

EUGENE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FY 15 ANNUAL REPORT

September 2015

Annual Report

Included below is a summary of the outcomes for the FY 15 work plan for the Sustainability Commission. A number of planned items were completed, in some cases resulting in a memo or testimony delivered to Council. For example, the SC drafted a resolution that requested the Eugene City Council to support enactment of a carbon fee by the Oregon Legislature. (The Eugene City Council subsequently adopted the resolution.) Additional communiqués were submitted on the City’s Preliminary Staff Recommendation on Envision Eugene UGB Expansion, the Complete Streets Policy, and the proposed UGB expansion zones.

The commission also participated in some important collaborative efforts during FY 15:

- Commission members attended and provided input in joint meeting of Planning, Human Rights, and Sustainability Commissions for general TBL comparison of three different proposed UGB Housing Expansion zones.
- Commissioners participated in the Clear Lake UGB Expansion Overlay Zone discussions, and provided input that resulted in draft changes to allow agricultural production and encourage food-related business
- The Carbon Fee/Climate Recovery Ordinance Committee monitored the status of carbon pricing legislation during this year’s session of the Oregon Legislature. The Committee informally met with several Legislators and other organizations to discuss carbon pricing bills, status, and prospects for enactment.
- Sustainable Economic Development Committee members participated in a meeting convened by Willamette Farm & Food Coalition at BRING Recycling, to discuss possible “fit” for food businesses out in Clear Lake UGB expansion area. Information was exchanged between City staff and mayors of Springfield and Eugene, and several important food business leaders

Additional work is planned on some items that will carry forward (see proposed FY 16 Work Plan). For example, the commission will continue to be involved in reviewing Envision Eugene implementation, development and adoption of the Transportation System Plan and implementation of the Climate Recovery Ordinance.

The activities of the year provided some important lessons learned as the commission was successful in prompting follow-up action on some (i.e. Clear Lake UGB expansion area policy) and less so on others (Food Task Force). The commission can be more strategic in its work and the advice it brings to the Council and City Manager, focusing on topics that are timely and relevant for Council and using multiple channels for delivering its message.

Topic	Topic description	Outcomes	Planned activities	Timeline	Status August 31, 2015
Envision Eugene	Review and provide input on Envision Eugene implementation.	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	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	1.1 By Nov 15, 2014. 1.2 Ongoing – minimum of six times per committee member in FY 15.	Commission members attended and provided input in joint meeting of Planning, Human Rights, and Sustainability Commissions for general TBL comparison of three different proposed UGB Housing Expansion zones. In two separate meetings with City planning staff in Spring 2015, the committee provided Envision Eugene context input to the Growth Monitoring

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		<p>7 (Provide for adaptable, flexible, and collaborative implementation)</p>	<p>schedule of when these items will be brought before Council.</p> <p>1.3 Outreach to local stakeholder organizations</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.5 Prepare talking points on decisions and actions as they arise.</p> <p>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</p> <p>2.1 Communicate (at Council's direction) with local stakeholder organizations</p> <p>2.2 Recommend ways to mitigate impacts of Envision Eugene implementation, particularly as they relate to Pillars 3 and 7</p>	<p>1.3 Ongoing – minimum of three per committee member in FY 15.</p> <p>1.4 As needed.</p> <p>1.5 Ongoing – minimum of three in FY 15, with timing determined by 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d activities.</p> <p>1.6 As appropriate.</p> <p>2.1 As directed by Council</p> <p>2.2 As appropriate</p>	<p>Plan.</p> <p>Envision Eugene committee led the Commission in preparing and submitting a January 21, 2015 memo that provided the Commission's comments on the City's Preliminary Staff Recommendation on Envision Eugene UGB Expansion. No Council support was requested this FY, for communication to stakeholder organizations.</p>
<p>Carbon Fee/Climate Recovery Ordinance</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>1. Evaluate the finding of the statewide carbon fee study and prepare recommendations for Eugene City Council consideration.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.3 Develop recommendations for Commission review/approval. Submit Commission recommendations to the City Council for consideration.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The subcommittee monitored the status of carbon pricing legislation during this year's session of the Oregon Legislature. The subcommittee informally met with several Legislators and other organizations to discuss carbon pricing bills, status, and prospects for enactment. No carbon pricing</p>	<p>The Carbon Fee Study prepared by Portland State University was released in November 2014, was evaluated by the Carbon Fee subcommittee. Based on this evaluation, the Sustainability Commission drafted a resolution that requested the Eugene City Council to support enactment of a carbon fee by the Oregon Legislature. The Eugene City Council adopted the resolution on 4/22/15 urging the Legislature to adopt a carbon pricing strategy.</p>

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Topic	Topic description	Outcomes	Planned activities	Timeline	Status August 31, 2015
		<p>2. Provide assistance to City staff on implementation of the CRO metrics integrated with Envision Eugene Pillar 7.</p> <p>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 assessment could provide the City of Eugene information that may be needed to implement and comply with the CRO.</p>	<p>2.1 Collaborate with City staff in their development of CRO implementation strategies. Provide feedback to City staff on potential implementation approaches/strategies.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2.1 Work with City staff on the schedule.</p> <p>3.1 Work with the OLIS program to establish the schedule. The goal is for OLIS to complete a draft report by spring 2015.</p>	<p>legislation was enacted by the Legislature.</p> <p>CRO implementation metrics have not been developed to the extent that would allow the Commission to provide assistance. Therefore, no progress was made on this task.</p> <p>The subcommittee reached out to the University of Oregon's Oregon Leadership in Sustainability (OLIS) program to encourage them to undertake a study to assess local carbon offset programs that may exist in other communities. The OLIS program declined to undertake this study because of its complexity and the effort that would be required. Therefore, no progress was made on this task. The subcommittee conducted preliminary research on identifying local carbon offset programs.</p>

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<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>	<p>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.</p>	<p>1.1. Participate in development of the TSP as members of the Transportation Community Resource Group (TCRG), and report back to Sustainability Commission</p> <p>1.2. 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.</p> <p>1.3. 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.</p>	<p>1.1 Next TCRG meeting October 2014 and thereafter as scheduled.</p> <p>1.2 Ongoing in conversations with Council members, and as advised by the commission's Envision Eugene sub-committee.</p> <p>1.3 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.</p>	<p>TCRG met only once, on Jan. 13. Commissioners Bennett and Wolling attended and reported back to Commission.</p> <p>The concepts of 20-Minute Neighborhoods, active transportation and reduced fuel use are central to the policies of the draft TSP. Progress on adopting the TSP has been extremely slow, so there remains work to do to ensure that a strong TSP that serves the pillars of Envision Eugene is adopted and implemented.</p> <p>Commissioners met with key staff on Dec. 12 to raise issues and get clarification about Belt Line improvements. It appears that Environmental (NEPA) review offers the best opportunity to challenge assumptions underlying the "big build" options, and urge a re-consideration of "low-build options" that were previously rejected. There has been no information about when NEPA review will begin. Meanwhile, incremental improvements on Belt Line are underway, and it appears that ODOT is still assuming that a major expansion of Belt Line will occur at some point. The TSP includes a "placeholder" for Belt Line improvements. This issue bears monitoring.</p> <p>The PBMP is integrated into the draft TSP. BPAC has worked on prioritizing projects. Commissioners speak with BPAC members informally, but have not formally met with BPAC.</p> <p>Sustainability Commission approved recommended changes to Complete Streets policy and forwarded them to staff (Dec., 2014). Most, but not all, of those recommendations have been incorporated into the draft TSP.</p>
<p>2. Support adoption of the goals of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) as part of the TSP, and prioritizing funds for its implementation.</p>	<p>3. Support a Complete Streets Policy for Eugene that commits to requiring that all transportation projects be evaluated to assure they serve people</p>	<p>2.1 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.</p> <p>3.1 Advocate for a Complete Streets Policy, and provide examples and recommendations for staff and Council to consider in creating a Complete Streets policy.</p>	<p>2.1 Ongoing monthly BPAC meetings, informal contacts with BPAC members, and TCRG meetings.</p> <p>3.1 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</p>	<p>Sustainability Commission approved recommended changes to Complete Streets policy and forwarded them to staff (Dec., 2014). Most, but not all, of those recommendations have been incorporated into the draft TSP.</p>	

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		traveling by all modes.	<p>3.2 Monitor implementation of the trial of Alternative Three on Willamette Street, and the collection of data to evaluate its results.</p> <p>3.3 Support City efforts to obtain outside funding for projects that reduce reliance on automobiles and enhance active transportation.</p>	<p>meetings with Council/Mayor/Manager.</p> <p>3.2 Ongoing, with implementation of Alternative 3 planned for spring, 2015.</p> <p>3.3 As requested.</p>	<p>The "Trial" on Willamette Street is now planned for Fall, 2015, and will continue through 2016. Commissioners have talked with Project Manager Chris Henry several times, as well as with other community members who are involved in the Willamette Street trial. Concern remains about how the results of the trial will be measured and interpreted. This issue bears monitoring.</p> <p>The City has not requested any support of grant proposals.</p>
<p>Adaptation Planning</p>	<p>Provide input and recommendations on local planning efforts for climate change preparation and adaptation.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.).</p> <p>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, L TD EMX extensions).</p> <p>1.3 Meet with City staff following completion of the hazard mitigation plan and assist in identification and communication of potential adaptation implementation strategies.</p> <p>1.4 Prepare talking points on decisions and actions as they arise.</p> <p>1.5 Support and extend collaboration with inter-jurisdictional climate adaptation efforts.</p>	<p>1.1 Ongoing – minimum of six times per sub-committee member in FY 15.</p> <p>1.2 Evaluate the report and assess how it may be applied to projects currently under development.</p> <p>1.3 Work with City staff on the schedule.</p> <p>1.4 As needed.</p> <p>1.5 On-going.</p>	<p>The broad goal was to provide input and recommendations on local planning efforts for climate change preparation and adaptation. Commissioners chose to reach that goal by producing a document which "connected the dots" between current and proposed actions by the community at large and the City Council in particular related to climate change and natural hazard mitigation and adaptation opportunities. The document titled, "Connecting the Dots" was completed and submitted to the Commission at the April 15th meeting. The document was adopted by the Commission and is being used internally to support input and testimony to Council.</p>

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<p>Sustainable Economic Development (SED)</p>	<p>Promote the concept of Sustainable Economic Development between the City and businesses within Eugene and surrounding areas.</p>	<p>1. Provide Envision Eugene context to Council, Mayor, and City Manager on key decisions and actions</p> <p>2. Review of Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI)</p> <p>3. Address Food and Economic Development relationship</p>	<p>1.1 Review and assess the relevance of TBL policy tools for evaluating economic development plans and projects.</p> <p>1.2 Have discussions and meetings to share our valuation with the City.</p> <p>1.3 Compare against CEAP (Climate Energy Action Plan) and the Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>2.1 Review the SBI and identify the successes and identify action items yet to be addressed.</p> <p>2.2 Evaluate opportunities for implementing CEAP and Envision Eugene through collaboration with Eugene businesses.</p> <p>2.3 Create a plan to develop a new SBI that reflects current opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>3.2 Advocate with City Council for the creation of a regional Food Task Force and be involved in its deliberations.</p>	<p>1.1 As appropriate</p> <p>1.2 As appropriate</p> <p>1.3 As appropriate</p> <p>2.1 End of Q4 2014</p> <p>2.2 End of Q4 2014</p> <p>2.3 End of Q2 of 2015</p> <p>3.1 As appropriate</p> <p>3.2 As directed by Council.</p>	<p>SED activities focused on understanding the successes and needs of local food-based businesses. Several interviews were conducted, with over a dozen businesses and several agencies participating. Information compiled for Commission use internally to support input and testimony to Council.</p> <p>A preliminary CEAP review pointed out junction points for economic development opportunities present in the CEAP. Information compiled for Commission use internally to support input and testimony to Council.</p> <p>In June 2015 a meeting was convened by Willamette Farm & Food Coalition at BRING, to discuss possible "fit" out in Clear Lake UGB expansion area. Information was exchanged between City staff and mayors of Springfield and Eugene, and several important food business leaders.</p> <p>The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce and Lane County have reached out to SED members to request information and input in their food business planning efforts.</p>
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