CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

2014 Climate Action Plan Update – Recommendations

CITY OF CHULA VISTA

SUMMARY

The Climate Change Working Group – comprised of residents, business, education, non-profit, and utility representatives – has been evaluating new opportunities to help reach the Chula Vista Climate Action Plan's greenhouse gas reduction goal of 30% below 2005 levels. As such, we have identified 12 action areas that could generate up to 166,000 metric tons in reductions by 2020, while improving local air quality, generating utility savings, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting a healthier community:

WATER CONSERVATION & REUSE

Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 6,000 MT CO_2e

#1 Water Education & Enforcement

Expand education and enforcement (through fines) targeting landscape water waste.

#2 Water Efficiency Upgrades

A) Use sewer ratepayer funds to incentivize indoor water conservation and provide on-bill financing opportunities.

B) Update the City's Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance to promote more water-wise landscaping designs.

C) Require water-savings retrofits in existing buildings at a specific point in time (not point of sale).

#3 Water Reuse Plan & System Installations

A) Develop a Water Reuse Master Plan to maximize the use of storm water, recycled water (such as indoor commercial use), and onsite water reclamation.

B) Promote graywater through a Laundry-to-Landscape installation program and by simplifying complex systems' permit review.

WASTE REDUCTION

Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 32,000 MT CO_2e

#4 Zero Waste Plan

Develop a Zero Waste Plan (with special emphasis on zero waste events, business certifications, and building deconstruction) to supplement statewide green waste, recycling, and plastic bag ban efforts.

RENEWABLE & EFFICIENT ENERGY

Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 79,000 MT CO_2e

#5 Energy Education & Enforcement

A) Expand education targeting key community segments (ex. DIY & Millennials) and facilitating energy performance disclosure (ex. Green Leases & Home Energy Ratings).

B) Leverage the building inspection process to distribute energy-related information and to deter unpermitted, low performing energy improvements.

RENEWABLE & EFFICIENT ENERGY (continued)

#6 Clean Energy Sources

A) Incorporate solar photovoltaic into all new residential and commercial buildings (on a project level basis).

B) Provide more grid-delivered clean energy (up to 100%) through Community Choice Aggregation or other mechanism.

#7 Energy Efficiency Upgrades

A) Expand the City's "cool roof" standards to include re-roofs and western areas.

B) Streamline the permit process for energy-saving improvements by offering bundled and over-the-counter options.

C) Facilitate more energy upgrades in the community through tax breaks, rebates, and more local energy efficiency programming.

D) Require energy-savings retrofits in existing buildings at a specific point in time (not at point of sale).

#8 Robust Urban Forests

Plant more shade trees to save energy, address heat island issues, and improve air quality.

SMART GROWTH & TRANSPORTATION

Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 49,000 MT CO_2e

#9 Complete Streets & Neighborhoods

A) Incorporate "Complete Streets" principles into the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and Capital Improvement Program.

B) Encourage higher density and mixed-use development in Smart Growth areas, especially around trolley stations and other transit nodes.

C) Synchronize traffic signals to help ensure efficient traffic flow.

#10 Flexible Parking Requirements

Allow flexibility in meeting parking requirements by incorporating bike facilities, transit access/passes, and other Transportation Demand Management offerings.

#11 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Readiness

A) Support the installation of more local alternative fueling stations and designate preferred parking for alternative fuel vehicles.

B) Design all new residential and commercial buildings to be "Electric Vehicle Ready."

#12 Multi-Modal Options

A) Amend the Growth Management Ordinance to include considerations for alternative transportation options and to de-emphasize vehicular level of service.

B) Expand bike-sharing, car-sharing, and other "last mile" transportation options, especially in eastern areas.

BACKGROUND

In January 2014, the City Council tasked the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) with identifying new opportunities - through a consensus-building process - to reduce Chula Vista's carbon footprint as part of the broader Climate Action Plan update effort. The City has had a Climate Action Plan since 2000, which was subsequently updated in 2008 and 2010. The Climate Action Plan acts as a roadmap for various policies and programs aiming to ultimately reduce our community's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 30% below 2005 levels (recalibrated from 1990 goal). This goal, after accounting for state and federal activities, equates to reducing local emissions by approximately 185,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

The CCWG was established as a subcommittee of the City's Resource Conservation Commission and included a diverse membership of residents, business, education, non-profit, and utility representatives:

Climate Change Working Group Members (& Alternates)

Residents – Sassan Rahimzadeh – CCWG Chair – Bob Coleman – CCWG Vice Chair – Ellen Kappes	**Transportation** – Allison Wood – SANDAG (Anna Lowe) – Lindsey Hawes – Center for Sustainable Energy	
Community Services – Lisa Davis – High Tech High – Debbie Discar-Espe – CV Charitable Foundation	**Waste Management** – Carlos Jaime – Republic Services – Pauline Martinson – I Love a Clean SD (Samantha Russo)	
New Development – Sean Kilkenny – Otay Ranch Company (Nick Lee) – Rich D'Ascoli – Pacific SW Assoc. of Realtors (Tracy Morgan Hollingsworth)	**Utilities** – Josh Brock – SDG&E (Dinah Willier) – Sue Mosburg – Sweetwater Authority (Doug Roberts)	
Existing Buildings & Infrastructure – Hugo Mora – Mocard Group – Todd Galarneau – CV Chamber of Commerce (Steve Miesen)	**Staff** – Brendan Reed – Robert Beamon – Cory Downs	– Lynn France – Janice Kluth – Brenden Seki

Over the past 10 months, the CCWG held 10 meetings to further explore Climate Change-related topics, hear from various experts, tour local facilities, and receive community feedback. Through this process, the Climate Change Working Group evaluated over 170 different options for new policies and programs that the City could adopt to help reach its goal. Some of the criteria that we used to help guide our evaluations were (1) focusing on actions that were in the City's control, (2) limiting actions' negative fiscal impacts to the City, and (3) prioritizing actions that could be fully implemented within the next 5 years. Finally, the CCWG's proposed recommendations were presented to community members at a public forum on October 14th at the Civic Library to solicit additional input before finalization.

FINDINGS

Climate change is real and immediate and could negatively impact Chula Vista's high quality of life. By responding to climate change proactively, we hope to lower its associated risks and

costs, while helping to improve local air quality, lower utility costs, reduce traffic congestion, and design healthier, more connected neighborhoods. Based on our discussions and careful deliberations, we are recommending 12 different action areas (as outlined on pages 1-2) that we believe could contribute up to 166,000 metric tons of local greenhouse gas emission reductions towards the City's goal by 2020. It should be noted that these actions are mainly focused on the community, since the City has already adopted an ambitious "City Operations Sustainability Plan" to address emissions from municipal buildings and fleet. Our recommendations are high level and, if supported by City Council, should be further developed by City staff. Implementation steps, cost estimates, timelines, and refined GHG reduction estimates for the various actions should be outlined for future consideration by City Council. Special attention should also be given to assessing the cost-benefit of future actions to help ensure that they do not impair Chula Vista's economic vitality.

From our discussions over the last 10 months, it is clear that it will take a concerted effort between numerous public and private partners to successfully address climate change in Chula Vista. Collaboration with partners must be ongoing and at all levels (staff and executives) to be effective. It is also paramount that the City leverages its numerous communication and outreach efforts to continue this important dialogue about climate change with community members. We feel that comprehensive education is the key to fostering more "climate-friendly" behaviors in the community with efficiency and conservation being the best practices. Similarly, the City should continue to actively engage community members and stakeholder groups as it further develops any of our recommendations.

The Climate Change Working Group would like to acknowledge the generous financial and technical support provided by San Diego Gas & Electric, the San Diego Foundation, and the University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center throughout the planning process. Without them, we would not have been able to work as effectively or efficiently.