



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of June 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Present: Chair Richard Godfrey, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, John Rennels, Nina Moore, Haroon Rasheed

Absent: Vice-Chair Shiva Swamenathan

Oral Communications: None.

Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting minutes of March 5, 2015 – Approved unanimously

Schedule Items:

5.1 Update on the Drought and Local Water Conservation Efforts from the Alameda County Water District:

Stephanie Nevins, Water Conservation Supervisor at the Alameda County Water District, provided an update on the current state of the drought and local water conservation efforts. The state of California is currently in its 4th year of drought. On March 13, 2014, the Alameda County Water District (ACWD) Board of Directors declared a water shortage emergency in Fremont, Newark, and Union City and adopted a Water Shortage Emergency Ordinance to prohibit wasteful usage and place limits on landscape watering. ACWD also set a goal of a 20% water use reduction throughout its service territory. By the end of 2014, ACWD customers had reduced water consumption by just over 20% (approximately 20,000 acre-feet of water).

At the State level, ACWD is now required to maintain a 16% reduction from 2013 water usage levels or the agency will be in violation of state regulations. The State has also established the following additional end-use restrictions beyond the ACWD ordinance: restaurants may only serve water to customers upon request; hotels must provide guests with the option of opting-out of sheet washing during their stay.

The ACWD rebate programs for water efficient landscaping on both the residential and commercial side have become extremely popular. ACWD has also launched new programs to promote conservation at home, including a \$100 high-efficiency toilet rebate for residential customers (limit 3 per household) and a \$50 rain barrel rebate for rain barrels that store 50 or more gallons of water.

5.2 Commission Consideration of recommendation to City Council to authorize the City Manager to write a letter of support to the City of Walnut Creek to authorize Fremont to participate in the East Bay SunShares Program:

Cara Baptiste-Rao from the City of Walnut Creek and Kevin Armstrong from the Vote Solar Initiative presented on the East Bay SunShares effort to provide East Bay residents with the opportunity to procure solar photovoltaic systems for their homes at a discounted price through a collective purchasing process. East Bay SunShares is a bulk procurement model in which residents pull their purchasing power to negotiate a discounted price on the cost of installing rooftop solar electric systems.

The Vote Solar Initiative, a nonprofit organization, is the program administrator, and has entered into an agreement with the City of Walnut Creek to run a program in Walnut Creek and other East Bay Cities. There is no cost to the City as long as at least 40,000 contacts are reached through various outreach and marketing efforts. Other cities considering participating include Lafayette, Concord, Benicia. Vote Solar will issue a request for proposals (RFP) from solar firms that operate throughout the region who would like to participate in the program and offer a discount. VSI will then work with a team of community members from participating Cities to review those vendor proposals and select which one(s) will serve the program.

Commissioner Moore stated that there are a number of solar firms headquartered in Fremont, and asked if the SunShares program would allow for us to specify a preference for contracting with a local company. Vote Solar stressed that the solicitation would be sent to all solar contractors registered with the California Solar Initiative and doing business in the participating Cities, so this would include any companies based in Fremont. While the solicitation will not limit the application or selection of contractors to only companies operating out of Fremont, the RFP review committee can discuss the merits of the various applications and decide if local preference should be a deciding factor in their selection.

Commissioner Rennels motioned to provide Commission support of the staff recommendation to City Council on June 16, 2015 to authorize the City Manager to provide a letter of support to participate in the East Bay SunShares Program. Commissioner Rasheed seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously.

5.3 Presentation from Haroon Rasheed on the May 24th Fremont Green Summit Event:

Student Commissioner Haroon Rasheed gave a brief presentation on the Fremont Green Summit event organized by FIERCE (Fremont Is Engaging in Real Change in the Environment) on May 24, 2015. Working with the Silicon Valley Talent Partnership, a nonprofit organization supporting public-private partnerships that has partnered with the City of Fremont, FIERCE organized the Fremont Green Summit as a full-day event for students to learn about green initiatives and innovations from local environmental organizations and cleantech companies to gain further understanding about the environmental challenges they are faced with today, learn how they can combat it, and engage with experts in this field through engaging workshop sessions & panels. The event had nearly 100 attendees from across all FUSD high schools, and was well received

by the students. FIERCE hopes to plan subsequent events in the years to come that help inspire high school students to think strategically about pressing environmental concerns and inspire them to take action locally.

5.4 Georgetown University Energy Prize Q1 Energy Data Reporting:

City Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco presented on the 2013 – 2014 baseline and first quarter of 2015 energy usage that the City submitted for the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition. This energy usage included all kWh of electricity and therms of natural gas consumed by Fremont’s residential, municipal, and public school sectors. The kWh and therms are converted by GUEP into thousands of British Thermal Units (kBtUs), which will then be “weather-normalized” to provide a more even comparison across communities. Communities will be judged over the course of the competition in percentage reduction per capita of energy usage.

When electricity and natural gas consumption is aggregated, 95.2% of Fremont’s energy usage for the GUEP competition is attributable to the residential sector, with just 3% from Fremont Unified School District and 1.8% from the City of Fremont. Between January 2013 and March 2015, average total energy consumption among these three sectors has dropped from about 400 million kBtU to just over 300 million kBtU. Fremont does not yet know how this data will rank us in comparison to the other cities in the competition. A public dashboard is anticipated to be launched by GUEP with all community rankings sometime within the next quarter.

5.5 “Fremont Green Challenge” Logo Debut:

City Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco debuted the Fremont Green Challenge logo and branding to the Commission. This logo will be used for promoting the City’s community-wide climate action efforts as well as to specifically generate brand recognition for the City’s participation in the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Commissioners expressed that they liked the logo, and hoped it would help to create more momentum for GUEP.

5.6 Staff Updates:

Community Development Deputy Director Dan Schoenholz and Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco updated the Commission on the following items:

- The municipal solar installations under the Regional Renewable Energy Procurement are now underway. The installation at the Aqua Adventure Water Park and Irvington Community Center are complete, and the Police Complex is underway. The Maintenance Center has also been approved by City Council and is beginning the design phase.
- The Zipcar carshare pilot project has launched. 3 vehicles are now located at the Fremont BART Station and 2 vehicles at the Centerville Train Station. The City will be collecting ridership information from Zipcar and will report back to the Commission at future meetings. Residents of Fremont can sign up for a new account with Zipcar at www.zipcar.com/cityoffremont.
- Fremont has launched a community portal for the OhmConnect residential energy demand reduction platform at www.ohmconnect.com/fremont. There, residents

can select to donate the points they earn from their energy reductions to the Fremont Senior Center or Family Resource Center, or they may create their own cause or keep their earnings for themselves.

5.7 Commissioner Announcements:

Chair Godfrey stated that he would like to receive an update from the Fremont Unified School District and from Ohlone College regarding the work that they are doing to promote sustainability among their own facilities, in the classroom, and with students.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator