



Agenda Report

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: ED-TECH COMMITTEE (JULY 26, 2006)

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACCORDS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize Mayor Bogaard to sign the Urban Environmental Accords Declaration on behalf of the City; and,
2. Adopt the Action Plan (Attachment 1) and direct staff to initiate the actions indicated as "new legislative" to achieve urban sustainability as promoted by the United Nations Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On June 5, 2005 the United Nations unveiled the Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords (UEA); a set of 21 actions for cities to take as first steps in addressing urban sustainability and providing a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society (see Attachment 2). An interdepartmental team with representatives from the Planning and Development, Public Works, Transportation, Water and Power, and the Public Health Departments was formed at the beginning of the year to explore the appropriateness and the feasibility of the City acting upon the 21 Actions of the UEA. From March to May the UEA Team met to develop the action plan presented in Attachment 1.

The team concluded that the City has achieved seven of the 21 UEA Actions and is likely to achieve eight additional actions by 2012 through the adoption of the Action Plan. Staff believes that with the completion of two specific items in the action plan, the City can achieve One Star City status, the first level recognized by the UEA, by the end of Fiscal Year 2007. Those actions are completion of a Tree Canopy Survey (Action 11.1), and prohibition of certain products for City operations (Action 16.1). Completion of additional actions in the Action Plan will raise the City's ranking with staff anticipating a minimum Three Star City status by 2012.

BACKGROUND:

2007 UEA Action Plan

The Action plan provides implementation measures which follow the seven thematic areas of the UEA (energy, waste, urban design, urban nature, transportation, health, and water). The status of each action and information on the implementation measures is included in the plan. More detailed information is recorded in the supporting background papers available from the City Clerk's Office and the libraries.

Of the recommended initiatives, 31 fall within existing-on-going City programs, 28 require new administrative action, and 11 require legislative action from the City Council. Staff will continue work-in-progress and will immediately begin work on those initiatives indicated as "new administrative" on Attachment 1. As priority projects and programs, staff workload will be adjusted to ensure the completion of these initiatives in a timely manner. Upon approval of the Action Plan, staff will begin work on the initiatives marked "new legislative" requiring City Council direction. These legislative actions will require staff to report back to City Council for final consideration and approval. These include items such as amendments to the Green Building Practices Ordinance, the Construction and Debris Ordinance, and adoption of a resolution prohibiting use of certain environmentally dangerous products in City operations.

In addition to the Action Plan recommendations, staff will undertake the following additional steps to further the progress towards citywide sustainability:

Municipal Services Committee

At their request, the Municipal Services Committee of the City Council will be presented with staff recommendations for restructuring the Utility Advisory Commission as a commission focused on citywide environmental matters.

Environmental Platform

As the City's ability to achieve sustainability is influenced by policy decisions at the state and federal level, staff will draft a new environmental policy section for the City's legislation platform for 2007. This would advance the City's

- Attachment 1 Pasadena Urban Environmental Accords Action Plan
- Attachment 2 Green Cities Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords
- Attachment 3 Urban Environmental Accords Signatory Form
- Attachment 4 Green Cities Declaration Signatory Cities