



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

**TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: April 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution on Yolo County Climate
Action Compact

Report in Brief

The City of Woodland, through the City Council Energy Committee, is embarking on a coordinated effort to develop guiding principles that will improve our environment by decreasing the Woodland community's production of greenhouse gases, lowering the community's energy usage, and reducing the community's carbon footprint. As part of this process, Woodland is a participant on the Yolo County's Climate Change Coordinating Committee. In order to move a regional climate protection effort forward in a cohesive manner, the Board of Supervisors has adopted a Yolo County Climate Action Compact and has asked other Yolo County government partners to do the same.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Resolution No. _____ to support the Yolo County Climate Action Compact as part of the City's efforts to promote climate protection.

Background

Yolo County convened a "Climate Change Summit" meeting on December 17, 2007. Representatives from each of the cities and school districts in Yolo County attended, as well as representatives from UC Davis, the Port of West Sacramento, the County Supervisors Association of California, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, the Yolo County Housing Authority, and representatives from various neighboring cities and counties.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring all these jurisdictions together to discuss how local governments can respond to the issue of climate change and how jurisdictions within Yolo County can work together in this regard.

Each of the jurisdictions attending the summit meeting expressed an interest in working together on this issue. Yolo County therefore created a "Yolo County Climate Action Compact" to follow up on this interest, and to set baseline goals for actions to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the Compact indicates that each jurisdiction will examine its own buildings and vehicles in order to establish a baseline for energy use, and set targets to reduce this usage. The

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Compact provides a foundation for an ongoing discussion to determine appropriate partnerships and cooperative programs and to share information and ideas as an alternative to independent actions implemented by each jurisdiction. The Compact is not intended to supplant other programs, pledges, or actions being taken or planned for the future.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors adopted the Yolo County Climate Action Compact on February 26, 2008. Other Yolo County jurisdictions are expected to adopt the Compact in the near future.

Discussion

Over the years the City of Woodland has implemented measures and practices throughout the City to be good environmental stewards. Such measures include requirements for mandatory construction and demolition debris recycling, replacing HVAC units with energy efficient units, installation of weather based irrigation controllers at some parks, and purchasing low emission vehicles when possible. However, for the most part, these efforts have not been coordinated or measured to determine the effectiveness for protecting the environment. The adoption of the resolution will solidify our commitment to these efforts and as a partner with Yolo County jurisdictions working toward a common goal. The tasks and goals outlined in the resolution are consistent with the mission of the City Council Energy Committee and the development of guiding principles to reduce our overall “carbon footprint” (measure of impact that human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide).

Fiscal Impact

Adoption of the Yolo County Climate Action Compact Resolution will have no fiscal impact beyond the utilization of staff time. As the City Council Energy Committee moves forward with the development of guiding principles, each principle and task will be individually evaluated to assess its fiscal impact and ultimate feasibility.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Council Committee Recommendation

The City Council Energy Committee supports the adoption of this resolution.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. Approve Resolution No. _____, to support the Yolo County Climate Action Compact as part of the City’s climate protection efforts.
2. Cease further consideration of the Climate Action Compact.

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Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1.

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Analyst

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachment: Resolution for Yolo County Climate Action Compact

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WOODLAND
FOR THE YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION COMPACT**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to food and water supplies – all of which have economic and social impacts on communities and their local governments; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and will look to local governments for a contribution to meeting this goal; and

WHEREAS, county and city governments and special districts have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their jurisdictions over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, urban forest preservation, water conservation, public education programs, and wastewater and solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, school boards play a critical role in reducing energy usage in school buildings and vehicles, as well as in educating students, staff, and faculty about climate change and what individuals can do to address it; and

WHEREAS, the University of California at Davis has significant knowledge and expertise on the subject of climate change, and has a mission to translate this knowledge and experience into the local community; and

WHEREAS, the county, cities, school districts and special districts can benefit from coordinating policies and programs, as appropriate and as determined by each jurisdiction, to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, and this coordination can result in increased effectiveness of these programs for the citizens of Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, the economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Woodland joins the Yolo County Climate Change Compact and pledges to take appropriate steps to:

1. Create an inventory of government (operational) energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, and;

2. Establish a goal of reducing this energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050, and;
3. Develop a plan to meet these goals and targets, and;
4. Implement policies, programs and operations to carry out the plan, including regular monitoring of progress towards the goals, and adjustments as necessary to meet the targets, and;
5. Develop and implement a program to inventory energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions within the community, establish reduction targets, and take a leadership role to implement a plan to meet those targets, and;
6. Work cooperatively with the members of the Yolo County Climate Action Compact to identify and implement, as appropriate and as determined by each jurisdiction, climate action policies and programs, and;
7. Engage the citizenry in enlisting individual effort and promoting personal responsibility in reducing the impact of global warming/climate change through energy and water conservation, purchasing sustainable products, utilizing mass transportation modes, and other beneficial practices, and;
8. Annually revisit and re-commit to this effort by measuring the effectiveness of current efforts, revising where appropriate and reporting to the citizenry and other local government entities on the overall success of individual county/city/school/special district programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this XXX day of XXXX 2008, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

David Flory, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan L. Vannucci, CMC, City Clerk