

City of Davis Climate Action Team (CAT)

CAT PROGRESS REPORT: EARLY ACTIONS, EARLY RESULTS

April 30, 2009

City of Davis Community Chambers Summary of Public Meeting

On Thursday, April 30, 2009, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Community Chambers, the Davis Climate Action Team held a public meeting that was attended by 54 people. The meeting was advertised with a paid announcement in the Davis Enterprise, with an e-mail blast to around two hundred people from the CAT database, with flyers, on the City's website, and with an announcement on Davis Community TV. This meeting was a follow-up to a public forum that took place at the Veterans Memorial Building in June 2008.

The objectives for this meeting were to give:

- ✓ A progress report by members of the Climate Action Team (CAT) on the Team's recommendations for near-term actions;
- ✓ An opportunity for the public to ask questions and make comments;
- ✓ An opportunity for the public to sign up for continued involvement; and
- ✓ An update on next steps in the process.

The meeting agenda is attached. Also attached are several handouts:

- Background Information
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies, both short and long term, for Transportation, Land Use, Energy, and Consumption and Waste.
- A series of four circle diagrams, one for each topic area, illustrating the short and long-term recommended strategies

The meeting was convened by Kemble Pope, Chair of the City's Climate Action Team, who thanked everyone for coming and introduced Mayor Ruth Asmundsen. Mayor Asmundsen welcomed all on behalf of the City Council and said that sustainability was a Council priority. Kemble dedicated the meeting to the memory of Julie Partansky, CAT member, who was very important to the City of Davis in many different roles, and who passed away recently.

Kemble gave some background on the City's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 and the task of the CAT to make recommendations to the City on how to achieve that goal, starting with identifying best practices that have been successful in other areas. He introduced the CAT panel members – Lars Anderson, Mark Braly, Mark Rutheiser, and Stacie Frerich - as well as other CAT members in the audience. The panel members each represented a CAT working group – Transportation, Land Use, Energy, and Consumption and Waste – that had focused its efforts on collecting and analyzing potential strategies in that area.

The meeting was then turned over to Mitch Sears, the City's Sustainability Coordinator and staff to the CAT. Using a PowerPoint slide show, Mitch reviewed the background of the CAT's mission, the City's greenhouse gas reduction targets, and a 5-step process to achieving carbon neutrality. He said that the CAT divided into four working groups that reviewed and analyzed, to the extent possible, potential strategies in the four different topic areas. The strategies were largely generated in the June 2008 public forum. Choosing strategies to recommend involved a balance of ambition and what can be realistically accomplished. He called upon the panel members to make short presentations on key Phase 1 (or short-term) strategies that are being recommended for inclusion in the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Phase 2 strategies are normally more expensive and take longer to develop, but will be added to the plan as they become feasible. (See the two attachments on strategies for details).

After the formal presentation, Kemble opened up the meeting to general questions and comments from the audience on the strategies and process, which are summarized as follows:

- The most effective strategies also seem to cost the most. There are some strategies, such as traffic signal synchronization, that can be both low-cost and highly effective at reducing carbon emissions.
- Did the City consider working with UC Davis on this project? Many UCD staff don't live in Davis. UCD and Davis should consider taking some responsibility for creating housing opportunities for these staff so they don't have to commute. We need to be holistic in our approach to carbon reduction if we are going to set an example.
- Does Davis share information and ideas with other cities? I come from England where there are "transition towns" being developed. They have a sharing network among themselves.
- Is there somewhere to go to see the research of the CAT working groups?
- This is very good work. Has UC Davis produced a similar plan? If so, these need to be coordinated.
- The lack of access to Russell from the new West Village is a problem; it causes longer trips to be made. The enclosure of the University is a problem in general.

These questions and comments were responded to by panel members as well as several in the audience who either served on the CAT or were representing UC Davis.

After the Q & A session, Mitch summarized the remaining steps in the process, which are for City of Davis staff to –

- continue "pre-plan" activities

- draft the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan by late spring, based on the recommendations of the CAT
- take the Draft Plan to the City's Natural Resources Commission in the summer for review and analysis, and
- take the Draft Plan to the City Council for review and adoption in late summer or early fall.

At this point, the formal part of the meeting was adjourned and participants were thanked for coming and encouraged to meet with members of the CAT at the four corners of the room (labeled as Transportation, Land Use, Energy, Consumption and Waste). At each corner, at least one member of each sub-team was stationed to discuss the team's work, and many people did stay to participate in these discussions. Blank cards were provided for people to write their questions and comments for the record. Comments received were as follows:

Transportation

- Bike-only streets between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Synchronize traffic lights! Pedestrian control of lights needs to be implemented to accomplish this.

Land Use

- West Village needs public review.

Energy

- I just learned about the program in San Diego regarding the new solar energy system using sun heated oil to heat water. This needs much less solar panels. Is more efficient. Sounds logical, efficient and also a durable system. Oil keeps its heat for two days or more. Please check this – thanks.
- Switch to SMUD
- City of Davis: 100% city generated electricity by solar thermal parabolic trough
- To promote residential solar energy, Davis needs to preserve solar access. My home's solar access was significantly reduced by construction of a second story on the house to my south. The city did not notify me of the construction, and the neighbor did not tell me that he was expanding to a second story (without setbacks). The City should require that all second story residential construction analyze the impact of such construction on neighbors whose solar access would be affected. Shad analyses of the affected homes should be provided for winter and summer solstice and equinox times. A council-approved variance to construct the second story should be required, with noticing of neighbors. My neighbor's second story construction affected the passive solar design of our house and caused an increase in our winter heating bill. Davis should support both passive and active solar design in its design review of

renovations as well as new construction. I believe I also mentioned this at the first public outreach meeting at the VMC.

Consumption and Waste

- Reform “green waste” collection – i.e. stop carrying it out of neighborhoods every week. Require it stay.
- Allow and encourage greywater
- Containerize greenwaste
- DWR reusable product day: hold every 2 mo.
- Hold a city “zero-waste” week where people are encouraged to produce zero waste. Garbage cans should be empty. Perhaps have no trash collection for a week.

There was also the opportunity for community members to sign up to participate in further efforts on climate change, and these names were collected by the team for follow-up.

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Attached to this summary is a copy of a *Davis Enterprise* article that appeared on the front page on Friday, May 1, reporting on the meeting.



CLIMATE ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

Kemble Pope (Chair)	<i>Open Space and Habitat Commission</i>
John Mott-Smith (Vice Chair)	<i>Yolo County</i>
Bill Dakin	<i>The Davis Energy Group</i>
Bill Kopper	<i>Citizen</i>
Dean Newberry	<i>Natural Resources Commission</i>
Dorothy Rosenberg	<i>Citizen</i>
Emma Lautz	<i>Davis High School Student</i>
Jack Kenward	<i>Bicycle Advisory Commission</i>
James C. Cramer	<i>Care for God's Creation</i>
James Morante/John Ketcherside	<i>Pacific Gas and Electric</i>
Jenifer Segar	<i>Citizen</i>
Lars Anderson	<i>Explorit Science Center</i>
Mark Braly	<i>Planning Commission</i>
Mark Rutheiser	<i>Davis Chamber of Commerce</i>
Theresa Bui	<i>Associated Students of UC Davis</i>
Rachel Milbrodt	<i>Davis Joint Unified School District</i>
Ruth Williams	<i>Citizen</i>
Sid England	<i>UC Davis Sustainability Committee</i>
Stacie Frerichs	<i>The Sierra Club, Yolano Chapter</i>
<i>In Memoriam:</i> Julie Partansky	<i>Citizen</i>