

Agenda Report

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: ED-TECH COMMITTEE (JULY 26, 2006)

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACCORDS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize Mayor Bogaard to sign the Urban Environmental Accords Declaration on behalf of the City; and,
2. Adopt the Action Plan (Attachment 1) and direct staff to initiate the actions indicated as "new legislative" to achieve urban sustainability as promoted by the United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On June 5, 2005 the United Nations unveiled the Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords (UEA); a set of 21 actions for cities to take as first steps in addressing urban sustainability and providing a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society (see Attachment 2). An interdepartmental team with representatives from the Planning and Development, Public Works, Transportation, Water and Power, and the Public Health Departments was formed at the beginning of the year to explore the appropriateness and the feasibility of the City acting upon the 21 Actions of the UEA. From March to May the UEA Team met to develop the action plan presented in Attachment 1.

The team concluded that the City has achieved seven of the 21 UEA Actions and is likely to achieve eight additional actions by 2012 through the adoption of the Action Plan. Staff believes that with the completion of two specific items in the action plan, the City can achieve One Star City status, the first level recognized by the UEA, by the end of Fiscal Year 2007. Those actions are completion of a Tree Canopy Survey (Action 11.1), and prohibition of certain products for City operations (Action 16.1). Completion of additional actions in the Action Plan will raise the City's ranking with staff anticipating a minimum Three Star City status by 2012.

BACKGROUND:

2007 UEA Action Plan

The Action plan provides implementation measures which follow the seven thematic areas of the UEA (energy, waste, urban design, urban nature, transportation, health, and water). The status of each action and information on the implementation measures is included in the plan. More detailed information is recorded in the supporting background papers available from the City Clerk's Office and the libraries.

Of the recommended initiatives, 31 fall within existing-on-going City programs, 28 require new administrative action, and 11 require legislative action from the City Council. Staff will continue work-in-progress and will immediately begin work on those initiatives indicated as "new administrative" on Attachment 1. As priority projects and programs, staff workload will be adjusted to ensure the completion of these initiatives in a timely manner. Upon approval of the Action Plan, staff will begin work on the initiatives marked "new legislative" requiring City Council direction. These legislative actions will require staff to report back to City Council for final consideration and approval. These include items such as amendments to the Green Building Practices Ordinance, the Construction and Debris Ordinance, and adoption of a resolution prohibiting use of certain environmentally dangerous products in City operations.

In addition to the Action Plan recommendations, staff will undertake the following additional steps to further the progress towards citywide sustainability:

Municipal Services Committee

At their request, the Municipal Services Committee of the City Council will be presented with staff recommendations for restructuring the Utility Advisory Commission as a commission focused on citywide environmental matters.

Environmental Platform

As the City's ability to achieve sustainability is influenced by policy decisions at the state and federal level, staff will draft a new environmental policy section for the City's legislation platform for 2007. This would advance the City's

commitment to environmental action, and enable staff to review and make timely recommendations on pertinent environmental and urban sustainability initiatives.

Municipal Sustainability Training

Successful sustainability at the municipal level requires a shift in common practices, thoughts, and ideology of each staff member. Raising the awareness of environmental practices is key to involving staff in a citywide effort to reduce negative impacts associated with waste and unhealthy practices. Collective “buy in” can be promoted through training programs at all levels. A mandatory city sustainability training program will be initiated by July 2007. A training video highlighting the City’s environmental vision can effectively serve to meet this need.

Annual Status Reports

Staff will prepare an annual status report which may include additions or changes to the implementation measures, updates on studies completed, costs and benefit analysis, and identification of funding sources. The UEA Team will remain as a standing staff committee to monitor progress, provide information, and ensure completion of the UEA Action Plan.

United Nations Urban Environmental Accords

World Environment Day (WED) is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations raises worldwide awareness of the environment, and stimulates political attention and action. On June 5, 2005, San Francisco hosted WED with over 50 mayors from across the globe gathering to discuss specific actions cities could take to achieve urban sustainability, promote healthy economies, advance social equity and protect the world’s ecosystem. The meeting resulted in the Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords. The 21 actions of the UEA serve as reference points for setting achievable goals with an allowance for tailoring the actions to fit the specific structures of local communities. To commit to the UEA, city representatives are asked to sign the UEA Signatory Form (Attachment 3). As of January 2006, 87 cities had signed the Green Cities Declaration (Attachment 4).

Green Star City Status

Beginning in 2005, the United Nations recommends that during each year until 2012 cities adopt three actions as policies or laws. At the end of this time, cities will be recognized as Green Star Cities on the basis of the actions taken collectively as follows:

19-21 Actions	Four Star City
15-18 Actions	Three Star City
12-17 Actions	Two Star City
8-11 Actions	One Star City

Staff is confident the City can claim One Star City status by the end of Fiscal Year 2007 upon completion of a tree canopy survey and adoption of a resolution prohibiting specified unhealthy products. Completion of additional actions will raise the City's ranking with staff anticipating a minimum Three Star Status by 2012. Therefore, it is recommended that on behalf of the City, the Mayor sign the non-binding Urban Environmental Accords Signatory Form.

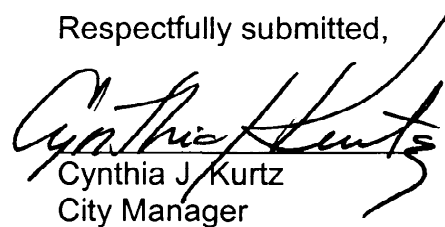
Implementing the UEA reinforces the City's Environmental Charter, in particular the following passage which addresses many of environmental thematic areas of the UEA:

The City shall establish policies that will incorporate environmental responsibility into its daily management of urban and industrial growth, education, energy and water use, air quality, transportation, waste reduction, economic development, and open space and natural habitats.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Some staffing and program costs associated with implementing the actions in support of the UEA are incorporated into approved department budgets. Costs associated with implementing individual actions may vary as feasibility studies are completed and costs/benefits analyzed. Staff will continue to pursue external funding sources for specific actions and report findings to the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:


Alice M. Sterling
Senior Project Manager

Approved by:


Richard J. Bruckner
Director of Planning and Development

- Attachment 1 Pasadena Urban Environmental Accords Action Plan
- Attachment 2 Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords
- Attachment 3 Urban Environmental Accords Signatory Form
- Attachment 4 Green Cities Declaration Signatory Cities