

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

Summary Statement:

Since incorporation, the Town Council has directed staff to take dozens of steps that were of benefit to the environment, some voluntary and some as mandated by regulations. At different times, Councils have adopted water conservation ordinances, a construction and demolition waste recycling ordinance, a landscaping ordinance, adopted a Climate Action Plan and approved participation in the League of California Cities Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change.

At this point, staff would like direction concerning whether the Council is interested in developing an overall policy for environmental activity. Governing bodies of many cities have formulated environmental policy statements that serve as a declaration of intent, a framework for environmental activities and a long term guide to be followed throughout city departments. Environmental policy statements can be general or precise in nature. To date, 100 cities worldwide, including 23 in North America and 12 in California, have signed on to the United Nations' 2005 Urban Environmental Accords. The Accords are a list of 21 actions local governments can take toward sustainability. The United Nations also developed "Local Agenda 21," an agenda for the 21st century in 1992. Local Agenda 21 contains 40 chapters and hundreds of pages.

(Continued)

Recommended Action:

Provide direction to staff with respect to any action desired towards developing an environmental or similar policy statement for the Town of Apple Valley.

Proposed by Diana McKeen, Envir. & Regulatory Compliance Mgr Item Number _____

T. M. Approval: _____ Budgeted Item Yes No N/A

Summary Statement
Environmental Policy Statement
Page Two

Some cities have adopted the 27 Principles of the Urban Environmental Accords or written their own. Some policies go into great detail and some are simple outlines of desired outcomes. The City of Pasadena has a four-paragraph “Environmental Charter” which states, in general terms, its commitment to environmental sustainability. The City of Claremont, on the other hand, has a 64-page Sustainable City Plan developed by a community focus group which includes goals, regular report cards to track progress, projected funding for the goals, creation of a city staffed Green Team, plus formation of Go Green Claremont which is a citizen committee.

Besides developing a unique environmental policy statement for the community, some cities participate with various environmental organizations such as Climate Action Registry, ICLEI, Green Cities California, and the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which currently has 1,054 signatures. Some of these groups have annual meetings, some require subscription or membership payments, and some have prerequisites for membership such as completion of a climate action plan.

Staff seeks direction whether or not Council has interest in development of a formal environmental charter or policy statement. The formation of a statement has no actual budget impact, but participating in some of the many environmental advocacy groups requires payment of dues. It would cost \$3,000 annually, for example, for the Town to join the Climate Registry, and \$1,200 to participate with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. To be part of California Green Cities, a jurisdiction must have a sustainability plan, sign onto the UN’s Urban Environmental Accords, participate with the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and pay dues of \$3,000-11,000 annually. The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, however, is a one-page list of 12 sustainable practices, many of which the Town is already using. There is no charge to sign on to the Climate Protection Agreement.

The following documents are attached for reference to demonstrate the variety of approaches to policy formation:

1. The City of Pasadena Environmental Charter;
2. The 2005 Environmental Urban Accords.
3. The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

1. City of Pasadena Environmental Charter (Example)

The City of Pasadena elects to be an environmental advocate and a leader in environmental compliance and protection. The City shall cultivate superior environmental standards that will provide for sustainable municipal development.

The City recognizes that growth and opportunity cannot be conducted at the expense of environmental protection and enhancement, and that growth and environmental stewardship are intimately related.

The City believes that the implementation of an environmental ethic need not interfere with economic development, and that practicing such environmental ethic can ultimately be expected to enhance economic affairs and provide for responsible, farsighted development.

The City believes that the protection of the urban and natural environments is a social responsibility and a fundamental obligation of a democratic government, and that an ecologically impoverished and polluted environment adversely impacts human health.

The City is striving to become a model for environmental excellence and a prevailing force in environmental protection. To accomplish these goals, the City shall establish policies that will incorporate environmental responsibility into its daily management of urban and industrial growth, education, energy and water use, air quality, transportation, waste reduction, economic development, and open space and natural habitats.

Retrieved July 15, 2011 from <http://www.cityofpasadena.net/greencity/>

2. Environmental Urban Accords, San Francisco 2005

Twenty-one proposed actions in seven primary areas:

Energy

1. Adopt and implement a policy to increase the use of renewable energy to meet ten percent of the city's peak electric load within seven years.
2. Adopt and implement a policy to reduce the city's peak electric load by ten percent within seven years through energy efficiency, shifting the timing of energy demands, and conservation measures.

Summary Statement
Environmental Policy Statement
Page Four

3. Adopt a city-wide greenhouse gas reduction plan that reduces the jurisdiction's emissions by twenty-five percent by 2030, and which includes a system for accounting and auditing greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Reduction

4. Establish a policy to achieve zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040.
5. Adopt a citywide law that reduces the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty percent in seven years.
6. Implement "user-friendly" recycling and composting programs, with the goal of reducing by twenty percent per capita solid waste disposal to landfill and incineration in seven years.

Urban Design

7. Adopt a policy that mandates a green building rating system standard that applies to all new municipal buildings.
8. Adopt urban planning principles and practices that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological reconstruction.
9. Adopt a policy or implement a program that creates environmentally beneficial jobs in slums and/or low-income neighborhoods.

Urban Nature

10. Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within half-a kilometer of every city resident by 2015.
11. Conduct an inventory of existing canopy coverage in your city; and, then establish a goal based on ecological and community considerations to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than fifty percent of all available sidewalk planting sites.
12. Pass legislation that protects critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics (e.g. water features, food-bearing plants, shelter for wildlife, use of native species, etc.) from unsustainable development.

Transportation

13. Develop and implement a policy which expands affordable public transportation coverage to within half-a-kilometer of all city residents in ten years.
14. Pass a law or implement a program that eliminates leaded gasoline (where it is still used); phases down sulfur levels in diesel and gasoline fuels, concurrent with using advanced emission controls on all buses, taxis, and public fleets to reduce particulate matter and smog-forming emissions from those fleets by fifty percent in seven years.
15. Implement a policy to reduce the percentage of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by ten percent in seven years.

Environmental Health

16. Every year, identify one product, chemical, or compound that is used within the city that represents the greatest risk to human health and adopt a law and provide incentives to reduce or eliminate its use by the municipal government.
17. Promote the public health and environmental benefits of supporting locally-grown organic foods. Ensure that twenty percent of all city facilities (including schools) serve locally-grown and organic food within seven years.
18. Establish an Air Quality Index (AQI) to measure the level of air pollution and set the goal of reducing by ten percent in seven years the number of days categorized in the AQI range as "unhealthy" or "hazardous."

Water

19. Develop policies to increase adequate access to safe drinking water, aiming at access for all by 2015. For cities with potable water consumption greater than 100 liters per capita per day, adopt and implement policies to reduce consumption by ten percent by 2015.
20. Protect the ecological integrity of the city's primary drinking water sources (i.e., aquifers, rivers, lakes, wetlands and associated ecosystems).

21. Adopt municipal wastewater management guidelines and reduce the volume of untreated wastewater discharges by 10 percent in seven years through the expanded use of recycled water and the implementation of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that includes participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social, and environmental principles.

19 to 21 Actions shall be recognized as a Four Star City
15 to 18 Actions shall be recognized as a Three Star City
12 to 17 Actions shall be recognized as a Two Star City
8 to 11 Actions shall be recognized as a Star City



The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

(As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that 1) includes clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.