



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: September 10, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Dzyacky, Nick Cutting, Ellen Moore, Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Agnes Pate, Alyssa Illich

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Phil Coughlan, Jane Moore, Karen Hamilton, Carol Shiflett,

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Knickerbocker, Jim Parvey, Lisa Rennie, Steve Bicker, Nicolas Garcia, Chris Robinson, Travis Metcalf, Kristin Lynett, Chris Larson, Emily Strong, Jessica Ludwig, Christine Cooley, Jana Fischback, Catherine Taylor

▪ **APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 13, 2013 MEETING NOTES**

The August 13, 2013 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA**

The September agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **INTRODUCTIONS**

Co-Chair Nick Cutting welcomed new STC members Alyssa Illich and Agnes Pate, and asked for self-introductions.

▪ **GREENROADS UPDATE – JESSICA KNICKERBOCKER**

An update was given on Greenroads, what they are and how they benefit the City. Greenroads is a sustainability ranking system for roadway design and construction. Similar to LEEDS, the Greenroads program awards credits for each approved practice; the program is also weighted, giving more points for best practices. Greenroads Foundation is a non-profit organization developed by UW and CH2M Hill and is based on industrial, local and DOT research. Greenroads helps the City more fully implement some of the planning documents they already have: complete streets, climate action plan, sustainability purchasing policy and sustainability vision. It provides an opportunity for the City to have peerless leadership in sustainable transportation, requires interdepartmental communication as well as more efficient projects (life cycle cost analysis, site maintenance plans, new pavement technologies). Recent Greenroads projects include: Clay Huntington Way, Wapato Lake Drive, Asotin Court, Alaska St. (56th-72nd) arterial improvements and Cheney Stadium Stormwater project.

Next steps: Staff has started the process in working towards Tacoma becoming a Greenroads city. This involves establishing City goals, developing Greenroads tools and standards, and educating staff on how to implement. The Commission agreed to create a Greenroads subcommittee in support of these efforts.

▪ **TACOMA POWER UPDATE AND OVERVIEW – CHRIS ROBINSON AND LISA RENNIE**

TPU gave a presentation on who they are, what they do and how they plan for their resources, specifically conservation and renewables. TPU's core business functions are generation, power management, transmission & distribution and customer service. TPU serves a 180 sq. mile territory with approx. 172K customers, and are all hydroelectric - owning 4 hydroelectric projects; and as a result, have a very low carbon footprint relative to the rest of the nation and WA state (97% non-carbon emitting resources for Tacoma). Integrated Resource Planning entails a yearlong process of analysis where they look at the demand for power over time and the current supply of resources to determine when new resources are needed, what resources to acquire and in what amount.

WA statute requires utilities to acquire all cost-effective conservation. It's a target that's adopted by the Public Utility Board and reported to the Dept. of Commerce; the utilities assume a fine if targets are not met. Achievements are audited by the state auditor; any complaints go directly to the attorney general who assigns the fines.

WA Renewable Portfolio Standard (I-937) requires the utility to meet an annual renewable target based on the average amount of electricity delivered to retail customers over the previous 2 years. Hydro, while renewable, is not an "eligible" renewable resource. Incremental Hydro is defined as a hydroelectric generation project efficiency improvement, completed after March 31, 1999, owned by a qualifying Pacific NW utility, and is not the result in new water diversions or impoundments (Cushman Dam).

TPU supports renewables by 1) selling surplus generation as balancing power into the wholesale power market; 2) selling balancing reserves to Iberdrola Renewables LLC; 3) purchasing renewable energy credits; and 4) providing local net-metering services.

The Customer Usage Automation project was approved by TPU/IT Governance Board and given the highest priority. Project has been fully staffed - next steps: business process design and functional/technical requirements (10/2013); interface created (11/2013); testing completed (12/2013); training delivered (1/2014); go live (2/2014)

▪ **MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT POLICY UPDATE – JIM PARVEY**

This was a follow-up from the August meeting to talk about the Sustainable Materials Management resolution. The discussed changes were made to the document. What we wanted to emphasize, is that we would develop the metrics and procedures for doing that in the course of the study over the next 6-8 months. The key is to ensure there's an annual report to the Council and Commission on the status, which provides the incentive to make sure there is progress every year. One of the concerns was that the actual statement in the Solid Waste Comp Plan says that it's a 70% diversion, but what's really needed to be targeted is a per capita production. Next step: presentation to IPS.

▪ **COMMISSION WORK PLAN PRIORITIES UPDATE**

The draft letter of recommendations from the STC to the PDS Department staff was reviewed by members. Co-chair Nick Cutting gave a brief summary on the discussion with PDS staff at their August 21st meeting: 1) it was suggested they meet every quarter for an update; 2) it was strongly recommended they hire employees with extensive training or experience in LEED AP or Sustainable Building Advisor certification; and 3) mentioned the need for improvements to their Green Tools website.

▪ **STAFF UPDATES**

- Applied for and received a scholarship to train staff on how to prepare environmental and sustainability management systems (ESMS at Virginia Tech)
- Staff sent the divestment letter to IPS last week. IPS thought it appropriate to have the Government, Performance & Finance (GPF) Committee review the letter, as well.
- STAR – staff are working diligently, getting lots of data; still on track to submit within the next 3-4 weeks.
- Staff is still waiting for the last piece of data to do the ghg inventory update.
- Jane Moore has needed to resign from the Commission.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

- **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**

GHG Inventory Update
Proposition 1

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.