AM No. 12-025

CityofRedmond
WASHINGTON

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

FROM: Rob Odle, Planning Director, 425-556-2417
Judd Black, Development Review Manager, 425-556-2426
Cathy Beam, AICP, Principal Planner, 425-556-2429

DATE: February 7, 2012

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: SUSTAINABILITY UDPATE

BACKGROUND

The City Council and staff have discussed carbon footprinting/greenhouse gas emissions reduction on four separate occasions over the past year in order to gain Council insight and direction to move forward with a Climate Action Plan. In the meanwhile, staff thought it would be helpful to provide the Council with a sustainability update, highlighting other related accomplishments over the past year, as well as sharing projects in progress.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Impact Redmond: The *Impact Redmond* website was launched in July 2011. Recent site upgrades include an incentive for an Ecokit for those filling out the pledge and a new Buy Local section. The Buy Local section ties to the *Think Redmond* website, encouraging support of local businesses in order to help Redmond's economy, reduce vehicle trips, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- King County Climate Collaboration (K4C): The City has signed the K4C Climate Pledge (at a ceremony with King County Executive Dow Constantine) and an Interlocal Agreement with King County to support the collaborative efforts of this group. Redmond is a founding member and holds a staff position on the Steering Committee.
- Green Infrastructure Code: The Council recently adopted revisions to the City's Green Infrastructure Code which provides incentives to developers to incorporate green features into their developments. The revisions expand this program to include nonresidential developments in response to the Code Rewrite Committee's recommendations.
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Redmond installed four electric vehicle Level II charging stations in 2011. There was a ceremonial cutting of the gasoline hose event held at City Hall in January 2011 which was attended by Representative Jay Inslee.
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Through the guidance of the Comprehensive Planning Division, the Council adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. The main guiding principle of the update was to incorporate sustainability into all elements of the Plan.

IN PROGRESS

- Climate Action Plan: The Climate Action Plan is currently underway. Background information, as well as 2008, 2009, and 2010 benchmarking data, has been compiled to inform decision making on actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy consumption, and decrease City operational costs.
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Initial internal conversations have begun regarding refining the City's purchasing policies and establishing a strategy for moving forward.
- District Heating/Ground Source Heating: Exploratory work has begun on the potential to establish the development of energy districts in the city.
- Public Outreach Document: The development of a climate action public outreach document has been discussed. This document would be a joint nonprofit/City effort to raise the awareness and engage the public in climate change matters. This document would be featured on *Impact Redmond.*
- Energy Audits for City Facilities: This effort is just getting underway. The intent is to determine how we can be most efficient in our energy consumption and spending dollars for City operations.
- Conversations on Sustainability: Both Michael Weinstein and Steve Moddemeyer came to the City in November to present and discuss particular aspects of sustainability. A "Conversations on Sustainability" series with six events to occur bimonthly in 2012 is being developed. These events will be open to both elected and appointed City officials as well as interested staff.
- Fleet Conversion: The City's fleet manager continues to evaluate opportunities for right-sizing vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work on the above-listed projects. They will also be mindful of the adopted budget and upcoming Budgeting by Priorities process to ensure alignment with City directives.

Should you have question, please contact Cathy Beam, cbeam@redmond.gov , 425-556-2429.