FY 15 WORK PLAN

October 2014

Introduction

The FY 15 work plan reflects a refined set of priorities that will enable the commission to focus its efforts with greater attention and coordination. These priority topics include:

- Envision Eugene
- Carbon pricing and climate mitigation
- Transportation System Plan/Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Climate adaption and preparedness
- Sustainable Economic Development

Sustainability efforts by their nature call for an integrated approach that addresses the complex interactions and connections between many of the City's planning activities. This is reflected in the planned activities of the commission that emphasize the important links between land use, transportation, local economy and climate action. Several high-level policy initiatives are moving forward in tandem, including Envision Eugene, Transportation System Plan, Scenario Planning and the Climate Recovery Ordinance, and the commission will seek to advise Council on how best to integrate them to advance community sustainability goals.

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 may take on greater significance as opportunities and needs emerge at the local, state or federal level. 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.

Sustainability Commission FY 15 Work Plan

Topic	Topic description	Outcomes	Planned activities	Timeline
Envision Eugene	Review and provide input on Envision Eugene implementation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide Envision Eugene context to Council, Mayor, and City Manager on key decisions and actions, particularly as they relate to Pillars 3 (<i>Plan for Climate Change and Energy Resiliency</i>) and 7 (<i>Provide for adaptable, flexible, and collaborative implementation</i>) 2. Support Council, Mayor and City Manager in decisions and actions that are consistent with the 7 pillars of Envision Eugene 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Schedule presentation by City Planning Director (staff) to committee to share forecast of upcoming decisions and actions related to Envision Eugene implementation. 1.2 Meet frequently with Council, Mayor, and City Manager to identify relevant decisions and actions, keep track of schedule of when these items will be brought before Council. 1.3 Outreach to local stakeholder organizations 1.4 Attend and/or review minutes of meetings either about Envision Eugene or about topics for which Envision Eugene Pillars are relevant, and use the information gained to shape committee's work. 1.5 Prepare talking points on decisions and actions as they arise. 1.6 Explore benefits and structure of coordinating with the Planning Commission on Envision Eugene-related topics, which may include transit-oriented corridors, transportation, or other topics 2.1 Communicate (at Council's direction) with local stakeholder organizations 2.2 Recommend ways to mitigate impacts of Envision Eugene implementation, particularly as they relate to Pillars 3 and 7 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 By Nov 15, 2014. 1.2 Ongoing – minimum of six times per committee member in FY 15. 1.3 Ongoing – minimum of three per committee member in FY 15. 1.4 As needed. 1.5 Ongoing – minimum of three in FY 15, with timing determined by 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d activities. 1.6 As appropriate. 2.1 As directed by Council 2.2 As appropriate
Carbon Fee/Climate Recovery Ordinance	Provide input and recommendations on several climate change related initiatives including 1) carbon fee study to be completed for Oregon Legislature, 2) implementation of Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO), and 3) local carbon offset program for meeting CRO reduction targets.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the finding of the statewide carbon fee study and prepare recommendations for Eugene City Council consideration. 2. Provide assistance to City staff on implementation of the CRO metrics integrated with Envision Eugene Pillar 7. 3. Preparation of a verifiable local Carbon Offset Assessment linked to the CRO for consideration by the Commission. As stated in the CRO, if year 2020 goals are not met, it may be necessary to fund verifiable local GHG reductions projects and programs or purchase carbon offsets for any remaining GHG emissions. This 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Review the draft Carbon Fee Assessment Study (required by SB 306) being prepared by Portland State University. Assess underlying assumptions and how they relate to Eugene's CRO. 1.2 Meet with Oregon Legislators to discuss SB306's finding and recommendations and future legislation. Discuss the Assessment report with other organizations as part of the evaluation process. 1.3 Develop recommendations for Commission review/approval. Submit Commission recommendations to the City Council for consideration. 2.1 Collaborate with City staff in their development of CRO implementation strategies. Provide feedback to City staff on potential implementation approaches/ strategies. 3.1 Continue discussions with Oregon Leadership in Sustainability (OLIS) faculty on the scope of the assessment, purpose, and need. Emphasize this assessment is a critical element of Eugene's CRO. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 The draft Assessment report will be issued by December 1, 2014. Evaluation of the report will be completed by mid-January with recommendations prepared for Commission review/approval. Recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council and Manager for their review and consideration. 2.1 Work with City staff on the schedule. 3.1 Work with the OLIS program to establish the schedule. The goal is for OLIS to complete a draft report by spring 2015.

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		<p>assessment could provide the City of Eugene information that may be needed to implement and comply with the CRO.</p>		
<p>Transportation System Plan (TSP) and Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP)</p>	<p>Participate in adoption of a Transportation System Plan (both policies and project list).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to ensure the adopted TSP supports the pillars of Envision Eugene (compact urban development, efficient transportation options, planning for climate change) and the Climate Recovery Ordinance by reducing dependence on single-occupant automobiles and increasing reliance on active transportation. 2. Support adoption of the goals of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) as part of the TSP, and prioritizing funds for its implementation. 3. Support a Complete Streets Policy for Eugene that commits to requiring that all transportation projects be evaluated to assure they serve people traveling by all modes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in development of the TSP as members of the Transportation Community Resource Group (TCRG), and report back to Sustainability Commission 2. Advocate for a Complete Streets Policy, and provide examples and recommendations for staff and Council to consider in creating a Complete Streets policy. 3. Continually emphasize to staff and Council that the pillars of Envision Eugene depend on transportation infrastructure that supports 20-Minute Neighborhoods, active transportation and reduced fossil fuel use. 4. Focus on promoting solutions to Belt Line safety issues that are consistent with TSP policy priorities, funding realities, and the climate effects of both construction and use of Belt Line. 5. Collaborate with Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to prioritize bike/pedestrian projects and policies that will have the biggest impact in promoting active transportation choices and support integration of the PBMP into the TSP. 6. Monitor implementation of the trial of Alternative Three on Willamette Street, and the collection of data to evaluate its results. 7. Support City efforts to obtain outside funding for projects that reduce reliance on automobiles and enhance active transportation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next TCRG meeting October 2014 and thereafter as scheduled. 2. Speak to Council about a Complete Street policy at public forum (Oct 13) before TSP Work Session (Oct 22), and repeatedly thereafter, especially in Commissioners' one-on-one meetings with Council/Mayor/Manager. 3. Ongoing in conversations with Council members, and as advised by the commission's Envision Eugene sub-committee. 4. As input at TCRG meetings (see #1 above), in one-on-one discussions with Council members, and at any public input opportunities around Belt Line options. Consider meeting with staff to clarify timeline for Belt Line Improvement plans. 5. Ongoing monthly BPAC meetings, informal contacts with BPAC members, and TCRG meetings. 6. Ongoing, with implementation of Alternative 3 planned for spring, 2015. 7. As requested.
<p>Adaptation Planning</p>	<p>Provide input and recommendations on local planning efforts for climate change preparation and adaptation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in communication of adaptation planning efforts that can inform the City of Eugene's active involvement in risk reduction. Offer co-benefits (e.g., economic development, greenhouse gas reductions, etc.) that complement established efforts as part of the Climate Recovery Ordinance and Envision Eugene's Pillar 7. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Meet periodically with Council, Mayor, and City Manager to communicate opportunities for co-benefits to projects (i.e., risk reduction, energy independence, economic development, Climate Recovery Ordinance and GHG reductions, etc.). 1.2 Review the Hazard Mitigation report being prepared by City of Eugene and City of Springfield and identify opportunities to connect this project to community priorities and projects currently under development (e.g., City Hall building, EWEB watershed and water quality programs, LTD EMX 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Ongoing – minimum of six times per sub-committee member in FY 15. 1.2 Evaluate the report and assess how it may be applied to projects currently under development.

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			extensions). 1.3 Meet with City staff following completion of the hazard mitigation plan and assist in identification and communication of potential adaptation implementation strategies. 1.4 Prepare talking points on decisions and actions as they arise. 1.5 Support and extend collaboration with inter-jurisdictional climate adaption efforts.	1.3 Work with City staff on the schedule. 1.4 As needed. 1.5 On-going.
Sustainable Economic Development	Promote the concept of Sustainable Economic Development between the City and businesses within Eugene and surrounding areas.	1. Provide Envision Eugene context to Council, Mayor, and City Manager on key decisions and actions 2. Review of Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI) 3. Address Food and Economic Development relationship	1.1 Review and assess the relevance of TBL policy tools for evaluating economic development plans and projects. 1.2 Have discussions and meetings to share our valuation with the City. 1.3 Compare against CEAP (Climate Energy Action Plan) and the Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan. 2.1 Review the SBI and identify the successes and identify action items yet to be addressed. 2.2 Evaluate opportunities for implementing CEAP and Envision Eugene through collaboration with Eugene businesses. 2.3 Create a plan to develop a new SBI that reflects current opportunities and challenges. 3.1 Conduct updated Sustainability Commission food environment assessment process (following on commission work of spring 2012) to include more emphasis on economic players in strengthening job creation (e.g. farm bureau, large processors). 3.2 Advocate with City Council for the creation of a regional Food Task Force and be involved in its deliberations.	1.1 As appropriate 1.2 As appropriate 1.3 As appropriate 2.1 End of Q4 2014 2.2 End of Q4 2014 2.3 End of Q2 of 2015 3.1 As appropriate 3.2 As directed by Council.