

MINUTES AND NOTES

CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT OF YOLO COUNTY

July 10 , 2009

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Yolo County Supervisor **Matt Rexroad** opened the meeting and thanked Digital Technology Laboratory for the use of their meeting facility and **Lawrence Chan** of DTL welcomed the group.

Due to the full agenda for the meeting, attendees introduced themselves but offered only very short updates on events in their jurisdictions.

STAFF REPORT

The Compact has received a \$20,000 grant from the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District to continue its current functions, including: (1) Act as a clearinghouse, including bi-monthly meetings; (2) Form subgroups (i.e. planners, fleet managers, etc.) to address specific topics; (3) Conduct and co-sponsor public events; and, (4) Assist member jurisdictions in developing Climate Action Plans. In addition, the funds will be used to: (A) Form a "Local Government Partnership" with PG&E; (B) Identify resources to assist local agencies; (C) Develop a model fleet management plan; (D) Develop a specific focus on opportunities for schools and school districts to increase energy efficiency; (E) Assist in development of renewable energy resources, and; (F) Provide assistance, upon request, on General Plan updates.

The Compact, in conjunction with PG&E, has invited membership in a Steering Committee to help plan the Local Government Partnership slated to begin operation in January 2010. THE LGP will bring together all of the utility energy efficiency and renewable energy incentive and rebate programs for each Compact member jurisdiction --- including the broader community as well as government buildings and operations. The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be scheduled soon.

The Compact supported an application by the Yolo County Health Department for a capacity building grant to address the possible effects of climate change on the department and the community. The Compact is receiving an increasing number of such requests for endorsement and/or participation and staff will develop a proposal for how the Compact can respond to these requests in a manner that ensures that members support the proposed action.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Jillian Rich from PMC reported on the EPA's "Climate Showcase Communities" grant solicitation, as well as provided an update on the EECBG process for small cities and counties. SACOG is applying for EPA funds to provide resources for each jurisdiction to create a greenhouse gas inventory and a Climate Action Plan. The deadline for those cities eligible for formula EECBG funds was extended from June 25th to August 10th. The California Energy Commission has developed draft guidelines for "small cities and counties" (Winters and Yolo County) for stimulus funds.

CHANGING PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOR: TWO APPROACHES TO REDUCING ENERGY USE

Camille Kirk, Sustainability Planner in the Office of Resource Management and Planning at UC Davis, described the "Be Green" pilot program at UC Davis to test methods to encourage campus employees to change their behavior and increase energy efficiency in office operations. The pilot program included establishing a baseline for energy use, implementing an education program, and re-measuring to determine program effectiveness. The program reported an unexpectedly large 22% decrease in energy use, with many employees eager to participate. Feedback indicates that some of the keys to success are to provide clear information, to let people know what actions actually work and which don't really reduce energy usage, and to provide a straightforward explanation of what is expected of them. *A copy of Ms. Kirk's presentation will be forwarded to Compact members.*

Stephen Wheeler, Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at UC Davis, discussed his research into the reasons why some people, even those who see climate change as a serious problem, don't change their behavior. Some of the perceived obstacles he discussed include: uncertain science; technology barriers, difficulty in implementing change in one's day-to-day life; the seeming remoteness of climate change in the far future; skepticism about proposed solutions; the controversy engendered by "climate change deniers", and; the debilitating effect of dire warnings on motivation to change. Mr Wheeler indicated that most people want to "do the right thing" and respond to the social norm of what that is. He also indicated that "language matters" --- too much pessimism, too much optimism, or information that is all science and numbers can create inertia rather than positive action. *A copy of Mr. Wheeler's presentation will be forwarded to Compact members.*

USING "TAX CREDIT BONDS" TO FINANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN CITIES AND SCHOOLS

Steve Nielsen of MuniBond Advisors described the potential for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREB's) and Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB's) to develop renewable energy sources on county, city or school buildings. These bonds provide the investor with a tax credit and produces a positive cash flow for local government.

LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED): THE BUILDING AND THE BUILDERS

Mark Shope of Ascent Builders and **John Buckel** of Capital Partners Development Co. described the process and challenges of constructing a building to LEED Gold standards. The building owners, Moriseiki, asked for a "green building" that would be an attractive place for employees to work and the builders explained how the payback in energy savings offset added construction costs. A tour of the building and demonstration of its energy efficiency and other features followed. *A copy of Mr. Buckel's presentation will be forwarded to Compact members.*

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be September 11th from 9 – 11 am at the Buehler Visitor Center on the UC Davis campus.