

YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

MINUTES AND NOTES

(For the January 9, 2009 Meeting)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad opened the meeting at 9:02

STAFF REPORT

John Mott-Smith gave a brief staff report, including:

MEETING SCHEDULE

We are scheduled to meet the second Friday of every other month; so January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11, November 13

CLEARINGHOUSE

One role of the Compact is to function as a “clearinghouse” for information related to climate change and greenhouse gas reduction. Members will be receiving regular emails about:

1. Laws and Regulations: New state and federal statutes or regulations, as well as updates on current laws and regulations.
2. Funding opportunities (we all need money): grants; utility incentives, etc.
3. Best Practices, on a range of subjects, but with a specific focus programs for cities, counties, agencies, or schools to reduce VMT.

MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS

Staff is scheduling meetings with members of the Compact to discuss how it can be of help in their jurisdiction in efforts to improve energy efficiency, renewable energy, etc.

MEETING AGENDAS

Staff requested assistance in planning meeting agendas to be sure that the topics we cover are what members are most interested in.

TOPICAL “SEMINARS”

Staff will arrange a few seminars in 2009 for members on specific topics that don’t necessarily pertain to the whole group. So, for example:

1. Successful school programs to reduce VMT by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to get to and from school on bikes, etc.
2. Implementation of SB 375 for Planning Department staff
3. Green Purchasing programs for buyers and purchasing officers

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

There is no reason each jurisdiction has to reinvent the wheel. If a program is working in one jurisdiction, we can arrange to have a representative from that jurisdiction come talk to whomever you think is appropriate in your jurisdiction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Governor’s Office of Planning and Research has released draft CEQA guidelines related to climate change. Staff will send a link to the draft report (44 pages). Also, there will be 2 public hearings to consider the document: the one in Sacramento will be January 26. Staff will also send you a link to the agenda.
- B. A group of local governments from throughout the US has formed a “Climate Communities” organization. There is a fee to join. Locally, Sacramento County, SACOG, and Sonoma County are members. They have produced a “local government policy platform” for the new administration in Washington --- a “blueprint” for action at the local level. Staff will send this link to you as well. It asks for at least \$2.75 billion in funding for local governments.

BRIEF UPDATES ON MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Yolo County Housing: UC Davis engineering Professor Deb Niemeier is doing an energy inventory, they are conducting a survey of residents regarding their energy usage, and they have switched to “green” cleaning products.

City of Woodland: Has completed its application to the Climate Action Registry, are in the process of setting short and long term goals for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, have been using the Senior and Community Center to host conferences related to climate change, and are planning a series of public workshops.

Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District: They are conducting an inventory of energy use throughout their operations, have adopted “green” purchasing policies, and are examining their fleet to determine how to increase efficiency.

Yolo County: Has completed a final draft for a new General Plan, with a strong emphasis on greenhouse gas reduction throughout all the elements, have completed an aggressive effort to increase the energy

efficiency of 63 buildings, and are in the process of negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at the jail facility.

Davis JUSD: They are continuing to refine their Energy Management program, based primarily on behavior modification, are expanding the school-based recycling and Farm-to-School programs, and have launched a “Green Schools Initiative” to create a “Green Team at each school site, provide curriculum materials to teachers, partner with local organizations such as Davis Bicycles and AYSO, and feature a “Showcase” event in May where each school can demonstrate its programs.

Yolo County Office of Education: They are conducting an analysis of their buildings and programs, and administer the CREEC (California Regional and Environmental Education Community) program. “The CREEC Network provides educators with access to high quality, standards-based environmental education resources to enhance the environmental literacy of all students. Visit our website at www.creec.org/region3. Our searchable database includes information on field trips, professional development opportunities, curricula and other resources. Educators are also invited to sign up to receive a monthly electronic newsletter.”

City of Davis: Has adopted a “Build it Green” ordinance setting building standards and the Climate Action Team has developed a list of actions and policies that address Land Use and Community Design, Energy Use and Production, Waste and Consumption, and Transportation to serve as the basis for a Community Climate Action Plan.

UC Davis: Has created an Office of Sustainability and appointed an Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sustainability to oversee campus efforts to, among other things, reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They have also hired Allen Doyle to be Sustainability Coordinator, and provided both administrative and analytical support for this position. They are paying particular attention to efforts to reduce energy use in the approximately 2,400 laboratories on campus.

Pacific Gas and Electric: Has provided a carbon calculator to events at UC Davis, is implementing (in conjunction with TREE Davis and the Woodland Tree Foundation) a shade tree program, is working with DJUSD to replace T-12 lights, is working with Washington USD to tune up HVAC equipment, and has various other programs underway.

City of Winters: Is in the process of applying to the California Climate Registry, including an inventory of current energy use by the city, is planning for the 2nd annual “EARTH Festival, and is implementing energy saving practices at their wastewater treatment plant.

FINANCING SOLAR IN EXISTING HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Gail Feldman, the Sustainable Energy Programs Manager from the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development in the City of Berkeley Planning Department discussed the Financing Initiative for Renewable and Solar Technology (FIRST) program to install solar systems on resident’s roof tops.

The Berkeley FIRST program is an effort to increase penetration of photovoltaic systems into the existing residential homes market.

Prior to the FIRST program, Berkeley had completed a GHG inventory, had enacted a retrofit at the time of resale energy efficiency ordinance, established a General Plan goal of 15% GHG reduction by 2010,

and voters had enacted Measure G in 2006 to require the city to reduce GHG emissions by 80% by the year 2050. They also have a program to provide technical assistance to residents.

The FIRST program was adopted to overcome the obstacle of upfront costs to install solar (photovoltaic) systems. They authorized issuance of \$80 million in bonds and created a Sustainable Energy Financing District. In order to test the concept and to iron out any problems, they began a pilot project using \$1.5 million with a limit of 40 homes. The homeowner applies to the city to participate, and a review determines if there are any liens on the property. The city requires participation in the California Solar Initiative (approved systems and installers). The city reimburses the homeowner upon proof of installation for the amount not covered by rebates and credits. The property tax bill is adjusted to repay the cost of the system over a 20-year period.

THE MARIN ENERGY MANAGEMENT TEAM – A MODEL FOR REGIONAL ACTION

Tim Rosenfeld, the Director of Marin EMT, has constructed a highly successful program in Marin County that obtains funds from various private, state and federal sources and provides energy efficiency and renewable energy services to the county as well as the cities, schools, and other districts within the county free of charge.

The Marin program is based on the knowledge that the obstacle to increased energy efficiency at the local level is not the availability of funds, but is more due to the lack of resources (people, expertise, and time) to obtain those funds. The county, cities, and districts in Marin formed a Joint Powers Authority with the understanding that there was no financial commitment from any jurisdiction. The Marin EMT applied for and received several million dollars in funds through mandated utility programs to increase community energy efficiency. The Marin EMT then coordinated the use of these funds for local government programs to increase energy efficiency or produce energy from renewable sources. Key to the success of the program was the completion of a database that tracked energy usage by each jurisdiction --- 1,600 accounts covering every public building in Marin County.

DISCUSSION, WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Rexroad concluded the meeting, though there was significant post-meeting discussion on the two topics presented by those who were able to remain.

The meeting concluded at 11:05.