



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: November 9, 2010

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Anderson, Julia Petersen, Jim Gawel, Steve Garrett, Dr. Jane Moore, Bliss Moore, Bill Anderson

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ken Schmidt, Phil Coughlan, Elaine Ott

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen Hall Barta, Rita Schenck, Katie Kennedy, Charlie Scott, Rey Arellano, Kristi Lynett, Bill Smith, Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Jetta Antonakos, Dan Dzyacky, Bobby Smith, Jessica Ludwig, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the October 12, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The October 12, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

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

The November agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **IERE Overview – Life Cycle Sponsor**

- Rita Schenck of IERE gave a brief overview of IERE and what it means to be a life cycle city. The IERE is a non-profit organization in business since 1997. Their mission is to support faculties in environmental decision making – life cycle assessments.
- The Commission reviewed the life cycle city draft resolution for content and language. City staff will send out a revised final draft for members review. The Life Cycle City Resolution will go directly to City Council for approval.
- With approval of the resolution, the ideal vision is that the City embraces life cycle thinking, and it will publish its life cycle inventory data to be used in a life cycle study. The advantage to the life cycle study is that the City can then use those for eco labels. There is a huge drive internationally for eco labels. France has passed a law where all consumer goods are going to be required to have these labels, called Environmental Product Declarations, and are based on life cycle assessments. Effective the middle of next year, France will begin to phase in where all consumer goods will have to have these labels; and the IERE is lining up right behind them. This will put Tacoma out in front in the USA, because IERE is setting up the national repository for the rules on how to do these labels. This will give the businesses in Tacoma a leg-up in terms of getting these eco labels.

▪ **Waste Audit Results**

About a year ago the City put out a Request for Purchase for their first waste audit. There was a competitive bid and Cascadia Consulting won the bid. Cascadia Consulting representatives gave a presentation on the recently published results of the 2009 Waste Stream Characterization Study.

Objectives – to provide statistical estimates of the composition of

- Overall waste
- Residential waste
- Commercial waste, including school waste
- Self-haul waste
- Construction/demolition (C&D) waste

Methodology

- Developed a sampling plan
 - Defined study universe as all waste entering the Tacoma Landfill and Transfer Station
 - Allocated samples to sectors: 90 residential; 130 self-haul; 72 commercial; 110 construction/demolition
 - Designated 79 material types for characterizing disposed waste
 - Scheduled three sampling events: 2009 Fall and 2010 Spring and Summer
- Collected composition and field data
 - Hand-sorted 163 samples of residential, commercial and school waste
 - Visually characterized 240 samples of C&D and self-haul waste
- Analyzed data and produced report

Bottom-line results – overall disposed waste

- Paper, plastic and organics – nearly 70%; recoverable materials – almost 60%

Estimated tons by sector – 159,400 total tons of waste disposed

- 34% residential; 36% commercial (non C&D); 23% self-haul (non-C&D); 7% C&D

Overall composition results – nearly 70%

- 18.2% paper; 17% plastic; 33.2% organics

Overall recoverability – 60% total recoverable materials (30% compostables)

Residential composition – organics were over half of residential waste - 51.6%

- Residential recoverability – 70% total recoverable materials (40% compostables)
- Curbside recyclables in residential waste – make up 21% (12% paper)

Commercial composition – paper, plastic and organics over 80%

- Commercial recoverability – 60% total recoverable materials (40% compostables)

Self-haul composition – largest material class with 17.1% plastic; 17.3% organics

- Self-haul recoverability – 43% total recoverable materials

C&D composition – 80% CDL wastes and wood

- C&D recoverability – 60% total recoverable materials (47.6%) recyclable C&D and wood

Tacoma compared to other communities

- Residential waste – 19% paper and 32% food (comparable); 1.5% leaves/grass (extremely low)
- Commercial waste – 25% plastic, (twice that of comparable communities); 26% food (higher than King County or state)
- Self-haul waste – 17% plastic (nearly double)
- C&D waste – more paper and glass, comparable amounts of wood and C&D waste

▪ **Sustainable Vision Resolution**

- Members were reminded of the December 8 joint STC and EPW meeting during which time they will be discussing the Sustainable Vision Resolution, Sustainable Purchasing Resolution and Municipal Green Building Resolution.
- The Commission participated in a round table discussion on the language and content of the draft Sustainable Vision Resolution. With agreeable changes, City staff will send out the revised draft resolution to the Commission and TPU staff. The final Sustainable Vision Resolution will then be forwarded to EPW for preview in preparation for the December 8 joint meeting.
- On behalf of TPU's management team, their staff was requested to address the STC with TPU's concerns with sections of the resolution. The direct concerns were references to the 'City' and 'City Government' within the resolution. The STC was asked to clarify whether these references were intended to cover the Utilities (as their Charter provides that TPU is to be managed solely by the Tacoma Utility Board). And if that were the case, the resolution should not be applied to TPU. Members requested TPU staff provide a letter of concern directly to EPW.

▪ **Sustainable Purchasing Resolution**

- The Commission participated in a round table discussion on the language and content of the draft Sustainable Purchasing Resolution. With agreed upon changes, City staff will send out the revised draft resolution to the Commission and TPU staff. The final Sustainable Purchasing Resolution will then be forwarded to EPW for preview in preparation for the December 8 joint meeting.
- TPU staff proposed changes to the draft resolution: 1) remove the reference to “vision” and replace with “Climate Action Plan;” 2) remove the reference to “life cycle impacts assessment” and replace with “life cycle assessment.”

▪ **Municipal Green Building Resolution**

- The Commission participated in a round table discussion on the language and content of the draft Municipal Green Building Resolution. With agreed upon changes, City staff will send out the revised draft resolution to the Commission and TPU staff. The final Municipal Green Building Resolution will be forwarded to EPW for preview in preparation for the December 8 joint meeting.

▪ **Subcommittee Reports**

- Sustainable Tacoma Grant subcommittee – The grant application submittal deadline was October 29. A grant evaluation team has been formed to review the (38) applications received.
- A update from all subcommittees and their next steps will take place at the December meeting.

▪ **Staff Report**

- There were no staff reports.

▪ **Comments**

- Daily Journal of Commerce, November 9 article, regarding the City of Seattle changing their green building programs in their permitting process.
- Branch meeting of the local Tacoma-Olympia branch US Green Building Council on “ECO Districts” – TPU, November 10, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Energy Policy Forum at UWT – November 10, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Reference to the possible creation of a “Local Healthy and Sustainable Food” resolution; a future agenda item.
- Pierce Transit just did warranty work on 11 hybrid electric buses, and are adding three hybrid electric Ford Escapes to their fleet.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meetings**

- Subcommittee reports
- Food waste composting
- Update on TacomaACTS
- Historic Preservation Plan
- Sustainable Tacoma Grant results
- Resolution processes

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.