

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

DATE: August 23, 1999

The attached resolution would authorize the Manager to prepare and submit a grant application related to the Town of Chapel Hill's participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

BACKGROUND

At the May 10th work session the Council received a presentation on the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

Cities for Climate Protection is a global campaign of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The International Council for Local Initiatives is an association of local authorities dedicated to building and supporting a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve improvements in global environmental conditions.

Almost 60 cities and counties in the United States participate in the Campaign and are developing action plans to bring about community-wide greenhouse gas emission reductions.

DISCUSSION

The Cities for Climate Protection Campaign engages municipalities to use their decision-making, programmatic and purchasing powers to cut fossil fuel consumption, improve energy efficiency and expand renewable-based energy throughout the community. Decisions by local government in such areas as land use and development, energy-efficient building codes, public transportation, waste reduction and recycling, directly affect local air quality. Some examples of steps taken by other localities to reduce greenhouse emissions include:

- *Saint Paul, Minnesota* - keeps over 50% of its waste out of its landfill through an aggressive recycling program. Re-use is also encouraged through goods exchange and remanufacture programs.
- *Toledo, Ohio* - has retrofitted 20 municipal facilities with new heating, ventilation, and cooling systems; energy efficient lighting; and better insulation.

- **Ann Arbor, Michigan** - has adopted an Electric Utility Franchise. Suppliers are required to provide power from renewable sources, starting at 3% and rising to 10% in 5 years. Ann Arbor also has agreements with two companies who invest their own capital to collect and use methane gas from the landfill, with two effects: 1st, the methane does not escape into the atmosphere; and 2nd, coal-generated electricity is displaced by landfill gas.
- **Santa Monica, California** - is purchasing 5 megawatts of green electricity to power its municipal facilities.

Participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) coordinates the activities of local governments participating in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

If the Council wishes for Chapel Hill to participate in the Campaign, the Council would adopt a resolution pledging to:

- Obtain an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions coming from municipal operations and the community as a whole.
- Develop a forecast of emissions growth for a future year.
- Adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.
- Develop a local action plan specifying the actions to be taken to achieve the emissions reduction target.
- Implement and monitor the plan and report the results.

In addition, ICLEI requires that an elected official be designated as a primary contact. ICLEI staff works with local governments to obtain technical assistance, training workshops, publications, and competitive grants. ICLEI does not charge fees or dues to local governments participating in the Campaign.

City of Durham's Participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

The City of Durham has recently joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. Durham staff is working with a consultant to develop a Local Action Plan. A Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Team has been established to work with the consultant. ICLEI is funding a significant portion of Durham's GHG Reduction Study with a \$23,000 grant received through the Cities for Climate Protection program.

Durham's consultant indicates that its process to develop an Action Plan, which began in March 1999, is expected to take approximately six (6) months. The Task Force will meet approximately three (3) times over that period of time, with the consultant performing all data collection. In addition to the task force, Durham designated a staff person to serve as the project manager to work with ICLEI and the consultant.

Preliminary Cost Estimates for the Town of Chapel Hill's Participation

We believe that, if the Council chooses to participate in this program, the first step would be to authorize the Manager to prepare and submit a grant application. If a grant is awarded, we would return to the Council to discuss retaining a consultant to develop a Local Action Plan. While each locality is unique, for the first phase of the project we would anticipate that Chapel Hill would need to:

1. Designate a staff person to serve as the project manager;
2. Apply for a grant from ICLEI;
3. Retain the services of a consultant to develop a Local Action Plan for the Town of Chapel Hill;
4. Create a staff team to work with the consultant; and
5. Set a schedule of meetings for the staff team.

Based on Durham's experience, we estimate a project budget of approximately \$25,000 for consultant help. In addition, matching grant funds may be required. We estimate the project would require about 100-200 hours of staff time, with the components of staff time as follows:

- Grant preparation
- Hire consultant
- Facilitate assembling team
- Work with team
- Coordinate inter-departmental work and input to the consultant
- Prepare status reports
- Coordinate final report with recommendations

The estimate of staff time includes participation from staff of several Town departments.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that, if the Council chooses to participate, the Council adopt the attached Resolution A authorizing the Manager to take the actions necessary for the Town of Chapel Hill to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, including preparation and submittal of a grant application. If this action is taken, a grant is awarded and if matching funds for the ICLEI grant are necessary, we would return to the Town Council seeking authorization to proceed.

We recommend that the Council consider Resolution B designating a Council liaison to the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

ATTACHMENT

1. ICLEI Information Brochure (p. 6) [not copied]

RESOLUTION A**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (99-8-23/R-14.1)**

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere are having a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, e.g. coal, oil and gas, accounts for more than 85% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, local governments greatly influence their community's energy usage by exercising key powers over land use, transportation, building construction, waste management, and in many cases, energy supply and management; and

WHEREAS, local governments actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the government, its businesses and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, sponsored by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has invited the Town of Chapel Hill to become a partner in the Campaign;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that the Town pledges to join with jurisdictions from all over the world in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and, as a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign authorizes the Manager to:

1. Take a leadership role in increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations;
2. Apply for a grant from International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives;
3. If a grant is awarded, retain the services of a consultant and develop and implement a local action plan which describes the steps to be taken by the Town and the community to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions; the plan would include:
 - Obtain an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions coming from municipal operations and the community as a whole.
 - Develop a forecast of emissions growth for a future (forecast) year.
 - Adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.
 - Develop a local action plan specifying the actions to be taken to achieve the emissions reduction target.
 - Implement and monitor the plan and report the results.

This the 23rd day of August, 1999.

