

## AMENDMENTS Approved 2/9/10

### CLEANER ENERGY

E-3 p 61

#### Generate and support renewable energy

The City, ~~should work~~ with SCE&G, South Carolina Public Service Commission, and the South Carolina General Assembly ~~should explore the possibilities of setting reasonable to require~~ statewide standards for renewable energy generation sufficient to meet the city's renewable energy goal.

~~Possible incentives for renewable energy providers include:~~

~~A 5% rebate on property tax over ten years or until 50% of capital outlay is recovered for business and residential property owners; and/or~~

~~A City-guaranteed, low-interest loan for the entire capital outlay for business and residential property owners.~~

### IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION

T-4 F pp. 112-113

#### Support anti-idling programs and technologies.

**Strategy/Action Plan:** Reduce idling near all city schools by using DHEC's existing B2, ~~Breathe Better education~~ program. Educational programs can be conducted within schools, and appropriate signage added to other problem areas such as loading zones and bus stops. The City should ~~enforce its existing idling ordinance no idling of vehicles beyond five minutes, building on the limited anti-idling policy already in place.~~

T-4 G p. 106

#### Research ~~Support~~ a property tax assessment on vehicles that is based on emissions rather than value.

**Summary of specific issues:** Vehicles emitting more carbon dioxide have a greater impact on the air that citizens breathe ~~should be taxed more heavily.~~ ~~Communities that are in non-attainment of federal air quality standards will be required to initiate programs that reduce emissions from vehicles.~~ ~~Charleston metropolitan area is very close to this non-attainment~~

level. Research should be conducted of the rationale and the feasibility of the state of South Carolina taxing a vehicle based on its emissions. The tax could be based on the miles-per-gallon ranking for each type of vehicle. If implemented, this strategy could be phased in over time with advance notice to allow more efficient vehicles to be on the market and informed purchasing of vehicles. This will help promote the popularity of high-efficiency vehicles, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

**T 5- A** p. 92

**Reduce emissions from small-motor equipment.**

**Strategy/Action Plan:** The City should continue working with DHEC and other local governments and private entities to promote voluntary lawnmower exchange programs. This recommendation overlaps with the recommended procurement program, supporting the purchase and use of lower emissions equipment by the City of Charleston.

**T-5B** p. 92

**Raise public awareness of the need to reduce air pollution coming from outdoor burning and emissions from inefficient, outdoor wood-burning stoves. Educate the public on the existing laws and available cleaner-burning technologies and materials.**

~~**Reduce outdoor yard burning and emissions from fireplaces and wood stoves through education of existing laws.**~~

**Summary of specific issues:** Existing state and local laws already limit outdoor burning. Pollution from burning yard debris burning and from fireplaces and wood stoves degrades air quality in residential areas and can lead to respiratory problems for sensitive people, such as those with asthma.

These changes were made subsequent to the meeting on 2/9/10 but do not substantively change the recommendation.

**ZERO WASTE**

**W-2 F** pp.135

**Require residential recycling.**

Implementation Responsibilities/Assignments 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet

~~Going through garbage for recycling compliance~~

**AMENDMENTS approved by Green Committee during November email vote**

**B-4** p. 44

**Encourage disclosure of utility data and building performance**

Recommendation/Strategy/Action Plan B. Disclosure by Sellers

The City should encourage all sellers of residential and commercial property to provide potential buyers with utility bills or reports for electricity, natural gas, water, and sewer. Seller should disclose this information for at least the previous twelve months before a sales contract becomes binding. **Further, the City should request that the state require disclosure of this information.**

**B-4** pp. 44-45

**Encourage disclosure of utility data and building performance**

Implementation Responsibilities/Assignments

For City-owned buildings, the Sustainability Director shall develop or purchase an online database for collecting and reporting this data. For privately-owned buildings, it will be the responsibility of the owner to disclose this information. Also, the Sustainability Director should work with state officials to investigate **the possibility of requiring** disclosure of utility data by sellers of real property.

**B-4** p. 45

**Encourage disclosure of utility data and building performance**

Cost to Implement/Net Savings from Implementation

There will be minimal cost to the City. **Should a requirement for sellers become law,** Building improvements inspired by it will be up to the owner and funded by the owner.

**C-1A** pp. 77-78

**Encourage compact, complete and mixed use communities.** Specific

Recommendations – Urban Growth Boundary

Contextsensitive (urban to rural transect) planning is mapped from city centers and gathering places outward to an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), beyond which development codes reflect the increasing rural nature of the area. As part of the next comprehensive plan update, the City should review its UGB for consistency and completeness. Particularly in Berkeley County, the City should map important natural and agricultural resources and evaluate growth projections, then determine

how much new land is needed to accommodate future development. Throughout the city, a high priority should be given to directing new development toward infill and retrofitting suburban areas. In future plan updates, the entire UGB should be reevaluated using the process described above. **Tightening the boundary should periodically be considered.** (See Glossary for more on "Urban Growth Boundary.")

**C-1A** p. 77

**Encourage compact, complete and mixed use communities.**

Incentives: Incentives should be offered to developers willing to build complete, compact, and sustainable communities. These could include waived impact fees, streamlined permitting, and, if possible, assistance in obtaining public financing. Also, impact fees should be based on actual impact **so that developers building far from the urban core would pay higher fees.**

**C-3** p. 84

**Require Encourage Sustainable Engineering Standards**

**C-3A** p. 85

**Revise engineering standards to minimize water pollution, reflect "nature as infrastructure" principles, and use less energy.**

Specific Recommendations – Impact Fees

**Impact Stormwater** Fees: The City should develop a tiered schedule for stormwater **impact** fees for all development, commercial and residential, existing and proposed. These fees should be based on actual impact. **(See Glossary for more on "impact fees.")**

**C-3B** p. 87

**Reduce the "urban heat island effect."**

Specific Recommendations – Stewardship Fee

The City should advocate a state-level fee **associated for example with real estate transfers** for the purchase and planting of new trees by local governments.

**W-2G** p.135

**Require commercial recycling and make it easy and beneficial for business owners.**

Recommendation/Strategy/Action Plan – paragraph 3

Further, the City should **require study** that a waste reduction and recycling plan be included with business license applications and renewals, and

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should provide information about proper recycling practices. (See Recommendation W- 3C.)