

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ED GALLAGHER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES
DATE: AUGUST 19, 2014

Needs: For the City Council to consider the use of resources available at no expense to the City to develop a tracking program on implementation of the City’s adopted Climate Action Plan.

- Facts:**
1. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to assist with compliance of State regulations in November 2013.
 2. The CAP includes numerous implementation “action” measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to achieve the goals of the Plan.
 3. The City must also track, monitor, and report progress. The City does not have a tracking or monitoring system for this purpose.
 4. SLO County and the other cities in the County have assembled several resources to assist local agencies to develop a CAP tracking and monitoring system, as well as manpower to work with each agency to provide data input and reporting services.
 5. Resources assembled include: (1) use of a free software program provided by the Local Government Commission (LGC); (2) collaboration with Cal Poly student interns, funded through PG&E; and (3) participate with the other cities in funding received from a grant from the State’s Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The grant was applied for and awarded to the City of Arroyo Grande, but it is intended for all the cities and the County. Staffing resources may also be available in 2015 from the AmeriCorps “Encore” Program.

Analysis & Conclusions:

The City has experienced success with voluntary implementation of several measures in the City’s Climate Action Plan. Additionally, the County is identifying measures that can be implemented regionally, such as working with funding organizations that assist homeowners and businesses interested in upgrading their energy efficiency systems. However, the City has no means to track what is occurring, monitoring where improvements can be made, or reporting on progress.

It is important to track, monitor and report implementation of the CAP to demonstrate to the state and the public the City’s “good faith” efforts to reduce GHG emissions. With numerous important private development and major infrastructure projects going forward, all of which require environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is important to ensure the City stays on top of GHG reporting activities so that this issue does not jeopardize private developments or City projects.

With the resources identified in Fact #5, an opportunity exists to obtain assistance to develop a tracking system on CAP implementation.

Fiscal Impact: No direct fiscal impact. Minimal staff resources would be needed to coordinate assistance activities, approximately 100 hours over the next 6 months.

Options: The City Council is requested to take one of the actions listed below:

- a. By voice-vote, support the use of resources identified to assist in implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above-listed action.