

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Introduction to a Science-Based Greenhouse Gas Target

Meeting Dates: February 22 and February 24, 2016
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

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

These work sessions are the next in a series of presentations to provide information on a science-based community greenhouse gas reduction goal named in the Climate Recovery Ordinance adopted in July 2014. The purpose of this work session is to provide the council with an overview of a carbon budget for Eugene and how it was developed. Subsequent work sessions will address actions outlined in the Climate Recovery Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

Climate Recovery Ordinance

Adopted by the council in July 2014, the Climate Recovery Ordinance calls for the City to “propose for adoption by the City Council, a numerical community-wide goal or ‘carbon budget’ for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions consistent with achieving 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ in the atmosphere by the year 2100.”

Carbon Budget

At the February 10, 2016, council work session, the concept of a carbon budget was introduced. A carbon budget is a total amount of carbon emissions that can be released over time while still remaining within a safe limit – in this case 350 ppm. The budget is based on *total cumulative GHG emissions* and aligns with best available science, outlines necessary reductions to achieve a stable climate and accounts for those emissions already released.

These work sessions will build on that introduction, providing additional details about the carbon budget developed for Eugene. Dr. Andrew Rice with Portland State University assisted staff with the carbon budget development and will provide a guest presentation on February 22. Angus Duncan, chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, will provide information on related efforts by the state on February 24.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

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)
- Community Climate and Energy Action Plan (2010)
- Internal Climate Action Plan (2009)

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COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an information item only.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motions provided.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Climate Recovery Ordinance
- B. White paper: Methodology for Establishing a Community Carbon Budget

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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