

City of Arcata Energy Committee
Annual Report to the City Council
February 2007

The Energy Committee meets on the third Monday of each month and serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council, City Manager and City staff in Energy matters related to policies, management and projects.

Committee members include:

Ruthanne Cecil	River Hume	
Morgan King	Steve Salzman	Karen Diemer, Staff Liaison
Moshe Krafchow	Jim Zoellick, Chair	
Andrew Kulchin		

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Energy Committee has been involved in the following activities since the last Annual Report was submitted to the Council in March of 2006:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan – The Energy Committee completed the City of Arcata Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and submitted it to Council for adoption. The plan was adopted and the Committee is now assisting with the implementation of near term measures. These include: development of a green building program, development of a pilot time-of-sale program (in collaboration with RCEA), development of a solar roof program, preparation of an annual energy report that details energy use in City facilities and operations, promotion of alternative fuel vehicles, establishment of an energy ordinance for City funded projects, improvement of the City's energy program website, and coordination with local energy groups.

Collaboration with RCEA – The Committee facilitated a publicity event at the Arcata Fire Station for RCEA's torchiere trade-in. The trade-in event was a huge success, with more than 400 lamps being exchanged. Committee members have visited Arcata businesses to promote RCEA's Energy Watch program that offers free energy audits and other incentives to local businesses. The Committee plans to make presentations before community and business groups to further promote this program. The Committee will continue to work with RCEA on the time-of-sale program.

Pre-Application Input - The Committee continues to offer energy related recommendations as part of the pre-application process for various projects as staff brings them to our attention. The main projects we provided input on over the past year were: the Zanzi property, Plum Village, Janes Creek Meadow Land Trust Housing Development, Trillium Creek Subdivision, and the 27th Street subdivision.

Energy Efficiency Ordinance and General Plan Policy RC-8b – The Committee has researched and provided guidance to staff regarding the implementation of General Plan Policy RC-8b. The Committee is working to develop a set of energy efficiency guidelines that will meet the General Plan goals, will be practical for staff to implement, and will eliminate confusion surrounding this topic.

Green Building Program – Chair Zoellick attended a green building workshop in Cotati, toured Cotati facilities, and spoke with Cotati City staff about the development of a green building program. Committee member Salzman coordinated the development of a local green building group called “Plan It Green” and convened a very successful workshop on green building programs. The Committee is working on a proposed green building program for the City of Arcata.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station – The Committee previously worked with the Humboldt Electric Vehicle Association (HEVA) and City staff to develop a proposal for an electric vehicle charging station in the downtown area. The installation of this facility was started but has not been completed. The Committee continues to track the progress of this project and is pushing for its timely completion.

Community Choice Aggregation – The Committee continues to monitor the status of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in California and will eventually report to Council on the opportunities that this offers to our community.

City Energy Program Website – The Committee is working with City staff to update the City’s Energy Program website. The goal is to develop a simple, yet user-friendly site that provides information about the City’s energy program activities and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. The site will also feature useful links to other energy information sources, such as RCEA, PG&E, and the California Energy Commission.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles for the City Fleet – The Committee continues to work with staff in an effort to obtain alternative fueled vehicles for the parking enforcement fleet. Chair Zoellick visited ZAP electric vehicles in Santa Rosa to investigate and test drive vehicles. The Committee is working with staff to arrange a no-cost trial of a ZAP electric vehicle.

Education and Outreach – The Committee has participated in numerous community events to promote energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, including: HSU’s SLAM Festival, HSU’s showing of An Inconvenient Truth, and a presentation to the RCEA board. The Committee is also working with the Redwood Alliance Climate Action Project to support their community education efforts.

Vehicle Idling Ordinance – The Committee drafted a vehicle anti-idling ordinance and submitted it to staff for possible council action..

II. GOALS FOR COMING YEAR

In the coming year the Energy Committee hopes to:

- Continue assisting with the implementation of near-term measures in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan,
- Develop a time-of-sale draft ordinance/program for council consideration
- Develop a draft Energy Efficiency Ordinance for City funded projects for council consideration,

- Utilize the City's membership in the International Cities for Climate Protection (ICLEI) and the California Climate Action Registry to obtain pertinent resources that may help Arcata reach its emission's target.
- Develop an informational packet on building energy efficiency to provide to builders,
- Develop a green building program and get it adopted,
- Work with the Design Review Commission to establish a Green Building / Energy Efficient Building Awards Program,
- Update the City's Energy Program website,
- Continue to collaborate with RCEA and promote their services, and
- Help the City obtain more alternative fuel vehicles for the City fleet.