



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 4386
January 5, 2009
Regular Business**

**YEAR-END STATUS REPORT ON
SUSTAINABILITY IN CITY GOVERNMENT**

Proposed Council Action:
Receive report. No action needed.

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| DEPARTMENT OF | City Manager (Linda Herzog) |
| COUNCIL LIAISON | Mike Grady Steve Litzow Bruce Bassett |
| EXHIBITS | 1. Sustainability Work Program Update |
| APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER | |

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| AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE | \$ | n/a |
| AMOUNT BUDGETED | \$ | n/a |
| APPROPRIATION REQUIRED | \$ | n/a |

SUMMARY

On October 23, 2008 the Council's Sustainability Committee met. Committee members are Mike Grady, Steve Litzow and Bruce Bassett. This was the first meeting for newly-appointed member Bassett. The Committee acknowledged and discussed the broad scope of "sustainability", including economic and social concerns in addition to environmental protection. The conversation focused, however, on accomplishment of the City's 2008 Sustainability Work Program, and opportunities to expand beyond City operations to actions Island households and businesses can take to make Mercer Island more sustainable.

Attached is a summary of the Sustainability Work Program items completed or substantially underway as 2008 closes. Moving into 2009, the City will maintain these efforts, and expand its commitment in the following ways:

Measuring and Tracking Carbon Emissions and Energy Savings:

- The ICLEI data base will be fully updated with information about City assets and operations. Data entry through 2007 will be completed within the first quarter of 2009, and the 2008 data entered within the second quarter. Professor Jonathan Harrington, a community volunteer with expertise in climate change, will be working with City staff to enter base data on the City's vehicle fleet, solid waste and water consumption.
- A year-by-year progression of greenhouse gas emission reduction will be established against which the City can measure its progress and assure achievement of its long-range goal – GHG emissions reduced by 80% by 2050.
- Sustainability measures for City operations will be added to MIDAS (the City's "Dashboard" performance report)
- Electricity and natural gas savings (see PSE grant program below) will contribute to the GHG reduction results.
- Assuming that a community-action effort is mounted in 2009 (see below) the City will provide access to the ICLEI software to enable and support the community's work

- The City will pursue collaboration with Bainbridge Island for a dual-community challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take other climate-protection steps within the scope of City operations and authority.

Clean Vehicles / Alternative Fuels:

- City fleet vehicles scheduled for replacement in 2009-10 will be right-sized for their purpose.
- Retired vehicles will be replaced with alternative-fuel and hybrid vehicles whenever possible.
- Mercer Island will participate in beta-testing the Evergreen Fleet standards reporting system.
- The City will determine its own level of Evergreen Fleet standard achievement, and prepare a plan to reach the “platinum” level.
- Energy / fuel-saving behaviors by all city employees will continue.

Public Outreach and Education:

- Progress toward reducing GHG emissions will be continuously communicated to public
- Leap for Green Earth Day celebration on April 18, 2009 will provide education and encouragement to Island citizens.
- The Mercer Island Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan will be completed with input of the citizen task force.
- The City will partner with the Mercer Island School district to advertise Healthy Ways to School.
- A Climate Action Task Force (citizen action group) will be created to focus community interest in and commitment to sustainability at the household level.
- Household sustainability challenge will be designed and piloted to demonstrate what families can do to cut carbon emissions and conserve energy.

Waste Management:

- Recycling containers and collection will be added to all City parks and ball fields.
- Renewal of City’s waste management contract will provide opportunity to strengthen Island-wide recycling efforts.

Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings:

- The City will sign a Resource Conservation Program agreement with Puget Sound Energy.
- A Resource Conservation partnership will be established between the City and the Mercer Island School District.
- The Utility Manager Pro data base will be populated and continuously updated, with annual results submitted to PSE and published for community information.
- The City will prepare a Resource Management Plan along with individual Facility Action Plans for efficient management of electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, refuse and recycling in all our buildings.
- Annual reductions of 3% or more will be achieved in the City’s electricity and natural gas use.

Additionally, City staff, Council and the Planning Commission will continue to examine green building practices, and determine what place LEED and Low Impact Development standards might have in the MI City Code and regulations. This is a time of universal concern about the local and the global effects of climate change, and a time of rapidly evolving science. Staff are committed to continually educate themselves about effective actions local government can take. They will depend on the Council and its Sustainability Committee to judiciously select public investments that will generate the biggest and longest-lasting returns.

RECOMMENDATION

Interim Deputy City Manager

MOVE TO: Receive report. No action needed.

**MI Sustainability Initiatives
Work Program Status as of Dec. 1, 2008**

| 2008 WORK PROGRAM ITEM | STATUS |
|--|---|
| Measuring / Tracking / Reducing Carbon Emissions & Energy Use | |
| Use ICLEI data base to measure and track greenhouse gas emissions attributable to City operations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance Dept. and CMO staff oriented to data base software and prepared to complete electricity and natural gas consumption data for 2006/07 Citizen volunteer to assist staff with ICLEI data base completion. |
| Set long-range goal and interim objectives for reduction of GHG emissions from city operations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 baseline estimated at 2,214 tons CO2 equivalent Council set emission reduction goals at -10% by 2010, -20% by 2020 and -80% by 2050 (against 2005 baseline) |
| Reduce electricity and natural gas consumption in City facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application submitted and preliminary agreement forged with Puget Sound Energy to participate in the Resource Conservation Management program. Staff assigned to assume responsibilities of the Resource Conservation Manager / training initiated. Sustainability measurement criteria established; to be included in City's Dashboard performance report in 2009. |
| Collaborate with Bainbridge Island to reduce GHG emissions and conserve resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councilmember / Sustainability Committee member opened discussions with Bainbridge Island elected officials and Congressional representative re: city-to-city challenge supported by federal grant funds. |
| Clean Vehicles / Fuels | |
| Participate in Evergreen Fleet Initiative to achieve sustainable vehicle fleet standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance Dept. entering MI fleet data to Evergreen Fleets data base to test the standards and rating process, and to establish MI's rating, and devise plan to achieve "platinum" level. |
| When fleet vehicles are due for replacement, analyze uses / needs; select replacements to match City's "green fleet" objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two electric vehicles purchased to replace retiring gasoline-engine vehicles. Sustainability standards applied to every replacement vehicle in 2008. |

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| Public Outreach and Education | |
| Establish baseline of current household “sustainability behaviors” to determine best targets for improvement and track change | King Co. surveyed citizens county-wide on their sustainability understanding, commitment and practices. An oversample of 100 Mercer Island households provides “soft” (not statistically reliable) basis for setting goals, comparing to other jurisdictions, and tracking progress. |
| Earth Day community learning event | First annual <i>Leap for Green</i> Earth Day celebration (April 2008) engaged over 1000 MI citizens in learning and practicing conservation and GHG reduction methods. Next Leap for Green Day scheduled for April 18, 2009. |
| Share information with public on City government sustainability practices | City Green Report (www.mercergov.org/greenreport) of over 100 sustainable city government practices assembled, posted on web site, and reported in <i>Mercer Island Quarterly</i> . |
| Citizens’ Climate Action Task Force (aka “Green Ribbon Commission”) | City staff, Council representative and a few citizens invited to brainstorm about purpose and role of citizen group. |
| Bicycle / Pedestrian improvements | Substantial citizen input generated on Bike / Ped Plan update through public workshop |
| Use Summer Celebration as public information opportunity | Energy conservation / sustainability products and information handed out at every City booth at Summer Celebration 2008. |
| Waste Reduction and Recycling | |
| Recycling in City facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling containers and collection in Luther Burbank and Island Crest parks. • Recycling containers added to ball fields summer 2008. • City employee recycling re-education and “quiz” challenge in 2008. |
| City Code Amendments / Regulatory Actions | |
| Green building Code Amendments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG briefed Council on LEED and LID standards and possible use in City building standards. • Planning Commission information session on Green building standards. |