

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

ITEM NO. E(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2003

TITLE: Report on Air Quality Initiatives and Opportunities

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. April 29 Memo from Dave Stancil	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire – 918-7327

PURPOSE

Upcoming opportunities that support the Town's commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reduction were described during the Assembly of Governments held on April 29th. An update on those opportunities is provided. A resolution that expresses the Board's commitment towards these initiatives has been prepared and is recommended for the Board's adoption.

INFORMATION

The 2003 Action Agenda includes a project to conduct an environmental audit and explore the expanded use of alternative fuel vehicles. An update on these activities is scheduled for Board review on June 24th. Since January, the staff has been exploring the possibility of a countywide effort to use Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) funds to conduct the greenhouse gas emissions audit for a common baseline and forecast year. The attached memo (Attachment B) prepared by Dave Stancil, Director of the Orange County Department of Environment and Resource Conservation, and presented at the Assembly of Governments on April 29, 2003 provides information on those discussions and describes an additional opportunity related to air quality.

Since April 29th, it has been determined that Durham City and County will not participate in a regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and reduction plan but will instead seek funds from the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) for implementation of the transportation strategies included in their 1999 plan. A revised cost estimate of \$45,000 for an Orange County plan has been made. Based on an 80/20 cost sharing between the DCHC MPO and the local governments in Orange County, the cost breakdown is as shown below

Government/Entity	Population (April 2001)	Percent without Durham	Costs (\$)
DCHC MPO	341,541		\$36,000
Orange County	43,022	36.4	\$3,276
Chapel Hill	52,440	44.4	\$3,996
Carrboro	17,240	14.6	\$1,314
Hillsborough	5,525	4.7	\$423
Total	118,227	100	\$45,000

The Technical Advisory Committee will adopt its FY 2003-2004 Planning Work Program on June 11th and the funds for the inventory and plan would become available on October 1, 2003.

The deadline for the State Energy grant has been extended and a letter of support provided from the Board of County Commissioners. No other information is needed in support of the proposal is needed at the present time.

FISCAL IMPACT

Carrboro's share of the matching funds for the GHG inventory and reduction plan is \$1,314. Staff time for project coordination and administration would also be involved.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (*Attachment A*) supporting the inclusion of an Orange County GHG inventory and reduction plan on the DCHC MPO's FY 2003-2004 Planning Work Program.