



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 5/7/2013

AGENDA OF: 5/14/2013

DEPARTMENT: Planning

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Climate Action Plan (PL)

RECOMMENDATION: Receive the annual report on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

BACKGROUND: The 2020 Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan (CAP) includes a list of actions that describe how various city and community partners can work together to address climate change and invest in a future with 80% lower carbon emissions. Each action described within the CAP includes a projected cost, an estimated greenhouse gas reduction (GHG), and a recommended schedule for implementation based on need, timing, interest, and external grant funding opportunities.

DISCUSSION: The successful implementation of 2020 Climate Action Plan and the attainment of the goals and measures, require action and collaboration in the community. Specifically partnerships need to be developed and expanded among City staff, City Councilmembers, the business community, residents, students, and visitors. To ensure continued support and interest from the public, it is important to provide periodic reports on efforts to implement the Climate Action Plan. This document is the first annual report to City Council regarding success and future opportunities.

To easily communicate key objectives supported within the CAP, staff from each department (City Sustainability Team) drafted the 2020 Climate Action Milestones (attached). The Milestones provide a set of measurable and reportable goals that encompass the scope of the 256 actions described in the CAP. Key actions and programs initiated over the last year are listed under each Milestone. The intent of this reporting strategy is to highlight the wide range of efforts underway. Reporting actions based on Milestones helps put distinct actions by City departments into a climate context that is linked to GHG reductions. Measurable GHG emissions inventories prepared every five years help us relate the impact of interim steps taken to meet CAP milestones with quantified emissions reductions.

Staff has identified future reporting goals that can improve the measurability of efforts that will help to describe successful programs and identify needed investments. Staff is also working to develop the GreenFocus environmental web portal on the City website (www.cityofsantacruz.com/GreenFocus). This effort will be used to graphically present progress towards climate milestones and goals, and link additional information on specific program efforts, including rebates and incentives.

NEXT STEPS:

Several priority actions have been identified for 2013 CAP implementation. Specific actions include: filling several key staff positions including refilling a half-time Climate Action support staff, and full-time Facilities Maintenance and Energy Management position, and a Sustainable Transportation Planner. A Funding Strategy is being drafted by staff to support these positions. These new positions and a funding strategy will be considered by the City Council during the upcoming budget hearings.

The Climate Action Program will establish two priority task forces (Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Team and Community Technical Working Group) in the next few months. Potential members of the Community Working Group have been contacted and it is anticipated that the first meeting will be held soon. Staff from various departments are discussing the best way to initiate the Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Team.

The Climate Action Program has identified additional efforts to be taken in 2013 to double bike ridership by 2020 (e.g., support City Bike Plan update, 2014-2016 CIP development and completion of a University Bike Survey project).

FISCAL IMPACT: Full implementation of the CAP will impact various City funds including the General Fund. Staff is working on a Funding Strategy that will outline the financial resources that may be used to support key staff positions and project implementation costs. It is anticipated that the General Plan Maintenance Fund will continue to fund portions of the CAP program.

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ATTACHMENTS: Climate Action Milestones