

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D (4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: February 19, 2002

TITLE: Report on 9th Annual Cities for Climate Protection – U. S. National Training Workshop

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Resolution to join CCP program – June 5, 2001	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana McDuffee -- 929-3476 Patricia McGuire, Planning Administrator, 918-7327

PURPOSE

On June 5, 2001, the Board of Aldermen, in accordance with a goal to develop environmentally responsible policies and practices, adopted a resolution pledging the Town's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and save energy through joining the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program. From February 6-9, 2002, one staff member and one Alderman attended the 9th Annual CCP – U.S. National Training Workshop. A report on this workshop will be provided at the meeting.

INFORMATION

The CCP program began in 1993, and currently more than 115 local governments in the United States and over 500 worldwide are participating. North Carolina local governments included Durham, Chapel Hill, and Orange County. The CCP's parent organization, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is a non-profit international association of local governments committed to addressing environmental problems through local actions.

By resolution in June 2001, the Town of Carrboro has pledged to reduce local emissions that contribute to global warming by working through a five-part process that involves:

- 1) Conducting a local emissions inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions
- 2) Setting an emissions reduction target
- 3) Drafting an action plan
- 4) Implementing the plan
- 5) Evaluating and reporting on the process.

Periodically, the CCP program holds training workshops that provide an opportunity for local staff and elected officials from participating local governments to recognize achievements, learn about effective energy conservation practices, and build regional, national, and global partnerships in this endeavor. Such an opportunity occurred in February 2002, with the 9th Annual U.S. Training Workshop. Representatives of 73 of the 115 U.S. participating local governments attended a 4-day workshop, including elected officials and staff from the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

In addition to assisting the Town achieve its overall environmental protection goal (Goal 1. Environmentally Responsible Policies and Practices), joining CCP also provides particular assistance with completion of a specific project. The second objective in the FY 2001-2002 Action Agenda specifies that the Town will move toward sustainable resource use and included there is one item (# 4) to perform an environmental audit and study of alternative fuel vehicles and the CCP and ICLEI provide assistance in this area. The Town has acquired CCP's emissions inventory software and expects to begin data collection efforts this fiscal year and complete this effort in the current calendar year. The amount of time required to complete the five milestones depends on the pace at which the town chooses to complete the milestones. CCP estimates that plan completion will take an average of five years. Existing staff can be used to complete the work. CCP does encourage local governments to form a public/private task force to set reductions targets and develop a plan.

There is no cost associated with membership in the CCP program. In order to purchase the CCP software at a discounted rate and to have access to a wide range of environmental training opportunities and materials, the Town joined ICLEI in 2001. The annual dues for ICLEI membership are \$600.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board receive the report on the 9th Annual CCP – U.S. National Training Workshop.