THE EL CERRITO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Progress Update
El Cerrito City Council
September 20, 2010
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BACKGROUND

○ Council Resolutions
  - Joining the Conference of U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (2006-61)
  - Endorsement of State’s AB 32 Goals (2006-93)
  - Accepting Baseline Inventory & Development of a Climate Action Plan (2008-33)

○ Funding and Partnerships
  - BAAQMD Climate Protection Grant
  - EPA Climate Showcase Communities
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STATE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

- Developing the CAP as statewide and regional approaches to Climate Change rapidly change

- AB 32, California’s Global Warming Solutions Act
  - Scoping Plan recommends 15% local govt reduction goal
  - California Green Building Standards, effective Jan 1, 2011
  - Mandatory commercial/ multi-family recycling effective 2012
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MORE CONTEXT

○ SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy
  • MTC Draft Regional VMT Targets

○ New CEQA Thresholds for GHGs
  • BAAQMD’s new CEQA Guidelines, adopted this summer
  • Guidance on quantification of emissions for local govt CAPs
  • Qualified Climate Action Plan
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PURPOSE & SCOPE

○ Purpose
  • To provide a roadmap for pursuing community-wide and municipal reductions in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions
  • To inspire municipal and community climate protection
  • To provide the option to use the CAP in streamlining GHG analysis for developments undergoing CEQA review

○ Scope
  • Analyze GHGs that can be quantified and over which local government has some influence
  • GHGs from Municipal Operations
  • GHGs from Community-Wide
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**OBJECTIVES**

**Plan Objectives**

- **Where we are:** To conduct an inventory of baseline GHGs (2005) and forecast growth
- **Where we want to be:** To assist the City Council and community in determining realistic, yet ambitious reduction targets
- **How we get there:** To provide an analysis of existing and potential policies, programs, and projects that will reduce GHGs
  - To determine how much these measures will contribute toward potential reduction targets
  - To outline implementation actions
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REDUCTION TARGETS

Reduction Targets
- Variation on the ICLEI’s Climate Protection Milestone Methodology
  - Quantify possible reductions first to understand the implications of possible reduction targets
  - BAAQMD proscribes reduction targets consistent with AB 32 for Qualified Climate Action Plans
- 15% below “current” (2005 is good baseline) by 2020

Planning Horizons
- Consistent with AB 32 and the Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Baseline 2005
  - 1st Target Year 2020
  - 2nd Target Date 2035
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CHAPTER 1

Brief Background

- Climate change and potential impacts on El Cerrito
- Co-benefits of taking action
  - Livable communities
  - Better air quality
  - Greater energy security and independence
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CHAPTER 2

- Baseline Inventory
- Forecast of Growth
- Revised to be consistent with BAAQMD
- More Discussion Sept 28
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BASELINE DETAIL

- Water Use & Treatment: 0.4%
- Auto Traffic (Local Streets): 25.3%
- Auto Traffic (San Pablo Ave): 9.2%
- Auto Traffic (% of County Hwys): 16.5%
- Commercial Natural Gas: 3.5%
- Commercial Electricity: 11.7%
- Residential Natural Gas: 20.1%
- Residential Electricity: 8.3%
- Waste in Landfill: 5.0%

Residential Electricity: 8.3%
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CHAPTER 3

- Community-Wide Climate Action Strategies
  - Land Use & Transportation – Livable Communities
  - Building Energy Use – Greater Energy Independence
  - Waste – Less Waste, More Fun

- Each Discussion Contains
  - Reduction Goals
  - Policy and Programmatic Strategies
  - Recommended Action Steps
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CHAPTER 4

- Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan
  - Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Measures
  - Clean Fleets
  - Employee Trip Reduction Strategies
  - Environmentally Preferred Procurement
  - Municipal Green Building Policies & Projects
  - Urban Greening
    - Urban Forest
    - Bay-Friendly Landscaping
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CHAPTER 5

○ Community and Personal Action

- Baseline GHG inventory only covers about 50% of the “Carbon Footprint” of the average El Cerrito Household

- Voluntary ways to reduce your personal carbon footprint
  - Growing your own food
  - Buying local
  - Commuting to work car-free x days per week
  - Using your clothesline during the summer
  - Bay friendly yards
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SAMPLE MEASURES

- Existing Policies, Programs, or Projects
- Emerging Policy Frameworks
- Potential New Mechanisms
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EXAMPLE OF EXISTING STRATEGIES

- **Recycling Programs**
  - reducing waste by 3% per year since 2005
    - Reducing CO2e by 3,228 tons per year
    - Equivalent to permanently retiring 536 cars

- **Waiving of Solar Permit Fees**

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**Tons of Waste & Recycling**

2005-2009

- Recycling
- Green Waste
- Trash
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EXAMPLE OF POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- **Land use policies** that set the stage for higher density, mixed-use, transit-oriented development
  - Regional Blueprint PDA designation
  - San Pablo Ave Specific Plan

- **Policies and projects** that create walkable communities
  - Ohlone Greenway Master Plan
  - San Pablo Ave Street Improvements
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EXAMPLE OF NEW MECHANISMS

- Potential policies and programs that will need to go through their own policy making and adoption processes

Community energy and green building measures

- Beyond Title 24 for new construction
  - CalGreen Tier 1 or 2
- Energy performance of existing buildings
  - Energy Efficiency Ordinances
  - Public education
  - PACE Financing
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Process

- Outreach
  - Residential Climate Action Survey at [www.greenelcerrito.org](http://www.greenelcerrito.org)
    - 380 responses to date
  - Information about the CAP at
    - EQC Showcase
    - Earth Day
    - July 4th
    - 10/10/10 Compost Give Away
  - Climate Action Plan Email List – 145 on list
  - Periodic Updates at the EQC
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Timeline

○ Work To Date – Research and Analysis
  • Verified and refined the **2005 Baseline Inventory**
  • Developed a Business As Usual (BAU) **forecast of growth**
  • Analyzed **reduction measures enacted by the State** for their contribution to local reductions
    ○ Renewable Portfolio Standard
    ○ Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Standards
  • Creating a CAP template from the **best elements of other CAPs**
  • Identifying and quantifying existing and potential **reduction strategies**
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Timeline

- **Coming Milestones**
  - City Council: Progress Update – Sept 20
  - **EQC Meeting: GHG Inventory, AB 32 Targets - Sept 28**
  - Community Workshop(s): Input on Reduction Measures – Beginning late Oct
  - EQC: Progress Update – Nov 9
  - Close the Climate Action Survey - December
  - **City Council: Quantification Results & Setting a Reduction Target – Jan 2011**
  - Draft Plan: Begin Circulating Draft Plan – Feb/ March 2011
  - CEQA: Initial Study and Neg Dec – March/ April
  - Community Meeting(s) on Draft Plan – March/ April
  - **City Council: Study Session & Consideration to Adopt – Summer 2011**
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 Questions?