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## Sustainability Task Force

A Committee of the Chico City Council  
Vice Mayor Schwab, Chair

Meeting of July 23, 2007 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Conference Room No. 1

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    - 1) *Purpose*
    - 2) *Mission Statement*
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# Sustainability Task Force Work Plan

## Step 1

**Review purpose of board/commission as defined by the CMC or Council action.**

The purpose and function of the Sustainability Task Force include:

- 1) Make decisions and/or recommendations, for City Council adoption, on initiatives that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously meeting environmental, economic and community needs now and in the future;
- 2) Formulate recommendations, for City Council adoption regarding implementation of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement; and
- 3) Assist in the preparation of Sustainability Element of the City's long-term general plan.

## Step 2

**Develop or review a mission statement that reflects that purpose.**

The Sustainability Task Force shall create a culture of stewardship to preserve our natural resources, protect our economic interests and improve our quality of life for present and future generations in the City of Chico by collaboratively developing programs and initiatives which will distinguish Chico as a leader in sustainability efforts.

## Step 3

**Discuss any priorities already established in 2006 by Council.**

The City Council asked the Sustainability Task Force to be established to assist in the implementation of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

### Brainstorm goals, priorities of the Task Force

1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and the community, set reductions targets and create an action plan.
  - A. Conduct baseline inventories
    - 1) Conduct a baseline inventory of global warming pollutants using ICLEI software
    - 2) Encourage community members to conduct personal ecological footprint
    - 3) Conduct SCORE assessment
  - B. Establish a target to lower emissions
    - 1) Reduce emissions by a minimum of 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. (US Mayor's)
    - 2) Reduction target of global warming pollution at 15% or higher within a 10 year period (option)
  - C. Develop a local Climate Action Plan (CAP) to implement actions that reduce global warming pollution
    - 1) Energy management
    - 2) Transportation
    - 3) Waste Reduction
    - 4) Land Use
    - 5) Education and Outreach

Index key to Work Plan -  
*Green italicized text* - City is currently doing  
Red underlined text - proposed changes

D. Implement the local Climate Action Plan

- 1) Government projects proposed using a Sustainable Action Map (SAM), based on City of Olympia model

E. Measure, verify and report performance  
Annual assessment and report

2. Energy Management

A. Green Power

1) Government Measures

Short Term

- Purchase green electricity from solar, geothermal, wind or hydroelectric sources
- Purchase green tags/renewable energy certificates

Long Term

- *Install solar panels on municipal facilities*
- Generate electricity from landfill or wastewater methane or refuse

2) Community Measures

Short Term

- Promote community clean energy use through green power purchasing or on-site renewable

Long Term

- Offer incentives to foster solar photovoltaic installations in the community
- Implement a form of community choice aggregation

B. Energy Efficiency

1) Government Measures

Short Term

- Install energy efficient exit sign lighting
- *Perform energy-efficient building lighting retrofits*
- Institute a “lights out at night” policy
- Institute a “lights out when not in use” policy
- Install building/office occupancy sensors
- Purchase only ENERGY STAR equipment and appliances for City use. Negotiate prices by purchasing in bulk where feasible.

Long Term

- Conduct SCORE assessment
- Conduct an energy audit of municipal facilities
- Implement energy tracking and management system
- Perform heating, cooling and ventilation system retrofits (e.g. chillers, boilers, fans, pumps, belts, fuel-switching from electric to gas heating)
- Install ENERGY STAR appliances – and require this and the following in specs/purchasing RFP’s
- Install green or reflective roofing
- Improve water pumping energy efficiency
- *Install energy-efficient street lights (e.g. high pressure sodium)*
- Decrease average daily time for street light operation

2) Community Measures

Short Term

- Adopt stringent residential or commercial energy code requirements
- Promote energy conservation through campaigns targeted at residents and businesses

Long Term

- Implement a low-income weatherization program
- Implement district heating and cooling

- Implement time-of-use or peak demand energy pricing
- Install energy-efficient co-generation power production facilities
- Launch an “energy efficiency challenge” campaign for community residents
- Promote participation in a local green business program
- Promote the purchase of ENERGY STAR appliances
- Promote water conservation through technological and behavioral modification
- [Promote use of ground source heat pumps](#)

### C. Green Building

#### 1) Government Measures

##### Short Term

- Encourage/Sponsor city staff to become LEED Accredited Professionals

##### Long Term

- Require new construction projects to be LEED certified
- Require all retrofit projects to become LEED certified

#### 2) Community Measures

##### Short Term

- Provide green building information to the public
- Share the efforts and knowledge of the city’s green building resources

##### Long Term

- Encourage incentives or mandate developers to construct LEED certified or ENERGY STAR HOMES

### 3. Transportation

#### 1) Government Measures

##### Short Term

- Encourage car-pooling, van-pooling, and mass transit use by municipal employees
- Encourage telecommuting for municipal employees
- Restrict idling of municipal vehicles
- *Station police offices on bicycles*

##### Long Term

- Retire old and under-used vehicles
- Use car sharing programs in lieu of a city fleet
- *Purchase fuel-efficient (e.g. Hybrid) and/or smaller fleet vehicles*
- *Utilize fuel-efficient vehicles( e.g. scooters) for parking enforcement*
- *Utilize alternative fuel vehicles (bio-diesel, ethanol, electric, compressed natural gas) for city fleet*

#### 2) Community Measures

##### Short Term

- Promote commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car and van pooling, and public transit
- Restrict idling at public facilities
- *Improve traffic signal synchronization*
- Open local government alternative fueling stations to public

##### Long Term

- [Provide free parking for electric vehicles](#)
- Promote community purchases of compact and hybrid vehicles
- Help bring car sharing programs to the community
- Implement bicycles and pedestrian infrastructure programs
- Provide electric plug-in stations for freight vehicles at truck stops or boat marinas and ports

#### 4. Waste Reduction

##### A. Recycling and Waste Reduction

###### 1) Government Measures

###### Short Term

- *Establish/expand recycling programs*
- *Implement organics and yard debris collection and composting*

###### Long Term

- Establish system for reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials for government construction projects
- Implement environmentally preferable purchasing program
- Establish a methane collection system for your landfill or consider a waste-to-energy facility for your community

###### 2) Community Measures

###### Short Term

- *Establish/expand recycling programs and set aggressive recycling targets/goals*
- Educate the public about existing programs to boost compliance
- Implement penalties for non-compliance with recycling programs

###### Long Term

- *Implement organics and yard debris collections and composting*
- Establish system for reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials
- Implement solid waste reduction programs
- Establish requirements for “Big Box” companies to recycle building when they relocate

##### B. Water and Wastewater Management

###### 1) Government Measures

###### Short Term

- Install variable frequency drives for water pumps
- Install energy efficient motors into equipment
- Make heating, cooling, and ventilation improvements in these facilities

###### Long Term

- Establish methane recovery systems in local wastewater treatment plants
- Install an anaerobic digester at the wastewater treatment facility and optimize the co-generation potential of this technology
- Establish guidelines for drought tolerant landscaping
- Install grey water recovery systems

###### 2) Community Measures

###### Short Term

- None suggested

###### Long Term

- None suggested
- Establish guidelines for drought tolerant landscaping
- Install grey water recovery systems
- Establish guidelines for big commercial users of wastewater treatment

#### 5. Land Use Management and Urban Forestry

###### 1) Government Measures

###### Short Term

- *Plant shade trees in and around local government parking lots and facilities*
- Conduct tree inventory
- Create tree ordinance to promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb Co2

Long Term

- Co-locate facilities to reduce travel time and maximize building use
- Utilize brownfield sites where possible.

2) Community Measures

Short Term

- *Maintain healthy urban forests and street trees*
- *Promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO2*

Long Term

- Take active role in developing Sustainability element of General plan
- Preserve open space
- Promote high-density in-fill development through zoning policies
- Institute growth boundaries, ordinances or programs to limit suburban sprawl.
- Give incentives and bonuses for development in existing downtown areas and areas near public transportation
- Encourage brownfield development
- Discourage sprawl through impact, facility, mitigation, and permit fees

· 6. Education and Outreach – to be included in all categories

·

· 1) Government Measures

Short Term

- Educate city staff about reducing global warming pollution and its importance to their work and the city's mission
- Institute incentive program for city staff to suggest/implement Sustainability initiatives

Long Term

- None suggested

2) Community Measures

Short Term & Long Term

- Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business, and industry about reducing global warming pollution
- Promote Sustainable art projects
- Support non-profit organization efforts to promote sustainability in community grants
- Provide venue for speaker series/brown bag events
- Develop City Sustainability web site with green resources



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A Committee of the Chico City Council  
Vice Mayor Schwab, Chair

Meeting of July 23, 2007 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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