

City of Lawrence
Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force
 July 22, 2008 (4:30 PM) Meeting notes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mike Dever, Chad Luce, Jeff Severin, Charles Gruber, David Dunfield, Steve Hughes, Susan Rodgers, Simran Sethi
MEMBERS ABSENT:	John Geist, Jeff Novorr, Dan Simons, Carey Maynard-Moody, Bridgett Chapin
STAFF PRESENT:	Cynthia Boecker, Tammy Bennett, Kathy Richardson, Steve Stewart, Todd Girdler
PUBLIC PRESENT:	
GUESTS:	

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:

NEXT MEETING DATE will be August 26, 2008. At the August meeting, the group will finalize meeting schedules for October, November, and December.

REPORTS FROM WORKGROUPS – Chairperson Michael Dever

TRANSPORTATION (Chairperson: Carey Maynard-Moody)

Report from workgroup:

- Goal is to reduce vehicle miles travelled (vmt) by 25% from 2000 baseline by a target date of 2012.
- In 2005, over 1.5 million vehicles miles travelled.
- Strategies to achieve the goal:
 - Public transportation (save the T, combine with KU, optimize routes)
 - Car pooling (Kansas rideshare, inter and intra city)
 - Land use planning (Smartcode; must have planning component to reduce vmt long-term)
 - Transportation planning (arteries to get around the city efficiently will reduce vmt)
 - Fuel technologies
 - Biking and walking (look at Norman, Oklahoma and Boulder, Colorado for examples of inclusion of biking / walking elements in overall planning, change facilities planning to include biking / walking amenities)

Comments and discussion:

- Calculation of the Vehicle Miles Travelled is completed by the Kansas Department of Transportation using a standardized methodology. The methodology includes traffic count data and modeling.
- There was general discussion of methods to increase biking – bike lanes, showers in facilities, etc.
- Construction of major arteries to carry traffic efficiently is a major challenge. North and south seems more feasible than east and west due to current built environment.
- Regarding the bus system, there was general discussion that we need to save the system, but it needs to be reorganized. The community needs to decide the primary purpose of the system. Is our goal to maximize federal dollars in (currently about \$ 2 million)? Is the goal to serve the largest possible geographic area? Is the purpose to minimize vmt? If we have a goal, we can design the system much more intelligently.
- NEXT MEETING of the workgroup is: August 14, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION (Chairperson: Steve Hughes)

Report from workgroup:

- The workgroup continues to identify the right participants to contribute to this committee.
- By the next meeting, the goal is to create a list of ideas for reducing energy consumption and then see what is feasible. The workgroup will review pro's and con's of various ideas. One example of saving energy is by not doing things twice. For instance, one member reported that current procedures require boring under new streets to make utility connections.
- The workgroup also wants to consider the energy components of the materials we use (embedded energy).
- The workgroup will focus on city conservation measures then policies. They recognize that we can't force individuals to make changes, but need to incent them to do things. For example, what would motivate a landlord to make an apartment more energy efficient if the tenant is paying the utility bill? Options mentioned include tax credits and licensing.
- The goal is January for having their portion of the report completed.

Comments and discussion:

- Lawrence is one of the first cities in the region using the International Building Code, which mandates compliance with the international energy code. The community could use IEC as a base and improve by a specified percentage.
- NEXT MEETING of the workgroup is August 21, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

POLICY, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

Report from workgroup:

- The workgroup is working on how to bring some of the initiatives and needs to media outlets (e.g., purpose of bus system, embedded energy of products).
- The focus is on grassroots organization. What can they do to cross organizational, institutional, and geographic boundaries?
- Concepts and general notes of the discussion:
 - Looking for Champions of the Community
 - Focused media / pr campaign (similar to Gro Green)
 - Power of united front – image, message, logo
 - People act for personal reasons. To make changes, the workgroup needs to be aware of and sensitive to the personal motivations.
 - Energy and water are key and inter-related resources.

Comments and discussion:

- Education and information are the first step. Policy issues will come later.
- The workgroup should begin to schedule media outreach in a regular way.
- This workgroup will be primary liaison to the media. There was consensus that it is best to centralize the outreach for all communications through this sub-committee. Outreach is informed by the workgroups but the message will be crafted by those especially skilled in that mission.
- NEXT MEETING of the workgroup is August 14, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Report from workgroup:

- The primary goal of the workgroup is to focus on source reduction.
- The goal statement will be finalized at the next workgroup meeting.
- The workgroup is working on the metrics of how to measure and set goals. For instance, the state of Kansas now focuses on pounds of municipal solid waste generated per person per day. That measurement captures source reduction efforts where a measurement such as "recycling rate" does not.
- Concepts and general notes of the discussion:

- Specific waste streams that may be considered for outreach and / or policy changes include:
 - Beverage containers. A bottle bill is one method of motivating behavior to increase recovery of materials.
 - Electronic waste
 - Food waste management
 - Plastic bags
- The workgroup needs further discussion and education on the City's environmental procurement policy.
- Trash collection process (efficiency, carbon footprint)
- Landfill capture of methane. Need to get more specific information on the planning process for capturing methane, economics of possible use options for the methane, and so on.

Comments and discussion:

- There was some discussion of the Fort Collins Environmental Program and website. The Fort Collins community set a waste reduction goal of 50%. The website also outlines the Fort Collins pay-as-you-throw programs.
- There was also discussion about whether a net metering law would make it economically attractive for Hamm's Landfill to capture methane and convert to energy. The Westar representative indicated there may be an interest in purchasing energy from methane at a rate that is attractive to the landfill, even without a net metering law.
- The next meeting will focus on finalizing the goal statement, review of the working outline, and reviewing the top 10 to 15 waste contributors in the city.
- NEXT MEETING of the workgroup is August 11, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

FORM AND FORMAT of workgroup final output

Workgroup reports are due to the Policy, Outreach, and Education workgroup by December 31, 2008.

The report will be unified by the policy group as a single voice. The overall document will include introduction and conclusion, plus two pages per workgroup.

Two page report due December 31, 2008, should be formatted as follows:

Introduction

Process

Members

Recommendations / goals

Conclusions

Key resources (3 to 5 web links)

The goals should be tangible goals including measurable numbers and efficiencies. Overall, we want to create quantitative goals, but the workgroups do not always need to define the processes to achieve the goals.

The report needs powerful action statements. Less is more.

A draft of the final report will be presented to the task force in February. The final document will be available in March.

REDUCTION TARGETS

The task force did not have the opportunity to discuss reduction targets in a detailed way. The task force members agreed that the report need to be goal oriented (not process oriented). Goals needs to be aggressive but tangible and measurable.

Next meeting agenda topics

1. Workgroup reports
2. Calendar for meetings in October, November, December
- 3.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

August 26, 2008	4:30, City Commission room	To be determined
September 23, 2008	4:30, City Commission room	To be determined
October 28, 2008	4:30, City Commission room	To be determined
November 25, 2008	4:30, City Commission room	To be determined
December		
January		
February		
March		

SCHEDULE OF WORKGROUP MEETINGS:

Energy efficiency and conservation	_____, 2008, 4:00 (location to be determined)
Policy, education and outreach	_____, 2008, 3 – 5 p.m. (City Hall, Planning, 1 st floor)
Transportation	June 26, 2008, 8:30 a.m. (City Hall, CMO, 4 th floor) July 10, 2008, 8:30 a.m. (City Hall, CMO, 4 th floor)
Waste Management	_____, 3 – 5 p.m. (City Hall, PW, ground floor)