AM No. 10-136

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

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DATE: June 15, 2010

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Sustainability is of key interest to the Mayor and Council. The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide a status update of sustainability actions in the City. Although staff has defined sustainability and green in several discussions to date with Council, these terms often get intermingled and are reiterated below. As a result, staff is referring to Redmond's sustainability initiative as "Impact Redmond" to be consistent with the branding of our sustainability web site.

Sustainability Refresher

In the simplest terms, sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are three legs of sustainability – economic vitality (economic development, employment, green jobs/businesses); environmental quality (natural systems, planning, design, energy, climate); and social equity (affordability, health and safety, education, arts). The symbol of a three-legged stool is to illustrate that a healthy sustainable community needs all three of these components; without any one component the stool would falter and a truly sustainable community could not be achieved.

Redmond has established its commitment to the environmental quality element of sustainability (often called the Green Agenda as reviewed with the Council in June 2009). This is evidenced by the adopted environmental policies and regulations and the many established environmental programs within the City. The economic vitality and social equity elements of sustainability are beginning to take shape as the City develops its Comprehensive Plan update and implements an Economic Development Strategy.

Key Actions

There are several projects currently underway which advance sustainability. Below is a simple table which lists action items and their status in order to identify the city's accomplishments and tell Redmond's sustainability story. Many of these efforts began with the FY 2009-2010 budget and remain as works in progress. Most all actions fall under the Environmental Quality element of sustainability. Those items on the table are additionally identified in Attachment A by the four different categories specified under the previously reviewed Environmental Quality/Green Agenda as follows – EC/CR for Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction, WM/RC for Waste Management and Resource Conservation, SD/GI for Sustainable Development and Green Infrastructure, and EC/S for Ecosystem Conservation and Stewardship.

Completed Action	**Impetus/Policy Direction**	**Status**
Green Team (SD/GI)	09/10 budget	Completed 3/08
Expedited Residential Green Building Permit Review (SD/GI)	Staff	Implemented 6/08
PRD Green Building and Natural Stormwater Management Ordinance (SD/GI)		Adopted 3/09 (Ord. 2447)
ICLEI membership	Council and staff suggestion	Completed 7/09
Think Redmond	Partnership with Chamber of Commerce	Launched Fall 2009
GHG Verification Form for building permit submittal (EC/CR)	09/10 budget	Completed
Track GHG emissions during SEPA (EC/CR)	09/10 budget; State legislation	Tracking set-up completed 2/10; on-going
Green Building Nonattainment Fee (SD/GI)	Staff clarification of existing process	Completed 3/10 (Res. 1323 (AM))
Amend SEPA checklist for climate change impacts (EC/CR)	09/10 budget	Completed 3/10
Administrative Interpretations regarding solar panels and wind turbines (SD/GI)	Staff clarification of current practice	Completed 3/10
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center boiler controls (EC/CR)	EECBG	Installed 4/10
Public Safety Building lighting (EC/CR)	EECBG	Installed 5/10
Action Underway	**Impetus/Policy Direction**	**Status**
Plug-In ready homes (EC/CR)	Council and staff	$P^2W/3$
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center lighting replacement(EC/CR)	EECBG	Target installation 6/10
LED street light case study (EC/CR)	EECBG	Lights ordered; target installation 6/10
Impact Redmond website	09/10 budget; EECBG	In-house design complete; RFP process closes 6/15/10
Eco-Fair at Derby Days	Department of Commerce Grant	Scheduled 7/10

Public Safety Building boiler upgrade (EC/CR)	EECBG	Target installation 8/10
PSE Positive Energy Home Reports (EC/CR)	EECBG	9/10 or 10/10 launch
Evaluation of City policies and regulations (SD/GI)	09/10 budget; Comp Plan update; RCDG rewrite	In progress
Staff training	09/10 budget	On-going
Expedited Non-Residential Green Building Permit Review (SD/GI)	Staff	In progress
Carbon footprinting – city and community (EC/CR)	Council direction	In progress
Electric Vehicle deployment (EC/CR)	Federal funding via eTec and Charge America	In progress
Sustainable Redmond	Staff initiated partnership	On-going
Low Impact Development (SD/GI)	NPDES Ruling	In progress
Food waste recycling for businesses and medicine recycling (WM/RC)	Expansion of city recycling program	In progress
Water Conservation (WM/RC)	Cascade Water Alliance	On-going
Groundwater Protection (WM/RC)	GMA/CAO; Council direction	On-going
Habitat Restoration (EC/S)	ESA response; Council direction	On-going
To Be Initiated	**Impetus/Policy Direction**	**Status**
Climate Action Plan	Scalability factor in 09/10 budget	Pending FY 11/12 Budget
Sustainability Plan		Pending FY 11/12 Budget

Moving Forward

A budget offer will be submitted for the 2011/2012 budget cycle which will continue to advance the City's sustainability efforts. It includes a Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Plan. The Climate Action Plan was a scalability item in the current 2009/2010 budget that was not funded. It is the next logical step in setting the larger framework to guide future sustainability actions. This plan will focus primarily on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It will establish benchmark measures for greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprinting is currently underway) and establish proposed measures to meet these targets. Tracking implementation and evaluating progress are also key components of the Plan. The Sustainability Plan will package various sustainability measures into a single document which will reflect the city's journey to improve social equity, environmental quality, and economic vitality. This plan is a means to bring

everything together under a set of goals and metrics, and provide a common framework to use resources more efficiently, promote smart, efficient government operations, and become a sustainable community.

Next Steps/Questions for Discussion

Staff has provided an update on city actions to-date advancing sustainability and is seeking further Council's thoughts on this topic. We would like the Council's policy direction to ensure we capture sustainability programs you believe are necessary and appropriate for our city in order to move towards a fuller realization of a sustainable Redmond. To this end, several policy questions for Council follow:

- Does the Council have other sustainability topics you would like to discuss or pursue?
- Would the Council like to prioritize Sustainability programs?
- How will the Council share ownership of this initiative?

Pending the Council's input on these questions, staff will incorporate this direction into its future approach in advancing sustainability efforts, both current initiatives and emerging proposals for the FY 2011/2012 budget.

Attachment A: Environmental Quality Chart

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Energy Conservation And Carbon Reduction

PROGRAMS:
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/ Climate Action Plan
- Trans. Demand Mgmt.
- Commute Trip Reduction

BENCHMARKS:
- ↓ Carbon Footprint
- ↓ Fossil Fuel Use
- ↓ Energy Consumption
- ↓ Vehicle Use
- ↑ Green Power
- ↑Public Awareness

OUTCOME: Clean Air and Decreasing Climate Change Impacts

Waste Management And Resource Conservation

PROGRAMS:
- Recycling
- Water Conservation
- Wellhead Protection

BENCHMARKS:
- ↓ Waste Generated
- ↑ Recycling Rate
- ↓ Water Consumption
- ↑ Water Reuse
- ↑ Groundwater Quantity

OUTCOME: Resource Conservation & Sustainability

Sustainable Development And Green Infrastructure

PROGRAMS:
- Development Review
- Comprehensive Planning (framework for compact growth; transit & walking supportive development)
- Transportation Planning (green streets)
- Parks Planning (street trees)

BENCHMARKS:
- Low Impact Developments
- Sustainable Bldg. Practices

OUTCOME: Building Green

Ecosystem Conservation And Stewardship

PROGRAMS:
- Watershed Management
- Green Redmond Partnership
- CAO/SMP
- Environmental Stewardship

BENCHMARKS:
- ↑ Water Quality
- ↑ Urban Forests/Open Space
- ↑ Long-term Conservation
- ↑ Long-term Enhancement
- ↑ Environmental Stewardship

OUTCOME: Wise Resource Management