



Community Development Dept.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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City's General Plan Continues to Provide Framework for "Greening" the City *Council directs staff on programs that furthers sustainability efforts citywide*

Sacramento, CA (August 18, 2011) – Sacramento City Council took action Tuesday on three initiatives aimed to further improve the city's efforts to become green. As part of the implementation efforts of the City's 2030 General Plan, adopted more than two years ago, these programs—the Climate Action Plan, Green Development Code Update, and Green Building Program —provide a pathway to assist the City in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, clean up development related codes, and adopt green building standards for new construction.

"Council's actions on Tuesday are testimony to the City's commitment towards creating a healthy and sustainable city," said David Kwong, City's planning director. "In tandem, these efforts will enable us to meet aggressive clean energy and environmental goals."

City staff will now begin work on three programs, including:

- The development of a **Climate Action Plan**. This comprehensive plan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide and prepare the community to respond to the effects of climate change in our region. The Council adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets to reduce emissions by 15 percent by 2020 and performance measures for the plan, which will be released for public review later this year.
- **The Green Development Code Update** effort will include a comprehensive review and update of the City's development-related codes – something that hasn't been conducted in 50 years. Specifically, zoning, subdivision, and other regulations, will be updated to facilitate sustainable, transit-oriented and infill development. By improving development regulations, it will ensure consistency between planning policy and zoning, therefore ensuring timely, predictable development processes.
- **The Green Building Program** will include the creation of an ordinance to phase in green building standards for new construction that exceed the minimum State standard, known as CALGreen. By adopting CALGreen's optional Tier 1 standards, higher energy and water efficiency, increased diversion or recycling of construction and demolition waste, improved standards for indoor air quality, and other

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sustainable design and construction practices would be required starting in early 2014. The program will also include creation of incentives to reward high-performing building projects that go beyond the minimum standards. In addition, a fee study would be initiated to comprehensively assess the costs and associated fees for all development services. During this process, staff will work with stakeholders to identify economies that could save money for both the City and its customers, while also ensuring that City's service costs are appropriately recovered.

"These programs are in line with actions that other jurisdictions throughout California have already taken," said Kwong. "In addition to becoming a greener city, these efforts, in some cases, will improve the permit and review process."

For more information about the City's General Plan and sustainability efforts visit http://www.sacgp.org/climate_action_plan.html.

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