

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Meeting Date: October 19, 2011
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Staff Contact: Babe O'Sullivan
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5017

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Sustainability Commission reports annually to the council on its progress, accomplishments and challenges – and obtains direction for its pending work plan.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Commission is charged with advising on policy matters related to sustainable practices, businesses that produce sustainable products and services, City building design and infrastructure, and related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the City Council.

The commission first met in November 2007, and it meets as an entire commission 10-11 times a year. The 13-member commission includes eight members who are appointed by each individual councilor; a council liaison; and four at-large members. Monthly meetings typically include public comment, reports from commissioners, and discussion of a wide range of topics – with emphasis last year on climate change, and land use and transportation policies.

Challenges in developing an achievable work plan are to:

- ensure integration of social, economic and environmental considerations into any action proposed;
- establish priorities, given the enormous scope of potential work;
- link effectively with related efforts of other advisory groups, other agencies, City staff, community groups and elected officials; and,
- respond strategically to time-sensitive issues.

The commission receives direct staff support from Sustainability Liaison Babe O'Sullivan and Climate and Energy Analyst Matt McRae. Staff's key responsibilities also include coordinating continued progress on the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan, Internal Climate Plan, and education and analysis using a triple bottom line framework that incorporates social equity, economic and environmental impacts. All City departments contribute significantly to sustainable policies and practices, and staff across the organization work with the commission on specific issues.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Resolution No. 4618, 2000: Definition and statement of intent regarding the application of sustainability principles to the City of Eugene, and affirming the commitment of City elected officials and staff.
Resolution Nos. 4884 and 4887, 2006: Sustainable buildings policy for City-owned and occupied buildings.

Resolution No. 4893, 2006: Commitment to sustainable practices and businesses that produce sustainable products and services.

Ordinance No. 20379, 2007: Creation of Sustainability Commission.

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE IMPACTS

Work plan focus areas include: EmX, 20-minute neighborhoods, Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan, regional planning, the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Integrated Electricity Resource Plan (IERP), food security, and application of the triple bottom line framework. The outcomes of these planning efforts have significant implications for social equity and human rights, economic prosperity and fiscal stewardship, and environmental health. Although the work plan does not explicitly describe how the commission will address the triple bottom line, those considerations will be part of the group's ongoing work.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council could:

1. Approve the proposed work plan framework.
2. Approve the work plan with changes.
3. Request changes to the work plan before approval

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends acceptance of the work plan.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to approve the Sustainability Commission FY12 work plan.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Sustainability Commission Work Plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Babe O'Sullivan
Telephone: 541-682-5017
Staff E-Mail: babe.osullivan@ci.eugene.or.us

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FY 12 WORK PLAN

Oct. 10, 2011

Introduction

The work of the Eugene Sustainability Commission for FY 12 reflects a renewed focus on important themes carried forward from recent years. With major land use and transportation initiatives still taking shape, the commission will be looking at how to integrate these initiatives to meet the sustainability goals adopted by Council. Those goals specific to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use as well as adaptation to changing climate and rising energy prices are embodied in the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) approved by Council in 2010. Effective planning for the impacts of climate change and energy volatility provides a unifying framework for the commission and this will guide its oversight of implementation efforts.

Priority will be given to the decisions Council must make on such high-level initiatives as Envision Eugene, the Transportation System Plan and EmX. The commission's role in the coming year will be to reinforce the importance of goals Council has set and the need to be faithful to those goals in the policy decisions that are made. The commission can assist by highlighting the connections between policy decisions and the implications for reaching sustainability goals.

There are also important building blocks that may not involve Council decisions but deserve commission attention such as:

- Implementation of 20 minute neighborhoods
- Role of bike/pedestrian travel in land use and transportation decisions and policies
- Regional planning issues and sustainability initiatives
- Integrated Electric Resource Plan (IERP)

Communication efforts are vital to the success of the commission's work, both in advising Council and city staff and informing the Eugene community. The commission aims to align its communication efforts to the work plan themes for FY 12. New assignments will be made for commission liaisons with attention to community groups related to work plan activities. The commission also plans to provide more frequent feedback to Council by offering comments during public hearings and forums.

The commission also recognizes the importance of collaboration with other commissions, community organizations and partners. Stronger working relationships will be sought with the following groups:

- Human Rights Commission (HRC)
- Transportation Community Resource Group (TCRG)
- Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Action Committee (CLUTAC)
- Neighborhood Leaders Council (NLC)
- EWEB
- Metropolitan Policy Committee

In the matrix on the next page, call out the intersection of primary commission activities and the focus areas for the coming year. Activities include providing policy advice and communication, engaging in outreach, education and collaboration, focusing on equity considerations, and articulating the economic benefits and implications of major policy decisions.

Work Plan Matrix: Focus Areas and Activities

Types of activities in the rows

Topic areas in the columns, with H/M/L designating

	EmX (H)	20 min Neighborhoods (M)	Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (H)	Regional Planning (M)	IERP / CEAP (H)	Food Security (L)	Advance TBL (M)
Policy Advice & Communication (CC)	Review proposed West 11 th EmX corridor plan and synthesize recommendations to City Council. Coordinate with CLUTAC.	Input to Planning Commission and Council on how to enhance 20 min. Neighborhoods Allocation of Planning, Transportation, Economic Development and Parks resources	Review PBMP and develop recommendations for improvement Input to Council: importance of bike/pedestrian modes in TSP, regional plans Input to Council: PBMP supports Envision Eugene, CEAP	TSP: consider regional relevance to local decisions TSP: include CEAP goals and metrics SC/CLUTAC participation in STARS training	Develop policy level guidance for CEAP implementation Review and comment on Draft IERP	Propose a new Food Security Policy for Eugene based on Food Security Scoping Plan	Meet with city staff to monitor application Pursue Creative Commons license and disseminate TBL tool to municipalities
Outreach, Education & Collaboration	Review current outreach efforts and make recommendations, including partners to endorse/collaborate	NLC/NLCCS collaboration "Roadshow" to interested groups Meet with businesses and developers to assess feasibility/barriers Op-Ed to local newspapers/publications	BPAC-SC communication NLC/NLCCS collaboration – recommendations to Council Coordinate support with local bicycle and pedestrian groups	Input on relationship of Eugene TSP to regional TSP Recommendation to Council: message to LCOG on importance of regional sustainability	Support Energy Performance Score (EPS) summit Develop position/talking points for Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI)	Participate in the Local Food Connection conference (co-sponsor or co-facilitate)	Develop list of opportunities to publicize TBL program in Eugene Explain TBL decision process to neighborhood groups
Equity	Joint statement with HRC on transportation equity	Develop joint statement/talking points with HRC Showcase diversity, community participation	Work with advocates to improve equity/access in PBMP, provide related data to Council Support safe facilities for those with mobility issues	Identify and advocate for equity considerations in regional planning criteria Identify equity aspects of the TSP	Support rental housing code revisions for energy efficiency	Assessment of food needs/shortages working with Food for Lane County, others	Work with HRC to get input on TBL
Articulate economic benefit & implications	Review economic benefits. Articulate those in human terms. Testify at key hearings	Recruit business organizations to promote	Obtain data on costs/benefits of active transportation Communicate benefits to Council, community and media	Identify economic benefits from concurrent local and regional planning	TBL analysis: AMI (to be completed by EWEB)	TBL analysis: promoting local organic food production/processing/distribution TBL analysis: proposed Food Security Policy	Create committee to determine economic benefits and implications of TBL analyses

Key to Acronyms

CEAP – Community Climate and Energy Action Plan

CLUTAC – Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Action Committee – a joint committee of the Planning Commission and the Sustainability Commission

IERP – Integrated Electric Resource Plan – EWEB's periodic planning and stakeholder process (every five years or so) to plan how to meet 20-year electricity needs
Info at EWEB's site: <http://www.eweb.org/2011ierp>

LCOG – Lane Council of Governments

NLC – Neighborhood Leaders Council

NLCCS – Neighborhood Leaders Council Committee on Sustainability

PBMP – Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan

SC – Sustainability Commission

STARS – Strategic Transportation Analysis Rating System

TBL – Triple Bottom Line

TSP – Transportation System Plan