



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: July 13, 2010

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Anderson, Dr. Jane Moore, Elaine Ott, Phil Coughlan, Ken Schmidt, Jim Gawel, Steven Garrett, Julia Petersen

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Bliss Moore, Louise Bray, Dale Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Smith, Michael P. Slevin III, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Erin Deasy, Ken Peachey, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the June 8, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The June 8, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review and Approval of the July Agenda**

With the addition of "Subcommittee Updates", the July agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Solid Waste Strategies and Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update**

Bill Smith of Solid Waste Management provided an update on Solid Waste's audit, food waste pilot and what they have been doing to implement the CAP.

Solid Waste Audit

- The first sort was completed October 2009; second sort completed April 2010; completion of the final sort scheduled for the week of July 19
- Major sort categories are paper, plastic, glass, metal, organics, wood, construction demolition and land clearing wastes, e-wastes, hazardous and others
- Tracking includes single- and multi-family, residential self-haul and residential construction self-haul, commercial routes, commercial self-haul, commercial construction debris and schools
- Final report is due by September 2010; with final results to be reported at the September STC meeting

Food Waste Pilot

- Commences July 23, 2010
- 55-60 participating businesses
- Pilot will run for four months
- No charge to participating businesses for pilot. After the pilot period there will be a charge based on cost of service
 - May impact participation, depending on impact to business garbage volume
- Meat, fish, dairy, bones allowed
- Food-soiled paper
- Material composted locally
- Estimate 100-150 tons of food waste will be collected during pilot period

- Collection schedule will be twice a week in summer; once a week in fall

Solid Waste GHG Initiatives - Strategic Priority #1: Reduce Waste

- Solid Waste Management has developed a waste reduction plan to be in place by 2024
 - Reduce residential and commercial garbage by 39% to 118,000 tons
 - Increase recycling by 101% to 102,000 tons
 - Reaching these goals would mean a 300,000 to 400,000 ton reduction in ghg emissions

This plan supports WA State's "Beyond Waste" Plan and Pierce County's Solid Waste Management Plan

- Solid Waste Management intends to achieve this goal by expanding waste reduction opportunities through new and improved communication about existing programs and services, and implementation of additional recycling programs that include
 - Food waste
 - Construction, demolition and deconstruction materials
 - Extracting recyclable materials disposed of in the solid waste stream

Current strategies to reduce carbon emissions

- Retrofitting the exhaust mufflers of Solid Waste collector fleet with diesel oxidation catalytic mufflers (equals 3,316 lb reduction per year)
- Replaced fossil fuel in all Solid Waste collector fleet with 20% biodiesel (equals 942 ton reduction per year)
- Keeping current with new and advanced technological equipment and product to improve collection efficiency
- Evaluating current operations to improved efficiency and eliminate two collection routes

CAP Projects

- Backyard composting program
 - Completed in May; promote again in September
 - Partnered with Park District; four locations (Nature Center, Wright Park, South Park and Northeast Tacoma)
 - Sold two bins (63 tumblers, 57 recyclers)
- Implementing variable rates
- Natural Yard Care education
 - Partnered with the health department to deliver three community trainings
- Increase residential/commercial recycling (500 new commercial customers since 2005)
- Using technology to improve operational efficiencies (reroute and consolidate routes)
- Expand reuse and waste reduction efforts
 - Goodwill and ReHarvest located at recycling center
 - Added packing peanuts and Styrofoam blocks to recycling mix
 - Garbage volume dropped 40,000 tons in 2009 from 2005 levels
- Plan and policy drafted to encourage deconstruction and recycling of structures
- Secure and encourage additional organic material processing capacity
 - Waste Connections acquired Silver Springs in Thurston County since plan adoption
 - Composted 11,000 tons of Pierce County/Tacoma material in 2008

▪ Subcommittee Updates

Waste Reduction/Recycling Subcommittee – Phil Coughlan

- Instead of weekly garbage pick-up, Environmental Services would like to study and pilot a bi-monthly residential garbage and yard/food waste pickup schedule. STC could support this effort by advocating for next biennium funding to complete this assessment.
- The STC should play an advocacy role in the construction waste or demolition policy/program.
- The subcommittee should discuss the Styrofoam or plastic bag issue.

Small Grant Program – Kristi Lynett

- The intent is to put out a call-for-proposal sometime during this summer.
- The Make a Splash grant application online process was modified to be used for the STC grant program.
- Awarded amounts may be up to \$4k per grant.

- The small grant program would be built around ghg emissions reductions ideas. Participants would obtain buy-in from the groups involved in their particular organizations and come up with estimates as to what they see as the impact on ghg emissions reductions. The deadline would be Nov. 1 so that decisions could be made and contracts put together by December 15 (would have to be in-contract by year-end).
- While the focus is on environmental sustainability and attempting to show what the ghg estimates would be, there would also be questions related to how this impacts the social, equitable, cultural and economic aspects of sustainability.
- The subcommittee has another community member (UPS professor) lending his time and expertise to the STC grant program.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee – Jim Gawel

- The subcommittee would like to focus their efforts on having one large event/program that would draw a lot of people to the Tacoma area. One of the more recent larger events was the Pierce County Livability Fair which happens every two years - next one scheduled for April 2012. Attendance is usually free; if the STC chooses to be a sponsor there are reasonable booth costs (\$2,500-\$5,000).
- Met with the planning group for the Sustainability Summit that expressed interest in a combined event with the STC.

Energy/Green Building Standards Subcommittee – Dale Anderson

- As mandated by Initiative 937, TPU has gone beyond their mandated energy goals. TPU will be giving a full presentation at the August 10 STC meeting
- Would like the ability to collect good data regarding natural gas (PSE) numbers/information and or oil/switching out oil furnaces (track conservation programs of residents).
- Woodstove change-out program – and how the STC is tying woodstove change-out to more efficient natural gas heated homes; not only getting rid of woodstoves but at the same time using those funds to weatherize the homes, coupling them with utility incentive programs. The health department is helping to administer the woodstove change-out program in working with homeowners to obtain all paperwork/bids to get the work done.

Transportation/Neighborhoods/Land Use Subcommittee – Julia Petersen

At their last meeting, the focus was on how the STC could provide their support on various projects:

- Pierce Transit redesign or recruiting a car sharing service.
- Zipcars will be available in downtown Tacoma – STC would encourage folks to sign up.
- Streetcar systems – there is a stakeholders group that will be meeting the remainder of the year to look at the pros and cons of various potential routes within the City. There is a Streetcar 101 Forum on July 23 - brown bag lunch.
- Parking –meter parking downtown will soon be implemented. The City has eliminated parking minimums in the core downtown and reduced minimums in mixed-use centers. Looking at adopting no parking maximums in the city. Support of the off-street parking study.
- Anti-idling and/or the strategy of reducing older diesel trucks; possibly getting a presentation from PSCAA or Cascade Sierra Solutions.

▪ **Staff Report**

- At their July 28 meeting, the Environment and Public Works Committee has requested a CAP update. Council members would like the STC to report on measurable accomplishments.

▪ **Public Comment**

- There were no public comments.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- TPU Energy Presentation

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.