

**Minutes of the Oberlin City Work Session**

Held in Council Chambers

January 22, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer Rimbert called the Work Session to order at 6:12 p.m. The purpose of the work session was to discuss the 2012 update of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Members Present: Bryan Burgess, Scott Broadwell, Aaron Mucciolo, Sharon Soucy, Ronnie Rimbert

Members Tardy: Charles Peterson and Elizabeth Meadows

City Staff Present: Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council and Eric Norenberg, City Manager, Doug McMillan, Energy Services & Sustainability Initiatives Manager OMLPS

Members of Council heard a presentation regarding the 2012 Climate Action Plan Update. An overview of the following sections was provided: (See attached PowerPoint).

- Introduction
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Transportation
- Green Building
- Waste Management
- Education and Awareness
- Oberlin College
- Achieving Climate Positive

Throughout the presentation the following questions were asked:

Renewable Energy

Burgess asked if there had been a GHG protocol that has been around longer than five (5) years? McMillan remarked that the GHG protocol in the CAP revision is the result of partnering with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme, and UN-Habitat to develop the Global Protocol for Community – Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC); which he expected would last longer than 5 years.

Mucciolo said it seems that they were adopting various standards and practices from a number of different groups regarding measurements and verifications. He asked whether the measurements provided would be specifically from Oberlin or if they would be based on averages of comparable cities? McMillan stated that for transportation measurements the information is collected from tax records from the State of Ohio on the gasoline sold within the City limits and that is what the global protocol uses. McMillan

remarked that he didn't have an answer for the other measurements but that information would be forthcoming

Mucciolo asked if the City would begin looking at purchasing a smaller baseload power portfolio when current policies in place have expired, if energy efficiency has drastically improved over the next 10 – 15 years?

Dupee remarked that over the past few years the City has entered into a number of long-term arrangements, both for landfill gas and hydro and because of the long term arrangements of those agreements, the City wouldn't have much flexibility in its power portfolio at least for the next 15 years. However, that flexibility would begin to enter into the equation once those portfolios came to an end.

John Scofield, 328 Reamer Place stated that he felt that this was a great new document that is formatted well and readable. However, he found one of the strategies promoted by the plan to be flawed which encouraged people to switch from natural gas to electric, for heating, to our clean electric supply. Scofield felt that this was bad public policy being that natural gas was cheaper than electricity. He explained that this would require many of our citizens – some unwilling – to pay more and to coerce citizens to do it was a bad idea. Furthermore, he explained that because electricity is a higher form of energy, it would takes three (3) units of natural gas to burn a plant to make one (1) unit of electric energy, which would mean that if you used electric energy to heat, then you were only getting one – third (1/3rd) efficiency going all the way back to where it was generated, making natural gas a more efficient source. Having a green supply doesn't prevent this in our case because we are not an isolated town, but we are connected to a major grid and every time we save one unit of green energy, its exported to other people in someplace a natural gas plant throttles back and we save three units of gas outside of town, but not necessarily in town. Therefore he felt it was bad policy to switch gas to electricity unless you have the technology to make up that 3:1 ratio. Heat pumps can do that sometimes but it depends on the details. Unless this is resolved he hoped that this would be changed in this document. McMillan remarked that he would get with Mr. Scofield and look at this more closely.

Burgess responded to concerns raised by Scofield by reading an excerpt from the plan which indicated that they were talking about high efficiency heating systems using the heat pumps not standard electric base board heating. Bob Coan remarked that high efficiency heat pumps are much more efficient than they have been in the past so it would not be that significant of a change, which he felt would address the 3:1 ratio issue.

Energy Efficiency

Mucciolo asked what the number that was listed on the heat loss inspection strategy was based on? McMillan said they used the ICLEI CACP software to calculate the numbers.

Mucciolo commented that more of this specific data was needed to make the proposed plan even stronger. He felt that POWER's new energy advocate would be instrumental in providing this information.

Soucy said she couldn't find the Super Rebate Program listed as one of the strategies. She asked that this be incorporated into the plan as well. McMillan said it should be included in the plan but if not they would make sure it is added.

Transportation

Soucy asked if the 1.5 cars per household accommodated the number of student cars. McMillan said that he thought it did but he would need to clarify the numbers with the transportation subcommittee.

Broadwell said given that transportation accounts for approximately 27% of GHG emissions, it seemed to him that it would be one of the more difficult numbers to bring down without any form of local transportation being put in place, short of taking cars off of the road. McMillan agreed that this would be difficult and felt its success would rely heavily on influencing behavioral changes like riding your bike instead of driving.

Scofield said that he would agree with Mr. Broadwell this is the hardest sector to attack. It seemed to him that there were a whole lot of strategies being suggested that needed to be prioritized. He suggested that before they decide to spend money on some of these strategies (i.e., charging stations in downtown Oberlin) they really needed to think through what these things were really going to impact on the City's carbon footprint.

Tony Mealy, 328 South Professor Street agreed with Mr. Scofield, that they should clarify some of the details in the report. For instance the report states that in 2016, sixty-six percent (66%) of our electricity would be generated by landfill gas, which is a dirty gas. In the long studies taken over the last 40 years on the east land fill gas was shown to emit a lot of carcinogens when you burn it, which has been known to cause breast cancer in women who live around these plants.

Soucy said that she would like to see one of the strategies in this section look at ways to reduce student car use on campus. McMillan noted that it was somewhat addressed on page 25, of the Plan under explore changes to parking infrastructure and policies. He reassured her that this would be revisited once they received a copy of the College's Climate Action Plan. Norenberg further noted that one of the strategies listed under the chart for Present Strategies in Transportations is to "increase carpooling/car-sharing" which would apply to the city, college and local businesses.

Green Building

Scofield noted that there was a lot of excitement about green building but little data that demonstrate that they really have, collectively, reduced Green House Gas emission or saved energy. He said upfront the Lewis Center is a building that is much more efficient than normal buildings it's also much more expensive than other buildings. In this report, there are a half – dozen buildings listed as LEED certified buildings and he is unaware of data for any of those buildings that demonstrate they have achieved reduction in GHG emission or energy. He has published two papers on LEED buildings and nationally the best studies they have, show that they are no better and no worse collectively than traditional buildings. In the interest of Green buildings, he felt that the City needed to emphasize more measured results instead of focusing on the itemized list of items that are put in a building up front. He believed that energy efficient buildings could be built and standards could be developed where we ask each other to build buildings that save energy. So far, the kind of Green Building Certification program that are out there, simply don't have enough data that demonstrates that these buildings are doing what we want, which is saving energy collectively. It was further noted that the national trend that they were seeing showed that there was less interest in some of these certification programs and more interest in real energy savings.

Carl McDaniels, 495 E. College Street concurred with comments from Mr. Scofield. He said in the past there has been a real problem with these certification programs and in order to make this plan really work, there has to be performance on the buildings, and you have to know what the cost for performance will be. These factors have not been addressed by any of the certification programs but they are addressed in the proposed plan.

Bob Coan, 256 Kendal Drive said in the 10 year program, that Kendal is undergoing, the performance and cost for performance features will be measured.

Wrap up

Mucciolo restated some of the goals that he felt were addressed by the plan. He also highlighted key areas where he felt that the plan was deficient which he attributed to the early stage of the document. He suggested going forward that instead of waiting for 5 years before another plan is drafted, that they plan to hear more specific data from staff in the next eighteen months. He sensed from the materials provided and the discussion held that there was a need to prioritize and identify projects that will most likely create positive steps towards future goals. Some goals will require policy, some are administrative, and some of them will need participation from stakeholders. He appreciated that the document did currently say that Council would be updated on an annual basis. He thanked the committee for the work that went into the proposal and believed that this was overall a very thorough document that, at some point, would also benefit from having the ICLEI standards attached to it.

Burgess asked when a final draft of the plan would be ready for Council's approval. McMillan said the ultimate goal is to bring it back to Council no later than February 19, 2013.

Soucy asked what would happen to the committee that formulated this plan, once the document is approved by Council. McMillan remarked that they will have one more meeting and then in five (5) years a new committee would be formed. Soucy thanked Mr. McMillan and the members of the Committee for all of their hard work.

Norenberg remarked that many of the members would remain involved in this through various other subcommittees that have helped to work on this document, throughout the City. He saw these interactions as a way to continue the dialogue moving forward, only without the monthly meetings.

Norenberg asked members of Council if they would like this Climate Action Plan to be dated for 2012 or 2013. Members of Council concurred that the plan should be dated for 2013.

Being that there was no further business to come before Council the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Attest:

BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Approved: 02/04/2013

RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Posted: 02/05/2013

2012 Climate Action Plan Update

2012 Climate Action Plan Update

Background

- *Resolution 11-09 adopted 2011 CAP*
- *Established a Climate Action Committee to prepare an update to the plan*

Committee Goals

- *Create broader set of strategies*
- *Address City Climate commitments*
- *Greater input and support from community*

2013 Climate Action Plan Update

- **Climate Action Committee**
 - *17 members*
 - *7 subcommittees*
 - *25 more participants*
- **Subcommittees rewrote, researched and suggested additional strategies**
 - *Edited by the rewrite committee to provide one voice*
 - *Copy editor*
 - *Graphic designer*
 - *Updatable*

2013 Climate Action Plan Update

- **Reorganization of the Plan Format**
- **Text Revisions**
- **Additional Strategies**
 - *Present*
 - *Potential*
- **New Sections**

Reorganization of Plan Format

- *Better flow for ease of reading*
- *Provided uniformity between sections*
- *Developed tables to summarize present strategies*
- *Moved more detailed information to the appendices*
- *Created sidebars and graphics to portray relevant information in an easy to understand format*

Reorganization of Plan Sections

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
- **Goals**
- **Present strategies**
- **Spotlight feature**
- **Potential strategies**
- **Conclusion**

Text Revisions

- Subcommittees revised each respective section including additional strategies to address climate change
- Responds to the City's commitments through its membership in ICLEI and the Climate Positive Development Program to address climate change

Strategies

- Broader range of strategies in each section
- Some strategies are not measurable but provide awareness and behavior modification that will affect climate change
- The new strategies have not been quantified for GHG reductions at this point
 - Next GHG inventory

Strategies

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Renewable Energy | ▪ Green Building |
| ▪ Present 13 | ▪ Present 4 |
| ▪ Potential 4 | ▪ Potential 3 |
| ▪ Energy Efficiency | ▪ Waste Management |
| ▪ Present 15 | ▪ Present 6 |
| ▪ Potential 3 | ▪ Potential 4 |
| ▪ Transportation | ▪ Education |
| ▪ Present 19 | ▪ Present 5 |
| ▪ Potential 4 | ▪ Potential 5 |
| ▪ Total 85 | |

New Sections

- Oberlin College
- Achieving Climate Positive

Appendices

Expanded Appendices

- Supporting information
- Present strategy descriptions
- Placeholder for other strategies

Next Steps - Immediate

- Complete citations, links and graphics
- Adopt 2012 Climate Action Plan Update
- Submit adopted 2012 CAP Update to achieve Climate Positive Participant Status

Next Steps -2013

- **Perform GHG inventory using Global Protocol for Community-Scale GHG Emissions (GPC) with consultant**
 - Released 2012
- **Quantifying GHG reduction strategies in 2012 CAP update using GPC through consultant**
- **Framework**
 - Next update for GHG Inventory in 2018
 - Next CAP update in 2019

Next Steps - Ongoing

- **Ongoing relationships with lead entities on strategies**
- **Monitor effectiveness of present strategies**
- **Review, assess and prepare to implement potential strategies**

Review

Introduction

- **Included much of the 2011 CAP**
- **Climate change info graphic**
- **Achieving Climate Positive Participant Status**

Renewable Energy

- **No significant changes as power contracts were already in place for 2011 CAP leading to the 90% carbon neutral power supply**
- **Spotlight: Spear Point Solar**
- **Potential Strategies - 4**
 - Natural gas for heating
 - Capitalize on the REC market

Energy Efficiency

- **No significant changes**
- **Present Strategies - 15**
 - POWER Energy Advocate Program
- **Potential Strategies - 3**
 - Building Performance Disclosures
 - Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Transportation

- "Oberlin Transportation Profile" developed by Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
- Completed in 2011
- Many have been ongoing but were not identified in 2011
- Present Strategies - 19
- Potential Strategies - 4

Green Building

- More examples
- Present Strategies - 4
- Potential Strategies - 3
- Green Acres property
- Green building certification
- Encourage green buildings
- Detailed green building information in appendices

Waste Management

- Discussion of Waste Management and addressing emissions
- Solid waste
 - Present Strategies - 3
 - Potential Strategies - 1
- Wastewater treatment now included
 - Present Strategies - 3
 - Potential Strategies - 3

Education and Awareness

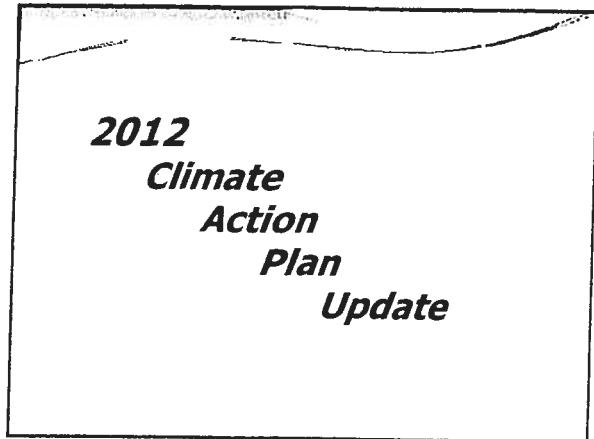
- Education Committee of Oberlin Project
- More specific strategies that have been worked on post 2011 CAP
- Present Strategies - 5
- Potential Strategies - 5

Oberlin College

- Summary Report
- College summary CAP in Appendix

Achieving Climate Positive

- Climate Positive Credits
- Land Use and Local Food System
- Financing



2012
Climate
Action
Plan
Update

