



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: September 11, 2012

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Dan Dzyacky, Nick Cutting, Bill Anderson, Karen Hamilton, Phil Coughlan, Kimberlie Lelli, Carol Shiflett

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jane Moore, Ellen Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Slevin, John O'Loughlin, Gary Kato, Lorna Mauren, Jim Parvey, Lewis Griffith, Bill Smith, Kristi Lynett, John Rodgers, Jody Snyder, Jessica Ludwig, Christina Zinkgraf, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the July 10, 2012 Meeting Notes**

The July 10, 2012 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the September Agenda**

The September agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Introductions**

Introductions commenced welcoming newly-appointed STC members, Kimberlee Lelli and Nick Cutting.

▪ **Environmental Services – Mike Slevin and Staff**

The Green Ribbon Task Force put forward several items with regards to compressed natural gas (CNG) and lowering the footprint in Tacoma. Tacoma is well-placed in that within the general fund portion of City government there is solid waste, wastewater and surface water. Unlike most cities, Tacoma has control of their output (housing materials, food, fuel, etc.). Environmental Services' job is to manage the waste materials that are exported, and because the City controls all three utilities it puts them in a unique position to leverage across the utilities (i.e., food waste going into a wastewater digester and using the gas to power garbage trucks).

CNG/Hybrid Initiative for Solid Waste

- One of the target areas for Tacoma is the fuel footprint for the solid waste collection fleet (the City's largest diesel fleet). The City earns 20% biodiesel which is about as high a mix can go. The goal is to move both operationally and mechanically to different systems for reducing the carbon footprint.
- One of the big initiatives for the past two years is the every other week garbage collection program. The collection fleet is currently looking at about a 35% reduction in diesel fuel.
- The City is looking at obtaining four CNG long-haul tractors (collection trucks) as all of the waste for at least the next 20 years will be going out to the 304th Street landfill (57 miles round trip). Historically, some CNG motors do not have the horsepower to handle these heavy loads, but Peterbilt is in the process of producing a newer motor, and the City will be purchasing these newer versions (two in 2013; two in 2014). Eventually all 10 transfer trucks will be CNG.

- Improvements to the solid waste fleet parking area at the landfill are at 30% design. This project includes infrastructure for CNG fueling for the entire fleet.
- Tacoma is also looking at the possibility of a fast-charge (CNG) fuel facility for the public.
- CNG fueling station phasing options are being evaluated to coordinate with the transition of the truck fleet to CNG.
- The City is also looking at hydraulic hybrid-drive trucks for garbage collection. These trucks have been shown to reduce fuel consumption by 40-50%. The first truck with this technology is projected to arrive early 2013. In addition to fuel savings, these trucks have shown reduced maintenance costs, particularly in brakes (not expected to require new brakes for over seven years vs. brakes currently being replaced twice annually). The CNG fueled version of this truck is now being developed, which if proven effective, will allow the City to transition to both CNG and hydraulic hybrid-drive trucks as early as 2014.
- The payback on the hybrid and CNG vehicles are 4-5 years.

Recycled Asphalt Pavement/Shingles

- The City received a (Ecology) \$337.5K grant to cover a portion of the project costs on equipment for the asphalt plant, to allow the use of recycled asphalt shingles in the production of hot-mix asphalt pavement.
- Total project cost is expected to be around \$900K. The use from asphalt material savings should have a payback of about 8-12 years; with a 20-year life on the project.
- Design began this month, with completion by end of 2013.

Organics to Energy Program

- The City's wastewater and solid waste utility are teaming up on waste-to-energy. Roughly 30% of food waste ends up in the landfill. The City is currently working with Waste Connections on putting the residential food waste into our yard waste containers.
- Yet to be addressed is the commercial food waste (schools, restaurants, hospitals, jail, etc.). Staff is looking at putting that food stock into the WWTP; increasing the gas curve. Current programs:
 - Food Waste Preprocessing Pilot – Brown & Caldwell is evaluating preprocessing technologies; prepping food waste for going into the WWTP. Pilot testing of equipment is projected for 1st quarter 2013.
 - Digester Facility Feasibility Study – Kennedy Jenks is evaluating options on how best to utilize the gas, which will include input from fleet, sewer and solid waste. The final report is targeted for 4th quarter 2012.
 - Facility Feasibility Composting Study – CH2MHill is evaluating the options for composting. The City currently has a composting contract for yard waste and food waste mix with Waste Connections, which goes out to the 176th Street composting facility, and a second facility down by Rainier. This study will examine the options for the City to own and operate their own facility on the Tideflats. The current composting contract expires end-of-year 2014; the final report is targeted for 1st quarter 2013.

Residential Food Waste Program – began April 1, 2012

- Introduced ability to include food scraps in yard waste containers
- Education and outreach activities are very instrumental in getting the word out
- Strong support from the public has been expressed at community events
- The Tacoma-Pierce County solid waste plan is pushing the City towards 70% diversion of food waste from the landfill by 2030.

Urban Forestry and Open Space

- Staff worked on development of an urban forestry code. Upon submission of the code to the Planning Commission, the Commission thought it was too prescriptive and asked staff to revisit.
- Staff has decided to step back and take a look at the urban forestry program along with transferring the open space program to the surface water utility. The City is looking at a team partner-building approach between the urban forestry and open space programs. This change will allow maintenance of the programs to be funded through the surface water utility.

- Tree giveaways and training – programs are being developed to assist private residential property owners, residential rights-of-way and public agencies with increasing canopy cover. The mortality rate on tree giveaways is about 80%. The City is looking at ways to reduce the tree mortality rate via training, water bags, free TAGRO pick-up, etc. Coupons for reduced price trees and tree giveaways may be more effective for trees living longer.

Construction/Demolition Debris

The City has completed construction on the transfer station facility. One of the goals is to allow for construction/demolition debris recycling; keeping everything internal to the City utilizing many materials (wood, asphalt shingles, gypsum, carpet, etc.) that are imported for its highest best use.

▪ **Staff Updates**

- Staff presented to EPW, the Commission's thoughts on coal trains in and around the City. There seemed to be some interest from EPW on moving forward on a few items, but was not as broad or all-encompassing as the Commission might want at the present time. The EIS process is one of the best ways the Commission can ensure the impacts of the coal trains are considered; not just the impacts near the terminals, but impacts along the routes and the communities along those routes.
- The City manager will be presenting the proposed budget at the October 2 Council study session. In the past, the Commission has spoken of making sure that their sustainability and ghg reduction efforts that are funded by the Council get a fair hearing during and prior to budget adoption.
- The City's Office of Sustainability has launched their new Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/TacomaSustainability>
- Upcoming events
 - Chicken 101 at the EnviroHouse, Saturday, September 15
 - 3rd annual Community Garden Harvest tour begins at McCarver School, September 15, 10:00-4:00
 - Wake Up for Wapato, Saturday, September 22, 10:00-2:00 (with a mini sustainability expo)
 - American Center for Life Cycle Assessment Conference, September 24-28 at the Hotel Murano.

▪ **2012 Work Plan Updates**

- Co-chair comments to members
The meeting that is attended every month is one part of what the Commission is here to do. Frequently, we will be called upon to provide feedback on items that staff has undertaken, where they look to members to review and provide critical input from a sustainability perspective. Whatever the Commission chooses to focus on will require some additional work to get it accomplished.

In the past, there have been times where the Commission has produced some real substantive work that the Council has acted on; and there have been periods where we have been less productive. The Commission should look to be creative about what we want to do and how we want to do it, and take the actions necessary to get it done.

Council really looks to the Commission, not only to vet items they or staff are considering, but for original ideas on what else the City can do to advance the sustainability culture, in particular the ghg reduction goals. As a Commission, let's take this opportunity to have an impact on our community. It might even require us to come in on days when there is no meeting. One of the Commission's principal goals is to provide outreach to the community about sustainability issues and actions that can be taken. Let's be as generous as we can with our time; whatever we can do – let's try and do it.

- 2012 Work Plan Summary
Staff will send out to members the most recent listing of potential work plan action areas. The Commission will then want to think about their next steps. Goals: 1) ensure the Commission is raising the awareness of sustainability issues in the community; and 2) make recommendations to the Council where they need to act.

▪ **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- Life Cycle Inventory Data – Bill Smith
- Potential Direction on Coal Trains
- 2012 Work Plan Action Items

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.