



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: March 8, 2011

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dale Anderson, Elaine Ott, Ken Schmidt

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Nomensen, Liz Norton, Farra Vargas, Kristi Lynett, John O'Loughlin, Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Frank Terrill, Gene Seymour, Dan Dzyacky, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the February 8, 2011 Meeting Notes**

The February 8, 2011 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

• **Review of the March Agenda**

The March agenda was approved.

• **Puget Sound Energy Conservation Programs**

- PSE is a natural gas and electric provider for all of Western Washington, providing natural gas service to approximately 36K residential/commercial customers in Tacoma. Their gas comes primarily from Canada and the Rocky Mountain area.
- PSE is America's second largest generator of wind power. PSE's first wind farm, the Hopkins Ridge Wind Facility, is in Columbia County. The second and largest is the Wild Horse Wind Facility in Kittitas County. In September 2010, PSE had the ground breaking on their Lower Snake River Wind Facility near Pomeroy, WA, which will ultimately be a 343-megawatt wind farm.
- Focus on Energy Efficiency
 - PSE uses energy efficiency as the first resource; it is cheaper to save it then to buy or build energy
 - In 2010, PSE gave out approximately \$496K in natural gas rebates and grants to about 1,300 customers which resulted in
 - 140,000 natural gas therms savings in Tacoma; and
 - 1.6M pounds of avoided CO₂ emissions
- For customers that have multiple properties or really large square footage, PSE has a Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) program where they will help fund part of an FTE to work on energy efficiency programs/projects. PSE will provide all training, services and data analysis tools to look at the customers' energy consumption. Tacoma currently has four (undisclosed) RCM program participants.
- Residential Natural Gas Rebates and Programs
 - Tankless hot water heater – \$150-\$200
 - Boiler heating system – \$350

- Furnace – \$200
- Natural gas fireplace – \$200
- Floor/attic/wall/duct insulation – 50% of cost up to \$200
- Duct sealing – free for qualifying customers
- Contractor referral service to assist customers in finding contractors for energy-related improvement projects
- Commercial Natural Gas Rebates and Programs
 - Natural gas HVAC replacement systems – \$100-\$150 per ton (prequalification required)
 - Commercial clothes washers – \$200 eligible for customers with gas hot water heaters
 - Commercial kitchen equipment – \$125-\$2,500
 - RCM available to school districts, government agencies and large customers with multiple facilities
 - Custom grants – funding up to 70% of installed cost of project resulting in increased energy efficiency
- Energy Efficiency Events
 - PSE provides event support to local organizations in the community. In 2010 they participated in three local events: Cascade Land Conservancy Luncheon, Northwest Trade Ally Network, and WA Innovation Summit. PSE also provides speakers at various community functions for sharing energy efficiency information and advice.
- Natural Gas – A Regional Solution

As a regional solution, natural gas in the region is being used as the marginal resource. Natural gas today is transitioning into being a significant player in electric generation and a significant player in continuing to heat our homes/businesses and water, as well as becoming a bigger part of our transportation solution. PSE is working to determine how much gas generation is needed, and how that interplays with the demand side, as well as the supply side.

 - Significant and immediate emissions reductions (carbon and particulates)
 - Significant fuel savings for homeowners (30%-50% less expensive than other heating sources)
 - A very small percentage of PSEs natural gas is going for transportation fuel
 - In May, PSE will be releasing their next Integrated Resource Plan which is a 20-year plan that defines what the most cost-effective resources are, and energy efficiency is one of those.
- Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) Initiative
 - Tacoma is the recipient of federal stimulus (ARRA) funding, and PSE has worked with the City on projects to improve energy efficiency. One of those projects is the NWCAA Initiative.
 - A great partnership was formed between PSE, City of Tacoma, Pierce County, PSCAA, State Department of Ecology and Health and Tacoma Power, where they address and tackle some of the air quality issues that are of great concern in the region. Wood smoke is a primary contributor to the air quality issue. As a partnership, they have leveraged their dollars and expertise and are working actively to get rid of woodstoves in this area, by replacing them with high-efficiency natural gas or high efficient heat pumps; this action will bring emissions down to a compliant level.
- **Subcommittee Work Plans and 2011 Priorities**

Members entered into open discussion on the subcommittee's 'draft' work plans and 2011 priorities list which was created to set the work of the STC going forward. Some of the suggested plans are itemized by subcommittee:

- Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Subcommittee
 - Healthy and sustainable food system resolution
 - Anti-idle campaign – prior to PSCAA's presentation to the subcommittee, members will want to develop a draft campaign plan, and integrate that with the Outreach Subcommittee.

Another topic of discussion from the LUT meeting was that the COT or STC does not have any *big* sustainability projects waiting for grant funding (i.e., planning for a specific eco-district; planning for a closed-loop industrial center; a downtown transportation plan). Members were asked to think about possible *big* things (new or innovative) that they may have read or heard about that the group may want to place their focus.

- Green Building and Energy Subcommittee
 - Encourage home buying inspections to include energy audits (with a possible added component of providing education to the new homeowner on how they can get the biggest bang for their buck in energy efficiency).
 - Community solar pilot project
 - Work with BLUS on development of Green Building Advocacy Plan
- Outreach Subcommittee
 - Enhance the Sustainability Expo for 2012; advertising needs to be stepped up; Convention Center best venue; website to be established
 - Looking at priorities from the other subcommittees and building outreach events that are relevant to each of those priorities.
 - Targeting the neighborhood councils, where geographically different populations could be reached.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Subcommittee
 - Construction Demolition Program
 - Route efficiencies
 - Mandatory recycling

Suggested next steps for the STC: Flush through the work plans a bit further; assign members to specific tasks and establish a timeline for some of the more major items; assess potential budget dollars (availability: now or in the future); and set the goals for each item. With certain items, there may be a need to do some research and conversations with staff and stakeholders before knowing what a timeline or goal might look. Each subcommittee will meet once more prior to the April meeting to assign members to specific tasks.

- **Sustainability Resolutions Final Review**

The intent of this final review is for the Commission to see any changes made to the three sustainability resolutions (Sustainable Purchasing Resolution; Green Building Policy Resolution; COT Vision of Sustainability Resolution) by the City's Senior Management Team. If the Commission has major concerns with the language in any of the resolutions, they may voice their concerns at their joint meeting with the EPW on April 13. The Commission began their review process discussion.

- **Earth Day Brainstorm**

Various groups have adopted to participate in Earth Day (MetroParks, CHB does a planting, Point Defiance Zoo, etc.). The Commission suggested taking part with a community solar panel presentation in combination with the Tacoma Reads event.

- **Staff Report**

- Pierce Transit Director of Transportation Services, Dan Dzyacky, will be formally appointed to the STC by Council at their March 22 meeting. Dan's appointment will commence with the April 12 meeting.
- There are four STC appointments that are up in April. City staff will be getting out the vacancy announcements.
- Julia Petersen is moving out of the area and must resign with the April 12 STC meeting. A new co-chair will be appointed to replace Julia.
- Does anyone know of any businesses that might want electric vehicles on their properties for public charging? There are free charging stations available through September; it can be on private property but it has to be for public use.
- Several Fred Meyer stores have committed to putting in some new electric charging stations.

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.