

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

**DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Services

**AGENDA DATE:** April 19, 2011

**CONTACT PERSON/PHONE:** Mary Howell, Sustainability Manager, (915) 541-4925

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** All

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion and action on the Annual Sustainability Plan progress update.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

An annual overview which will outline the progress towards goals established in the City's Sustainability Plan and consideration of modifying those goals that are inappropriate based on experience.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

Approved City's Sustainability Plan on September 15, 2009  
Approved City's 2010 Annual Sustainability Report Card on April 20, 2010.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:**

N/A

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**LEGAL:** (if required) Josette Flores

**FINANCE:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)**  
***Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager***

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**

**CITY MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# City Sustainability Report Card

## City-wide

- ✓ We will increase sustainability awareness to world-class levels (defined as 80% of top two ratings on a five-point scale) by 2013

The baseline for this goal will be collected with the 2011 Customer Service Citizen Survey. The actual survey questions can be found in Attachment 1.

City staff conducted extensive educational outreach in 2010 on recycling, energy efficiency, sustainability concepts, solar power potential and livability.

- ✓ All City processes will employ TBL concepts by 2016 and 50% of City procedures account for TBL concerns by 2016.

Environmental Services has added 'sustainable alternatives' to bids (e.g., tire disposal).

General Services adopted a policy to purchase hybrid or alternative vehicles when those vehicles are available.

- ✓ All City workforce will be trained in sustainability impacts and programs by 2012.

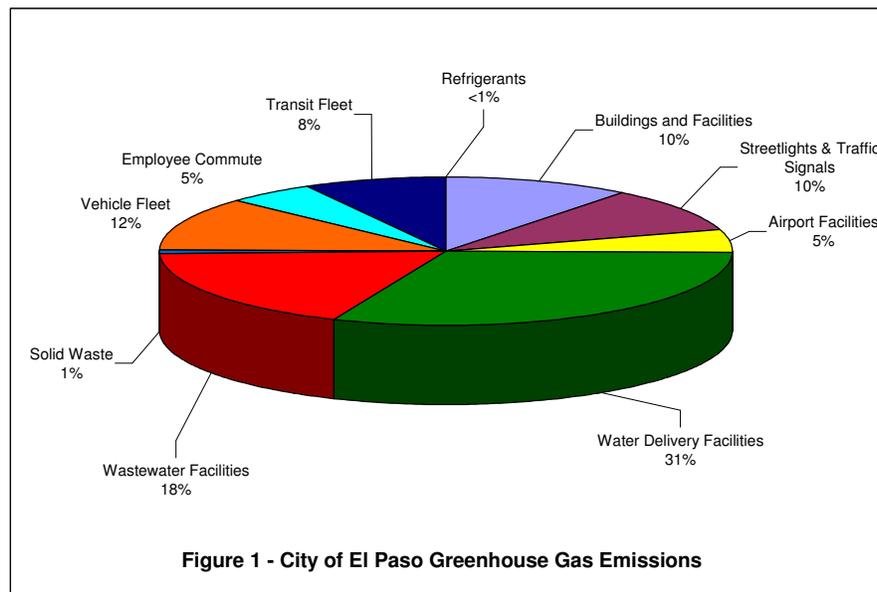
700 employees have been trained to date.

All new employees are now trained as part of the City's new employee orientation program.

## Air

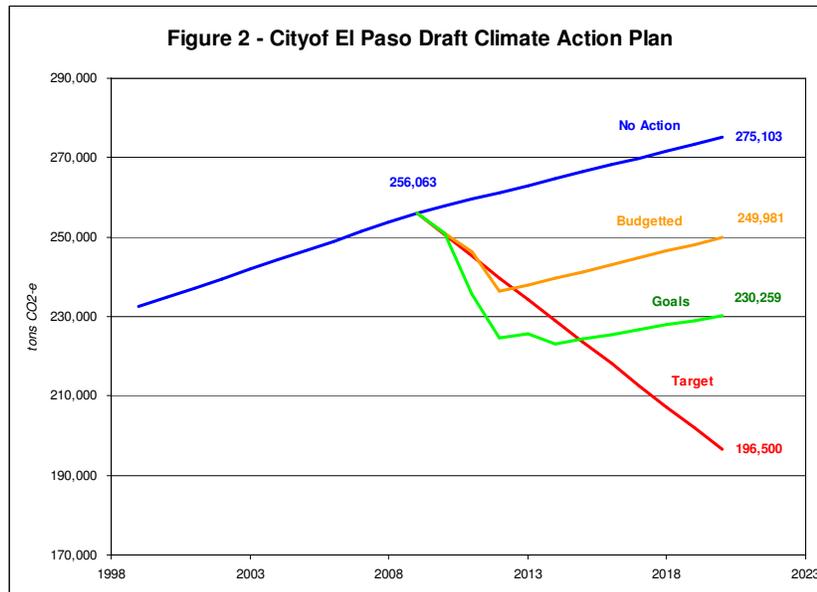
- ✓ Complete greenhouse gas inventory and establish the 1990 baseline for the entire City by 2011.

The City's Carbon Footprint Report is complete and posted on-line. City operations produced the equivalent of 256,063 tons of carbon dioxide in 2009. Figure 1 summarizes the greenhouse gas emissions from City operations.



- ✓ Develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet Kyoto protocol guidelines by 2011.

The City's in the midst of drafting a Climate Action Plan for City operations. Figure 2 is a preliminary illustration of the City's goals for greenhouse gas reductions and the measures City's efforts to meet those goals.

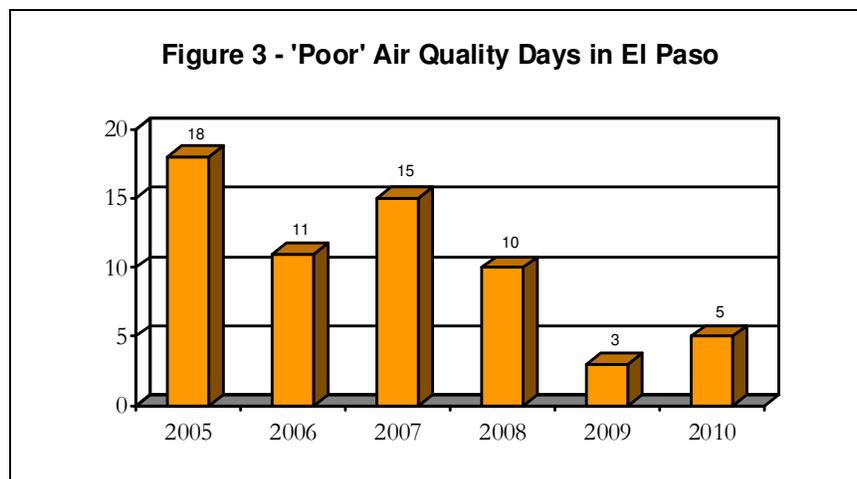


- ✓ Reach attainment of federal air quality standards by 2019.

El Paso is in compliance with federal air quality standards with the exception of PM-10. The EPA is considering lowering the standard for ozone. If the EPA lowers the ozone standard, El Paso will also be out of compliance for ozone.

- ✓ Reduce the number of days with poor AQI by 25%.

El Paso experienced 5 days with an Air Quality Index that was rated as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or worse. Figure 3 shows the trend in local air quality over the past 5 years.



### Community

- ✓ Civic pride will increase by 30% above baseline levels by 2013.

The baseline for this goal will be collected with the 2011 Customer Service Citizen Survey.

- ✓ Participation in sustainability outreach programs will increase by 25% above baseline levels by 2013.

4,100 people participated in events since April, 2009 (1,300 participated in the previous year).

- ✓ Understanding of general sustainability principles will increase by 20% above baseline levels by 2013.

The baseline for this goal will be collected with the 2011 Customer Service Citizen Survey.

City staff conducted extensive educational outreach in 2010 on recycling, energy efficiency, sustainability concepts, solar power potential and livability.

### Development & Buildings

- ✓ Become one of the least car dependant city in the U.S. by promoting smart growth and integrated user-friendly transit systems.

City Council adopted “Connecting El Paso Plan” in January, 2011. This plan is lays out the vision and plan to accomplish this goal. A nationwide article on planning described the plan as follows:

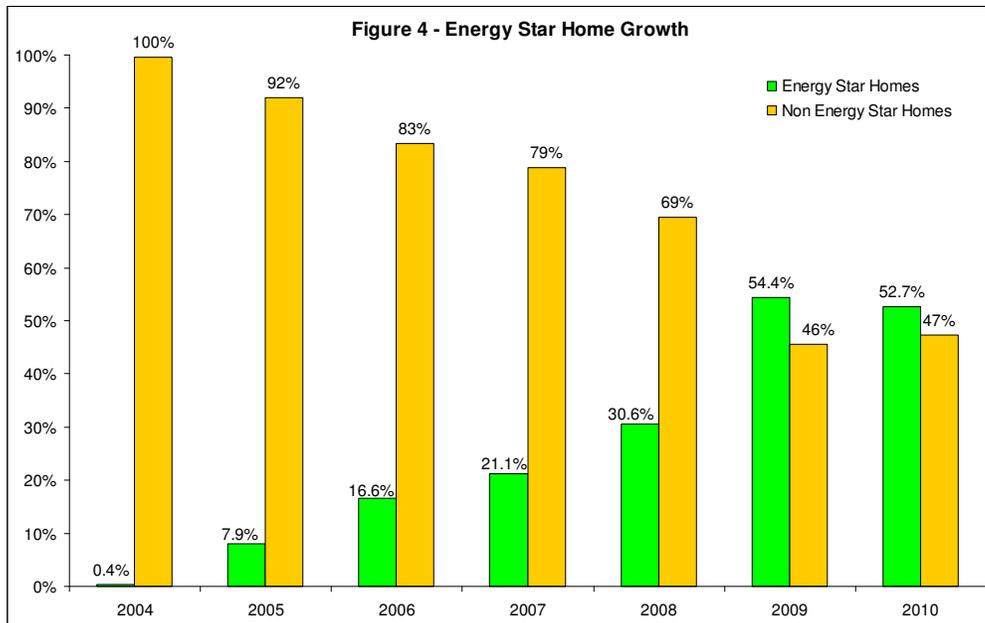
“If you’re looking for a good example of thoughtful, place-based planning for transit-oriented development in a location not yet known for it, you could do a lot worse than Connecting El Paso, a 264-page tour de force vision for parts of the west Texas border city. The plan was unanimously approved earlier this week by the El Paso city council.”

The City completed the purchase of the Northgate shopping center and is in the process of developing the property as a demonstration transit-oriented development project.

Implementation of the City’s four bus rapid transit corridor is progressing with plans that both the Alameda and Mesa corridors will open in September of 2013.

- ✓ Establish green building practices as normal business case in El Paso.

In 2010, 53% of the new homes were Energy Star rated. Figure 4 illustrates the recent growth in Energy Star new home construction in El Paso.



Currently, 84 local construction projects are pursuing various “green” certifications. Fort Bliss accounts for the majority of those buildings (58). The City of El Paso recently completed construction of three buildings that are awaiting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Six other buildings in El Paso have already received certification.

- ✓ Achieve international recognition for successful preservation of our Chihuahuan desert natural heritage for all time.

El Paso Water Utilities has begun improvements on 202 acres at the southern end of the Franklin Mountains known as Palisades Canyon. The utility purchased the property for \$2.5 million which will serve a dual purpose. It will manage stormwater runoff from the Franklin Mountains while protecting and preserving valuable open space.

The City needs to complete biodiversity inventory as a foundation for this effort.

- ✓ Complete a biodiversity inventory by 2011.

No action has been taken on a biodiversity inventory.

- ✓ Identify and prioritize habitat that will be protected by 2012.

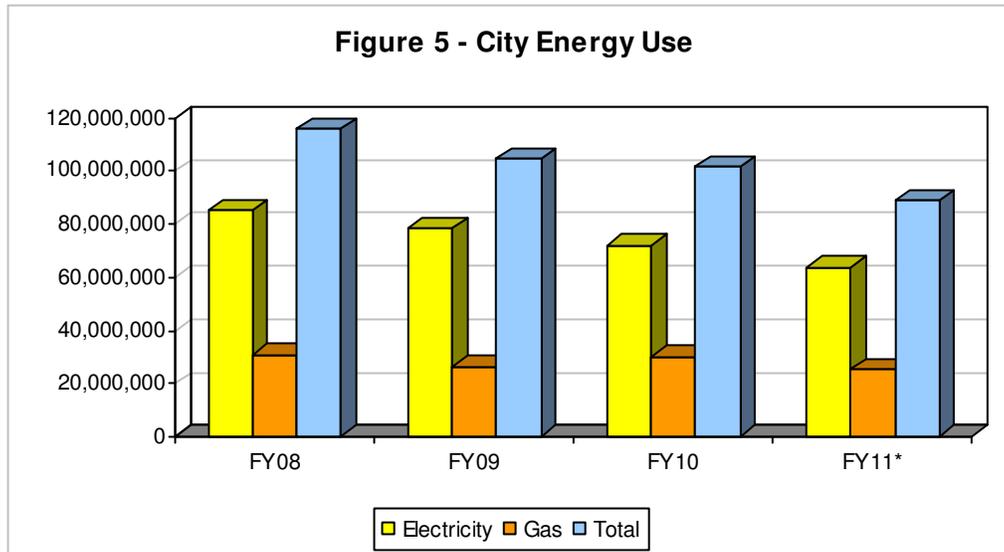
The revised Grading Ordinance identified “sensitive natural drainageways” and detailed steps necessary to preserve those areas for both drainage and habitat.

The Comprehensive Plan update (expected to be complete in 2011) will address preservation of valuable land resources for the City’s future.

## Energy

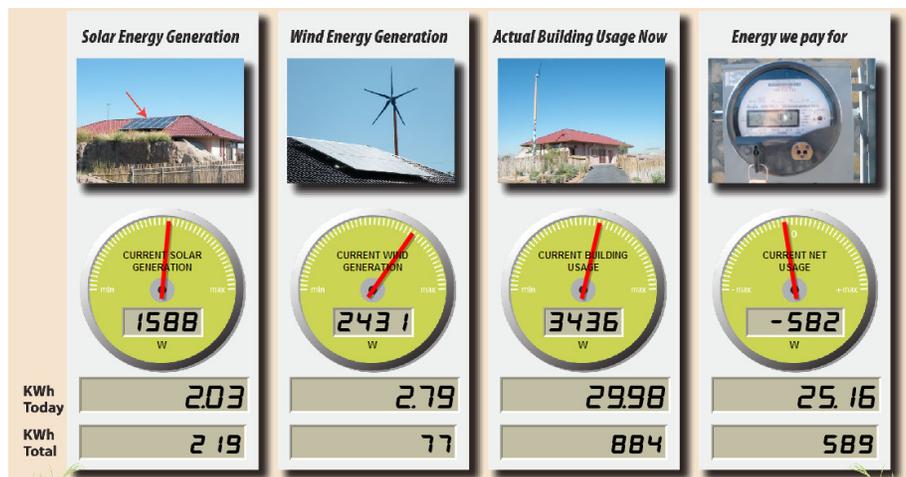
- ✓ Reduce total City of El Paso energy consumption by 30% by 2014.

The City has reduced overall energy use by 23% since 2007. Figure 5 illustrates the City's reduction in energy use over the past four years.



- ✓ Implement 20 renewable energy projects by 2015.

City has installed seven (7) solar hot water systems for indoor pools and one solar/wind demonstration center at the Zoo. The figure below is a snapshot of the energy production from the Zoo's demonstration product that can be seen in real-time on the web at: <http://egauge647.d.egauge.net/kiosk/>.



The City will install solar photovoltaic power systems on the Main Library and Animal Shelter in 2011. El Paso Water Utilities will start up three wastewater biogas recovery systems in 2011. The Environmental Services is installing a

landfill gas recovery system at the Clint Landfill that should produce power in 2012.

- ✓ 20% of City energy use will be renewable by 2020.

In 2010, 5.7% of the City's energy use was generated from renewable sources. The projects described above will significantly increase this value.

- ✓ 10% of Community energy use will be renewable by 2020.

Currently, El Paso Electric's Hueco Mountain wind power project supplies approximately 1% of the community's energy use. El Paso Electric has proposed issuing a Request for Proposals for a 20-25 megawatt solar power facility. The proposed solar facility would supply approximately 2% of the community's needs.

- ✓ Clean energy will become a core business sector in El Paso through the aggressive use of partnerships and incentives.

The City currently has four primary "clean energy" companies with approximately 50 employees.

During the 2010 rate negotiations with El Paso Electric, the City Council created an economic development that is expected to generate over \$4 million a year that can be used to grow clean energy business in El Paso. City Council dedicated \$1 million of the funding towards a solar rebate program. This funding has catalyzed a residential solar business in El Paso with 17 companies currently participating in the company and nearly half the funds allocated in the first six months of the program.

UTEP was awarded funding to create a Regional Technology Incubator (The Hub) in El Paso focusing on technology and high growth entrepreneurial businesses (clean tech is one of the target industries)

The El Paso Electricians Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee began offering photovoltaic classes in 2010.

The International Business College (IBC) announced the opening of the Texas Energy Education Consortium (TREEC) training site, focused on solar electricity, energy retrofits, and weatherization.

### Transportation

- ✓ Maximize fleet efficiency by adopting a Green Fleet Policy by 2011 and implement the major elements of the policy by 2015.

The General Services Department adopted a policy to purchase hybrid or alternative-fueled vehicles whenever those options are available. The City acquired 46 hybrid vehicles in 2010 and has another 30 alternative fuel vehicles on order.

The General Services Department completed an audit of City department's vehicle take-home policy.

- ✓ Become nationally recognized as an innovative leader in efficient fleet services by 2015.

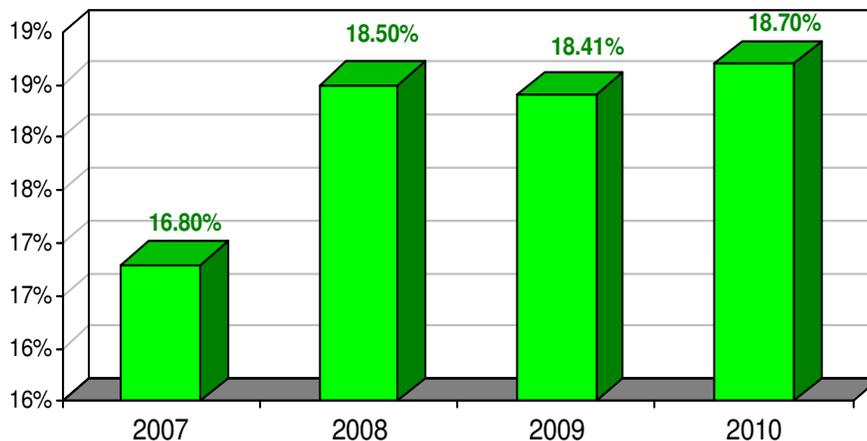
The General Services Department was awarded a State Energy Conservation Office grant to support alternative fuel vehicle fleet.

### Waste & Resources

- ✓ Achieve residential waste diversion rate of 25% by 2013 to become a leader among Texas cities.

Waste diversion rate for 2010 increased from 18.4% to 18.7%. Figure 5 illustrates the City's recent waste diversion rates.

**Figure 5 - El Paso Recycling Rate**



The City's recycling contractor added the equipment necessary to recycle plastics #3 through #7.

The City kicked off the "Recycle Right" campaign this month to educate citizens on what can be recycled and increase participation in the program.

- ✓ Reduce waste produced by City departments 10% by 2011.

Based on the volume of waste collected from City facilities, the City produced 9.6% more waste in 2010 than in 2009.

- ✓ Increase environmentally friendly products purchased by 5% by 2011

The City's Environmental Services Department and Purchasing Division are determining methods to quantify how much of the products the City purchases are environmentally friendly

# Attachment 1 – Customer Service Survey Questions

1. {Surveyor: Please note that the following is a two-step question. If the respondent feels that a topic is important, then ask about the adequacy of the information they are currently receiving about that topic. Otherwise, move on to the next topic.}

		Do you feel {insert topic} is important?		How adequate or inadequate is the current information you are receiving about {insert topic}?			
		Yes	No	Inadequate	Neither Inadequate or Adequate	Adequate	
5a.	Recycling opportunities	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	5a1.	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]
5b.	Saving energy in the home	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	5b1.	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]
5c.	Saving energy on transportation	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	5c1.	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]
5d.	Improving air quality	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	5d1.	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]
5e.	Climate change	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	5e1.	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]

2. How important to you is it that the City of El Paso engages in environmental policies that \_\_\_\_\_?  
(insert topic)

		Not Important	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Not Sure
6a.	Improve the environment	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]	[ 4 ]
6b.	Create energy self-reliance	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]	[ 4 ]
6c.	Save costs for taxpayers	[ 1 ]	[ 2 ]	[ 3 ]	[ 4 ]



# Sustainability Report Card

City Council  
April 19, 2011



# Progress on Goals

- Energy use reduced by 23% since 2007
- UTEP Regional Technology Incubator (The Hub) and several key training programs kicked off for solar jobs
- Sustainability outreach events reached over 4,000 residents
- Council adopted “Connecting El Paso Plan”



# Highlights

- Completed City's greenhouse gas inventory
- Completed construction on 3 LEED buildings
- Kicked off solar rebate program
- Continued energy retrofits
- Major efforts with DOE block grant funding
- 46 hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles
- Installing landfill gas system at Clint Landfill
- Installing 103 solar trash compactors



metro

sunmetro



for more information  
call 533-3333

routes serviced

10

BigBelly  
SOLAR COMPACTOR

