

Agenda Report

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2008

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Green Cities California Sustainability Resolution.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EAC):

At the regular meeting held on January 15, 2008 the EAC unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt the Green Cities California Sustainability Resolution.

BACKGROUND:

The resolution creates Green Cities California as a coalition of cities cooperatively and collectively taking action of mutual benefit to accelerate local, regional, national and international efforts to achieve sustainability, and commits the City of Pasadena to work with other local governments throughout the state and the nation to adopt and implement sustainable policies and practices. By continuing its participation in Green Cities California, benefits to Pasadena include 1) reduction in staff time in identifying best practices in support of sustainability, 2) increasing the City's influence on State and National policy concerning sustainability, 3) increasing Pasadena's capacity to accelerate sustainability, and 4) raising the prominence of the City as an environmental leader.

The resolution and the mission of Green Cities California is consistent with the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; the United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords (UEA); and Pasadena's adopted Green City Action Plan. Founding member cities of Green Cities California include Berkeley, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and the County of Marin, representing over eight million Californians.

The resolution identifies the following five initial sustainability actions in support of the UEA for member cities to achieve during the next year:

1. Purchasing 100% post-consumer recycled paper for municipal operations.
2. Prohibiting the purchase of bottled water for municipal operations and government sponsored events.
3. Adopting a carbon offset plan for municipal employee air travel.
4. Adopting municipal fleet fuel efficiency standards.
5. Promoting the purchase of California foods for municipal events and operations.

The City's status on each of these actions is described in Attachment A.

FORMATION OF GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA

Shortly after the September 18, 2006 adoption by the City Council of the Green City Program, Pasadena was invited to participate in the first gathering of 30 municipal sustainability directors from across the country to discuss the challenges of developing and implementing sustainability plans in a quickly emerging and evolving field. As a result of this historic summit in Boulder, Colorado, it became apparent that a number of California cities had advanced sustainability plans and these city representatives were eager to learn more from each other on ways to implement specific initiatives. A summit of California sustainability directors was planned for spring 2007 with the goal of increasing the network potential of the group and to explore the possibility of establishing a formal working group.

At the spring summit in March 2007, sustainability directors from 10 leading California jurisdictions gathered to begin the task of developing a preliminary course of action for establishing a structure for the group and defining a work plan. Representative cities included Berkeley, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and the County of Marin. The outcome of the meeting was to recognize that as a collective group, with local elected officials committed to advancing sustainability, these cities could and should serve as leaders for other jurisdictions; share information with cities that may lack staffing and resources; influence progress in sustainability at an accelerated rate; and commit to specific actions as a united group.

Playing into this vision was the practical realization that the group was limited by the increasing day-to-day responsibilities of each member and to be truly effective, a meaningful and realistic cooperative plan maximizing resources and eliminating duplication was necessary. A follow-up summit was planned for October 2007 to delve into planning details.

At the October 2007 Green California Cities Summit, the first challenge tackled by the group was to establish a means by which the respective city leaders could recognize Green Cities California as a legitimate coalition of sustainable cities with a purpose of

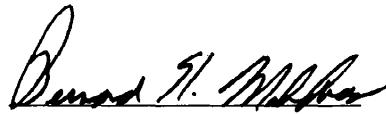
mutual benefit. A resolution (see enclosure) was crafted by the group and each sustainability director committed to introducing Green Cities California to their respective officials by January 2008. The Cities of Santa Monica and Sacramento have approved the resolution. The City's of San Diego and San Francisco, and the County of Marin have scheduled January presentations to their respective decision makers.

The second challenge faced by the group was to identify meaningful sustainable actions for each city to agree to complete that would represent how, as a collective organization, these cities can make an effective change at the local level in support of sustainability. From a wide range of possibilities, five initial actions were selected by the group and are listed in the attached resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The initial meetings of the sustainability directors were underwritten by the Blackstone Ranch Institute, a non-profit foundation dedicated to advancing sustainable practices. For Green Cities California to become a self-sustaining group, a modest annual membership fee for an initial period of two years is requested. The City of Pasadena's annual membership commitment is \$5,000 and will be funded through the Building Services Fund adopted FY08 budget.

Respectfully submitted,




Bernard K. Melekian
City Manager

Prepared by:



Alice M. Sterling
Senior Project Manager

Approved by:



Richard J. Bruckner
Director of Planning and Development

ATTACHMENT A - Pasadena Status on the Green Cities California Actions
ENCLOSURE - Green Cities California Resolution

ATTACHMENT A

PASADENA STATUS ON THE GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE RESOLUTION

1. Recycled Paper

In December 2007, the City of Pasadena successfully entered into a contract for the purchase of 100% recycled paper (an estimated 1,920 reams of paper annually). The virgin lumber protected, the waste diverted from landfills, and the energy and water saved is magnified by the number of cities implementing this practice. It is through its contacts with Green Cities California members that Pasadena was able to locate a vendor for its recycled content paper.

2. Bottled Water

Prohibiting bottled water for municipal operations is an existing administrative practice in Pasadena with many municipal buildings having installed water filtration systems. On a case-by-case review process, the Finance Department may consider a waiver for the purchase of bottled water for off-site events where attaining on-site water is difficult or impractical (e.g., Arroyo Seco summer hiking camps for kids).

3. Green Travel

The City's Green City Action Plan contains provisions for "buying green" which includes developing a strategy for offsetting carbon emissions associated with air travel. The strategy could include creative means of offsetting carbon emissions locally through the purchase of street trees, contributing to City sponsored green events, and providing public education on climate change.

4. Green Fleet

The City's Green City Action Plan contains a strategy for replacing fossil-fuel vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles. The City has already made significant progress in reducing fossil fuel vehicles and adding alternative energy vehicles to its fleet.

5. California Foods

Although the City does not purchase large quantities of food on a regular basis, nor does the City operate its own commissaries, the City can promote the purchase of local food with emphasis on California foods. There are tremendous benefits to the environment and public health in support of locally grown foods (e.g., less transportation, more vitamins retained). The Public Health Department and the EAC are exploring creative ways to inform the public on these benefits and to partner with the Pasadena Unified School District.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA

WHEREAS, the cities of Berkeley, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and the County of Marin represent over 8 million residents of the State of California, along with their associated environmental impacts and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that for the first time in history the majority of the planet's population now resides in cities, and that continued urbanization creates a new set of environmental challenges and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that air pollution, water pollution, waste disposal, traffic congestion, and the pervasiveness of toxins associated with urbanization contribute to significant environmental health impacts on our communities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that current global environmental challenges related to the over-consumption of natural resources, climate change, peak oil, availability of clean water, food security, and environmental justice put our cities and our residents at serious risk and require immediate action at all levels; and

WHEREAS, we have individually expressed our commitment to address these issues through the adoption of local sustainability plans, the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, we have individually developed visions for a sustainable future and have demonstrated leadership in achieving effective solutions to these environmental challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Pasadena joins with the cities of Berkeley, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and the County of Marin to create Green Cities California, to cooperatively and collectively take action to accelerate local, regional, national and international efforts to achieve sustainability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by adopting this Resolution the City of Pasadena commits to working with other local governments throughout the state and the nation to adopt and implement sustainable policies and practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by adopting this Resolution the City of Pasadena commits to working together with other **Green Cities California** members to influence state and national actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; promote sustainable land use, building and development practices; conserve water; promote energy efficiency; expand renewable energy options; reduce waste to landfills; extend producer responsibility; reduce vehicle miles traveled and single occupancy vehicular trips; distribute environmental benefits and burdens in an equitable manner; and provide funding for local governments to accomplish these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Pasadena commits to achieving the following five initial actions in solidarity with the members of **Green Cities California**:

1. Purchasing 100% post-consumer recycled paper for municipal operations.
2. Prohibiting the purchase of bottled water for municipal operations and government sponsored events.
3. Adopting a carbon offset plan for municipal employee air travel.
4. Adopting municipal fleet fuel efficiency standards.
5. Promoting the purchase of California foods for municipal events and operations.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

JANE L. RODRIGUEZ, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form:


SCOTT D. RASMUSSEN
Assistant City Attorney