

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: D(2)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2009

### TITLE: Update on Energy Planning/Sustainability Efforts

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> PLANNING, MANAGER, ECD	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES __ __ No <u>X</u>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Staff memo on EECBG C. Staff memo on NCLM Green Challenge	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> PATRICIA MCGUIRE, 918-7327 RANDY DODD, 918-7326 MATT EFIRD, 918-7314 JAMES HARRIS, 918-7319

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the BOA on recent and planned staff activities related to energy and sustainability under three topic categories: potential submittal of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) under the ARRA; Town submittal of qualifying activities for the NC League of Municipalities Green Challenge; and planned community outreach activities for the International Day of Climate Action sponsored by 350.org.

#### **INFORMATION:**

##### EECBG Submittal

Under the ARRA, the North Carolina State Energy Office (SEO) is managing funds designated for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Carrboro is eligible to compete for ~\$7M to implement energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems along with other smaller municipalities and counties in North Carolina. Relevant fact sheets, presentations, sample plans, checklists, and spreadsheets are available at <http://www.energync.net/>. Town staff have been reviewing the SEO materials related to this opportunity in anticipation of release of a Request for Proposals (RFP). Town staff have discussed the possibility of joint submittal with Orange County and Hillsborough staff. More details are available in the attached staff memo.

##### NCLM Green Challenge

The North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) has finalized criteria for intermediate and advanced status under its Green Challenge program. The NCLM will be recognizing municipalities who submit qualifying information at the annual conference October 25-27. Municipalities can submit information at any time; however public recognition occurs at the annual conference. The Green Challenge Guide (available at <http://www.nclm.org/documents/greenchallengeguide.pdf>) describes over 20 “green” activities and associated credits. Credits are also possible for other innovative or special accomplishments. Town staff reviewed the program, submitted information to the NCLM, and received notification of the Town’s receiving “Advanced” status under the challenge. More details are available in the attached staff memo.

## Climate Action Planning and International Day of Climate Action

With the completion of the Orange County Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the next milestones in the local climate planning process are to establish target emissions reductions and develop a local action plan. (The inventory is available at [http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/documents/Greenhouse%20Gas%20Reports/Orange%20County%20GHG%20Inventory\\_Final.pdf](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/documents/Greenhouse%20Gas%20Reports/Orange%20County%20GHG%20Inventory_Final.pdf).) Towards these milestones and in consideration of the designation of October 24<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Climate Action, Town staff are planning to hold a community outreach session on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Town staff and interns have prepared poster materials and developed a survey to present on this day, and have invited Chapel Hill and Orange County staff to participate. In the spirit of this day of action, staff propose to participate with sessions in the morning at the Farmers Market/Town Hall and in the afternoon at the Bolin Creek festival.

The International Day of Climate Action is sponsored by 350.org, an international campaign dedicated to uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. The number “350” refers to 350 parts per million, the level many scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere. A strong scientific and policy consensus indicates that the global community needs to move quickly, and in unison to return the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere to this level. 350.org’s message is that the solutions to climate change must be equitable, they must be grounded in science, and they must meet the scale of the crisis. 350.org will collect images from around the world to demonstrate how “big, beautiful, and unified” the climate protection movement is.

### **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT:**

There is no immediate fiscal or staff impact associated with this agenda item. Assuming the Town proceeds with an EECBG application, staff time will be required for application preparation and submittal and, if successful, to implement the program. It is not possible at this time to quantify a preliminary estimate of the \$ or hours required for submittal and implementation, pending the details of the RFP and the Town’s proposed approach to implementation.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution accepting this report and directing staff to pursue an EECBG application.