



Planning Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date: 03/01/18

TO: Planning Commission

File: STF

FROM: Brendan Vieg, Deputy Director, CDD (brendan.vieg@chicoca.gov)

RE: SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

REPORT IN BRIEF

At its June 6, 2016 meeting, the Commission received an update regarding the efforts of the Sustainability Task Force (STF). Staff offered to provide the Commission an annual update moving forward. **Attachment A** is an annual update memorandum to Council from STF Chair Mark Stemen dated January 31, 2018. It includes the STF's 2017 accomplishments and the upcoming year's work plan. Chair Stemen and staff will provide a verbal update to the Commission and be available for questions.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Director recommends that Commission consider the STF's 2018 Work Plan and the presentation, and provide feedback.

ATTACHMENT

STF Annual Update to Council dated 01/31/18

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CITY OF CHICO MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council DATE: January 31, 2018
FROM: Mark Stemen, STF Chair FILE: STF File
SUBJECT: Sustainability Task Force Annual Update

In November 2012, the City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which identifies actions to be taken by the City and the community to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 25% below 2005 levels by 2020. The City's goal is consistent with State efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases linked to climate change. In 2013, Council appointed a Sustainability Task Force (STF) to function as a "working committee" to lead the City's implementation of the CAP, and directed staff to work with the ad hoc committee as needed.

The CAP is broken up into Phase I and Phase 2 actions. Phase I actions are to be implemented prior to 2015 and are projected to reduce GHG emissions to 10% below 2005 levels, with the remaining 15% of the 25% goal to be achieved in Phase 2 between the years 2016 and 2020. A majority of the CAP's actions have been implemented, are underway, or are ongoing.

The STF has been meeting regularly over the past four years to review and prioritize CAP actions and other opportunities that might reduce GHG emissions for implementation.

2017 Accomplishments and Updates

The STF met nine times in 2017. Below are key accomplishments and updates:

- Established Work Plan priorities, and developed a meeting schedule and presenters' list.
- STF Chair Stemen provided the City Council an overview of the STF's 2017 Work Plan at its 02/21/17 meeting. Council provided general support for the STF's efforts. Chair Stemen also provided an update to the Planning Commission.
- Kicked off the Chico Sustainability Facebook presence, completed a "mobile friendly" transition of the City's Sustainability website, and increased the website's use as an information hub for how residents and businesses can reduce their environmental footprint, save money, and help the City achieve its GHG emissions reduction goal.
- In 2016, the STF coordinated with Community Development Director DePaola regarding new building code requirements that might help the City achieve its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.

The effort resulted in a draft ordinance that would require a homeowner to install basic energy efficiency measures (e.g., ceiling insulation, weather stripping, etc.) throughout the home if the residential remodel exceeded 50% of the existing floor area of the structure.

The draft ordinance closely mirrors the City's Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance, which requires similar energy efficiency upgrades at the time of sale of a home. In its review of the proposed ordinance, the City Attorney determined that while the City is allowed to adopt energy standards that are more stringent than statewide standards, the adoption must be accompanied by a "cost-effectiveness" study.

The STF and staff subsequently coordinated with PG&E to develop the appropriate study (at no cost to the City), and staff met with both the Chico Association of Realtors and the North Valley Property Owners Association to review the study and draft ordinance. The residential remodel retrofit ordinance will be brought to Council for action later in 2018.

The STF was the key driver in the creation of this 'special' study that can be used by other communities throughout the State.

- Partnered with the Chamber, Sierra Nevada Brewery, and local businesses to host the 3rd Sustainable Business Expo/Happy Hour at the Sierra Nevada Big Room. The Expo engaged and connected area businesses with information (e.g., rebates), inspiration, and motivation to incorporate and expand sustainable business practices.
- In 2017, the STF engaged CivicSpark to develop a community challenge, the Million Watt Challenge ("Challenge"), to foster a positive and healthy change in peoples' behavior, engage the community in reducing energy use, and educate residents about the benefits of reducing GHG emissions. The Challenge was a partnership between the City, North Valley Energy Watch, Chico Chamber, and the Chico News & Review. The purpose of the Challenge was to engage the community in taking steps toward reducing their GHG emissions, with a specific objective of building on the City's streetlight and facilities lighting retrofit by replacing a million watts of inefficient lighting community-wide. The community participated in the Challenge by visiting an outreach booth, checking out a DIY Home Energy Saving Toolkit from City Hall or the local library, and by taking a survey.

Over 1,600,000 watts of old lighting were replaced with LEDs. This number combines data from the City's streetlight retrofit and municipal facilities, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Chico Mall, LEDs given away as prizes at the outreach booth, DIY Toolkits, and the survey.

In addition to direct reductions in energy savings, the effort built engagement in energy conservation and climate action through sustained promotion of and visibility for sustainability in the community. Outreach efforts included tabling the Challenge Booth at over thirty-five local events to promote energy efficiency to thousands of community members, three residential energy efficiency workshops in Chico's older neighborhoods, prize raffles, and co-hosting the Sustainable Business Expo/Happy Hour at Sierra Nevada Brewery. The Challenge became a successful community story, and was featured in five local newspaper articles and through weekly social media updates, further elevating awareness and engagement in energy conservation.

Challenge Sponsors included CalWater, Sierra Nevada Brewing, Waste Management, Sustainability Management Association, Recology, Chico Heat, United Sun Energy, and Chico Velo.

- In collaboration with Butte County, submitted a proposal to the Local Government Commission's CivicSpark program for a full-year Fellow to coordinate with CSU, Chico to develop a draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment that identifies risks climate change poses to the community, and also prepare draft adaptation and resiliency goals, policies, and objectives. Per State requirements, this information will be incorporated into the Safety Element of the City's General Plan.
- Participated in the BCAG-led development of the Butte Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan. The Plan will identify future PEV infrastructure for the community, make the region eligible for grant funding, and help meet GHG emission reduction targets.
- Accepted resignation of STF member Mike Rubio, and requested that Council appoint additional STF members. With only five STF members, the STF has suspended its sub-committee meetings.
- Discussed the importance of the *We Are Still In* movement, which is a coalition of US economic, education, and local government leaders that committed to continue to abide by the Paris Agreement regardless of America's withdrawal.

- Held special meetings with community sustainability partners, including:

Bicycle Infrastructure: City staff and Chico Velo provided updates on numerous local efforts to promote and enhance bicycle use, including status of the City's Bicycle Master Plan Update, City receipt of the Bicycle Friendly Community Gold Award, creation of a Bike & Pedestrian Working Group, and numerous bicycle infrastructure projects.

Chico's Educational Institutions: CSU, Chico, Butte College, and CUSD provided updates on completed and planned efforts of those institutions to reduce GHG emissions.

Chico's Urban Forest: Charles Withuhn (Chico Tree Advocates) and Chico Urban Forester Richie Bamlet provided updates on ongoing and future efforts to improve the health of Chico's urban forest, the importance of trees in reducing greenhouse gases, and how a shaded community is adaptive and resilient to warming temperatures.

Waste Franchise Agreement: Recology and Waste Management provided an update regarding implementation of the Council-approved Waste Franchise Agreement with specific attention to: 1) requirements for quarterly reporting on education and outreach efforts regarding recycling to multi-family and commercial clients, and 2) provision of quantitative data regarding meeting state-mandated recycling goals.

- Finally, the STF re-confirmed and implemented several of its previous Council recommendations:

Energy Sub-Committee

Increased Building Code Requirements - City should adopt voluntary Green Building Code measures that would further the City's GHG emissions reduction goal during the Building Plan Check process. (**Status**: The proposed residential remodel ordinance (summarized

above) will come to Council in 2018.)

Incentives for Alternative Energy Installation – City should incentivize Building Fees (e.g., reduce fees) for alternative energy installations. (**Status:** As part of its adoption of revised Building fees in 2015, Council reduced the fee for single-family residential solar installations. Subsequently, Council determined that the fee reduction did not serve as an “incentive”, but instead was resulting in significant revenue loss for the Building Division. In 2016, with STF support, Council reinstated full cost-recovery for solar installations.)

Transportation Sub-Committee

Provision of EV Fueling Stations – City should amend development standards (Title 19) to require EV fueling stations for new parking lots of a certain size, and retrofit strategic City-owned Downtown parking lots to include EV fueling stations. (**Status:** Requirements for incorporating E/V fueling station infrastructure in new parking lots is included in the California Green Building Code. Further, in 2018, the City will install four EV fueling stations at Lot 1 (Farmers’ Market), and hopefully four additional stations at Lot 3 (Parking Structure.))

Solid Waste Sub-Committee

Solid Waste Franchise Agreement – Incorporate the following two recommendations in the Franchise Agreement: 1) ensure that the Solid Waste Franchise Options document includes all relevant actions and concepts from the City's adopted CAP, and that any future franchise agreement provide an opportunity to incorporate new technology that would further the CAP’s goals; and 2) ensure that the Agreement include a requirement that any future hauler provide quarterly reporting on its education and outreach efforts regarding recycling to multi-family and commercial clients and provide quantitative data regarding meeting state-mandated recycling goals. (**Status:** Complete.)

2018 Work Plan

The STF developed a Work Plan to focus its 2018 efforts. Below are the key components and proposed timeframes:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the CAP, identify any deficiencies, determine if additional measures are needed to meet the City’s GHG emissions reduction goal, and provide recommendations to Council on additional actions that should be pursued.
- Submit an application to the Local Government Commission for a CivicSpark member to assist in implementation of the CAP (12 months).
- Submit a proposal to North Valley Energy Watch to conduct an energy efficiency audit of all City facilities and to identify retrofit priorities (12 months).
- Coordinate with the Energize Colleges Butte College Program (at no cost to the City) to continue last year’s Million Watt Challenge education efforts via Chico Sustainability Facebook and the Sustainability website (6 months).

- Support completion of the Butte Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (6 months).
- Council adoption of a Residential Remodel Ordinance (discussed in detail starting on the bottom of pg.1 of this memo) (6 months).
- One of the most critical issue facing communities today is planning for the inevitable impacts of climate change. The gravity of this issue was highlighted this past year by the catastrophic weather events in Texas and Florida, and the historic wildfires in northern and southern California. Preparing and planning for natural hazards at the local level is critical, and this couldn't be more important than in California where flooding, wildland fires, and other hazards regularly take center stage.

The State of California recognizes the importance of climate change adaptation planning, and in response passed Senate Bill (SB) 379, which requires cities and counties to include adaptations to the impacts of climate change in primary community planning documents. To meet the requirements of SB 379, the STF is collaborating with CivicSpark, Butte County, and Chico State's GEOG 506 class to utilize the State's Cal-Adapt tool, as well the *California Adaption Planning Guide: Planning for Adaptive Communities*, to produce a climate change vulnerability assessment. The assessment will identify risks climate change poses to Chico, the geographic areas at risk, and will result in a set of adaptation strategies to avoid or minimize climate change impacts.

The STF will review/comment on the vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies and make recommendations to the Planning Commission.

- Continue to focus on the following CAP Actions: EV fueling station infrastructure, low income housing energy efficiency upgrades, commercial lighting upgrades, and waste/composting education and outreach per State requirements (ongoing).
- Update data showing annual electricity (kWh) and natural gas (therms) use; fuel (gallons) sales; and waste (tons) generation from the 2005 base year through 2017. These macro indicators are key for determining GHG emission trends and the success of CAP implementation, and were included in the City's 2016 Sustainability Indicators Report.
- Continue to meet with key sustainability partners to discuss relevant CAP Actions, identify areas of mutual support, and assist the STF in its implementation of the CAP. Possible partners to invite, include: 1) PG&E; 2) Butte County Public Health Department and Enloe Medical Center; 3) Butte County Community Development Department regarding implementation of its CAP; 4) Butte County Air Quality Management District; 5) CalWater; and 6) BCAG (ongoing).
- Maintain the Chico Sustainability Facebook presence and use the Sustainability website as an information hub for how residents and businesses can reduce their environmental footprint, save money, and help the City achieve its GHG emissions reduction goal (ongoing).

Proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule

The STF plans to meet eight (8) times in 2018:

Thursday, January 25th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, February 22nd @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, April 12th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, May 24th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, July 12th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, August 23rd @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, October 11th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, November 29th @ 5:30pm in CR 1

cc: CM, ACM, CDD, L. Herman, STF, Chamber of Commerce, BEC