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memorandum

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from Jeff Caton, ESA
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subject City of Edmonds Climate Action Plan – Task 3: Policy Gap Memorandum

Introduction

This memorandum presents ESA’s Policy Gap analysis for the City of Edmonds Climate Action Plan (CAP) project under contract *Task 3. Policies, Programs, Actions to Reduce GHG Emissions*. We have reviewed a number of City documents related to climate change and sustainability, including the 2010 CAP, to determine if there are any policy or program gaps for reducing GHG emissions within the City. This memo summarizes the findings of our document review and presents the policy gaps. Our recommended policy structure is based on the 2010 CAP framework of strategies and action programs.

ESA has reviewed the following City documents for preparation of this memo:

- 2010 Climate Action Plan
- Sustainability Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan
- 2015 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (including the Bicycle Plan and the Walkway Plan)
- 2012 Energy Plan
- New Energy Cities Action Plan (2011)
- Zero Waste Study (2016)
- City Sustainability website programs:

- Energy Meter Program
- Electric Vehicle Program
- City Buildings Energy Improvement Program
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Challenge
- Edmonds Community Solar Project
- Solarize South County
- Greening Parks Program
- Administrative incentives
- EnviroStars Green Business Program
- City Parks Irrigation Systems Plan
- Sustainable Cities Partnership
- Walkability Assessment
- Sustainable Buildings Policy
- Comprehensive Water System Plan (2017)

The attached spreadsheet presents our review of these documents and identifies the existing programs and policies that are not included in the 2010 CAP. It categorizes all existing programs and policies into specific Strategy Areas and Action Programs in the 2010 CAP, and identifies where existing programs and policies are not associated with specific Strategy Areas and Action Programs in the 2010 CAP. Our analysis indicates that the current set of CAP strategies needs to be expanded to accommodate the range of relevant policies and programs encountered.

Policy Gap Analysis

Based on our review of the above documents, we recommend that the City consider the following measures to address policy gaps in the 2010 CAP, including six new measures under the CAP’s existing strategy categories of Buildings (BU) and Transportation and Land Use (TR), and a set of four measures under a new category for Waste and Wastewater (WW). Table 1 below provides brief summaries of each measure along with potential implementation actions, and the existing programs and policy documents that are relevant.



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**TABLE 1
 POLICY GAP ANALYSIS SUMMARY**

CAP Strategy Area / Measure Name	Summary of Measure	Existing Program / Policy Documents
Buildings (BU)		
BU8: Improve efficiency of municipal operations and public infrastructure	Decrease energy use by existing municipal buildings through energy efficiency measures. This could include audits and assessments of municipal buildings, establishing internal energy efficiency and conservation policies and procedures for municipal operations and municipal buildings, performing municipal building retrofits and upgrades, and installing energy efficient outside lighting (such as streetlights, public area lighting, and traffic signals).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Cities Energy Action Plan • 2012 Energy Plan • City Buildings Energy Improvement Program • Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Challenge • Administrative Initiatives • Sustainable Buildings Policy
BU9: Smart grid	Work with PUD to implement Smart Grid infrastructure in the City for new and existing development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Cities Energy Action Plan
BU10: Electrify buildings	Promote education and awareness of the benefits of converting natural gas appliances and heating systems to clean energy and incentivize replacement of gas with super-efficient electric appliances.	None
BU11: Community Choice Aggregation	Work with PUD to offer a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for residents and businesses, promote education and awareness of the benefits of a CCA and/or utility clean energy programs, and collaborate with PUD to increase the percent of electricity that is sourced from renewable systems.	None
Transportation and Land Use (TR)		
TR15: Infrastructure to improve traffic flow and efficiency	Advance traffic signal synchronization and support expansion of HOV and Express Lanes on major freeway in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Transportation Plan • Community Sustainability Element - Comprehensive Plan • Community Sustainability Element - Comprehensive Plan • New Cities Energy Action Plan
TR16: Parking Policies	Reduce parking requirements for projects that link or emphasize alternative types of travel, offer and incentivize parking “cash-out” programs, provide parking spaces dedicated to employees who use alternative transportation, and implement variable demand pricing for on- and off-street parking facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Water and Wastewater (WW) ^a		
WW1: Methane recovery and energy generation at the wastewater treatment plant	Install digesters and other technologies at wastewater treatment facilities to capture methane and other bio-fuels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 Energy Plan

<p>WW2: Promote water recycling and greywater use</p>	<p>Incentivize and promote the installation of residential greywater systems that meet appropriate regulatory standards, develop a local ordinance to require all new homes to have a greywater system, require dual plumbing for use of recycled water for new commercial and/or residential developments, incorporate water-efficient systems in new agency buildings that include opportunities for recycled water, provide educational resources to encourage residents to harvest rainwater.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>WW3: Wastewater treatment improvements</p>	<p>Audit wastewater pumps and motors, implement a cycling and equipment replacement program for least efficient equipment, retrofit existing agency buildings and facilities to meet LEED standards or other equivalent standards, replace pumps used at wastewater treatment facilities.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>WW4: Water delivery system improvements</p>	<p>Audit water pumps and motors, implement a cycling and equipment replacement program for least efficient equipment, initiate a water loss program or "leak-audit" of agency water infrastructure, upgrade and retrofit agency plumbing systems and appliances with water efficient technology and fixtures, replace pumps used at water treatment and delivery facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Water System Plan (2017)

NOTES:

^a This would be a new strategy area for the CAP; measure BU5 addresses water conservation, so the City may consider moving this measure to the proposed WW category.