



City of Denton

City Hall
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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Utilities – Environmental Services

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Mario Canizares

DATE: June 20, 2017

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda and current Sustainability activities.

BACKGROUND

Following the President's withdrawal of US participation from the Paris Climate Agreement on June 1, 2017, a number of US cities and mayors have joined together to adopt, honor, and uphold the goals of the agreement. This effort has been organized by [Climate Mayors](#) (also known as the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda), a network of US Mayors collaborating on climate action led by Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles. As of June 12, 2017, a total of [292 US Mayors](#) – representing over 60 million Americans – have signed on to be a member.

DISCUSSION

A city must be a member of Climate Mayors to join the initiative to honor the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. There are no binding commitments as a member, only that cities are pursuing actions to achieve an emissions reduction target. In addition, members of the Climate Mayors network are asked to join in occasional letters and statements, as well as substantive initiatives like the previous Electric Vehicle RFI to show automakers and manufacturers that 114,000 of their cities' cars and trucks could be electrified. The network also holds monthly coordination calls with each city's Sustainability/Climate Lead to participate and share progress.

To join, the Mayor must send an e-mail and designate a contact person. Please note that website states that the group is receiving a significant amount of interest and there may be a delay in response. Although there is no formal mechanism, Climate Mayors members 'sign up' by adopting the spirit and goals of the Paris Agreement, supported by tangible local-level action. This means by:

1. Developing a community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory;
2. Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions in line with that required by the Paris Agreement;
3. Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the city's targets; and
4. Resourcing City-led activities to demonstrate year-on-year progress.

The City of Denton currently meets items 1, 3, and 4. The City has not set an overall community target to reduce emissions as identified in item 2; although there are municipal targets for Fleet and DME operations. An overall community target could be adopted through the Sustainability Plan update, which is planned for later this year.

The Paris Agreement set forth a goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. However, to meet this goal, most targets are set at a percentage reduction in emissions from a baseline year. The US pledge under the Paris Agreement was to reduce emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

City of Denton Sustainability Plan and Actions

The City has addressed GHG emissions and air quality concerns at a local level for many years. The City has not set a long-term target, but has committed to policies and actions that continue to reduce emissions and track and report on those reductions. Below are some examples of policies and actions:

- One of the first cities to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - Local Governments for Sustainability in 2005 and begin tracking GHG emissions;
- Tracked GHG emissions for both municipal operation and the community beginning in 2006 on a five-year cycle, using a 2002 base year (will shift to annual GHG inventory beginning with 2016 data);
- Adopted a sustainability plan in February 2012, *Simply Sustainable, A Strategic Plan for Denton's Future*, with air quality and greenhouse gas management a key focus area;
- Outlined goals in the Sustainability Plan to continue to reduce emissions across multiple sectors;
- Participate in Carbon Data Project (CPD) to report GHG information for benchmarking against other cities;
- Adopted the International Energy Efficiency Code early for new construction;
- Adopted idle reduction policies and Clean Fleet Policy;
- Implemented collection and reuse of landfill methane;
- Expanded rebate/and audit programs such as Solar and Energy Efficiency;
- Expanded Sustainable Schools program;
- Enhanced municipal energy use/tracking; and
- Participate in multiple organizations that facilitate networking and sharing of best practices surrounding sustainability issues including Urban Sustainability Directors Network, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, STAR Communities, and Carbon Disclosure Project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A draft summary report of the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the City, prepared in December 2016, has been reviewed by COE and posted on the Simply Sustainable website page www.sustainabledenton.com. It summarizes actions taken, next steps moving forward, and data collection on local greenhouse gas emissions and trends over time. The report is planned to be presented to the City Council this summer along with information on a Sustainability Plan Update.

Generally, it is estimated that from 2006 to 2015, emissions have been reduced in the City of Denton:

- Overall emissions for municipal operations have decreased **by 25%** since 2006; and
- Overall Community emissions have decreased **by 13%** since 2006.

On a community scale, emission targets would need to be set generally in line with the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions 26-28% below the City's 2006 level by 2025. With the actions in the Sustainability Plan and DME's plan to have 70% renewable energy by 2019, it is reasonable that such a target could be set and achieved for the community.

OPTIONS

- Join the Climate Mayors group and direct that emission reduction targets be set to meet the goals and intent of the Paris Climate Agreement as part of the City's Sustainability Plan Update; or
- Forego joining the Climate Mayors group and continue with the City's Sustainability Plan update and actions.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

The 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report is planned to be presented to the City Council this summer with a timeline and project overview of the City's Sustainability Plan Update.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: Sustainable & Environmental Stewardship

Related Goal: 5.2 Improve air quality and greenhouse gas management

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – AIS Sheet

Exhibit 2 – Presentation

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