



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: January 11, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Petersen, Steve Garrett, Dr. Jane Moore, Bliss Moore, Bill Anderson, Ken Schmidt, Phil Coughlan

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Gawel, Elaine Ott, Dale Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jetta Antonakos, Kristi Lynett, Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Dan Dzyacky, Stephanie Gowing, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the December 14, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The December 14, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the January Agenda**

The January agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Commercial Compost Pilot Program**

Jetta Antonakos, of Solid Waste Utilities, gave an overview of the City's Food Waste Recycling Pilot Program.

- Goal: To operate a trial program to study the collection of commercial food waste for compost.
- Program: The pilot program began in July 2010 with the participation of approximately 60 businesses. Food/floral (no packaging) is collected internally in smaller containers and emptied into City-provided 60 or 90 gallon recycling containers. Waste is collected from various grocery stores, florists, restaurants, hotels, and cafeterias (i.e., schools, hospitals, nursing homes). North Tacoma is the target area for the pilot program.
- Introductory pilot period
 - Free service for the first six months
 - Summer collection is two times a week
 - Smaller generators once a week during fall–spring
- Results to-date
 - Customer satisfaction
 - Low contamination rates
 - Average load is 20,000 lbs (10 tons) per collection day during peak season
 - Estimate collecting 800,000 lbs (400 tons) by year end 2010.
- Barriers to participation'
 - Resistance to change
 - Space for containers (restaurants)
 - Introducing an additional cost
 - Training/education (frequent employee turnover in food industry)
- Next steps
 - Generate publicity for program and recognition of participating businesses
 - Evaluate results to analyze costs and rate settings

- Expand routing and service area, second half of 2011
- Test additional compostables (biodegradable food service packaging, bags)

▪ **2011 Legislative Preview**

- There is not lot coming out of the Legislature this year. The Environmental Priorities Coalition should have some larger environmental issues that may be pressed in Olympia: 1) Coal free future - shutting down coal plants at a more expedited timeline; 2) Reducing phosphorus pollution; 3) Budget solutions for our environment; 4) 2011 Clean Water Jobs Act – oil tax/fee on the barrels of oil from manufacturers
- There will be some legislation on improving the State’s capabilities on oil spill response
- The Pierce County Bicycle Coalition (PCBC) will be putting together a local legislative agenda. Most of which is already being done through the Forever Green Council and Tacoma Wheelman Bicycle Club, and will probably be adopted by the PCBC
- TPU has seen two bills that were prefiled: 1) Virtual net metering; and 2) Resubmittal of the energy efficiency appliance (larger TV’s, electronics). Other potential energy bills out of TPU: 1) Community solar program; 2) Decommissioning of the Centralia coal plant; 3) Senate bill to preempt local governments on permitting siting and zoning of small renewable energy facilities; 3) WA Utilities and Transportation Commission to qualify/clarify electric recharging stations

▪ **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Progress Review and Discussion**

Cascadia Consulting will be developing a template for a CAP progress report. The simple progress report will be used as a tool for illustrating to staff, media and elected officials the STC’s ongoing commitment to the CAP. Cascadia worked with a graphics designer to develop two different templates for STC’s review and comment. Members discussed and provided feedback on the preliminary information (wording, pictures, graphs) as to what they would like to see reflected in the final report.

▪ **2011 STC Priorities Brainstorm Session**

Last month, STC subcommittees met with various City staff to work towards identifying the Commissions priorities for 2011. Members will later prioritize items from each subcommittee’s list.

- Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee
 - Prepare for federal funding for sustainable community-type projects through master planning, community and neighborhood level approach to sustainability (downtown transportation plan, eco-districts, closed loop manufacturing)
 - Develop a healthy and sustainable food resolution
 - Develop an open space/urban forestry ordinance
 - Implement an anti-idle initiative
 - Research private development off-site sustainability incentives or requirements
 - Research eliminating parking minimum requirements
- Energy Subcommittee
 - Develop an energy disclosure policy (residents, multi-family, commercial); encourage home buying inspections that educate buyers about energy
 - Research more information on community solar projects
 - Invest in municipal energy tracking software
- Waste Reduction Subcommittee
 - Demolition and deconstruction program
 - Develop a policy/ordinance for mandatory recycling and organic diversion
 - Investigate ban on plastic, paper bags, Styrofoam food packaging

▪ **Staff Report**

- TV Tacoma will be filming a CityScope segment on sustainability with the focus on the Sustainable Tacoma Grant Program. Interviewee’s will be representatives of Stewart Middle School for their community garden program and Point Defiance Elementary School for their “Polar Bears Go Green” program
- The 2011 Transportation Coalition will be held in Olympia on Thursday, February 10

- **Public Comment**

Stephanie Gowing, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce – TacomaActs will be collaborating with The Business Examiner for the Be Green South Sound event “Shift Happens” on Monday, January 31, at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. More information on this event can be found on their website www.begreensouthsound.com.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.