

Sustainability Task Force
Mayor Ann Schwab, Chair
General Plan Update Stakeholder Meeting Notes of April 20, 2009

1. **Green Building.** Should the City establish mandatory policies for green building for public, private, residential and commercial buildings?
 - Educate and incentivize, don't mandate
 - Based on state mandates, the Building Code is evolving rapidly and is addressing many other topics than just energy efficiency
 - Use Green Point Rated standard for public buildings
 - Not for residential
 - Building Department should focus on education. Energy and cost information should be available at building counter, data on utility costs (PG&E) (Chico is in one of the highest rate utility zones)
 - Need a policy regarding a focus on education
 - Payback incentives, fee deferrals for those who meet certain criteria
 - Need a goal/policy for an energy reduction for existing structures (i.e., energy audits upon resale, evaluating heat/ac ducts)
 - Require solar orientation (and/or PV) in greenfield development
 - Require LEED green building for public buildings
 - Energy efficient block grant (EEBGC) funds used for retrofit - \$900K
 - Explore green point rated system and how it can be integrated in Chico

2. **Native and Drought Tolerant Landscaping.** Should both public development (and public-right-of way improvements) and private development be required to use native and drought tolerant landscaping?
 - Only for residential within Planned Developments
 - Yes, require it in public Right of Way
 - Use "Food, not lawns" program
 - City needs to balance recreation with water conservation – CARD/City lawns use a lot of water
 - Need to retrofit expansive public turf areas to xerescape
 - Water needs to cost more or be properly metered to change behavior
 - 70% of water use is for landscaping
 - Our trees need to be drought tolerant

3. **Low Impact Development/Resource Conservation.** Should the City implement LID/ Sustainability Stormwater Management standards for all new projects?
 - Yes! Unanimously agreed that the City should incorporate these tools, but with site sensitivity/flexibility and on all projects, not just new development
 - There is not a one size fits all, as there are different soil types, drainage patterns, development goals, etc.
 - Review public and private stormwater standards
 - Include a density/intensity gradient into the discussion, there isn't enough space to include this type of stormwater management on high density sites
 - Ensure there is no net increase in stormwater
 - Place as much of the facilities as possible on private land

4. **Community Health.** Should the General Plan include more ambitious programs for improving the health of residents, or should these issues continue to be dealt with outside of the General Plan (through health care providers, non-profits, and other community organizations)?
 - Provide health education/incentives/dialogue with large employers
 - Include policy to support existing healthy programs
 - City can ensure there are ample opportunities for local farmers markets
 - General Plan should have a goal stating what we're trying to accomplish in this area
 - City needs to make sure that it is not doing anything that gets in the way of community health
 - Health is a factor of sustainability, on the equity leg of the stool
 - General Plan needs a quality of life index that includes public health
 - No, it's not needed as a formal program
 - Work with large employers to offer incentives to employees to use non-motorized ways to get to work - such as bike to work week

5. **Community Food Systems.** Should the General Plan include a program for the creation of urban agriculture sites and operations, or continue its existing approach of accommodating such activities performed and led by local citizens, farmers, and other organizations?
 - General Plan should support with a sustainability policy
 - Explore community garden opportunities (public or private land)
 - Maybe allow small farming as an interim use on properties before higher uses are ready.
 - Don't initiate policies or programs that detract from farmers' markets, organic gardening, roadside produce selling, etc.

6. **Green Government.** Should the City continue to develop its green government practices outside the General Plan (as it does now), or should it formalize these and other progressive practices in the General Plan?
 - Include a major goal in the General Plan to become a green City government, and formalized with goals and policies
 - Continue (biannual) energy audits
 - New municipal buildings should be LEED-equivalent Standard
 - Reach out to CUSD and other local agencies to be more sustainable
 - City manager should urge department heads to follow the green objectives
 - Prioritize creating a local/green purchasing program
 - Find more ways to improve waste reduction
 - Help find outlets for currently un-recyclable items, assist in waste diversion

7. **Urban Forest/Cool Communities.** What other city efforts can reduce heat island affect in Chico?
 - Revisit the tree list to be sure we're planting trees that will get us the 50% shading
 - Make meeting the 50% shading on existing parking lots a code enforcement issue