



COUNTY OF SOLANO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

FOCUS GROUP MEETING/ COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

County Administrative Center
1st Floor Multi Purpose Room 1610/1620
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

May 10, 2010
6 – 8:45 PM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome

Matt Walsh welcomed and introduced the focus group participants and consultants. There were two members of the public.

Focus Group Members:

Mike Amman, Solano Economic Development Corp.
Bruce Brazelton, AAC, Farm Bureau (orchards/field crops)
Moirra Burke, Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) (grass-fed beef, grass hay)
Jeff Dittmer, Ag Advisory Committee (cattle)
Jim Dunbar, Potrero Hills Landfill
Ozzie Hilton, City of Vacaville Traffic Engineering
Steve Lessler, The Lessler Group, Professional Business Services
Russ Lester, Dixon Ridge Farms, AAC (orchards/processing)

Focus Group Members not present:

Leslie Fay, Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce
Bonnie Hays, enXco
Mike Marcus, City of Benicia (Sustainability Planner)
Robert Macauley, STA Director of Planning
Brian McLean, City of Vacaville City Fleet and Transit Manager
Al Medvitz, Ag Advisory Committee (sheep)
Ben Wallace, Solano Land Trust
David White, City of Fairfield (Public Works), Sustainability Initiatives

Members of the Public

Natalie Hicks, Potrero Hills Landfill
Jillian Rich, PMC

Consultants: Jeff Henderson, Culley Thomas, and Yanna Badet (AECOM)

2. Overview: Project Progress and Milestones

Jeff Henderson presented an overview of the project progress and milestones (see attachment for revisions to GHG emissions inventory/projections).

3. Discussion: Cost-Effectiveness of Preliminary Reduction Measures



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Jeff Henderson reviewed the preliminary reduction measures per sector and provided information about the costs and GHG reduction effectiveness (see attachment). The following comments were received:

AG-3 Fuel efficient farm equipment

- ▶ *Fuel efficiency is good incentive already, as cost of oil rises.*
- ▶ *Have you looked at the embodied energy of new vehicles versus older models? What is the net-effect of old versus new equipment? We have Tractors that are used very little throughout the year. Replacing them doesn't seem to make sense. The ones that we put a lot of hours on are relatively new and get replaced more often anyway.*
- ▶ *How do we account for combustion emissions?*
Answer: Off-road emissions were based on model.
- ▶ *You should also look at operations: Cut down trips across the field, because currently diversity (more different equipment) is used for more trips versus using multifunctional equipment for fewer trips. More efficient tractor has more functions = less trips, however can cause other issues, such as soil compaction, because it's heavier.*
- ▶ *Need to look at entire picture for equipment. Based on the work we are doing with Johann Six (UC Davis), we are just learning about the whole picture. Our actions (and savings by doing it a certain way) may cause unintended consequences.*
- ▶ *You have to keep some system [agriculture in the County] in place over the long term in order to apply these rules.*
- ▶ *Need to protect and support Williamson Act.*
- ▶ *Need to keep outreach programs and research going. Programs are currently deteriorating.*
- ▶ *Programs have to build over years. Need County FARM Coordinator with appropriate budget.*

AG-4 Methane capture

- ▶ *Should be private/external loan!? Cost assumption is that County would provide incentive for financing.*
- ▶ *Mitloehner: Biggest emission is not methane, it's the silage. VOC's. The status of the Dairy is pretty bad.*

AG-5 Alternatives for fumigants, especially Sulfuryl Fluoride

- ▶ *Sulfuryl Fluoride mostly used for termites.*



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- ▶ *Suggested PPO is better. Effective alternative must be accepted internationally. GWPs. Countries are particular about fumigants. Alternatives may cost more. Revise cost assumptions accordingly.*
- ▶ *Get more info from County Ag department.*

AG-6 Increase sale of locally grown products

- ▶ *May need a bigger cost associated with it. "Grown in Solano" website not gotten further because of lacking funds.*

AG-2 Verification Protocol

- ▶ *If verification protocol could be established, than farmers could be paid for CO₂e removed. Works in other sectors. Give credit for farmer for reducing N₂O.*
- ▶ *Crop types for carbon sequestration? Give farmers credit, this would also improve farmer's image.*
- ▶ *Reduce Nitrous Oxide and increase carbon sequestration. Those technologies need to be credited.*
- ▶ *Philosophical question> as farmers are growing food, they are packaging the carbon, do we get credit for that? Answer: That Carbon cycle is too short to be called sequestration.*
- ▶ *Really support the idea to review / do the protocol.*

Energy

E-1 Investigate CCA

- ▶ *Isn't Sonoma ahead? Yes in solar and CaliforniaFIRST, but not in all/CCA.*
- ▶ *Operating cost should not be so high, especially over time.*
- ▶ *It's important to make it more possible to use and interconnect local renewable energy (with CCA). Unless the CCA actually addresses that it won't do us any good in the end. > Make this a new supporting measure.*

E-5 Energy efficiency outreach programs and audits

- ▶ *Efficiency alone plays a bigger role than expected- we are reducing our emissions through efficiency alone by 40%; saving 25% on irrigation, 45% on food processing.*
- ▶ *You can be more bold in your assumptions.*
- ▶ *Audits already there & available. Already in bill. People just need to be made aware of it.*

E-M1 Reduced Energy Consumption in County Facilities



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- ▶ *LED's better than CFL's. New fixtures so much better. Things will pay for themselves, so reduce cost to County. Do an audit, you'll be surprised.*
- ▶ **20% seems modest.** Keep it. Raise set temperatures in rooms.

E-4 Biodigester, E-10 Eco-Industrial Park

- ▶ *Make foodwaste benefit community gardens. Contra Costa is introducing foodwaste into sewage to capture methane.*
- ▶ *Waste stream, Solid Waste regulations for EBMUD, if pulling food in. Campbells wants to do the same thing at their plant in Dixon. Their foodwaste is seasonal. Huge quantity during their processing time. Cooperatively the County could work with them. Is their waste stream big enough?*
- ▶ *Yes, 40-50% food waste could be diverted. Campbells processes several hundred truckloads of tomatoes a day. Right now land-spread.*
- ▶ *I have an issue with the "eco-industrial park" and what the name implies. It shouldn't create more problems by creating this industrial area, only add as solution to existing industrial areas.*

TC-M1 County Fleet Replacements

- ▶ *Coordinate with other municipalities to share BMPs and get better prices in*

TC-4 Express Bus Service, TC-5 New Train Stations, TC-1 Rideshare Infrastructure

- ▶ *Seeing lack in transit funding, coordinate with other transit agencies to provide transit hubs. Work together to provide alternatives for consumer of transit. Provide back-up for ride share program. Guaranteed ride home can do big piece.*

TC-3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity

- ▶ *Support TC-3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity.*
- ▶ *Look at higher participation percentage in your assumptions.*

LU-2 Preserve Carbon Sequestration Areas

- ▶ *Hedgerows are important and should be supported. They provide habitat benefits, pest management benefits on edges of agricultural fields.*
- ▶ *Mitigation projects - land doesn't do anything. GHG reductions don't happen in steady state. Please research.*

LU-1 Live-Work zoning



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- ▶ *Would love to see rural residential addressed in this. Can't ignore this if wanting to address GHGs. Conversion of actively farmed AG-land. Potential of using that land as GHG reduction declines.*

W-1 Zero-Waste Plan

- ▶ *Unincorporated Waste Stream. 1.7% only reduced.*
- ▶ *Commercial to residential waste stream ratio small.*
- ▶ *Vacaville Sanitary so limited in recycling.*
- ▶ *Make recycling free, pay for garbage.*
- ▶ *Bring greenwaste & composting back.*

4. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Jeff Henderson and Matt Walsh thanked the participants, closed the meeting and reminded attendees that the next action would be the public review of the Draft Climate Action Plan. The Focus Group will be notified, as soon as the Draft is available.