

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. B(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 7, 2005

TITLE: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Reduction Plan

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Carrboro, Chapel Hill, & Orange County Memorandum of Agreement C. ICLEI Scope of Work	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Noah Ranells, 918-7326 Patricia McGuire, 918-7327

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this item is to request that the Board authorize the Town Manager to sign the memorandum of agreement with Orange County and Chapel Hill for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory and Reduction Plan.

**INFORMATION**

In 2003, an environmental audit was placed on the work plan for the Planning Division. The Board of Aldermen directed staff to proceed with a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and reduction plan as an initial component of the environmental audit. This project has developed into a collaborative effort with Orange County and Chapel Hill, with Orange County will serve as the primary contracting agent with International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project**

This 6-phase project (*Attachment B*) relies on significant input from local municipalities and non-governmental representatives to collect data on commercial and industrial energy consumption, transportation patterns, and waste disposal. Current GHG emissions will be calculated and future GHG emissions projected. An interim report outlining the GHG inventory and forecasting results and analysis will be produced. Identification of potential new measures for future targeted GHG reductions will be based on the inventory from various sectors. A GHG emission reduction targets for the community and corporate operations will also be developed for future GHG emission scenarios based on differing levels of investment on behalf of local municipalities. Finally, a local action plan will be formulated and submitted for approval to the Advisory Group, the Transportation Advisory Committee of the DCHC MPO and the governing boards of Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Orange Country.

A steering committee will consist of 13 members shall include representatives of air quality stakeholder groups, as follows: 3 elected officials (1 each from the Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, and Orange County); 2 energy industry representatives; 2 University of North Carolina representatives (1 transportation, and 1 air quality); 6 at-large (2 each for 3 municipalities); and 1 ex-officio representative from the Town of Hillsborough.

Total funding for this project will be \$45,000. All transportation-related tasks and components will be reported separately to satisfy the requirements of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization funding for \$14,100 (~80% of transportation-related project costs) towards this project. Local government percentage of the cost will be based on a previously-used method for joint projects based on the 2000 Census. Orange County will pay 44.6% (\$13,781), Chapel Hill 41.2% (\$12,731), and Carrboro 14.2% (\$4,388).

### **Related Environmental Audit Items**

Other efforts towards auditing environmental costs, benefits, and opportunities for improvement have also been underway. Planning staff has made initial efforts to examine other complementary areas of interest, including.

#### 1. Environmental Management System (EMS)

Environmental Management Systems serve as a tool to improve environmental performance by providing a systematic way of managing an organization's environmental affairs. It also gives order and consistency for organizations to address environmental concerns through the allocation of resources, assignment of responsibility, and ongoing evaluation of practices, procedures and processes focusing on continual improvement of the system. Accountability is stressed at all levels of administration. More information is available at <http://www.p2pays.org/iso/public.asp>

#### 2. Environmental Purchasing Policy (EPP)

Municipalities and private business can achieve broader environmental goals through the purchase of high-quality 'green' products. These programs help drive down the cost of recycled content and other green products as well as create viable markets for the recyclables collected in our communities. Key aspects are price, performance, and availability. Additional information and examples of these policies are available <http://www.p2pays.org/epp/>.

Preliminary exploratory conversations have occurred between Management Services and Public Works staff regarding use of recycled products by town staff as well as by local businesses. The 2004 2005 work plan, under the "Enhance and Sustain Quality of Life / Place Issues for Everyone" - Advance Social Justice and Equity Issues (sustainable Communities) in Town Policies, Operation, and Budget, includes an item entitled "Explore Implementation, i.e. use of recycled products" that is assigned to Public Works, Management Services, and Community & Economic Development.

#### 3. Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs)

"Perform Environmental Audit / Study Alternative Fuel Vehicles" was the first item noted in the Planning Department project list for 2004 (13 APR 2004 agenda; Attachment D). In the past 18 months, a natural gas powered Honda Civic GX was on loan in various departments. The Police Department considered a grant subsidized purchase of a Honda Civic GX for a community policing project but budgetary constraints eliminated that opportunity. In July 2004, the environmental planner sent all department heads an email communication offering assistance in alternative fuel and fuel efficient vehicles and equipment. Development of an Environmental Purchasing Policy can include specifics on AFV purchases that respect fiscal constraints of incremental costs.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

Carrboro's share of the matching funds for the GHG inventory and reduction plan is \$4,388. This project is expected to begin after 1 July 2005 and expenditures will be anticipated by setting aside funds at end of FY 2004-2005. Staff time for project coordination and administration would also be involved.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution (*Attachment A*) to authorize the Town Manager to sign the memorandum of agreement with Orange County and Chapel Hill for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project and begin the process of designating one elected official and two citizens from the Town of Carrboro to participate in the greenhouse gas project.

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