

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: March 19, 2007

Date prepared: March 1, 2007

Reviewed by: _____

SUBJECT: Resolution Establishing a City of Albany Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal to Reduce Emissions 25% Below 2004 Levels by 2020

FROM: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution #07-09, establishing an emissions reduction goal of 25% below 2004 levels by 2020. This action will complete Milestone 2 of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Climate Protection Project.

BACKGROUND

At the February 5, 2007 City Council meeting, an ICLEI Climate Protection Project update, along with the City's Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, were provided. As mentioned in the Council report, the City, along with other local jurisdictions, is utilizing the assistance of ICLEI to identify opportunities to reduce local emissions that cause global warming. The project includes five major milestones:

- Milestone 1 – Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast
- Milestone 2 – Adopt an emissions reduction target
- Milestone 3 – Develop a Climate Action Plan for reducing emissions
- Milestone 4 – Implement policies and measures
- Milestone 5 – Monitor and verify results

The City has completed Milestone 1 – Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast, which required selection of a baseline year to conduct the analysis. Baseline years vary depending on the selection of each jurisdiction in the program, but typically range between the years 2003-2005. Staff chose a baseline year of 2004 as comprehensive data was available for that year, and the City's new franchise agreement was also implemented in 2004. Milestone 2 – Adopt an emissions reduction target, is discussed below in this report.

DISCUSSION

In February 2005, the Kyoto Treaty, the international agreement to address climate disruption, became law in the 141 countries that adopted the Treaty. The United States was not one of the 141 countries. The Treaty set binding legal commitments on participating countries to reduce emissions an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels. If the United States had ratified the Kyoto Treaty, the U.S. would have been required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

In 2005, the U.S. Conference of Mayor's developed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which urged federal and state government to enact policies and programs to meet the Kyoto Protocol target. The Agreement included a commitment to strive to meet the Kyoto Protocol target by taking local actions such as conducting a baseline emissions inventory, setting reduction targets and creating a climate action plan.

In September 2006, the State of California enacted AB 32, the Global Warming Act of 2006, which creates a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit that would reduce statewide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Reaching this target necessitates an approximate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 25-30% below the level of emissions that the State is forecasted to reach by 2020. It is not yet fully clear what measures the State plans to take to achieve this reduction goal.

All local jurisdictions participating in the ICLEI program are currently in process of identifying climate reduction targets. ICLEI has recommended jurisdictions adopt a target percentage of 20% - 25%, which is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body of over 2,500 scientists, whose research indicates that emissions need to be reduced by more than 20% to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations. To date the City of San Leandro has adopted a 25% reduction target below baseline levels, which is consistent with targets set by many cities in the ICLEI network (see attached CO₂ Reduction Targets of Select CCP Jurisdictions for detail).

ANALYSIS

In an effort to provide municipal leadership on the climate issue, and to coincide with ICLEI network and State targets, staff recommends adoption of a 25% reduction below 2004 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2020. Achieving this target necessitates a 5% reduction every 3 years. Emissions reduction progress can be monitored utilizing software provided by ICLEI to compare the City's baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory with emissions reductions of projects implemented within Milestone 3 – Develop a Climate Action Plan.

Staff is currently in process of researching new projects and policies that can be utilized within the City's Climate Action Plan, and expect to complete a draft plan in Winter 2007. Currently, there are several programs with emissions reduction benefits being implemented within the City. Emissions reductions from these existing programs will be quantified and included within the Climate Action Plan:

- Adoption/Implementation of a green building ordinance
- Adoption/Implementation of a construction and demolition debris ordinance
- Adoption of a bay friendly landscaping ordinance
- City adoption of 75% waste reduction goal, consistent with the countywide goal (Special note: the City is currently at a 70% Diversion rate)
- Commercial/Residential Recycling and Composting Collection Programs through franchise with Waste Management of Alameda County
- Recycling/organics technical assistance/outreach to commercial and residential multi-family sector
- Promotion of participation in the Green Business Program
- Conversion of traffic signal lights to more energy efficient LED bulbs
- Energy efficient lighting in City facilities
- Enhancement of bicycle/pedestrian paths including Marin, Buchanan, Pierce, and the Ohlone Greenway
- Inclusion of green building elements within the City Hall retrofit project

Additionally, ICLEI, in partnership with Stopwaste.org, is working on a Climate Action Plan Template, which will include a list of emissions reduction programs for the City to consider. Proposed new projects and policies can be evaluated using ICLEI's software to quantify expected emissions reductions and cost impacts. Some examples follow:

- Building - Energy assessment of City facilities; establishment of an incentive fund to subsidize energy efficient projects; installation of decentralized renewable energy such as photovoltaic or wind on city buildings.
- Fleet - Purchase of hybrid vehicles; use of bio-diesel in municipal fleet; limit idling of municipal vehicles.
- Planning - Evaluation of land use planning; promotion of Transit Oriented Development; target brownfield sites for new development.
- Adoption of a requirement that a small percentage of the purchase price of a residential, commercial or industrial property must be used to upgrade energy conservation upon sale.
- Adopting a wood smoke ordinance that targets both new and remodeled buildings. This measure has the co-benefit of reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollutants, thereby protecting the climate and public health
- Adopting an environmental purchasing policy that gives priority to businesses with environmentally friendly production practices.

Staff will also identify other organizations that have committed to work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions for partnership opportunities. For example, the BAAQMD at their annual summit on November 10, 2006 allocated \$3 million to fund emissions reduction programs. Additionally, ABAG's energy watch program, in partnership with PG&E and the EPA's Energy Star Program, are opportunities for local governments in which the City can participate.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

There is no direct cost to setting a target, however, there will be costs associated with implementation of the Climate Action Plan to assist the City in meeting the 25% reduction in 2004 emissions levels by 2020. It should also be noted that many of the measures the City can implement to reduce emissions, especially measures that achieve increased energy efficiency and conservation, can have a long-term cost benefit.

Attachments

Resolution No. 07-09
CO₂ Reduction Targets of Select CCP Jurisdictions