



DATE: April 15, 2008

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

VIA: Sandra L. Kerl, City Manager *SK*
 Gregory P. Humora, Director of Public Works/City Engineer *GPH*

FROM: Scott A. Munzenmaier, Administrative Analyst I *SM*

SUBJECT: Update on La Mesa's Climate Protection Actions

At the April 10, 2007 City Council meeting, the Council approved a resolution endorsing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and directed staff to report back after one year on the City's actions towards climate protection. The following actions are listed as they relate to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement passed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2005:

1. Inventory Global Warming Emissions In City Operations

- The City is complying with Air Pollution Control Board regulations, including inventorying and cataloging the City's fleet.
- The City is replacing older backup generators with cleaner, more efficient units at the new Fire and Police facilities.
- **New** – The City Council established the Environmental/Sustainable Ad Hoc Committee comprised of members from environmentally linked industries and the general public to address issues and establish guidelines related to global warming.
- **New** – By attending two sessions of The San Diego Regional Climate Forecast: Where We Are and Where We Are Going in conjunction with the National Conversation on Climate Action, staff worked with other members of the community and representatives of industry and government to examine the issues of climate change on a regional scale and develop recommendations for future action.
- **New** – Staff attended a seminar on green purchasing hosted by the County of San Diego to learn about options for supporting environmentally friendly activities through City purchasing and contracts.

2. Land-Use Policies

- The General Plan includes land-use policies to reduce urban sprawl, preserve open space, and create a more compact urban community.
- **New** – The Mixed Use Overlay Zone adopted by the City Council on April 8, 2008 supports compact urban development and pedestrian oriented neighborhoods.

3. Transportation

- Through the General Plan, the City encourages non-automobile transportation such as more sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian-friendly zones.
- The City is working with developers and the transit authority to develop a major residential project at the Grossmont trolley station and staff worked with MTDB to construct the new station on Alvarado Road along a major transit corridor.
- **New** – A Sidewalk Master Plan was approved by the City Council on January 1, 2008. This will lead to new sidewalk construction where it is most needed, improving the walkability of the community.
- **New** – The City's first mid-block crosswalk was installed on Center Drive next to Grossmont Hospital.

4. Clean Energy

- The landfills used by the City's contract waste hauler, EDCO Disposal Corporation, utilize methane recovery energy programs.
- **New** – Through workshops provided by the California Center for Sustainable Energy, the City is learning about how carbon management, such as carbon credits and regulatory actions, is emerging and what impact it may have on industry and government.
- **New** – Solar powered radar feedback signs were installed on Fletcher Parkway and Amaya Drive.
- **New** – The mid-block crosswalk on Center Drive is solar powered.

5. Energy Efficiency

- All new City buildings meet California energy standards.
- Fluorescent lighting has been installed in all City facilities.
- The City has retrofitted all traffic signals with green and red LED (light-emitting diode) lights to reduce electricity costs and promote conservation.
- **New** – In a partnership with the City of Chula Vista and utilizing a grant from SDG&E, the energy-efficiency program Empower Partnership exchanged 500 incandescent bulbs for efficient compact fluorescent bulbs at local businesses.

6. Appliance Efficiency

- The City currently purchases Energy Star compliant equipment and technology.

7. Green Building Designs

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards are incorporated into the design of the new police station and a cool roof on a portion of the Community Center.

- LEED certification is encouraged and the Grossmont Trolley Court Apartment development has registered for certification.
- Through the City's Design Review process, new development is encouraged to incorporate energy conservation and green building concepts at the early stages of project development.

8. Fleet Fuel Efficiency

- The City owns two hybrid vehicles for use by the City's building inspectors which reduce the fuel needed for local use.
- As City vehicles are replaced, fuel efficiency and reduced emissions will be important criteria in selecting replacement vehicles and equipment.
- **New** – The City retrofitted three diesel vehicles to reduce emissions and was awarded a grant for three others – a paver, loader, and backhoe – that comply with the State's Tier 3 requirements.

9. Wastewater Treatment

- Wastewater treatment processes at the Point Loma Treatment Plant include a methane recovery energy program. The treatment process is a net energy producer.
- The City continues to promote water conservation measures in existing facilities and new development in the community.
- **New** – Irrigation upgrades were completed in the medians on Baltimore Drive and Lake Murray Boulevard resulting in more efficient water use and reduced run-off.
- **New** – As part of the City's storm water pollution prevention efforts, Public Works staff coordinated the installation of two kiosks in City parks and participated in the Creek to Bay Cleanup and Coastal Cleanup Day events in which the City hosted a total of four cleanup sites.
- **New** – Storm water programs and ordinances were updated to comply with an updated storm water permit.
- **New** - Utilizing the Empower Partnership with the City of Chula Vista, kitchen sink spray valves were exchanged for low-flow pre-rinse spray valves at local restaurants.

10. Increased Recycling

- Recycling and diversion rates are being improved in partnership with EDCO and with funding from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and California Department of Conservation through the implementation and expansion of recycling programs.
- City facility recycling is encouraged and employees are provided accessible recycling receptacles.

- **New** – In the recently submitted 2006 Annual Report to the CIWMB, our estimated rate of diverting materials out of landfills increased to 54 percent.
- **New** – Recycling containers have been installed in the downtown village as well as Harry Griffen Regional and La Mesita Parks.
- **New** – Enforcement of the mandatory recycling ordinance has been enacted and approximately 500 notices were mailed to non-compliant multi-family properties and commercial businesses.
- **New** – 100,000 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected from 782 residents during six collection events during 2007.
- **New** – The City was represented at two conferences; one by the California Resource Recovery Association focusing on recycling and waste reduction, and the other by the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association which addressed household hazardous waste handling and reduction.

11. Promoting Urban Forests

- The General Plan encourages use of greenery in design.
- The City has been recognized as a Tree City USA since 1980.
- Shade tree programs are offered to residents through the California Center for Sustainable Energy.

12. Public Education

- Energy conservation information is provided by the City and SDG&E on La Mesa's website.
- Through implementation of the California Building Codes, many homeowners are assisted by the Building Department in learning about ways to improve energy efficiency.
- **New** – In four FOCUS issues there have been 27 pieces related to environmental topics including recycling, conservation, household hazardous waste, used oil recycling, storm water, the Walkable Community program, park clean-ups, and building and urban design.
- **New** – Staff participated in an on-line training session provided by Energy Star, Promoting Energy Efficiency to Your Community.