

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: **A(2)**

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2008

TITLE: A Resolution Accepting the NC League of Municipalities Green Challenge

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ __ No __X__
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RANDY DODD, 918-7326

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to request adoption of a resolution for the Town to participate in the North Carolina League of Municipalities Green Challenge.

INFORMATION: The NCLM has issued a challenge to municipalities to pursue sustainability initiatives. Participating cities and towns choose practical actions that can save energy, money and natural resources. There are three levels to the Green Challenge, and a city or town will receive recognition for completing one or more levels. Special recognition may be given for exceptional accomplishments.

The first level includes practical actions that a municipality can take, focused on commitment and planning. For each item, The NLCM provides a description and helpful resources or examples and identifies an outcome that would provide proof of implementation. The items of the first level fit under the broad categories of Policy Adoption and Energy Efficiency. Carrboro, as a Town with a population greater than 10,000, must complete three of the five suggested actions to achieve the first level. Staff have assessed Carrboro's ability to meet the challenge items and has determined that Carrboro qualifies by 1) having adopted a climate protection resolution; 2) by registering with EPA's Energy Star Challenge and completing a baseline emissions inventory; and 3) cooperating with OWASA and other local governments on a water conservation education program. Therefore, no staff or fiscal impact is required for the Town to participate in the first level of the challenge. For participating, the Town will receive a plaque signifying its commitment at the NCLM Centennial Conference in Charlotte, October 12–14. For Carrboro to take part in the Green Challenge, the Town needs to notify the League offices of the intent to do so via resolution by September 1, 2008, along with any actions taken or planned on the items in Level One. Staff are prepared to notify the NCLM of actions taken.

The NCLM will announce requirements for participating in the intermediate or advanced level of the challenge in the coming months. In the interim, some possible requirements are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Possible steps for Intermediate and Advanced Levels of NCLM Green Challenge

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Purchase electric power from renewable sources or install renewable energy technology (solar, wind or geothermal) for use in government facilities. The total of purchased renewable energy and onsite-produced renewable energy must equal at least 2.5% of the energy use of all government facilities.
Create a separate real estate classification and lower tax rate for buildings that are 30% more efficient than required by building code.
Develop a policy to utilize energy-efficient and dark sky-compliant outdoor light fixtures.
Establish an energy manager position/responsibility or management team within the government.
GREEN BUILDING
Establish a policy of LEED certification for all new government facilities.
Approve or build a LEED-certified government building or renovate an existing building to the LEED-certified level.
WASTE MANAGEMENT
Implement an internal government program that reduces, reuses and recycles paper, plastic and other materials.
Establish a procurement policy of a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content for everyday office paper use (consistent with the current federal government policy).
Establish a community-wide recycling collection program.
VEHICLES
Adopt a "green fleet" policy that incorporates, at a minimum, the purchase of low-emitting, fuel efficient vehicles for vehicle fleet replacement and the use of alternative fuels (biodiesel, natural gas, ethanol) in fleet operations.
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION
Adopt land-use plans that allow higher-density development either near public transit nodes or in areas with existing infrastructure and encourage mixed-use communities.
Promote the use of permanent conservation easements on private property within your community and/or implement a permanent conservation easement on public land.
WATER/AIR QUALITY
Develop and implement a plan for tree preservation and planting.
Adopt an anti-idling policy for school/government fleet vehicles.
EMPLOYEE INCENTIVES
Provide employee benefits for ride sharing, walking, biking or taking transit to work.
Adopt a policy that a minimum of 20% of the eligible workforce should participate in alternative work schedules or telework by 2010.
EDUCATION/COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Develop an employee education program on policies/practices relating to the environment and energy conservation.
Establish an advisory commission composed of local residents and business representatives to advise and assist the local governing board on policies and practices dealing with the environment and energy conservation.
Develop and implement an education program for the local community dealing with the environment and energy

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT: There is no immediate fiscal or staff impact associated with this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution.