

Citizens Committee on U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

Mission:

1. Encourage citizens to be a part of the solution
2. Encourage City staff and citizens to conserve current resources
3. Work with the City Council to implement ideas
4. Effectively address the future impacts of climate change



Committee Members:

- Members:** Carolyn Chapel, Wes Gallagher, Hank Landau
Todd Cloutier, Bob Freeman, Jeremy Grisham, Brian Potter,
Cynthia Pruitt, Laura Spehar, Rebecca Wolfe
- City Staff:** Mayor Gary Haakenson, Steve Fisher, Sally Lider, Noel Miller,
Rob Chave, Jen Machuga, Jim Stevens, Linda Carl

Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2010

1. Discussion on sustainability indicators	Rob
2. Reusable bag subcommittee report	Jen
3. Earth Day event update - April 22	Todd
4. "Green Edmonds"	Rob
5. Floretum Garden Club p-patch project	Laura
6. Miscellaneous	All
7. Next meeting date – 9 a.m., May 6	

Meeting Notes

March 4, 2010

1. Intro of seven new committee members

We briefly went around the table and the new members introduced themselves.

2. Presentation of plaque to Wayne Grotheer

Wayne has been with the committee since its inception. He recently resigned due to increased work demands. The Mayor presented him with a plaque and thanked him for his many volunteer hours on this committee.

3. Reusable bag subcommittee report

Jen indicated that the guidelines for the poster contest will be sent out today, along with a press release. The subcommittee is working on putting "Green Edmonds" and reusable bags information on the website. The City will send out notices to all the businesses affected by the new policy on plastic bags (approximately 450 businesses).

4. Earth Day event, April 22

Todd reported that there is a meeting tomorrow regarding the logistics of the event; Justus Stewart from ICLEI—who is one of the event speakers—plans to attend. They are still working on getting refreshments donated, as well as finding a speaker to present the City's Climate Action Plan.

5. Climate Action Plan update

Steve reported that the final CAP was presented to the Planning Board in February. Although the PB reviewed it, they did not provide an official endorsement. They did, however, endorse the overall approach and provided a statement of support.

6. Miscellaneous

Gary: The City Council is working on a Styrofoam ban, which is currently on the Public Safety Committee agenda. Todd mentioned that another Council topic could be recycling campaign signs.

Gary brought up the topic of this committee's future role and if we want to blend it into Council goals.

Discussion:

Rebecca: Continued education regarding reusable bags is important. Be an advisory committee, continue with promotional events, and provide information to the media.

Brian: Use education in informed/supportive way. Provide tools, such as alternate ideas for using plastic bags.

Todd: The CAP is our framework, but some of it is not within our realm of responsibility. We may not be able to implement controls, but we can help track what is/isn't working and encourage what works. Nine homes and three businesses have signed up for energy audits. Gary volunteered his home, if another is needed. Todd reported that homes in Edmonds spent \$9M for natural gas last year (primarily for hot water); businesses spent about \$2.5M. The goal is to reduce consumption by 10%.

Carolyn: The strength of our committee is that we are concerned citizens meeting regularly with City staff. We have enough clout to attract important speakers to help educate the public.

Hank: The committee functions as a sounding board for the community. Has it been helpful?

Gary: Yes. The committee holds a lot of prestige within the community as an advisory group. He wants this committee to continue; however, we don't want to feel like we're duplicating efforts.

Hank: The committee has tried to work with the Chamber merchants, but our efforts weren't too successful. The merchants may be a missing link in the process. He feels our mission statement is a good guideline.

Gary: The merchants' hesitation could stem from issues with their landlords.

Wayne: Informal advisory groups are very helpful. Work produced by this committee and staff has been good; the coordinating role has been helpful in providing greater information to the community

Gary: Maybe we need updates from other groups around the community in order to see what they're doing and how we can coordinate efforts.

Todd: Perhaps we can develop a matrix of community efforts that includes the groups working on them.

Rebecca: Also include a calendar.

Cynthia: Shoreline has a similar matrix in line with their policies.

Steve: This committee will play a big part in following through with the CAP as it continues to evolve. The question is who will take primary responsibility.

Rob: This forum is the only place that other community organizations (such as Sustainable Edmonds) can hear what's happening regarding these issues. Without this committee, the CAP wouldn't have been completed. This is a good place to bring initiatives and get feedback. This is an "idea" group; some ideas may not get accomplished, but it's a valuable role.

Jen: This is a great group with great ideas. Sometimes it's hard for the staff to do everything that the committee needs support with, but we'll work hard to get everything done.

Jim: The committee provides information that can be reported to other entities. For instance, consumption has been down 11% from 2008 to 2009 for the 15 major City buildings that he tracks. Jim can brainstorm with his crew regarding ways to reduce energy. The City is hiring a consultant next quarter to help with "best steps" at the Frances Anderson Center. The EECBG will pay for some of our energy conservation projects.

Rebecca: Wilderness.org is announcing today its selection for "top forests." Do we want to consider approaching the legislature regarding issues that affect energy conservation?

Gary: We could consider two or three issues to take to our local legislators.

Hank: The CAP encourages non-motorized transportation. The Edmonds bike group is working on training third, fourth, and fifth graders about bicycle safety. They need \$25K to get the program up and running (for equipment and bikes; labor is primarily volunteer). They're hoping the funds will be available in the fall, but they also plan to apply for a grant with the Hazel Miller Foundation. They're working with Cascade for other funding opportunities. ESD is enthusiastic about starting the program. Bertrand Hauss, City Transportation Engineer, has been very helpful as well.

Gary: Try FD1 for potential funding; it can be tied to public education and outreach.

Rebecca: There may also be some federal funding, such as with No Child Left Inside.

Brian: The CAP is an advisory plan and not a binding document; however, there are a lot of directives in the plan. How do we track them? Maybe a matrix could include ways to improve future results.

Gary: This committee will provide plenty of information that will be helpful to the Council legislatively.

Hank: It's virtually impossible to reach our 2012 goal because of annexations. A matrix can be viewed two ways—with or without annexations.

Cynthia: Government reports are scrutinized very carefully. We must be willing to work on ways to improve results.

Todd: Last year's Climate Conversation helped form ideas for the CAP. This year's Earth Day event can help us move forward.

Richard: Maybe subcommittees can adopt parts of the CAP and move them forward.

Steve: Subcommittees can review measures and see what rises to the top, then rate measures.

Jeremy: People don't like being preached to, especially on climate issues. The City has a great opportunity to get more involved with the community, such as an event on the waterfront that provides education to the kids.

Gary: Our beach rangers program provides education, but we can always do more.

Gary closed the discussion and the meeting and thanked everyone for their input.