

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Status report on Environmentally Sustainable Community (Goal 6)
DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development Services
PRESENTED BY: Joe Tovar, Director, Planning and Development Services

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

This a report to the Council updating them on progress to date on implementation of Council Goal 6: "Create an Environmentally Sustainable Community"

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

- The City Council approved \$100,000 in the 2007 budget to support the preparation of a Strategy to Create a Sustainable Shoreline.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required. This is an update to the Council of the work that the Departments have made toward implementation of Goal 6.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

The City Council adopted "Create an Environmentally Sustainable Community" as Council Goal 6 of the 2007-2008 Council Goals. The staff has been working on implementation of this goal and is prepared to present a status report to Council.

BACKGROUND

The City Council received a packet of material for its annual retreat in April, including a fairly detailed reporting of the status of implementation of Goal 6. Because there was not extensive discussion of that material at the retreat, it has been repeated below and will be discussed at the Council's May 7 meeting.

In order to better coordinate inter-departmental efforts in service of Goal 6, the staff has formed an Inter-Departmental Sustainability Committee, chaired by the Planning Director, and including the Directors of Public Works, Finance, and PRCS, and key personnel from those departments. The details of meeting dates and frequency is yet to be determined, but the Committee's near-term purpose is to coordinate the work on the Goal components outlined below, and provide periodic progress reports to the City Manager and Council. In addition, the Committee will provide a collaborative setting for the departments to distill sustainability principles and objectives to incorporate into final staff recommendations for the Aurora Project and Civic Center/City Hall projects.

Goal 6 and the City's commitment to sustainability in projects and programs will be named in the recitals of a resolution that will be before Council in late May. At the May 28 meeting, the Council will review a resolution that would express the City's interest in being designated as a "Cascade Agenda City." The staff has been in discussions with the "Green Cities" and "Great Cities" coordinators for the Cascade Land Conservancy to clarify what the benefits, commitments and consequences would be for Shoreline if the Council were to adopt such a resolution. We have also been in contact with other cities to learn of their experiences with the Cascade Agenda City program. The draft resolution will be one of the first products of the new Inter-Departmental Sustainability Committee.

Following below verbatim are the components of Council Goal 6 that were included in the packet prepared for the Council's April retreat.

1. Develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ # 4289) was published April 9, 2007 to initiate the search for an Environmental Consultant that will work with City Staff from Planning and Development Services, Public Works and Parks to develop an overarching strategy that will guide the City's decision making and track progress towards an Environmentally Sustainable Community. Staff continues to compile an inventory of resources and options that will contribute to this strategy.

Once the consultant is selected in mid-May, staff will work with the consultant to develop a strategy with the following objectives:

- Criteria for environmentally sustainable decision making;
- Assessment of how the city is doing so far and suggestions for improvement
- Measures for tracking progress towards environmental sustainability;
- Capacity assessment for implementation of the proposed strategy including financial, staffing, and community involvement requirements.

2. Complete Urban Forestry Assessment

The City recognizes the need to create a comprehensive management plan to guide future management of urban park forests within the city. A critical first step in the creation of a city-wide management strategy is to conduct an inventory of existing vegetation resources in our parks. The City Council approved a contract with Seattle Urban Nature Project (SUNP) to provide habitat mapping, vegetation surveys and management recommendations for Hamlin (80 acres), South Woods (16 acres), Shoreview (48 acres) and Boeing Creek (40 acres).

These four parks comprise the largest forested tracts in the park system with a majority of our public parks' important stream corridors, upland forest and wetland natural areas. A resource inventory will give the City information regarding existing forest habitat types and structure, and native and invasive species distributions. This information can be used to make planning and management decisions for both forest stewardship and recreational needs.

Since the contract was signed in late 2006, SUNP has collected data in the field and from existing GIS maps to produce a GIS layer that delineates existing habitat types throughout each of the four parks. This summer they will conduct their survey of 1/10 acre plots in each of the habitat types throughout each of the four parks.

Later this year, SUNP will compile the field data and link it to the GIS files. SUNP will prepare a report with the findings with management recommendations developed for each of the four areas surveyed including information about: invasive species location and methods for removal; preserving and increasing downed logs and under-planting shade-tolerant conifers; erosion control measures and re-establishment of under-story vegetation, etc.

SUNP will present their findings in a final council presentation in November 2007. This report will be used to implement the City's forest management strategy within these parks and provide a template for future survey efforts in the remaining forested public parks and open spaces.

3. Develop Options for a Green Street Demonstration Project (PWK)

During the first quarter, Public Works Operations staff has identified potential sites for implementation of Green Streets concepts. Staff will be meeting with a consultant to develop options for implementation at the chosen site. This process will be completed by the end of the second quarter. Once these options are designed, the Public will be involved in the process prior to the construction. The public process and construction will take place during the third and fourth quarters.

4. Update Stormwater Management Plan (PWK)

Public Works Operations staff, in conjunction with the PADS Permit Services Team, have reviewed the history of the ordinances and codes relating to storm water management in the City to assess what parts of the codes need to be updated. The Department of Ecology's NPDES Phase II Municipal Storm water Permit became effective for the City during the first quarter (February 16). Surface Water and Environmental Service staff have evaluated the requirements of the permit in relation to code revisions. SWES staff is currently conducting a programmatic needs assessment in relation to the permit requirements.

During the second and third quarter, Public Works and PADS staff, through their newly formed Interdepartmental Policy Group, will develop proposed changes to the storm water code and programmatic functions that will, at minimum, meet the requirements of the NPDES Permit. Compliance with this aspect of the permit has a deadline of August 2009. We anticipate completion of this sub-goal prior to that deadline.

5. Adopt advanced stormwater standards for the second phase of the Aurora Project (PWK)

Public Works Operations staff has sent recommendations to the Aurora Project Team on potential storm water standards for the next 2 miles. Next quarter, these recommendations will be incorporated into the storm water discipline report and technical memorandum by the Aurora Team and its consultants.

The City has hired SVR Design Company to develop natural storm water design concepts and alternatives for the Aurora Corridor Project. The City has hired Tom Holtz to assist with the development of these concepts. The City hosted a half-day study charrette on March 23rd, including SVC, Tom Holtz, Matt Loper (Professor at Shoreline Community College), John Lombard (Steward & Associates), Michael Broili, staff and Councilmembers to discuss natural storm water alternatives for the next two miles of Aurora.

6. Implement Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement

The primary effort behind this goal element is to inventory the City's global warming emissions for 1990 and 2007. Toward this effort, staff are researching how to accurately measure these emission levels. A meeting with the City of Seattle who recently completed their inventory will provide concrete steps for this task. In addition, funding for a statistically reliable telephone survey to get data that is relevant to the City is being investigated.

Beyond the task of conducting these two inventories, the City is involved with numerous initiatives to implement this agreement. These include the following:

1. Capital projects, such as the Interurban Trail, Aurora Corridor, and Priority Sidewalks that encourage walking, biking, and the use of mass transit other than single occupancy vehicle use

2. Recycling Events, which reduce the need for energy and natural resources to produce new products
3. Environmental Mini-Grant Program, which can fund local climate protection-related initiatives
4. Recent purchase of 2 hybrid vehicles, form-based code development, and participation in King County's Commute Trip Reduction program which reduce emissions and open space preservation and enhancement that preserves carbon banks in the City.

RECOMMENDATION

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