



DATE: November 10, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan and Community Choice Aggregation feasibility study

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information regarding Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2013, Council adopted the City of Los Altos Climate Action Plan (CAP) and set forth activities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare an emissions inventory update, once data for 2013 is available, and to direct staff to provide a status update in mid-2014.

On July 8, 2013, the Environmental Commission received a special presentation by Gerald Glaser on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) as one of the methodology to reduce GHG emissions in accordance with the CAP.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hedden spoke as a citizen at the Council meeting on May 27, 2014 and encouraged Council to look into the feasibility of joining local agencies, namely, the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale that are forming a feasibility study to explore CCAs. Council noted the CCA item as a future agenda item. City staff is exploring information about the CCA feasibility study and has contacted other local agencies staff for updates.

At the June 9, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the CCA feasibility study, and assigned the CCA subcommittee, composed of Commissioners Eyre, Bray and Chair Hedden, to engage in further study of the issue and to prepare a presentation for Council. The subcommittee arranged for Margaret Bruce, independent consultant with Business for Clean Energy, to give a presentation at the July 14, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting to provide an overview and information about CCAs and to answer questions.

At the August 11, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Sunnyvale, provided a presentation and answered questions about the Sunnyvale CCA feasibility study.

Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pepper, Council Member Jarrett Fishpaw and Public Works Director Jim Gustafson attended a September 17, 2014 forum titled "New Energy Choices". A staff memo was

presented to the Environmental Commission at the October 13, 2014 meeting. This memo was revised, Attachment A, and provided to the Environmental Commission at the meeting on November 10, 2014. The revisions summarize information exchanges with Sunnyvale staff regarding the South Bay CCA feasibility study.

Prior to the November 10, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, Chair Gary Hedden meet with Environmental Commission staff liaison J. Logan to review the CAP measures, Attachment B, to identify areas when the Environmental Commission could offer support.

Attachment:

- A. New Energy Choices for Silicon Valley
- B. Climate Action Plan Measures



TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager
Jim Gustafson, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: New Energy Choices for Silicon Valley

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report concerning the forum on New Energy Choices for Silicon Valley

BACKGROUND

California Assembly Bill 32 and Senate Bill 375, along with environmental concerns, and economic factors, encouraged many cities to engage in activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 15% from current levels by 2020 and achieve an 80% reduction by 2050. The Environmental Commission began joint activities with staff to investigate solution to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to gather data for analysis that resulted in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) City of Los Altos Municipal Inventory Report and the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report. Council adopted those reports on September 22, 2009 and May 25, 2010 respectively. The Environmental Commission 2009/2010 Work Plan and subsequent Work Plan's set GHG education and outreach activities that focused on targets for reductions of GHG emissions.

On December 10, 2013, Council adopted the City of Los Altos Climate Action Plan (CAP) and set forth activities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare an emissions inventory update, once data for 2013 is available, and to direct staff to provide a status update in mid-2014.

On July 8, 2013, the Environmental Commission received a special presentation by Gerry Glaser, Sustainability Commissioner and Chair of Horizon 2035 Committee, City of Sunnyvale, on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) as one of the methodology to reduce GHG emissions.

Environmental Commissioner Hedden spoke as a citizen at the Council meeting on May 27, 2014 and encouraged Council to consider joining local agencies, namely, the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale that are forming a feasibility study to explore CCAs. Council noted the CCA item as a future agenda item. City staff is exploring information about the CCA feasibility study and has contacted other local agencies staff for updates.

At the June 9, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, the Commission assigned a CCA subcommittee, composed of Commissioners Eyre, Bray and Chair Hedden, to engage in further

study of the issue. The subcommittee arranged for Margaret Bruce, independent consultant with Business for Clean Energy, to give a presentation at the July 14, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting and to provide an overview and information about CCAs and to answer questions.

At the August 11, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Sunnyvale, provided a presentation and answered questions about the Sunnyvale CCA feasibility study.

Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pepper, Council Member Jarrett Fishpaw and Public Works Director Jim Gustafson attended a forum concerning New Energy Choices for Silicon Valley on September 17, 2014. The forum was sponsored by Business for Clean Energy, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, and Joint Venture Silicon Valley, and attendance from cities was limited to two Council members and one staff member from each jurisdiction. There were approximately 75 attendees from the various municipalities in Silicon Valley and several energy industry representatives present. The topics covered lessons learned from several other jurisdictions that have implemented or are pursuing alternative energy sources for their residents and businesses.

DISCUSSION

The forum brought together speakers from established joint power authorities (JPAs) that are operational with alternative energy sources including Marin Clean Energy (MCE) and Sonoma Clean Power. The agenda for the forum is provided as Attachment A. Their presentations described how these entities have been able to provide its customers with electrical power that costs less and uses more renewable sources than PG&E currently uses. In each of those JPA's, PG&E still provides distribution of electricity to the customers and bills customers for the JPA's production costs and PG&E distribution costs. PG&E then reimburses the JPA for the energy provided by the JPA.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Assistant General Manager for Power presented the status of its pursuit of Community Choice, noting it is an endeavor that has been in progress for 13 years and is still ongoing. The entirety of the presentation is provided as Attachment B.

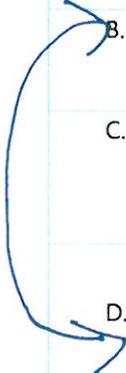
This report demonstrates the long-standing commitment and activities of the City and the Environmental Commission to understand the components of GHG usage by the City and Los Altos community and the CAP plan and methodologies for reduction efforts. CCA's provide another yet another source of reduction available to agencies.

The South Bay CCA study appears to be adequately funded to complete an initial study involving the Cities of Sunnyvale Mountain View and Cupertino. One of the key objectives in the study is to identify agencies interested in participating in a South Bay CCA. The study will be inquiring to other communities to survey interest and seek to identify what levels of action communities have already taken. Updates will be provided.

Council is now posed to discuss issues involved in the feasibility of CCAs and if joining with other agencies in this endeavor is timely or warranted.

There is no recommendation for Environmental Commission action at this time, pending Council direction.

GHG Emission Reduction Measure	Potential MTCO ₂ e Reductions	Lead Department(s)	Lead Staff Member(s)	Status Update as of September 2014
1.1 Improve Non-Motorized Transportation				
A. Construct all bikeways and implement all programs identified in the 2012 Bicycle Transportation Plan.	-2,580	Engineering	Cedric Novenario	The 2014 Striping project will install sharrows on five streets in Los Altos. Sharrows are identified on nine streets on the Bike Transportation Plan.
B. Develop and fully implement a pedestrian master plan with specific focus on local vehicle trip reduction.	-860	Engineering	Cedric Novenario	Preparation of the Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) is currently underway. A City Council study session to discuss the PMP is scheduled in October.
C. Support a rotating car-free day program at local schools and as part of other local events to raise awareness about school commute alternatives.	-10	Recreation/ Econ. Dev.	Beverly Tucker Sierra Davis	Local schools are involved in national campaigns such as "Walk Bike to School" day occurring on October 8, 2014. The City will support the campaign with marketing and involvement on the day of the event.
D. Continue to pursue and implement Safe Routes to School projects.	-130	Engineering	Cedric Novenario	As part of the Pedestrian Master Plan, the Suggested Routes to Schools Map is being updated. The City applied for the Statewide Active Transportation Grant in May; however, Los Altos was not selected for this Grant.
E. Continue to implement the City's Complete Streets policy and traffic calming plans and projects.	-860	Engineering	Cedric Novenario	In July, a Springer Traffic Calming Community Meeting was held to gather input and get feedback regarding speeding and traffic calming on Springer. These findings were presented to the BPAC in August, will be presented to the PTC in September/October and subsequently reported to the City Council.
F. Support a local bike-share program.	-30	Recreation/ Econ. Dev.	Beverly Tucker Sierra Davis	The bike-share program that is in place in surrounding communities such as Palo Alto and Mountain View is Bay Area Bike Share. The bike-share program is located near mass transit stops and centrally located in downtowns. The City can look into ways to support a local bike-share program; however, using one that is supported in larger cities may not be feasible for Los Altos. The cost of maintaining a bike-share program would need to be evaluated as well as who would operate the program and where the bike-shares would be located. Another option would be to look into grants that would be able to cover the cost to support the larger Bay Area Bike Share program that surrounding cities are implementing.



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GHG Emission Reduction Measure	Potential MTCO ₂ e Reductions	Lead Department(s)	Lead Staff Member(s)	Status Update as of September 2014
1.2 Expand Transit and Commute Options				
A. Continue to work with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to seek opportunities to <u>expand</u> local service to improve connectivity to regional transit options.	-1,050	Engineering	Cedric Novenario	Staff represents the City on the VTA's Technical Advisory Committee. Currently, the City is coordinating with VTA to <u>improve pedestrian amenities</u> in and around existing mass transit stops.
B. Require new projects and new businesses with more than 50 employees to comply with BAAQMD's Regulation 14, Rule 1 (The Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program).	-80	Planning	Zachary Dahl	Implemented – It is a condition of approval for any commercial project that is estimated to have over 50 employees. The City has also implemented this program.
C. Encourage partnerships to develop and implement school bus programs that reduce school-related commutes	-550	Executive	J Logan	Not yet implemented.
1.3 Provide Alternative-Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure				
A. Continue to identify funding resources, locations, and existing station performance to support installing additional EV charging stations in public parking lots.	-40	Engineering/ Planning	James Walgren	Not yet implemented.
B. Encourage alternative-fuel vehicle charging stations in existing private development.	-1,100	Planning	Zachary Dahl	All commercial and multiple-family projects are <u>encouraged</u> to include EV charging stations and/or EV pre-wiring.
C. Amend the Green Building Ordinance to include EV pre-wiring requirements and encourage EV charging installations in residential development.	-330	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	In progress – The amendment is currently being evaluated and Council consideration is anticipated in 2015. Projects are currently being encouraged to install pre-wiring in new projects and major remodels.
D. Amend the Green Building Ordinance to require EV charging stations in nonresidential projects 10,000 square feet or greater and encourage EV charging stations in projects under 10,000 square feet.	-140	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	In progress – The amendment is currently being evaluated and Council consideration is anticipated in 2015. Commercial and multiple-family projects are currently being encouraged to include EV charging stations.

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2.1 Promote Energy Conservation				
A. Provide outreach and educational materials for energy conservation and renewable energy programs targeted at outdoor amenities (e.g., lighting, swimming pools, hot tubs).	-530	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	In progress – Handouts with this information will be developed in 2015.
B. Provide outreach and education to support existing programs that conserve energy in large homes.	-90	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	In progress – Handouts with this information will be developed in 2015.
2.2 Increase Energy Efficiency				
A. Ensure city residents are eligible to participate in and actively promote and support energy efficiency financing for residential and commercial properties.	-2,410	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl	<u>Staff is not aware</u> of any current programs that require City action in order to ensure eligibility to participate. Legislation and programs related to this measure are being monitored; appropriate steps will be taken when an opportunity arises.
B. Continue to encourage the installation of energy-efficient indoor and outdoor appliances and equipment (e.g., pool pumps, washer, dryer, HVAC).	-750	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	The City's Green Building Ordinance and the State Energy Code require the installation of energy-efficient appliances and equipment.
C. Develop energy efficiency outreach and education programs for renter-occupied households.	-20	Planning	Zachary Dahl	In progress - Handouts with this information will be developed in 2015.
D. Develop an energy self-audit checklist and work with community partners to distribute to prospective property owners and other interested parties and to provide technical assistance.	-180	Planning	Zachary Dahl	In progress - Handouts with this information will be developed in 2015.
E. Adopt net-zero electricity building standards for new residential and nonresidential construction with exceptions for parcels with limited solar access and other physical constraints.	-510	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	The feasibility of adopting a net-zero electricity building requirements is currently being evaluated.

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2.3 Increase Renewable Energy				
A. Participate in regional partnerships and power purchase agreements to provide reduced-cost PV systems to residents and businesses.	-1,250 ¹	Executive/ Planning	Marcia Somers James Walgren	The City has not identified any new regional partnerships or power purchase agreements that could provide reduced-cost PV systems to residents and businesses. Staff will evaluate feasibility if/when an opportunity arises.
B. Create and distribute outreach materials connecting residents and building owners to state, PG&E, and other rebate programs.		Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl	When applicable programs become available, educational materials will be prepared and distributed.
3.1 Reduce and Divert Waste				
A. Maintain and seek opportunities to expand food waste diversion programs.	-950	Engineering/ Economic Development	Aida Fairman Sierra Davis	Engineering - The City is participating in the County's Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission's Technical Advisory Committee (RWRC TAC) Food Rescue Subcommittee (FRS). The FRS is developing a draft scope of work for a Countywide Food Rescue Capacity Report and seeks the assistance of a Consultant who will prepare a report to help answer questions and provide recommendations for programs or policies to help Food Service Establishments donate more food. Funds from the RWRC TAC have been appropriated for this item. Economic Development - Mission Trails has been proactive in the diversion on food waste. Food waste, food-soiled paper and yard waste are all considered organics and special bins can be provided at no additional charge. However, a majority of the restaurants in the community do not have separate waste containers for organics. At this time, it is not mandatory for restaurants to provide separate waste receptacles. An additional policy may be required to encourage restaurants to help divert trash.

¹ This reduction is the combined effectiveness of actions 2.3A and 2.3 B to achieve the 5,000 kW target.

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B. Adopt a plastic bag ban and encourage the use of reusable bags.	Supportive	Engineering/ Economic Development	Aida Fairman Sierra Davis	The reusable bag ordinance went into effect on July 4, 2013. The use of reusable bags has been encouraged at events, through the Chamber of Commerce, mailers, City website, newspaper, etc.
C. Continue to require recycling and reuse of building materials.	-160	Engineering/ Building	Aida Fairman Kirk Ballard	Implemented.
D. Adopt and enforce an expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban.	Supportive	Engineering/ Economic Development	Aida Fairman Sierra Davis	The EPS ban ordinance went into effect on July 4, 2014. Code Enforcement is currently visiting businesses that were using EPS prior to the ban going into effect to ensure compliance.
3.2 Conserve Water				
A. Continue to support implementation of the 2010 UWMP through enforcement of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (LAMC 12.36) and distribution of greywater/rainwater harvesting guides.	-180	Planning	Zachary Dahl	The Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance has been in effect since 2010. Installation of drought tolerant/low water usage landscaping for all projects is also being encouraged. Preparation of a greywater/rainwater harvesting guide is planned in 2015.
3.3 Use Carbon-Efficient Construction Equipment				
A. Encourage compliance with BAAQMD construction equipment best practices through outreach and education.	-20	Planning/ Building	Zachary Dahl Kirk Ballard	Development of a handout that outlines BAAQMD's construction equipment best practices is planned in 2015.
4.1 Sustain a Green Infrastructure System and Sequester Carbon				
A. Continue to manage stormwater runoff with green infrastructure such as bioswales and other Low-Impact Development (LID) strategies.	Supportive	Engineering	Victor Chen	All new development and City projects are required to install stormwater infrastructure that incorporates LID measures.
B. Adopt a policy that increases the number of shade trees planted in the community on private and public property.	-20	Planning/ Maintenance	Zachary Dahl Grant Gabler	The planting of new trees with the approval of most tree removal permits and residential projects (new houses and major remodel/additions) is currently required. Maintenance staff currently does a once a year tree planting. The planting list is made up of locations where trees have been removed because of various issues. Residents are also encouraged to obtain a no fee permit for street tree planting if they

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				would like to plant one on their own. The Shoulder Paving Policy also requires that property owners desiring to modify the shoulder in front of their property, and who do not already have front yard trees, are required to plant one or two trees on the private property side of the street shoulder.
5.1 Operate Efficient Government Facilities				
A. Audit appropriate City facilities and conduct comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades, including installing energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.	-120	Engineering/ Maintenance	Jim Gustafson Grant Gabler	A City-wide energy audit has not been done recently; however, a review of potential opportunities for City Hall was recently accomplished as part of the Heating and Ventilation System Repair project. Variable speed fans, a new boiler, and more efficient condenser units are being selected that will reduce electricity consumption at City Hall. Lights and appliances are replaced with energy efficient options whenever possible.
B. Install 1 megawatt (MW) of renewable energy (e.g., PV panels) on City facilities.	-250	Executive	Marcia Somers	This measure will be evaluated as part of the Community Center redevelopment.
C. Continue upgrading street and park lighting to light-emitting diode (LED) lights, as appropriate.	-30	Engineering/ Maintenance	Jim Gustafson Grant Gabler	Engineering is investigating retrofit of the downtown lights that would change them to LED. If there is a reasonable payback, a CIP description will be prepared for Council consideration.
D. Develop and maintain a digital record-keeping system.	Supportive	All Dept.	Jon Maginot	Maintenance - The department currently uses a Maintenance Management System called OPRA. The system allows the tracking of calls and work that is being done, schedule maintenance and repairs, and keeping records for all calls that Maintenance staff responds to. Community Development - The department uses GovPartner Connect to track all active applications and permits. For Building, once a permit has been finalized, the plans and materials are digitized and archived. For Planning, all permit files are stored onsite for five years and then digitized and archived.
5.2 Reduce City Vehicle Fuel Consumption				

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A. Continue to maintain fleet efficiency through proper maintenance, and identify additional opportunities to increase fuel efficiency.	-20	Maintenance	Grant Gabler	Implemented.
B. Encourage City employees to use non-motorized transportation, such as walking or bicycling, when conducting off-site City business (e.g., for trips up to a quarter or a half mile).	-40	Human Resources	Kim Juran-Karageorgiou	Staff currently walks to conduct City business when within a reasonable distance.
C. Purchase fuel efficient, hybrid, or alternative-fuel vehicles when replacing City fleet vehicles. ²	-90	Executive/Maintenance	Marcia Somers Grant Gabler	The process to replace City pool vehicles is underway. Hybrid and electric vehicles are being evaluated.
5.3 Support Sustainable Employee Travel				
A. Provide information to City staff about commute alternatives to single-occupant vehicles, including materials that identify available transit and alternative transportation routes.	-10	Human Resources	Debinique Watts-Blackburn	A Commuter Program is being implemented that enables employees to elect to exclude commuting costs incurred for transit passes or vanpool charges from their taxable wages.
B. Establish alternative work schedule or telecommuting options for City staff to reduce daily commute trips.	-20	Executive/Dept. Heads	Debinique Watts-Blackburn	City staff are allowed to work flexible schedules that reduce commute trips when it can be accommodated without impact to City operations.
C. Create a staff carpooling program.	-10	Human Resources	Kim Juran-Karageorgiou	The feasibility of a staff carpooling program is currently being evaluated.
D. Evaluate flexible employee schedules that allow for reduced commute miles traveled while maintaining City hours of operation.	-60	Human Resources/Dept. Heads	Debinique Watts-Blackburn	City staff are allowed to work flexible schedules that reduce commute trips when it can be accommodated without impact to City operations.
5.4 Purchase Responsibly				
A. Develop an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.	Supportive	Executive	Kim Juran-Karageorgiou	Environmentally responsible purchasing guidelines will be incorporated as appropriate with an upcoming update of the City's purchasing policy.

² The City will consider up to a maximum 25% premium or five-year payback period compared to conventional vehicles.

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B. Participate in appropriate regional group purchase programs as they are developed.	Supportive	Executive	Kim Juran-Karageorgiou	Staff works closely with neighboring cities to identify partnership opportunities when feasible.
C. Adopt a policy for City facilities and City-sponsored events with a goal of zero-waste.	-160	Executive/Recreation	J Logan Beverly Tucker	Not yet initiated.