

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Climate Recovery Proposal

Meeting Date: February 23, 2015
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: B
Staff Contact: Matt McRae
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5649

ISSUE STATEMENT

This is a work session to present a progress report as outlined in the Climate Recovery Ordinance adopted in July 2014.

BACKGROUND

Climate Recovery Ordinance

Adopted by council in July 2014, the Climate Recovery Ordinance:

- 1) Clarifies and codifies existing *internal* and *community* greenhouse gas and fossil fuel goals:
 - a. Reduce total community-wide fossil fuel use 50% from 2010 levels by 2030
 - b. By the year 2020, all city-owned facilities and city operations shall be carbon neutral
- 2) Calls for a full assessment of current efforts to meet internal and community climate goals.
- 3) Calls for the development of a science-based community greenhouse gas reduction goal for Council consideration.
- 4) Calls for regular progress reports to Council.
- 5) Establishes a process of analysis, reporting, and readjustment if *community* or *internal* targets are not met.

The Climate Recovery Ordinance also specifies that six months following adoption, the City Manager is to “complete an assessment of current efforts to reach the climate action goals.” The Progress Report presented in this work session includes an assessment of:

- 1) Trends in current energy use for the community and for city operations and facilities; and
- 2) Progress in implementing the community climate and energy action plan and the internal climate action plan.

The attached 2015 Progress Report provides an overview of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions, both within city operations and the community at large, a review of emissions trends, and a status update for each of the two climate action plans. Key findings are discussed below.

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% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, with the remaining 45% of emissions addressed through the purchase of “carbon offsets.”

The City of Eugene is a leader in using energy wisely. The City was an early adopter of hybrid technology and has continued to adopt more fuel efficient models throughout the fleet as they become available. For decades City facilities have undergone regular energy efficiency retrofits. Upgrades to the heating and lighting systems of City buildings continue to capture the latest improvements in technology. Despite these efforts, trends in electricity, natural gas and transportation fuel use indicate that the City is not on track to meet the goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In many places the “low hanging fruit”, those changes or investments that have a quick payoff in energy savings, have already been captured. There are still energy savings to be realized, but they will require a different set of solutions.

The Internal Climate Action Plan is now six years old. Promising new technologies and service delivery approaches need to be assessed and incorporated. The City Manager will be considering actions to capture the greatest cost savings and greenhouse gas reduction benefits into the future. Staff will inform Council of potential solutions in a future meeting as called for in the Climate Recovery Ordinance.

Community Climate and Energy Action Plan

The City developed the [Community Climate and Energy Action Plan](#) in 2010. The greenhouse gas emissions targets contained in the plan are aligned with those set by the State. The Plan contains actions to achieve the following goals:

- 1) Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.
- 2) Reduce community-wide fossil fuel use 50 percent by 2030.
- 3) Identify strategies that will help the community adapt to a changing climate and increasing fossil fuel prices.

The most recent review of the Plan (2013) indicates that progress has been made in implementing the various action items:

- 12% were completed
- 41% were in process
- 32% were getting started
- 15% had no movement

Progress is also evident with community emission levels. Overall, the general trend in emissions associated with energy consumption in Eugene is moving steadily downward. It is worth noting that these trends began several years before the economic downturn that occurred in the last half of 2008.

The Community Climate and Energy Action Plan is now 5 years old and due for an update. In addition to updating the plan, the actions within the plan need to be analyzed for their potential

GHG reductions to aid in prioritization and for determining what additional actions are needed to reach Council adopted goals.

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)

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an informational work session; no action is required at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

No action is required at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2015 Progress Report
- B. Climate Recovery Ordinance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Matt McRae
Telephone: 541-682-5649
Staff E-Mail: matt.a.mcrae@ci.eugene.or.us