



**City of Pasadena
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN**

BACKGROUND:

On September 18, 2006 the Pasadena City Council adopted the Green City Action Plan (GCAP) with over 70 initiatives for the City to undertake during the next five years to improve upon the City's environmental stewardship efforts and to position the City for recognition as a Green City by the United Nations in 2012. The framework for and goals contained within the Green City Action Plan follow the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords of 2005 (UEA). The UEA offers cities 21 specific goals to accomplish by World Environment Day 2012 with three goals assigned to each of the following UEA thematic areas:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Energy | 5. Transportation |
| 2. Waste Reduction | 6. Environmental Health |
| 3. Urban Design | 7. Water |
| 4. Urban Nature | |

The GCAP contains a wide range of initiatives that form a strategy towards fulfilling the ambitions of the UEA. Identified are means to conserve energy, reduce waste, address global warming, tailor urban design, protect natural habitats, improve transportation options and reduce risks to human health.

MISSION:

To advance the City's leadership role in addressing urban environmental matters, the Municipal Services Committee, at its meeting on August 16th, 2006, recommended the replacement of the Utility Advisory Commission (UAC) with an Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). On September 18, 2006, City Council authorized the creation and establishment of the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). As set forth in the Environmental Advisory Commission Ordinance (PMC Chapter 2.140), the primary function of the EAC is to provide policy advice to the City Council for promoting environmental stewardship and urban sustainability in accordance with the City Council's endorsement of the "2005 United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords," the City's adopted Environmental Charter, and other related environmental policies adopted by the City Council.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2007:

The EAC conducted its inaugural meeting on March 20, 2007. From April to August, the EAC held monthly public meetings to discuss in depth staff's work in implementing the GCAP. Presentations were made by each City department with active roles in the City's sustainability efforts. Information presented at these meetings was used to prepare the EAC FY 2008 Work Plan.

The EAC formed three standing committees to provide comprehensive review, analysis and commentary on the initiatives contained within the respective UEA thematic areas. The committees are as follows:

1. Energy & Water
2. Urban Design & Urban Nature
3. Waste Reduction, Environmental Health & Transportation

COMMISSION WORK PLAN – FISCAL YEAR 2008

A. General Items

1. **Green City Action Plan Progress:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the EAC will actively monitor the progress of the initiatives identified in the Green City Action Plan approved by City Council on September 18, 2006.
2. **Green City Action Plan Report:** By June 30, 2008 the EAC will provide a report to the City Council on the status of the Green City Action Plan.
3. **Outreach and Education:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the EAC will seek opportunities to effectively increase the community's awareness of and participation in the City's sustainability efforts and programs at public events such as the Green Leadership Summit (June 5-6, 2008) and Greening the Earth Day (April 26, 2008)

B. Energy – Policy Initiatives

1. **IRP Independent Study:** During Fiscal Year 2008 the EAC will provide input on the scope of work for an independent resource study; will review the completed independent resource study; and will make recommendations to the City Council as appropriate (*UEA Action 1 – Renewable Energy*).

Background: On July 23, 2007 at a joint meeting with the City Council and the EAC, the City Council adopted a recommendation to defer consideration of the draft 2007 Water

and Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) until certain underlying policies and principles are reviewed and adopted by City Council, and a recommendation to support an independent resource study of the renewable energy goals for the City.

- 2. Energy Goals:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the EAC will provide recommendations for aligning the Pasadena Water and Power's (PWP) energy efficiency (EE) demand reduction (DR), and solar photovoltaic (PV) goals with the UEA goals and review associated program implementation and funding (*UEA Action 2 – Energy Efficiency*).

Background: The GCAP contains a goal to adopt and implement a policy to reduce the City's peak energy load by 10% by 2012 through energy efficiency, shifting the timing of energy demands and conservation measures. This is a more aggressive goal than the state requirement to reduce peak load 10% by 2017. PWP has developed EE, DR, and PV program goals and funding mechanisms for City Council consideration in compliance with the state's requirements.

- 3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the EAC will monitor the progress of the efforts made to determine Pasadena's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The EAC will review and comment on the scope and study of the GHG emission reports, the specific reduction goals, and evaluate the study for consistency with other related environmental policies (*UEA Action 3 – Climate Change*).

Background: The 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) requires the California Air Resources Board to develop regulations for addressing global climate change. The California Climate Action Registry conducted an audit of PWP GHG emissions by an independent certifier.

C. UEA Water – Policy Initiatives

- 1. Water Consumption:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the EAC will review the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and provide input and recommendations to bring the goals of the plan into alignment with the goals of the GCAP, including the adoption and implementation of policies to reduce per capita water consumption 10% by 2015 (*UEA Action 19 - Water Efficiency*).

Background: PWP prepared the 2005 UWMP to comply with the Urban Water Management Planning Act of the California Water Code. The UWMP includes an overview of current and projected water supplies and demands a description of the local water system; addresses the topics of reliability and impacts of water quality considerations on water supply, and provides a description of water conservation and water management activities that PWP currently conducts or has planned for the next five years. Where possible, the UWMP has been integrated with other regional and inter-city planning efforts to ensure a coordinated approach to water management.

- 2. Water Fixture Replacement for Housing:** By June 30, 2008, make recommendations to the City Council on an ordinance requiring replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures

(toilets, urinals, shower heads, irrigation controllers, etc.) for properties subject to existing inspection programs such as time of sale inspection program and rental inspection program (*UEA Action 19 – Water Efficiency*).

Background: The UEA goal for water efficiency calls for a 10% reduction in per capita consumption by 2015. During the past decade the City has supplied an average of 37,263 acre feet of water per year to service area consumers. By 2015, the projected demand for water is 41,291 acre feet. To meet the 10% reduction goal requires essentially no net additional water usage for the next 10 years. With increased population and development, consistent with the City's adopted General Plan Land Use Element, this goal may only be achievable if the City adopts an aggressive water conservation program.

D. Urban Design – Policy Initiatives

1. **Green Building Water Amendment:** By June 30, 2008, make recommendations to the City Council on amending the Green Building Practices Ordinance mandating applicable green building projects achieve a water use reduction of 20% over baseline (*UEA Action 7- Green Building, and UEA Action 19 - Water Efficiency*).

Background: In December 2005 the City approved a progressive green building program which included mandates for certain size buildings. Following the LEED green building rating system, the mandates require a building to choose from a menu of 69 options to attain green building status. The proposed amendment would make water conservation a requirement instead of a flexible option.

E. UEA Waste – Policy Initiatives

1. **Toxic and Waste Reduction:** During Fiscal Year 2008, the Commission will review current waste/toxics reduction policies and make recommendations to adopt a strategy supporting citywide reduction of disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category that may include items such as plastic bags and polystyrene (*UEA Action 4 – Zero Waste, and UEA Action 5 Toxic Reduction*).

Background: The GCAP identifies both plastic bags and polystyrene as products to reduce and/or ban within the City in support of achieving zero waste by 2040 and reducing the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least 50% by 2012.

2. **Solid Waste Diversion:** Monitor and revisit solid waste reduction policies, with particular emphasis on the diversion requirements of construction and demolition debris, and the diversion requirement for franchise haulers operating in the City (*UEA Action 4 – Zero Waste*).

3. **Construction and Demolition Debris Amendments:** During Fiscal Year 2008 the EAC will provide recommendations to the City Council on amendments to the Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance (PMC 8.62) requiring a diversion rate increase to 60%, which includes a 20% restriction on inert debris recycling (*UEA Action 4 – Zero Waste*).
4. **Solid Waste Franchise Collection System:** During Fiscal Year 2008 the EAC will provide recommendations to the City Council on amendments to the Solid Waste Franchise Collection System (PMC 8.61) to implement increased diversion requirements for franchisees (*UEA Action 4 – Zero Waste*).

Background: Current State Assembly Bill AB 939 requires cities to divert 50% of solid waste. The state is considering raising the diversion to 60% by 2012 and potentially higher by 2020. The initiatives included in the GCAP call for increased diversion rates of construction and demolition debris and increased diversion requirements of the franchise haulers operating within the City. The City adopted an ordinance in 2002 requiring a minimum diversion of 50% of construction and demolition debris on certain projects within the City. Since the adoption of the ordinance, advances in the construction and demolition debris recycling industry have resulted in construction and demolition debris recycling facilities reaching diversion rates in excess of 50%. Project applicants could meet a higher diversion requirement by using recycling facilities that are operating at an excess of the minimum 50% rate required by the State.

F. UEA Transportation – Policy Initiatives

1. **Bicyclist Changing Rooms and Showers:** By June 30, 2008, the EAC will make recommendations to the City Council on an amendment to the PMC requiring certain buildings provide shower and changing room amenities (*UEA Action 15 – Reduce Congestion*).

Background: The GCAP includes a goal to implement a policy reducing the number of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by 10% by 2012. Critical to this effort will be strategies to encourage alternative modes of transportation (rail, bicycle, walking). With approximately 40% of City residents working in the City more people may be encouraged to bike to work if changing facilities and showers are provided at their place of employment. The City's emphasis on green building design provides an opportunity for new projects to comply with the LEED credit of providing bicycle storage, showers, and changing rooms.

