

Minutes

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

April 11, 2011

Merry Rankin called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Those in attendance included: Corey Metzger, Chris Knorowski, Erv Klaas, Tom Elston, Jen Malone, Jim Gaunt, Eve Doi, Gerry Peters, and Mary Jean Baker.

Eve Doi moved to approve the minutes from the January 10 meeting, Jim Gaunt seconded, motion passed. Jen Malone moved to approve the minutes from the March 28 meeting, Mary Jean Baker seconded, motion passed.

Merry Rankin reminded the group of the past due deadline for draft copies of the sector reports. She noted that she had received drafts for the Faith-based Sector and Civic Organizations sectors and had provided feedback. With the report scheduled for presentation at the August 9, 2011 City Council meeting, sectors are encouraged to leave ample for time for report review, feedback, and revision.

Merry also reminded the group that a part of their sector reports should include suggestions for next steps for the Sustainability Task Force as envisioned by their sector. She reiterated the discussion from the March meeting regarding a request made to sectors to be considering and discussing collective suggestions to be provided by the Task Force to the City Council for consideration in the next fiscal year.

Updates From Sectors

Jim Gaunt and Mary Jean Baker of the Faith-based Sector reported they had completed their first draft report and gotten comments back from Merry that they would be working on incorporating. They also noted to the group that the weather-adjusted techniques and information that they had put together for their sector report would be shared with Electric Services for their use and information and could also be applicable for every other sector.

Corey Metzger, Chris Knorowski, and Erv Klaas of the Residential Sector reported that they had a working document posted on Google docs that all of the sector members were working on collectively toward a draft document to provide to Merry. Corey also updated on meeting that was attended by him, Don Kom, Steve Schainker, Merry Rankin, and Jim Clark regarding an educational resource that the residential sector would like to explore making available for community residents. This resource would be online tool that would offer residents the opportunity to track their electrical consumption, set goals, and benchmark their progress in comparison other residents. Further discussions are taking place with Electric Services and the City Manager's Office.

Jen Malone, of the Business Sector, reported that they had been working on an educational strategy to revamp the Residential Energy Efficiency Box Electric Services currently provides to residents to make

it specifically applicable to businesses. They propose focusing the Business Energy Efficiency Box on containing those items and tips that will assist businesses in easily reaching a 5% reduction goal.

Tom Elston and Eve Doi from the Civic Organization Sector reported they are working with the Chamber to create a new recognition program whereby any businesses who agree to do an audit and adopt certain energy efficiency improvements will be profiled in the Ames Tribune. They noted one of their main areas of focus was incentive and realizing that even the best educational pieces will not be successful unless the community (for all sectors) see the incentive for participating.

The group collectively noted some great opportunities for carryover and collaboration among many of the pieces that each sector is independently working on. Items they specifically identified were: the Faith-based Sector's weather-adjusted techniques and information; the Residential Sector's online benchmarking and goal setting tool; the Business Sector's Energy Efficiency Box; and the Civic Organizations Sector's Ames Tribune recognition.

Don Kom with Electric Services spoke about goal setting for the sectors. He noted that in terms of electrical reduction, the primary goal of the City is to not have to add capacity. He specifically identified peak demand as an area of considerable concern. With that in mind, he offered goals that were two-fold: first goals that focused on reduction in the consumption of electrical energy and second goals that focused on shifting current consumption away from peak demand times.

With regard to reducing electrical energy use, Don noted that a 5% reduction is an easily achievable goal for all sectors via a few easy and inexpensive steps (switching out light bulbs alone could accomplish this). He also added that 10% reduction is also very achievable with very minimal expense and reminded the Task Force of the many rebates that the City offers to assist in achieving higher levels of savings.

With regard to peak demand consumption, Don noted that community members can work with the City to take part in peak demand monitoring and adjustment. He also reminded that the City has a Power Factor incentive specifically for businesses related to peak demand monitoring and adjustment.

Other things the City has considered toward incentivizing reducing electrical demand include: an on and off-peak rates and smart meters. Don commended the Task Force on their efforts, noting that the City is always interested in ideas and suggestions that can further improve current electrical demand reduction efforts and results.

The question was asked regarding the City's plans toward moving away from coal. Don reported that the City has hired consultants to put together an Energy Generation Portfolio that will consider complying with new regulations from the EPA as well as the incorporation of alternative energy sources. Don noted that as this is being developed, the best means of immediate reduction of coal is focusing on reducing demand.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting will be May 9, 2011, 11:30am – 1:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers