

**REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL****TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

DATE: October 13, 2015

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW**Report in Brief**

The City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) requires preparation of an annual report summarizing the status of policy implementation for review by the City Council. In the two years following its adoption, the City has made significant strides to implement the tasks outlined in the CAP. This report highlights the successes to date of implementing energy-saving measures and opportunities for further action. The agenda report ends with a discussion of possible CAP policy revisions that may be considered by the Council at a later time.

Background

The CAP was adopted by the City Council on July 23, 2013, and this report provides the second annual Council update on the implementation status. The CAP was created with the goal of meeting State mandates, primarily for energy and water conservation. A separate Climate Action Plan for the Concord Reuse Project Area was adopted on January 24, 2012, which will be implemented separately as the Reuse Project Area is developed.

Discussion

The discussion below summarizes the recent activities around the CAP goals and their incorporation into other City-supported projects.

1. Activities to increase Energy and Water Conservation in Municipal Operations and Public Infrastructure*Municipal Buildings/Other Facilities*

The CAP supports strives to achieve energy conservation in municipal facilities by limiting the growth of equipment in City facilities. As a result, the Public Works Department is focused on reducing new equipment purchases and any new equipment purchases are Energy Star compliant. However, as the number of City staff increases, new appliances and equipment are typically needed for those staff members. Therefore, the overall number of appliances across all City facilities is expanding rather than being reduced.

Street/Other Public Lighting

The Public Works Department has worked to expand the City's participation in PG&E's Demand Response Programs for city-owned buildings. A demand response program offers incentives to businesses that reduce the energy use of their facilities during times of peak demand. This project is in progress.

Municipal Vehicle Fleet

The goal is to (1) size the City fleet to include only the number of cars needed and (2) move toward more energy efficient and/or electric vehicles. The City has successfully decreased the size of its fleet by 30 cars since 2012. Further, through a grant program the City has received ten all-electric cars for its fleet. The City will be installing electric charging stations at municipal facilities where these cars are deployed. These cars are currently deployed in Public Works, Engineering, and Parks and Recreation.

Landscaping, Infrastructure and Other Outdoor Maintenance

The CAP includes numerous policies/tasks related to encouraging alternative modes of transport to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and other equipment with internal combustion engines. The CAP also assumes that bicycle use will increase if the City's facilities are made more hospitable to bike users. Significant progress has been made to improve bike facilities at Civic Center, both for City staff and visitors. New bike parking facilities have been added and lighting around those parking spaces has been improved. Staff has secured a grant to purchase bike lockers for installation between the library and Civic Center buildings, and the City will be funding installation.

Shade trees are being added to City parks and municipal facilities, although not during drought periods. Shade trees reflect heat, keep the parks cooler, and reduce the amount of heat impacting City buildings, allowing a corresponding reduction in air conditioning use and therefore energy usage.

2. Activities to Support Energy and Water Conservation through Land Use Planning

The CAP supports transportation and land use planning activities that encourage alternative transit usage to reduce automobile reliance and trips. CAP tasks include preparation of both a Pedestrian Master Plan and a Bicycle Master Plan. The City has secured planning grants for a combined "Pedestrian, Bike and Safe Routes to Transit Master Plan" which is currently underway.

Other implementation activities are focused on accommodating alternative transit modes in new development. For example, developers are encouraged to incorporate bike parking and shelter facilities into their projects. The Downtown Specific Plan (adopted in June, 2014), includes a pedestrian priority zone, and that concept will be developed further in the new Pedestrian, Bike and Safe Routes to Transit Master Plan. The Master Plan is scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Council in July, 2016, with implementation activities, such as seeking grant funding opportunities for capital projects beginning in the Summer of 2016 after plan adoption.

Other Planning activities to support alternative transit modes, and thereby the policies in the CAP directed toward increasing pedestrian trips and reduction of automobile trips include:

- Sidewalk improvements on Salvio Street near Todos Santos Plaza
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Parking credit policies
- Reduced water use

The City received a grant from Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to design sidewalk improvements on Salvio Street near Todos Santos Plaza. Staff and will seek further funding opportunities to support construction of the redesigned street frontage. The design work for this project is about 50 percent completed to date.

Electric vehicle charging stations have been added to both private and public parking areas, including the Salvio St. public garage, to establish the infrastructure network necessary to encourage electric car use.

The CAP directs study of parking credit policies within the City which would allow certain new development projects to reduce the number of on-site parking spaces it must provide. This effort is anticipated to begin in the late 2016. Included in this planning effort will be a review and reconsideration of traditional automobile parking policies, such as the minimum parking requirements for transit proximate uses, potentially allowing intensification of development in the downtown BART area.

Planning studies and policy amendments to support water use reduction are also underway. In December, a Water Efficiency Landscaping Ordinance as mandated by the State with stricter water efficiency requirements and use limitations will be presented to City Council for consideration.

3. Activities to Support Energy and Water Conservation in Private Building Development and Construction

The CAP policies encourage the City to adopt policies and regulations that support energy and water conservation in private construction and permitting activities. Over the past year the City expanded the number of available providers of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program financing in the community and joined the Contra Costa County SunShares Program. Both of these programs expand the range of options and financing available to residents and business owners who wish to improve the energy and water efficiency of their homes or commercial buildings. Staff has implemented and will further expand community outreach efforts to inform interested persons of the cost-saving options available to them when considering energy upgrades.

As of November 2014 and as mandated by the State Building Code, CALGreen requirements were added to the development permit application checklist. It is anticipated that additional development and building permit application revisions to achieve more robust energy efficiency Building Code requirements would be needed to fully accomplish the goals outlines in the CAP. However, it should be noted that moving to these Building Code requirements would likely be costly to the development community and would go beyond the energy and conservation requirements currently in place in surrounding communities. Staff intends to review the implications of these potential Building and Development Code revisions with the

Council Policy Development and Internal Operations Committee in early 2016, prior to moving to Council consideration of these revisions.

4. Public Outreach Activities: Education, Incentives and Joint Participation

The CAP policies encourage the City to engage in public outreach activities to educate and provide incentives for the public to use and embrace energy and water conservation opportunities. A Sustainability webpage was recently launched on the City's main website to provide a local civic forum to advertise and educate the community about new and existing conservation programs, plans and policies. The Sustainability webpage was developed for use primarily by residents and local business owners to keep abreast of new information on the local sustainability efforts and programs. The webpage includes information about the SunShares program and new PACE vendors and it connects users to community resources related to transportation, water-efficient landscaping and home weatherization. This webpage will also serve as an important outlet for transparency in environmental issues, as residents will be able to use the site to access copies of the City's CAP document and any updates to the plan or related programs. The Sustainability webpage can be found at www.cityofconcord.org/sustainability.

5. Activities Related to Waste Disposal and Waste Diversion

The CAP acknowledges that energy conservation also occurs when the City reduces the amount of waste material generated within the community that ends in disposal facilities, and when it supports increased waste diversion such as composting and recycling. The State-mandated waste diversion targets continue to increase, as has been the case for several years. To accomplish these mandates and improve compliance, the City continues to work with Concord Disposal Service to implement recycling and compost programs to meet State requirements within the next two years.

Next Steps

Two years after the CAP adoption, the plan and its implementation tasks should be re-evaluated to determine their continued relevance and practicality. A number of the CAP tasks that have been completed were actually extensions of existing City programs in progress at the time of the CAP's adoption. Significant programmatic progress in meeting conservation goals has often been driven by State requirements, such as the City's efforts to improve waste disposal systems and diversion rates.

Other goals have been met with the help of a shift in public awareness that benefits the efforts of this plan. For example, water-efficient landscaping is growing in popularity across the region as a result of new water use restrictions and public attitude shift because of the statewide drought. Community awareness around the importance of these changes is increasing, which means City residents are becoming active partners in attaining overall citywide environmental goals.

However, many potentially impactful policies that are identified in the CAP remain to be done or may need to be reconsidered. In particular, many Development and Building Code updates have not been undertaken as other Council priority projects are developed, pushing CAP-related work programs into the

longer term. For example, the CAP identifies a need to develop new policies related to parking and transportation demand management, but it is not expected that staff will have capacity to initiate that item until over a year from now or perhaps further out.

As was noted earlier, the CAP policy to adopt revisions to the Building Code with more robust CALGreen requirements (Tier 1 or Tier 2) would be more costly to the development community and would go beyond the energy and conservation requirements currently in place in surrounding communities. To address these issues, staff intends to seek Council direction to prioritize evaluation of the CAP implementation and further consideration of some policy and task direction, to ensure the CAP goals are still achievable and moving to a path of adoption.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this annual report. Implementation of energy and water conservation measures, as directed by CAP policies, should often result in cost savings to the City and its residents via reduced energy usage. City investment in energy conserving equipment and programs likely results in short term cost increases, but longer term cost savings from reduced energy use. Other measures, such as increasing requirements for waste and building debris diversion, have beneficial environmental consequences but have resulted in increased costs for builders, residents, and more administrative costs for the City to manage the programs.

Public Contact

The City Council Agenda was posted.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the Annual Climate Action Plan Implementation Review and provide any feedback to staff.

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