

John Richardson

From: Ari Berenbaum [ab@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 11:34 AM
To: John Richardson
Cc: Jim Ward; David Bonk; Bill Strom; Sally Greene; ed.harrison@mindspring.com
Subject: Chapel Hill Peak Oil Resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Attachments: Chapel Hill Peak Oil Resolution 5-6-08.doc



Chapel Hill Peak Oil
Resolutio...

Hi John,

Attached is the Chapel Hill Peak Oil Resolution as drafted by NC Powerdown. We hope that you can send it to the Sustainability Committee and other interested parties in order to pass it before the last Council Meeting in June. We look forward to hearing your comments, and the ways in which it can be amended to better fit Chapel Hill. Hope to hear from you soon.

Thanks,

Ari

--On Thursday, April 17, 2008 9:31 AM -0400 John Richardson
<jrichardson@townofchapelhill.org> wrote:

> Thanks for sticking with this item, Ari. The next (and incidentally,
> the first) Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for April
> 29th in the 1st Floor Conference Room at Town Hall (same room you came
> to
> before) between 5:30 and 7:30 pm.

> However, because this is the first meeting and it will be mostly
> organizational in nature, I'm not how the interim Chair would like to
> proceed in terms of your presentation. In other words, it is possible
> that the second meeting may be more appropriate (perhaps May). I am
> meeting with the interim Chair (Mayor pro tem Ward) very soon and I
> will pose this question to him. Once I know more, I'll be sure to
> notify you.

> Thanks again for your inquiry.

> John

> Long Range/Sustainability Planner
> Planning Department
> Town of Chapel Hill
> 405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
> Chapel Hill, NC 27514-5705
> Phone: (919) 968-2728
> Fax: (919) 969-2014

Chapel Hill Peak Oil Resolution

WHEREAS, the United States has only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, produces 8 percent of the world's oil, and consumes 25 percent of the world's oil, of which nearly two-thirds is imported from foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, the price of transportation fuel has increased in excess of 20% per year for the past 5 years and sustained fuel inflation is very likely to continue; and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable petroleum is critical to the functioning of our transportation system, the production of our food and of petrochemical-based consumer goods, the paving of roads, the lubrication of all machinery, and myriad other parts of the economy; and,

WHEREAS, monthly global oil production has failed to increase substantially since December 2005 despite oil price having nearly doubled during that time, indicating that we may be nearing the plateau of global oil production (i.e. "Peak Oil"); and

WHEREAS, a growing number of petroleum experts, including executives at international publicly-owned oil exploration and production companies, believe that the peak in the world's oil production is likely to occur in the next decade while demand continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy-sponsored study on the mitigation of Peak Oil performed by the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) demonstrated that a twenty-year lead time is required for effective mitigation¹, while current measures supported by the federal government will replace only three-weeks worth of gasoline consumption by 2012²; and,

WHEREAS, alternative sources of transport fuels from coal and natural gas both require high energy input and increase total carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, currently, North Carolina imports virtually all of its transportation fuel resources. These imports represent a great diversion of funds, some of which could be used to develop domestic, alternative energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill has demonstrated leadership in confronting challenges of environmental quality and energy security, promoting environmental and economic equity, and has a rich diversity of citizens committed to maintaining Chapel Hill's long-term viability;

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill residents and businesses will be negatively affected by rising oil and energy costs, which will disproportionately affect low income residents; and

WHEREAS, many of the actions that will reduce Chapel Hill's exposure to oil and natural gas will take years to implement fully, and it is therefore essential to initiate change immediately;

1 http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/others/pdf/Oil_Peaking_NETL.pdf

2 www.eia.doe.gov/neic/brochure/renew05/renewable.html

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Chapel Hill accepts the obligation to inform its citizens of potential risks associated with Peak Oil, and to address the significant challenge of confronting Peak Oil locally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Chapel Hill Peak Oil Task Force will be created to address these concerns both short-term and long-term, identify a set of possible scenarios related to Peak Oil, determine how they would specifically impact the Town of Chapel Hill financially and otherwise, and create mitigation strategies for review and consideration by both the designated Advisory Board and Town BOA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated Advisory Board shall propose to BOA an action plan to implement the recommendations in the Chapel Hill Peak Oil Task Force report that includes funding needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Town of Chapel Hill budgets should recognize and reflect the possibility of sustained fuel inflation in all future planning for which fuel cost is a relevant issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Town of Chapel Hill capital improvement recommendations should recognize and reflect the possibility of sustained fuel inflation in all future planning for which fuel cost is a relevant issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Town of Chapel Hill transportation and land use plans should recognize and reflect the possibility of sustained fuel inflation in all future planning for which fuel costs are a relevant issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chapel Hill recognizes the potential drain on the local economy of importing virtually all of its food, and that with inflated costs of transportation fuel, and consequently food, increased support of the local food economy will be required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as its population grows, the Town of Chapel Hill continues to support and grow its public mass transportation capability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chapel Hill supports Town Economic and Environmental Planners who generate calculable fiscal savings via energy conservation and energy efficiency measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chapel Hill support its citizenry who both work and live in Orange County, thereby reducing their daily fuel consumption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Chapel Hill petitions the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Chapel Hill to assume greater authority over its future transportation plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BOA and Town Staff will take account of the Peak Oil problem in developing the Climate Protection Agreement so that Chapel Hill can substantially reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.