

**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
MEMORANDUM**

December 17, 2012

TO: City Council

FROM: Department of Environmental Services

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SIMI VALLEY GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

The Sustainable Simi Valley Committee recommends that the City Council direct the posting of the annual achievements and status of the Green Community Action Plan on the City's Live Green webpage, and receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, in collaboration with a Green Team comprising City staff members, developed a Green Community Action Plan based on the direction of the City Council. In 2010, the City Council adopted the Simi Valley Green Community Action Plan (GCAP), based on the recommendation of the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee. Implementation of the GCAP includes an annual status report to the City Council, following review and recommendation by the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee. The GCAP includes 11 chapters covering different features that comprise Goals for a Green Community. The GCAP includes Objectives and implementing Action items to achieve each Goal. The City's Green Team is responsible for implementing the GCAP.

The Sustainable Simi Valley Committee worked with staff to develop a monitoring format that the Green Team could use to track implementation of the GCAP, and requested regular reports on the progress of completing the GCAP Action items and Objectives. Throughout 2012, the Green Team monitored progress through use of the GCAP Tracking database that includes status of each of the 206 Action items. Actions are categorized by their completion status: Short-term – to be completed by the end of 2010; Intermediate-term – to be completed by December 2012; and Long-term - beyond 2012. In November 2012, the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee reviewed the progress of the GCAP from September 2011 through October 2012, and recommended that the Annual Report be presented to the City Council and made available to the public.

FINDINGS AND ALTERNATIVES

The “Green Community Action Plan, Objective Accomplishment Status” table (Attachment A, page 5) provides a simple accounting of the annual progress of the GCAP. This table lists all the Objectives under each GCAP Goal, and indicates the overall implementation status of the various Action items under each Objective. Success of the implementation of the GCAP is tracked by completion of the Action items under the Objectives for each of the 11 GCAP chapters. The GCAP includes 57 short-term actions, 112 intermediate-term actions, and 37 long-term actions to be taken to meet the GCAP Objectives. Implementation status is calculated based on the number of Action items accomplished, underway, or not started for each objective. For the purpose of this reporting period, if 80 percent or more of the Action items are accomplished or are underway, an “up” arrow is shown. If between 45 and 80 percent of the Action items have a status of accomplished or underway, an octagon is shown, indicating that more work needs to be done. If less than 45 percent of the Action items have begun, a “down” arrow is shown. If there are no Action items, a gray box is shown. These performance standards were set based on the number of Action items under each objective, and provide a balanced perspective of the progress of the GCAP.

A brief summary of the implementation status of each chapter is listed below.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The City has historically focused a great deal of effort on saving money through energy efficiency and conservation. New energy savings projects have been identified and implemented through deep audits of City facilities and through the technical assistance program funding available through the Energy Leader Partnership Program, which is aimed at efficiency in City facilities and the community.

Water and Wastewater Systems

Water conservation programs aimed at saving money and water at City facilities as well as in the community have been successfully accomplished or started. In addition to community-wide reductions, significant savings have been achieved in City facilities.

Green Building

The City is working to meet the minimum standards of its Green Building Code with regard to the expansion at City Hall. Recently the City Council approved a Voluntary Green Building Policy that will assist residents and businesses achieve greater energy efficiency and meet future State Green Building standards.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Significant progress on Action items in this category has occurred over the past year. Expansion of many existing programs for recycling of various waste types has occurred, and new programs for waste reduction have been started.

Climate Friendly Purchasing

The City’s administrative policies regarding “Buying Green” have been completed and distributed to all staff. There is more action needed to achieve the intermediate-term objectives.

Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels

The City's Building and Safety Division has implemented practices to improve the permitting process for renewable energy systems, and the recently approved Energy Action Plan has identified and evaluated the potential for renewable energy systems at City facilities.

Efficient Transportation

Staff continues to pursue programs that could increase the number of alternative-fueled vehicles in the City's fleet. In addition, the City is working to develop electric vehicle charging stations. Information about electric vehicle readiness is available on the City's website.

Land Use and Community Design

Most of the Action items necessary to achieve Objectives in Land Use and Community Design were accomplished with the approval of the City's General Plan and Climate Action Plan by the City Council in 2012. More work needs to be done to accomplish intermediate- and long-term actions that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions in the community.

Storing and Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Many short-term Action items have been completed including educational information regarding "reducing your carbon footprint" and resources to encourage tree planting available on the City's Live Green website; however, more work needs to be done on intermediate- and long-term actions to determine feasibility and timing.

Urban Forestry and Open Space

Short-term Action items have been completed, and the Tree Advisory Board has reviewed some of the Action items in this GCAP chapter. Considerable changes in staff resources have placed some of the intermediate- and long-term actions at risk of extended time frames for completion or infeasibility.

Promoting Community and Individual Action

Successful implementation of the majority of the Action items has occurred in the past two years. Many of the programs and events established to meet the Objectives in this Chapter are on-going efforts that will extend beyond the term of the GCAP.

Overall, implementation progress for the GCAP is steady, with many of the Action items completed or initiated, with achievement of many due within the next 12 months. At this time, out of 57 short-term Action items, 48 (84%) have been accomplished, 7 (12%) are underway, and 2 (4%) have not been started. Those two actions are delayed due to matters outside the City's control. Out of 112 intermediate-term Action items, 46 (41%) have been accomplished, 47 (42%) are underway, and 19 (17%) have not been started. This status and the nature of these Actions indicate that additional time may be needed to accomplish these items, not that the Actions cannot be accomplished. Finally, out of 38 long-term Action items, 6 (16%) have been accomplished, 15 (39%) are underway, and 17 (45%) are not started.

The following alternatives are available to the City Council:

1. Direct the posting of the annual achievements and status of the Green Community Action Plan on the City's Live Green webpage, and receive and file this report;
2. Provide staff with further direction.

The Sustainable Simi Valley Committee recommends Alternative No. 1.

SUMMARY

Following City Council adoption of the GCAP in August 2010, the City's Green Team was assigned responsibility for carrying out the Action items under each of the Objectives in the 11 chapters of the GCAP. This 2012 annual report provides a status of accomplishment of each of the Objectives by analyzing the number of Action items under each Objective that have been accomplished, started, or not started. The "Green Community Action Plan Objective Accomplishment Status" table (Attachment A, page 5) indicates the overall implementation status of the various Action items under each Objective. The Sustainable Simi Valley Committee recommends that the City Council receive and file this report, and direct the posting of the annual achievements and status of the Green Community Action Plan on the City's Live Green webpage.

/s/

Peter Lyons, Director
Department of Environmental Services

GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT STATUS	SHORT	INTER MEDIATE	LONG
Energy Efficiency and Conservation			
EE-1 Review and upgrade City-owned buildings, equipment and operations to maximize energy efficiency.			
EE-2 Become an Energy Leader that supports energy efficiency and conservation measures by community residents.			
EE-3 Become an Energy Leader that supports energy efficiency and conservation measures by community businesses.			
Water and Wastewater Systems			
WW-1 Demonstrate leadership by increasing water-use efficiency in City-owned and City-maintained facilities.			
WW-2 Enhance existing City/District conservation programs to increase savings and efficient use of local and imported water.			
WW-3 Provide assistance and education to local residents to increase water use efficiency in residential properties.			
WW-4 Provide assistance and education to businesses, schools, and institutional water users to increase water use efficiency at non-residential properties.			
WW-5 Reduce the amount of trash that enters the City storm drain system.			
WW-6 Implement a City Stormwater and Watershed Education and Assistance Program for industry and residents.			
WW-7 Promote techniques for residents and businesses to reduce pollution, runoff and stormwater damage in local waterways.			
Green Building			
GB-1 Exceed the standards of the City's Green Building Code for new construction or substantial remodeling of City owned buildings.			
GB-2 Establish and implement minimum green building standards for residential construction, and encourage residential construction that exceeds minimum standards.			
GB-3 Establish and implement minimum green building standards for residential construction, and encourage residential construction that exceeds minimum standards.			



Greater than 80% Action Items Accomplished or Underway



45% to 80% Action Items Accomplished or Underway



Less than 45% Action Items Accomplished or Underway

*Grey box indicates no Action items for this time frame

GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT STATUS	SHORT	INTER MEDIATE	LONG
GB-4 Demonstrate green building leadership to the community and at the local and state level.			
Waste Reduction and Recycling			
WR-1 Increase waste reduction and recycling opportunities at City facilities.			
WR-2 Enhance public information efforts to provide residents and businesses with current information on waste reduction and recycling opportunities.			
WR-3 Enhance residential recycling opportunities.			
WR-4 Enhance commercial recycling opportunities.			
WR-5 Encourage involvement of local businesses and residents in “closing the recycling loop.”			
Climate Friendly Purchasing			
CP-1 Establish environmentally preferred purchasing program for the City.			
CP-2 Establish sustainable operational requirements for service providers who desire to contract with the City.			
CP-3 Promote sustainable purchasing practices to local businesses by providing technical resources and workshops.			
CP-4 Promote sustainable purchasing practices to Simi Valley residents.			
Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels			
RE-1 Increase the use of fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles in the City’s fleet, and increase the use of alternative or renewable power sources for City facilities.			
RE-2 Promote alternative energy sources for residential electricity by providing financial assistance, technical resources, and community workshops.			



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GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT STATUS	SHORT	INTER MEDIATE	LONG
RE-3 Increase the use of alternative or renewable power sources for non-residential facilities.			
RE-4 Encourage and attract economic development related to industries that support alternative energy systems or that use alternative energy sources in their daily operations.			
Efficient Transportation			
ET-1 Reduce GHG emissions by increasing or encouraging the use of alternative fuels and transportation modes.			
ET-2 Enhance regional transportation connections that originate or end outside of City boundaries for the efficient movement of goods and people.			
ET-3 Maximize the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for traffic management.			
Land Use and Community Design			
LU-1 Incorporate policies and practices into the General Plan Update process that address reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.			
LU-2 Incorporate analysis of greenhouse gas emissions into the City's environmental review process, and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR).			
LU-3 Develop planning processes that encourage reduction of GHG emissions.			
LU-4 Coordinate General Plan policies with special districts and regional efforts to improve sustainability and reduce GHG emissions.			
Storing and Offsetting Carbon Emissions			
CO-1 Implement policies and actions within City facilities and programs aimed toward achieving carbon-neutrality.			
CO-2 Promote carbon neutrality within the business sector by facilitating carbon-offset opportunities.			
CO-3 Encourage the general public to adopt a goal of carbon-neutrality.			



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GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT STATUS	SHORT	INTER MEDIATE	LONG
Urban Forestry and Open Space			
UF-1 Enhance or increase the planting of trees on City-owned property, right-of-way, and other public property.			
UF-2 Manage open space and natural land consistently within the City to preserve and protect habitat, views, and open space buffers that can be enjoyed community-wide.			
Promoting Community and Individual Action			
PA-1 Change public perception regarding the need, usefulness, and ease of implementing sustainable lifestyles and business operations.			
PA-2 Maximize availability of information and provide accountability related to the implementation of the GCAP.			
PA-3 Utilize community partnerships to provide access to and adoption of green practices, be an active partner in facilitating and participating in community education events and forums.			
PA-4 Create a unified resource database to enable quick, focused outreach efforts and effective connections between the City and community.			
PA-5 Maintain the coordination and relationship between the GCAP, the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, and the City Council.			



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