

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
December 13, 2004 3-4 p.m.
MSCS Conference Room 4
Meeting Minutes

NEXT MEETING: February 22, 2005

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Mark Armstrong
Steve Brady
Jennifer Durkin
Colleen Ferguson

Barbara Firestone
Jason Parrish
Dell Tredinnick

Greenhouse Emission: Dell reported on the progress being made organizing the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Symposium. Mayor Jane Bender would like to replicate the recent decision by industry leaders in Silicon Valley to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. The half-day conference for local businesses will take place in March 2005. Carl Guardino, a spokesperson for the Silicon Valley manufacturers, will be invited to be a keynote speaker for this City of Santa Rosa event. Paul Dolan of the Fetzer Winery is another potential speaker. A luncheon and panel discussions will take place.

Dell addressed his desire for a complementary relationship with the other environmental groups wanting to put on events locally. He suggested that we take a look at the audience and think about how we could coordinate with other groups in a good way so that the Symposium is successful. The Climate Protection Campaign event might occur in March.

Action Items: Dell will meet again with Miles Ferris, Mayor Bender, and Councilwoman Condron on December 17th.

Green Building Website: Dell reported that on Tuesday, December 14th, he will be meeting with the City Manager's Office to work on getting the Green Building website in a more prominent spot. He would like it to be located in the "Find It Fast" menu.

Dell stated that he is interested in recruiting one or two student interns to help keep the website up to date. He is working with Human Resources and on the job description.

Jennifer Durkin suggested a website at srbuilditgreen.com. She said that both the Santa Rosa Police and Fire Departments have their own websites. She stated the City website is difficult to maneuver. A Santa Rosa Build It Green website would get the marketing out separately and would get people directly to the page. It was agreed that it is important to keep it simple and useful.

Action Items: Dell will update the Committee on January 10th.

Green Building and Remodeling Guidelines: Dell stated that the City of Santa Rosa is at the forefront of all Bay Area municipalities. He wants to introduce the notion of the Bay Area Build It Green Policy Advisory Committee (BIGPAC) holding the list of third party raters. He explained that adding or removing raters should be the function of a larger, regional entity like BIGPAC.

Transit and Parking: Jason Parrish updated the Committee on the purchase of the next-generation catalytic converters for Santa Rosa buses, which will be retrofitted by the City. The City is aiming for the 2007 standards, a total fleet reduction of emissions of 65% of the original baseline. He said that from 2000 to 2002, the entire fleet had been replaced by diesel buses that burned emissions at high temperatures. The next generation catalytic converters incinerate emissions in a second conversion.

Jason reported that the new Transit Ops Building will be completed in March. It was built largely of cinder blocks and has efficient insulation. He added that the new bus washer uses recycled water and has more efficient cleaning ability.

Action Items: Jason will find out about Berkeley's use of biodiesel materials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy Conservation: Mark Armstrong is doing research on solar powered street lights. He stated that Sharp is manufacturing LED lamps currently for use in decorative lighting and available only in Japan. They are low pressure sodium lamps that require no wiring and no undergrounding, but they do not have commercial output. He said we must wait for better technology.

Mark also mentioned a product that could eliminate the need for solar panels. It is a translucent product that can be installed in windows. It lets in light by day and generates energy for lighting at night.

Action Items: Mark will continue to do research on new products on the market.

Water Conservation: Jennifer Durkin stated that the Pacific Institute will be doing an analysis of outdoor water use in the commercial sector to identify the potential for conservation. The report should be completed by the end of next year.

Steve Brady reported on San Francisco's interest in energy conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Dell talked about the energy system using tidal action in the Bay to produce energy.

Colleen Ferguson pointed out the energy savings that would result from cutting San Francisco's decorative lighting in half.

Action Items: Dell and Barbara will look at rescheduling to facilitate the participation of Parks and other departments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.