



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: June 2, 2009

SUBJECT: California Climate Action Registry Update

Report in Brief

The City of Woodland was recognized as a Climate Action Leader by the California Climate Action Registry at its annual members meeting in early April.

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the California Climate Action Registry certificate designating the City of Woodland as a Climate Action Leader and a presentation summarizing the results of the baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory in association with this recognition.

Background

In July 2008, the City Council voted to join the California Climate Action Registry (Registry) and to have staff prepare a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and obtain independent third-party verification of the inventory. These actions were initiated to further the City's efforts to promote climate protection. The Registry is a private non-profit organization originally formed by the State of California that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas emissions registry. It is regarded as a leading international thought center on climate change issues. The Registry provides leadership on climate change by developing and promoting credible and consistent greenhouse gas reporting standards and tools for organizations to measure, monitor, obtain third-party verification, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions consistently across industry sectors and geographical borders.

During summer 2008, staff compiled the City's energy use and fuel consumption data for 2007 and used the data to calculate the City's baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which was reported to the Registry and subsequently verified by Tetra Tech.

Discussion

In 2008, Environmental Services staff compiled and submitted to the California Climate Action Registry a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to all 2007 municipal operations. The inventory was completed using the Registry's established reporting protocols and was reviewed by both an independent third-party verifier and the registry, which found it to be complete and accurate. The inventory consists of direct emissions, mainly from vehicle and equipment use, and indirect emissions, which consist mainly of the emissions associated with the

off-site generation of the electricity used at City facilities. In general, reductions in electricity, gas, and fuel use will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of Woodland is one of only 300 entities in California that have completed this milestone in greenhouse gas emissions reporting. Entities that have successfully completed the reporting process are designated by the Registry as Climate Action Leaders. The list of Climate Action Leaders includes departments of state government, counties and cities, special districts, universities, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Woodland is one of just eight cities in the state that have been granted Climate Action Leader status. Locally, Yolo County and UC Davis are also members of the registry and are Climate Action Leaders.

Establishing and publicly reporting the baseline greenhouse gas inventory helps establish the City of Woodland's commitment to identifying and acknowledging City contributions to global climate change. The inventory is a first step in City contributions to meeting the goals of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires a statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Next steps for the City of Woodland include formulating an energy conservation strategy and climate action plan, activities that are underway through the efforts of the City Council Energy Committee. The City will continue to calculate and report its emissions inventory on an annual basis. Each inventory will be compared with the baseline inventory to determine the effectiveness of City actions in reducing energy use and helping to meet the state's reduction goal.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the California Climate Action Registry certificate designating the City of Woodland as a Climate Action Leader and a presentation summarizing the results of the baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory in association with this recognition.

Prepared by: Marshall Echols
Conservation Coordinator

Roberta Childers
Environmental Analyst

Reviewed by: Gregor G. Meyer
Public Works Director

Mark G. Deven
City Manager