



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: October 8, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Coughlan, Nick Cutting, Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Carol Shiflett, Agnes Pate, Alyssa Illich, Karen Hamilton

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Dzyacky, Chrissy Cooley, Ellen Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Paige Cureton, Kelly Stickney, Ken Campbell, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Lisa Rennie, Jessica Ludwig, Michael Johnson, Catherine Taylor

▪ **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 MEETING NOTES**

The September 10, 2013 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **REVIEW OF THE OCTOBER AGENDA**

The October agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **GHG INVENTORY BRIEFING**

Bill Smith worked on the first ghg inventory in 2006/2007 using 2005 data, while at the same time obtaining 2000 data. Recently, staff has hired a grad student, who for the last 3-4 months, has been using the same software that Bill used (though 5 yrs. older) to conduct two different levels of analysis. In some areas he can obtain more refined data that would be more accurate, but not necessarily more comparable. The thought is to screen out and compare those areas of data that we currently have from 2000 and 2005, but then also get the real (accurate/complete) data. The software has a community inventory which is everything in the City in terms of municipal, residential, commercial and industrial. There is a municipal inventory which includes General Government and TPU (emissions for City buildings, fleets, employee commuting, streetlights/signals, wastewater treatment plant, etc.). All of the municipals are included in the community inventory. A draft of a more detailed ghg inventory report will go out to members prior to next months' meeting.

▪ **RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM (SUSTAINABLE WORKS)**

SustainableWorks (SW) is a community energy efficiency program helping homeowners save energy and lower their carbon footprint while creating quality jobs. Their statewide accomplishments to-date include: completed 2,400 energy audits and 800 home retrofits, created 55 FTE jobs, saved 2,000 tons of carbon and 5 million kw energy hours. SW was funded in 2009 by the WA State Legislature; their grant funds are managed by the WSU Energy Extension Program. They are one in seven non-profits statewide and are the non-profit for Pierce County, while also providing services in King, Snohomish, and Spokane Counties. SustainableWorks provides education and training, workforce development, home energy assessments/retrofits, financing and incentive programs. Home energy assessments (\$95), consists of SW staff spending 3-4 hours with each homeowner to assess how their home uses energy, recommend cost-effective ways to save energy, discuss incentives and financing options. SW will manage the homeowners' project from start to finish, with the average

project costs between \$2K and \$8K. Their Tacoma office was opened spring 2013 and is located in Freighthouse Square. SustainableWorks will be hosting a home energy efficiency fair on Wednesday, November 20, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, UPS/Rasmussen Rotunda.

▪ **COMMUNITY PROPOSAL FOR PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE**

Ken Campbell of Surfrider Foundation spoke to members on plastic bags. He indicated it takes the equivalent of 400,000 gallons of oil a year to make the plastic bags that are used in Tacoma (81.3 million bags/yr.). Thurston County recently voted to ban plastic bags because their contractor, LeMay, has 60 tons of plastic bags and will no longer accept them for recycling. In terms of the political environment, it is only a matter of time before plastic bags will no longer be a part of the shopping experience. Plastic bag bans continue in Tumwater, Mukilteo, Issaquah, Bellingham, Seattle, Portland, and LA County. Ken was quoted as saying “reusable bags are the only solution.”

▪ **STAFF UPDATES**

- October 11, Tacoma will be the first (nationwide) STAR community!!!
- Fossil Fuel Divestment letter will go to IPS - October 9, 4:30 pm
- Kristi and the City's finance director will attend the Fossil Fuel Divestment Forum in Seattle, hosted by Mayor McGinn
- Greenroads Policy meeting – October 15, 4:30 pm
- Materials Management Resolution – Co-chair Coughlan requested clarification from Jim Parvey on the 70% diversion goal as outlined in the September 10 meeting notes.
- Kristi and five City staff will be going to Virginia Tech on an Environmental Sustainable Management System (ESMS) Scholarship. They will be trained on how to develop an environmental sustainability management system and acquire system certification.
- Staff will send information to members on getting their names posted to the Transportation Commission ListServe.
- First meeting on the 2014 Sustainability Expo will take place next month.
- Last month several members met with Planning Department staff. When audited, the Planning Department will focus on sustainability. And, any future Planning Department hires, all candidates will be asked specific questions re: LEED Certification.
- Co-chair Cutting plans to work with staff on making WA the first lifecycle state.
- Tacoma 2030 District is a private/public partnership, with the focus on reducing energy use, water use and transportation for commercial buildings. Co-chair Cutting is working on this project and has approached the Seattle group (first 2030 district) for additional information.

▪ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Johnson of Poly Bag LLC provided members with several noteworthy items on his portrayal of plastic bags and plastic bag bans around the NW.

▪ **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**

GHG emissions
2014 Sustainability Expo
STAR

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.