



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

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**STAFF REPORT**  
**April 3, 2007**

**Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council**

**Title: Update on the Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City***

**Location/Council District: Citywide**

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Council: 1) Review and comment on the City of Sacramento's draft Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City*; 2) review, comment and direct a public outreach process for the Master Plan; 3) direct staff to return with the City's Sustainability Master Plan for final adoption in Summer 2007 integrating City Council and community comments; and 4) direct staff to return in Summer 2007 with recommended priority targets for the first phase implementation of the Master Plan based on feasibility and financial analyses.

**Contact:** Jonathan Rewers, Program Manager, 808-7590; Reina Schwartz, Director of General Services, 808-7195

**Presenters:** Jonathan Rewers, Program Manager, 808-7590; Reina Schwartz, Director of General Services, 808-7195; Genevieve Shiroma, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD)

**Department:** General Services

**Division:** Facilities & Real Property Management

**Organization No:** 3289

**Description/Analysis:**

**Issue:** From concerns over climate change, to drought-related water shortages, to air quality, society faces serious environmental issues locally, regionally, nationally and even globally. Environmental issues affect the quality of life within the City of Sacramento, the region, state, nationwide and around the world.

In June 2005, the City Council directed staff to develop a Sustainability Agenda with goals and objectives that move the City toward using natural resources efficiently to prevent pollution and improve the economic, environmental and social well-being of current and future generations. When a process is

sustainable, it can be carried out over and over without negative environmental effects or high costs.

On April 4, 2006, City Council held a workshop to review elements of the Agenda including draft focus areas and goals, as well as an inventory of current City programs. The City Council also took action in support of the United Nations (UN) Urban Environmental Accords, which provide a basis for the City's Sustainability Agenda.

Staff is now bringing forward a Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City* with identified focus areas, goals and targets for implementation. Staff is recommending that City Council review and comment on the draft. Staff is also recommending that the Sustainability Master Plan be shared with various neighborhood, community and business organizations to solicit comments before the final plan is adopted. Staff will also work to analyze and develop recommendations for a first phase of implementation for later review and approval by City Council.

**Policy Considerations:** The proposed Sustainability Master Plan is meant to serve as a policy framework for the City of Sacramento to ensure that sustainability concerns are incorporated into the City's decision making processes. Staff's recommendation is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal to achieve sustainability and livability within the City of Sacramento.

The Sustainability Master Plan is intended to be a means for *Creating a Sustainable City*, not an end. The plan is a tool for future operational and policy decisions. To proceed in a sensible way to change long-standing environmental practices, it is necessary to develop focus areas, goals and targets to be achieved.

**Environmental Considerations:** This report concerns administrative/policy activities that will not have any negative effect on the environment, and does not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(2)]. Generally, moving toward sustainability will have a more positive impact on the environment.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** As a major landowner, employer, building manager, fleet operator, utility owner and operator, consumer of goods and services, and service provider, the City of Sacramento has both the opportunity and the capacity to bring about significant improvements in environmental quality in and around the region.

By integrating environmentally sustainable practices into City policies, procedures, operations, and fostering collaboration across City government, the City's Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City*, will work to protect and

enhance the quality of life for current and future generations in the City of Sacramento. Leading by example, the Sustainability Master Plan promotes responsible management and effective stewardship of the City's built and natural environments; transforming the City of Sacramento into a model government agency that is clean, healthy, resource-efficient, and environmentally conscientious.

**Financial Considerations:** As part of the FY2006/07 Budget Process, the City Council approved an appropriation of \$150,000 for the development of the Sustainability Master Plan. The cost of developing and finalizing the plan itself will be covered within the \$150,000 allocated by the City Council for this purpose in June 2006.

It is important to note that many of the targets recommended in the Sustainability Master Plan can be implemented at little or no additional cost to the City by using existing staff and resources. Additionally, other goals and targets that may have an upfront cost often reduce operational costs, resulting in overall savings. When prioritizing goals and targets for implementation, the overall cost of each activity should be taken into account.


Those targets to be implemented as part of a first phase should be initially selected based on: potential environmental impact, payback period and ease of implementation.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** There are no ESBD considerations with this report.


Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Cynthia Kranc  
Facilities Manager

Approved by:

  
Reina J. Schwartz  
Director, Department of General Services

Recommendation Approved:

  
Ray Kerridge  
City Manager

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**Attachment 1**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. When a process is sustainable, it can be carried out over and over without negative environmental effects or high costs.

In June 2005, City Council directed staff to develop a Sustainability Agenda with goals and objectives that contribute in moving the City toward using natural resources efficiently to prevent pollution and improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of current and future generations.

On April 4, 2006, City Council held a workshop to review elements of the Agenda including draft focus areas and goals. The nine focus areas are as follows:

- Energy Independence
- Climate Protection
- Air Quality
- Material Resources
- Public Health and Nutrition
- Urban Design, Land Use, Green Building and Transportation
- Parks, Open Space and Habitat Conservation
- Water Resources and Flood Protection, and
- Public Involvement and Personal Responsibility

In addition on April 4, 2006, the City Council took action in support of the United Nations (UN) Urban Environmental Accords. The UN Urban Environmental Accords are a set of 21 actions that the United Nations has asked city governments to adopt and implement over a seven year period. The UN Urban Environmental Accords provide a basis for the City's Sustainability Agenda. However, to achieve long-term sustainability, the City will have to progressively improve performance in all thematic areas.

On May 16, 2006, as part of the FY2006/07 Strategic Planning – Strategic Budget process the City Council identified sustainability and livability as one of the five focus areas for the City's "Vision for 2007." As part of the budget process City Council appropriated \$150,000 towards the development of a Sustainability Plan meant to further the development of a policy agenda for the City, establish City operating principles, and establish coordination among City departments.

In Fall 2006, the Sustainability Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) was created including representatives from City Departments and the Mayor/City Council Office. STAC has worked over the past months to refine and develop the City's draft Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City*, to ensure that sustainability concerns are incorporated into the City's decision making processes.

**Attachment 2**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the Sustainability Master Plan – *Creating a Sustainable City* be presented to a wide range of community groups for review and comment including but not limited to:

1. Development Oversight Commission
2. Planning Commission
3. Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission
4. Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA) Board
5. Parks and Recreation Commission