



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of September 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

Present: Richard Godfrey, John Rennels, Carolyn Obata,
Daniel O'Donnell, Paul Kelley, Shiva Swaminathan

Absent: None

Oral Communications: None

Approval of Minutes:

- Regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2017. Motion to approve by Commissioner Rennels; second by Commissioner O'Donnell. Approved unanimously with abstention from Commissioner Kelley as his appointment had not begun yet.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Presentation from staff on the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

City of Fremont Sustainability Manager Rachel DiFranco and Fremont CivicSpark Climate Fellow Kranti Malik presented details regarding the results of the 2015 greenhouse gas emissions inventory update process. In order to complete the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update, City staff utilized the SEEC ClearPath California tool developed by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. As part of this process, the original emissions values reported in both the 2005 Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory and the 2010 GHG Emissions Inventory Update needed to be reviewed and revised according to the newest methodology. These updates resulted in slight changes, particularly to the emissions related to the transportation sector. The 2015 GHG Inventory Update follows the same methodology.

Currently, calculations for 2015 community-scale emissions are complete, while municipal-scale emissions are still being calculated. Staff presented initial community-scale findings to the Commission, which demonstrate that while emissions in certain sectors have decreased, such as in the residential energy and water sectors, emissions in other sectors have either remained relatively consistent or have even seen a slight overall increase, such as in the transportation, commercial/industrial energy, and waste sectors. As a result, overall emissions in 2015 are nearly equivalent to the levels in 2010.

Questions from the Commission to staff included the following:

- How do Fremont’s emissions compare to other cities?
- How much has commercial and industrial activity increased compared to increases in vehicle miles travelled?
- Could emissions be reviewed / analyzed in relation to population growth?
- How do emissions levels relate to GDP?
- What are the per person or per household levels of emissions?

In particular, the Commission recommended that staff track down the following data for each of the greenhouse gas inventory years:

	2005	2010	2015
Total Population			
Number of businesses in operation			
Economic activity levels (GDP)			
Square footage of commercial / industrial space			
Employment levels / workforce			
Number of total housing units			
Number of development projects approved			

Staff reported that they will consider these questions and will work to include as much information as available in the narrative report to help qualify the inventory findings. A draft of the narrative report will be developed and presented at an upcoming Commission meeting for additional comments and suggestions before it is finalized for publication.

5.2 Commission Consideration of Referral from Chair Godfrey on City Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Chair Godfrey presented a proposal to the Commission discussing the possibility of the City’s divestment from any companies that produce fossil fuels. He reported that according to the City’s website, Fremont currently holds investments in both Chevron and Exxon Mobile.

Commissioner Swaminathan suggested that the analysis should focus on whether the firms that the City invests in are “good global citizens”. This led to a discussion on whether the focus should be on “socially and environmentally responsible” funds. Commissioner O’Donnell stressed that the focus should be on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Commissioner Chair Godfrey then requested that the Commission support his referral to have staff prepare a report to evaluate the benefits and impacts of the City divesting any investments in companies producing fossil fuels. Vice Chair Rennels motioned that the Commission request Staff to evaluate the benefits and impacts to the City of divesting City investments from fossil fuel companies. Commissioner Obata seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5.3 Staff Updates

Sustainability Manager Rachel DiFranco updated the Commission on the following items:

- The City would be hosting a Green Home Workshop in partnership with Stopwaste on Tuesday, September 26th at 6:30pm at the Fremont Main Library. Registration available www.FremontGreenHome2017.eventbrite.com.
- The Bay Area SunShares Program is available again this year throughout the Bay Area from August through November. Discounts have been negotiated with PetersenDean, Skytech Solar, and Solar Technologies (a SunPower provider) offering approximately a 15% cost reduction. Discounts have also been negotiated for the Nissan Leaf and Toyota Mirai. More information and registration available at www.bayareasunshares.org.
- At this year's League of Cities Annual Conference in Sacramento, Fremont was presented with the "Silver Level" Beacon Award by the Institute for Local Government (ILG). Fremont's "Silver Level" Beacon Award recognizes the City's achievements for reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 11 percent, municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent, electricity use reductions of 28 percent, and natural gas use reductions of 6 percent. Fremont was one of only eight cities to receive the ILG's prestigious Beacon Award this year. Other 2017 awardees included Sacramento, Scotts Valley, Foster City, Hayward, San Carlos, Palo Alto, and Claremont. More information available at www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-award-program.

5.4 Commissioner Updates

- Chair Godfrey announced the second Niles Canyon Roll & Stroll will take place on Saturday, September 30th from 7am to 2pm. More information available at www.84strollroll.com.
- Commissioner Rennels announced that he has been appointed as the Sustainability Commission representative to the Mobility Task Force, whose first meeting will be held on October 20th. More information available at www.fremont.gov/mobilitytaskforce.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator