



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 4315
January 7, 2008
Regular Business**

SUSTAINABILITY WORK PROGRAM - 2008	Proposed Council Action: Adopt the 2008 Sustainability Work Program
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DEPARTMENT OF	City Manager (Linda Herzog)
COUNCIL LIAISON	Mike Grady Steve Litzow
EXHIBITS	1. MI Sustainability Initiatives / Near Term Work Program
APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER	<i>Rich Conrad</i>

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$	35,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$	25,000
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$	10,000

SUMMARY

- In May 2007 the City Council approved a work plan of sustainability initiatives in three sections:
- Existing city programs and operations that support Mercer Island's commitment to "meeting the needs of the present while preserving the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (new element of the *City's Comprehensive Plan / Vision Statement / Community Values*),
 - Low cost initiatives to be implemented in 2007, and
 - Initiatives and programs requiring Council approval for new funding.

On September 4, 2007 staff provided a status report on accomplishment of the sustainability work plan items to that date, and proposed further changes in City operations and practices to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. In November the Council approved allocation of \$25,000 to cover the cost of implementing sustainability work plan items. To date \$9,036 of that allocation has been spent, for intern assistance in establishing a carbon footprint baseline for City operations. That baseline (2,214 tons in 2005) will enable the City to determine the effectiveness of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions over time.

A new Council Committee on Sustainability was formed in January 2008 to provide policy guidance to staff and maintain Council oversight of the City's burgeoning sustainability effort. Committee members Grady and Litzow met with staff in March and May 2008. They reviewed progress on work plan items, including such things as installation of energy-saving devices in City buildings; reaffirmation of the City's recycling practices; replacement of fleet vehicles with new hybrids; and the highly-acclaimed and well-attended Earth Day learning event at the Community Center. (A public information/education document is being prepared for release this summer describing the numerous City sustainability practices initiated over the past two years, and quantifying the benefits of each improvement.)

At the May 13 meeting of the Sustainability Committee staff and Committee members discussed the remaining work plan items. They agreed that many could be completed in 2008, with the addition of \$10,000 to support an added item: adoption of staff-generated sustainability proposals promising a high return on investment. These 2008 work program items appear in the first two columns of **Exhibit 1**, entitled

"MI Sustainability Initiatives / Work Program Items for 2008 Completion and Rescheduling to 2009-10". The third (shaded) column of that Exhibit contains items that will be included in the 2009-10 biennial budget and work program. Council will have an opportunity to further examine these ideas and set priorities among these and other proposals now under discussion among staff, Sustainability Committee members, and emerging public and private agency partners.

At this meeting staff is seeking Council concurrence only on the 2008 work plan items – those that appear in column 1. Funding for the 2008 "Public Outreach" section has already been appropriated. Funding for the new item "City Manager / Department Director Initiatives" is requested via the 2007 Year End Transfer action recommended by the Finance Director in Agenda Bill 4309.

In order to balance our limited resources and achieve a "sustainable" pace for these initiatives, the City Manager intends to present a Six-Year Plan for Sustainability as part of the 2009-2010 biennial budget. The Council can then look further into the future and determine which projects and initiatives are of the highest priority and benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

Interim Deputy City Manager

MOVE TO: Approve the proposed Sustainability Work Program for the remainder of 2008; allocate \$10,000 of new funding from the 2007 year-end transfer to enable start-up investments in staff-initiated sustainability efforts offering positive return on investment.

MI Sustainability Initiatives

Work Program Items for 2008 Completion, and Re-scheduling to 2009-10

FOR 2008 COMPLETION		FOR INCLUSION IN 2009-10 BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM	
DESCRIPTION OF WORK ITEM	FUNDING		
Measuring / Tracking / Reducing Carbon Emissions & Energy Use			
Create sustainability scorecard / algorithm to calculate carbon savings. Apply this formula to proposals for green changes in city operations.	None / Staff will generate	Carbon footprint annual update - intern or sustainability support staff	Green Power conversion - purchase portion of City power from PSE Green Power Program
Clean Vehicles / Fuels			
Continue Puget Sound Green Fleet partnership. Set City fleet goals consistent with Green Fleet Initiative.	None / MI continues leadership in Puget Sound Green Fleet Initiative		
Buy more efficient vehicles and/or convert to alternative clean fuels. Departments reassess vehicle needs to reduce engine size / fuel consumption / emissions.	None / 2008 "green" replacements purchased within available fleet fund.	Scheduled fleet replacements right-sized & replaced with suitable cleaner / greener vehicles. Create fund to support marginal added cost.	
Replace mowers with biodiesel or propane	None / ROW mower scheduled for 2008 replacement / funding available.		

Public Outreach and Education		
Over-sample MI households within King County survey of citizens' environmental behavior. Results (expected summer 2008) useful for "soft" baseline and comparison with rest of KC.	\$3,500 (carryover from 2007)	Healthy Ways to School / Bicycle-Pedestrian improvements proposed in CIP. Partner with MISD to market walking-to-school.
Create / distribute public information on City sustainability achievements and operational changes to reduce carbon, reduce waste, and improve energy efficiency.	\$1,500 (carryover from 2007)	Adopt charter and establish Citizens' Climate Action Task Force to advise on Island-wide sustainability actions
Summer Celebration: Products, coupons and materials for public education and to support household energy conservation / sustainability.	\$10,964 (carryover from 2007)	CEO Summit on green business practices: Identify local CEO to champion & convene. Engage PSE to offer no-interest loans for green enhancements. Annual Earth Day event.
Increased Recycling		
		Recycling containers in City parks per successful 2007 pilot.
		Add recycling & waste reduction incentives to new solid waste contract (current contract expires mid-2009).
Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings		
Public facilities energy audit & capital investment plan through partnership with PSE and MISD	None	Energy-efficiency retrofits (with PSE grant assistance)
Partnership expansion to include City of Bainbridge along with PSE and MISD.	None	
City Manager / Dept Director Initiatives		
Micro-investment fund for staff-proposed green initiatives offering positive return on investment.	\$10,000 (new funding needed)	Continue availability of micro-investment fund, replenished by savings realized from operational changes.
Research and adopt best green practices in all city disciplines. Dept Directors examine their professional literature / contacts for proven practices applicable to City operations.		
City Code Amendments / Regulatory Actions		
Green Building standards – DSG to brief Council on possible "green" code modifications.	None	Code amendments per Council priorities and direction.