



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

Date: January 14, 2014

Commission Members Present: Phil Coughlan, Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Agnes Pate, Ellen Moore, Alyssa Ilich, Karen Hamilton

Commission Members Excused: Dan Dzyacky, Carol Shiflett, Chrissy Cooley, Nick Cutting

Others Present: Wayne Ballew, Kristin Lynett, Emily Strong, Bill Smith, Jim Parvey, Bob Mack, Scott Heller, Catherine Taylor

- **Approval of the December 10, 2013 Meeting Notes**

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

- **Review of the January Agenda**

The January agenda was reviewed and approved.

- **Puget Sound Energy Program Update – Wayne Ballew, Efficiency Outreach Coordinator**

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is WA's oldest and largest energy utility, and is regulated by the WA State Utilities and Transportation Commission. They have approximately 1.1M electric and 760K natural gas customers, with 37K residential and commercial customers in Tacoma.

Members were introduced to some of PSE's energy-efficiency programs, as well as a few rebate programs.

- **HomePrint Assessment Program**

Free home energy audits for single-family homes. The service is done by an independent PSE-qualified energy specialist and will provide homeowners with a better understanding of their home's basic energy consumption and cost-effective ways to use less energy. Renters are also eligible for the program. A pre-screened contractor referral list is made available to PSE customers for a variety of energy efficient and home improvement projects

- **Commercial Custom Grant Program**

Provides the customer with custom incentives to provide funding up to 70% of the installed cost for any energy-efficient project, resulting in increased efficiency of electric or natural gas-fueled equipment. Grant funds can help support efficiency retrofits and upgrades on existing facilities, new construction and expansion of existing facilities.

- **Carbon Balance Program**

Provides a way for residential customers to purchase carbon offset blocks at \$4 each, monthly. One block is equivalent to removing 400 lbs of carbon dioxide from the environment. The average residential customer can make their natural gas use carbon neutral for \$8/month. PSE purchases carbon offsets through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The carbon offsets are sourced from a methane bio-digester in Outlook, WA. This bio-digester does 1.7M lbs of carbon annually (17K carbon offsets).

- **Residential rebates**
 - Replacement windows (\$75 per window, up to \$1,000)
 - Forced-air gas furnaces, \$250
 - Gas fireplaces, \$200
 - Home insulation, up to \$2,200
- **Commercial rebates**
 - Kitchen equipment (fryers, ovens, dishwashers, etc.), \$100 to \$2,000
 - Clothes washers, \$200

PSE's energy advisor line (1-800-562-1482) and website (www.pse.com) are available for additional program/rebate information.

- **Commission Neighborhood Outreach**

Members will be contacting each of the City's eight Neighborhood Council chairs to schedule brief presentations at their February meetings. The presentations will provide information to the communities on the Sustainable Works Program, Puget Sound Energy efficiency programs, 2014 Sustainability Expo, GHG Emission Inventory, STAR program, and Woodsmoke Reduction Program.

- **Sustainability Expo Planning Update**

- An Expo planning meeting is scheduled for Jan. 15 at 5:00 pm. Twenty vendors are currently registered for the event with plans for additional outreach (target of 75). It was requested that members email staff with suggestions for potential vendors. The recently formed Transportation Commission will be involved, as well as Downtown On the Go and ZipCar.
- Screen printing will be made available to anyone bringing their own t-shirts
- There will be showings of short sustainability films, craft events for kids and families, and the Farmer's Market is returning!
- Members were asked to assist in hanging Expo posters around the City. There are sign-ups going out to members and staff for those wanting to volunteer their services for set-up/take-down, exit surveys, information booth, or vendor support.

- **Tacoma's Biggest (Carbon) Loser Update**

- Members are currently scheduling their videos with Ellen's students, who have volunteered as videographers for the project. Staff is working with members to obtain their bio's, which will be posted with their videos. For the next series, members will be videoed showing themselves making the changes (e.g., Ellen biking on Yakima Ave.).
- Staff is hoping to get the first videos out by Jan. 24, and have a YouTube channel by the last week of January, in which each person would have their own series on the channel; then link to the YouTube channel from the City webpage. The remaining videos will be finalized the second and third weeks of February.

- **Staff Updates**

- Walking and Bicycling Forum, Jan. 29, 6:00 pm at Tacoma Public Library, Olympic Room
- Bliss and Phil were in attendance at the Jan. 8 IPS meeting where staff presented to Council a summary of the STCs 2013 accomplishments and 2014 goals
- STAR is indoctrinating their next 20 communities in Florida next month, and Kristi has been invited to make a presentation on Tacoma's STAR program
- TPU staff will provide an update on their new software program at a future meeting.
- Kristi will be giving a presentation to Council on STAR, Jan 21. at Noon, TMBN Rm 16
- The February meeting will include updates on the Comprehensive Plan Code Amendments

- **Public Comment**

Bob Mack gave a quick briefing on some potential Bills coming out of the Legislature. TPU staff will provide members with a more detailed report on each Bill.

- **Objective for Next Meeting**

Comprehensive Plan Code Amendment Updates

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.