



DATE: April 28, 2015
TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
VIA: David Witt, City Manager *DW*
Gregory Humora, Director of Public Works/City Engineer *GPH*
FROM: Scott Munzenmaier, Purchasing Officer *SM*
SUBJECT: Update on La Mesa's Climate Protection Actions

The City Council approved a resolution in 2007 endorsing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and directed staff to report back periodically on the City's actions towards climate protection. The following actions are listed, with new items since the 2014 update indicated, as they relate to the areas of concern listed in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement passed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2005. This update was presented to the Environmental Sustainability Commission on April 20th of this year and their comments were incorporated.

1. Inventory Emissions in City Operations

- The City has an updated greenhouse gas emissions inventory through a partnership with the Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) and the University of San Diego. The update is necessary to develop a Climate Action Plan, a comprehensive project for City operations and the community.
- The City completed the SANDAG Energy Roadmap program and has a report based on energy audits on City facilities and operations which is used to look for ways to reduce energy consumption.
- La Mesa is a Beacon Award Participant and has received a certificate for interim accomplishments based on best practice activities in areas of sustainability.
- The City is complying with Air Pollution Control Board regulations, including inventorying and cataloging the City's fleet.
- Staff meets periodically with the regional San Diego Climate Collaborative.
- Purchasing staff continue to seek environmentally friendly options for products and services for use by all departments.

2. Land-Use Policies

- **NEW** – Funding from an SDG&E Emerging Cities Program for Local Governments grant has been awarded to the City to help prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP). A Draft CAP is expected to be released in May 2015 for public review.

- The Centennial General Plan includes goals, objectives, and policies that further environmental sustainability, health and wellness in the community.
- Existing policies reduce urban sprawl, preserve open space, and create a more compact urban community.
- The Mixed Use Urban Overlay Zone supports compact urban development and pedestrian oriented neighborhoods.
- A model water efficient landscape ordinance was adopted in 2010 in accordance with AB 325 that complies with the State's requirements for water conservation.

3. Transportation

- **New** – Work began in July 2014 on the Downtown Village Streetscape Improvement Project. The scope of work includes new sidewalks with enhanced crosswalks and bulbouts at intersections to improve walkability. Improvements are near the La Mesa Boulevard Trolley Station to improve connections to transit. Three bike corrals will be installed with the project in support of biking.
- La Mesa earned the Most Walkable City designation by WalkSanDiego. The Regional Walk Scorecard measures how San Diego's regional cities are doing to respond to the call for more walkable neighborhoods. La Mesa emerged as the top scoring city due to our continuing investment and focus on infrastructure upgrades and pedestrian safety.
- Sidewalks were added to the east side of Glen Street from Lemon Avenue to Springview Lane as part of the Sidewalk Master Plan which focuses construction where it is most needed, improving the walkability of the community.
- The City encourages non-automobile transportation such as more sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian-friendly zones supported by the Sidewalk Master Plan and the Bicycle Facilities and Alternative Transportation Plan.
- A Bicycle Facilities and Alternative Transportation Plan has been adopted in accordance with AB 1358 "Complete Streets" legislation funded by a \$75,000 SANDAG grant awarded in July 2009. The Plan was upgraded with a "Safe Routes to Transit" component funded by a second \$50,000 SANDAG grant awarded in February 2011.
- Allison Avenue between University Avenue and Palm Avenue was upgraded for better walkability including two new mid-block crosswalks at the community library and trolley station that include sensor-activated flashing LED lights.
- The University Avenue Revitalization Plan is complete which will improve walkability along the major thoroughfare once the project is completed.
- Plans were adopted for neighborhood traffic management (February 2004), walkability (February 2006) and a concept for pedestrian and bicycle crossings for the freeways (December 2008).

4. Clean Energy

- **NEW** – EDCO began construction in the spring of 2015 of a natural gas fuel distribution station that will be open to the public in the industrial area.
- **NEW** – In 2014, 283 photovoltaic solar system permits were issued in La Mesa, a 71% increase in the number of solar permits issued in the prior year.
- **NEW** – The City Council adopted resolutions in 2014 to participate in two Property Assessed Clean Energy (“PACE”) programs known as “HERO” and “Figtree”. Since the HERO Program became effective in November 2014, HERO reports the following statistics for the City of La Mesa:
 - **32** complete projects (160 applications submitted; 114 applications approved)
 - **\$917,960** funded (\$9.1 million approved)
 - **7** estimated jobs created
 - **\$1.5** million estimated in economic stimulus
- The landfills used by the City’s contract waste hauler, EDCO Disposal Corporation, utilize methane recovery energy programs.
- Solar power is used for radar feedback signs on Fletcher Parkway and Amaya Drive as well as three City street lights and parking meters in the downtown business district.
- The City replaced older backup generators with cleaner, more efficient units at the new Fire and Police facilities.

5. Energy Efficiency

- The City is working with the California Center for Sustainable Energy to host periodic home energy upgrade workshops.
- The windows and doors were replaced at the Community Center and Recreation Center with more energy efficient products.
- High efficiency induction street light replacements were installed and have reduced the City’s street light energy costs by approximately half.
- All new City buildings meet California energy standards and have fluorescent lighting. The new police station has a high-efficiency HVAC system.
- The City has retrofitted all traffic signals with green and red LED (light-emitting diode) lights.

6. Appliance Efficiency

- Vending Miser systems were installed on machines at City facilities to reduce energy use during evenings and weekends.
- The City currently purchases Energy Star compliant equipment and technology.
- Equipment purchased for facilities including computers and printers/copiers are more efficient than the older models.

7. Green Building Design

- LEED standards are incorporated into the design of several facilities including the police station, Fire Administration/Station 11 and a cool roof on the Community Center. LEED certification is encouraged for all buildings and developments.
- Through the City's Design Review process, new development is encouraged to incorporate energy conservation and green building concepts in the review of new development projects.
- The City enforces the California Energy Efficiency Standards and the adopted California Green Building Code regulating energy conservation techniques, materials and appliances in the construction of buildings by the private sector.

8. Fleet Fuel Efficiency

- **NEW** – Vehicles' telematics devices were installed in 42 public works vehicles in November, 2014 which should result in reduced idling times and increased fuel efficiency.
- New police patrol vehicles using the new Ford designs are 14% more fuel efficient in city driving than the models they are replacing.
- The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District has new clean-diesel buses which replaced less efficient vehicles more than 20 years old.
- AIMS Fuelmaster automatic fuel monitoring devices are installed on all new vehicles and will be installed on existing vehicles.
- The City owns four hybrid vehicles for use by the City's building inspectors and parking enforcement which reduce the fuel needed for local use.
- The City has retrofitted nine diesel vehicles, partially with grant funding, to reduce emissions in compliance with the State's Tier 3 requirements.
- City operations have again achieved 100% compliance with the Air Resources Board DOORS (Diesel Off-Road On-Line Reporting System) program.

9. Wastewater Treatment

- **NEW** – 2,741 square feet of grass turf was removed in 2014 at the Community Center and replaced with drought tolerant landscaping with the assistance of grants from the Metropolitan Water District, the San Diego County Water Authority and the Helix Water District.
- Two lawns at City Hall were removed and replaced by drought-tolerant landscaping with irrigation drip systems which are expected to save 46,000 gallons of water annually.
- The Environmental Sustainability Commission created a graywater educational brochure to help residents and businesses understand the options and regulations for graywater systems.
- Irrigation systems have been upgraded at all parks, several landscaped medians and most facilities resulting in more efficient water use.

- EDCO Station in La Mesa accepts cooking fats, oils and grease for free to be recycled into biofuel by a local company in San Diego.
- The Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program was implemented to help reduce blockages within the wastewater system which can lead to overflows and impact surface water quality. Staff enrolls food service establishments which are required to participate in the program and the majority of applicable establishments were issued a five-year FOG permit.
- The City is actively upgrading the wastewater collection system to mitigate any storm water inflow or infiltration into the collection system. Reducing this burden on the treatment plant results in lower environmental impacts to the plant and the surrounding environment.
- Information kiosks are located in four City parks as part of the City's storm water pollution prevention efforts and staff participates annually in the Creek to Bay Cleanup and Coastal Cleanup Day events.
- Helix Water District continues to report water conservation, reducing the amount of wastewater necessitating treatment.

10. Increased Recycling

- **NEW** – In the most recent Annual Report to CalRecycle the 2014 estimated trash disposal rate by residents was 3.5 pounds/person/day (PPD) and 8.3 PPD by employees of local businesses. This is lower than the maximum disposal allowed in La Mesa, 6.2 PPD and 13.8 PPD respectively, under AB 939 which mandates 50% diversion from landfills.
- **NEW** – Nearly 86,100 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected from 754 La Mesa and Lemon Grove residents during 2014.
- **NEW** – Two free paper shredding events were held for residents. Over 1,165 vehicle loads were dropped at the annual Spring Cleanup event at EDCO Station, weighing over 360.16 tons. Nearly 80 tons was diverted for recycling.
- **NEW** – EDCO now accepts wax-coated cartons, such as milk and juice box containers.
- All playground upgrades and replacement use recycled materials when available, including flooring materials that are either recycled tires or wood chips.
- The city has warehouse space devoted to used office equipment, supplies, and furniture for reuse by departments.
- A backyard composting program is available for residents in which they can purchase discounted bins from Dixieline ProBuild in La Mesa. City Hall has a compost bin for use by employees.
- The City's mandatory recycling ordinance is enforced and has a citywide compliance rate among commercial businesses and multifamily properties of 95%.
- Recycling containers are located in the downtown village as well as all City parks.
- An aerosol recycling system captures propellant for safe disposal.

11. Promoting Urban Forests

- **NEW** – The City Council approved an application for a CAL FIRE grant which was submitted.
- The City is participated in the San Diego County Tree Inventory developed by the California Center for Sustainable Energy with CAL FIRE funding to provide interactive maps to quantify the ecological and economic benefits of trees.
- The City has been recognized as a Tree City USA since 1980.

12. Public Education

- **NEW** – The City had a table at EarthFair 2015 in Balboa Park to promote the Climate Action Plan and other environmental programs.
- The Environmental Sustainability Commission's graywater educational program will benefit both residents and businesses through brochures and information which are available at City Hall and on the City website.
- Helix Charter High School has AP Environmental Science, Oceanography and Earth Science courses focused on sustainability as well as an environmental club for student involvement that includes local clean-up efforts.
- La Mesa e-Gov allows anyone 24-hour access to services electronically including announcements of programs and events through Twitter, Nixle and Notify Me.
- The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District has recycling clubs at different schools and a grant-funded native plants learning laboratory at La Mesa Middle School.
- The La Mesa FOCUS publishes various items on environmental topics.
- Information on various environmental topics is available on the City website including links to SDG&E, Helix Water District, EDCO, CalRecycle and the EPA.
- The Environmental Sustainability Commission is comprised of members from environmentally linked industries and the general public to address issues and establish guidelines related to climate change.
- The "Sustain La Mesa" Environmental Festival was held at Harry Griffen Park, and included dozens of booths and activities as well as expert speakers promoting a variety of environmental topics. The festival also features a recycling zone for electronic waste, plastic wrap/bags and Styrofoam.
- Presentations are made to schools for all grade levels under a contract with I Love A Clean San Diego to educate on topics of pollution prevention and recycling.

Attachment A: Resolution 2007-039 and U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

COPY

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-039

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
ENDORING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT
CALLING FOR A REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2007 the La Mesa Global Warming Committee requested that the City Council endorse the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement;

WHEREAS, the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was passed in June 2005 by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and recognizes global warming and urges both the federal and state governments to enact policies and programs toward the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement includes 12 target areas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions including emissions monitoring, land-use policies, non-automobile transportation, energy efficiency, building design, waste treatment and recycling, and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the community and the City has implemented programs and steps that meet the target areas included in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, that the City Council does hereby adopt the resolution endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement attached hereto as "Exhibit A," calling for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 10th day of April 2007, by the following vote, to wit:

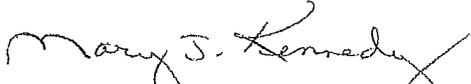
AYES: Councilmembers Allan, Arapostathis, Ewin, Sterling and Mayor Madrid

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MARY J. KENNEDY, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2007-039, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

“Exhibit A”

ENDORISING THE US MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, is clear that there is no longer any credible doubt that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40% decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves, more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, entered into force in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25% of the world's global warming pollutants yet is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S., had it ratified the treaty, would have been 7% below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (list attached) which reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act sponsored by Senators McCain and Lieberman and Representatives Gilchrist and Olver, which would create a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will establish a formal relationship with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Program to track progress and implementation of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.