

Appendix 9

POLICY BACKGROUND

In the winter of 2008/2009, in response to recommendations from Eugene's Sustainability Commission, the Eugene City Council adopted the following directive:

In conjunction with a wide variety of community partners, by August 2010, develop a community climate and energy action plan that will (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions and (2) reduce total, current community-wide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030 (as an absolute not a per capita reduction) by:

- ∞ Establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal;
- ∞ Establishing targets for achieving those goals;
- ∞ Identifying strategies to achieve those targets;
- ∞ Identifying necessary adaptations;
- ∞ Developing measures for tracking success;
- ∞ Identifying financial impacts, and
- ∞ including periodic progress reports back to the community with annual reports of progress to the Sustainability Commission

The language from the Sustainability Commission recommendations is below:

Recommendation 2 from Eugene Sustainability Commission to Eugene City Council. October, 2008

While City facilities and operations contribute to local carbon emissions, their collective impact at the community, metro and regional level is of far greater significance. The City, in conjunction with several community partners, completed a Eugene Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report in July 2007. The "next steps" section of the August 2007 memo to the council noted it was vital to have in-depth discussions with community members and local agencies in order to identify reduction strategies and ways to get there.

While the commission recognizes that the City is limited in its jurisdictional authority to regulate outside its boundary, it also recognizes that Eugene must be a leading participant in moving our region toward carbon neutrality. While Eugene has relatively low carbon emissions compared with many other North American cities, much of that is due to the excellent work of EWEB to provide us with primarily low carbon emission hydro and wind power and their focus on energy conservation since the 1970s. However, based on the review of the SBI report and other relevant information, the commission has determined that immediate action to develop a community climate action plan, including a community carbon emission reduction goal is needed. Therefore the commission recommends the following:

The City of Eugene shall, in conjunction with a wide variety of community partners:

Develop a community climate action plan within 18 months that will (1) set a carbon emission reduction goal and establish targets for achieving that goal; (2) identify strategies to achieve those targets; (3) identify necessary adaptations; (4) develop measures for tracking success, and (5) include periodic progress reports back to the community with annual reports of progress to the Sustainability Commission.

Recommendation 2 from Eugene Sustainability Commission to Eugene City Council. February, 2009

All eight of the commission's work plan issue areas have direct or indirect ties to energy consumption. The Portland Peak Oil Report, public testimony and other research asserts the world is very near, at or past global "*peak oil*" production. The steep oil price rises last summer and the increasing petroleum demand from the growing economies of China and India suggest the end of the cheap, fossil-fuel based energy age is near. Under even moderate fossil-fuel supply reductions or modest price increases, Eugene can expect a wide variety of negative social, environmental and economic impacts. The commission both acknowledges and appreciates the long standing cooperative partnership forged between the City and EWEB that has resulted in Eugene's comparatively low dependence on fossil-fuel derived electricity. Nonetheless, the commission's review of the literature leads it to conclude that immediate action is necessary. Eugene must prepare to reduce the impacts of fossil fuel price escalation and supply fluctuations. Attachment B outlines additional background and rationale for this recommendation. The commission recommends that:

The City of Eugene, in conjunction with a wide variety of community partners:

By August 2010, develop a community action plan that aims to reduce total, current communitywide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030 (as an absolute not a per capita reduction) by (1) establishing targets for achieving that goal; (2) identifying strategies to achieve those targets; (3) identifying necessary adaptations; (4) developing measures for tracking success; (5) identifying financial impacts, and (6) including periodic progress reports back to the community with annual reports of progress to the Sustainability Commission.

Note: If this recommendation is adopted by council the commission recommends that development of the plan be undertaken in conjunction with the community climate action plan (one of the first set of commission recommendations adopted by the council). Note that the community climate action plan is also being developed with community partners within the same timeframe. The resulting plan would focus on both climate and energy consumption issues.