



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Report on 2008 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Report in Brief

The City of Woodland's greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2008 has been verified by an independent third party and accepted by the California Climate Action Registry.

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a presentation summarizing the results of the 2008 greenhouse gas emissions inventory and its comparison with the 2007 baseline inventory.

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 of, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions consistently across industry sectors and geographical borders. 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. The baseline inventory serves as a reference with which the subsequent years' inventories are compared.

Discussion

In 2009, Environmental Services staff compiled and submitted to the Registry an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to all 2008 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 PG&E's off-site generation of the electricity used at City facilities.

Establishing and publicly reporting the greenhouse gas inventory helps establish the City of Woodland's commitment to identifying and acknowledging City contributions to global climate change.

The results of the 2008 inventory (or "carbon footprint") and comparison with the 2007 baseline inventory may be summarized as follows:

- City wells and the Water Pollution Control Facility are the biggest energy users (electricity).
- Electricity usage accounts for 71% of the City's overall carbon footprint.
- Electricity usage was down in 2008 compared with 2007.
- PG&E supplied electricity in 2008 that was not as "clean" as in 2007, resulting in a larger 2008 carbon footprint associated with City electricity use than in 2007.
- Gasoline and diesel fuel consumption was slightly up in 2008.
- Although overall energy use was lower in 2008, the City's carbon footprint was higher than in 2007.

As stated above, the City's carbon footprint was impacted by PG&E's use of less "clean" energy. The emissions associated with PG&E's electricity supply depend on its mix of power generation sources. The difference between 2008 and 2007 PG&E emission factors is likely accounted for by its inability to take advantage of as much hydropower generation due to low rainfall conditions.

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. The comparison also illustrates how PG&E's methods of generating the electricity used by the City can affect the greenhouse gas emissions that are attributable to the City.

The summary of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory prepared for presentation to City Council, as well as the full report submitted to the Registry, will be posted on the City's website for public review.

Fiscal Impact

The costs associated with the verification process of \$11,230 and is split between the General Fund (\$3,202), Water Enterprise Fund (\$6,782), Sewer Enterprise Fund (\$912) and Storm Water Fund (\$934). The allocation is based on previously identified energy savings generated by an audit staff and PG&E collaborated to complete in 2008.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the presentation summarizing the results of the 2008 greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

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