



# COMMITTEE REPORT

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 10/19/21

SUBMITTED BY: David Freedman

COMMITTEE NAME: Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building

SUBMITTED DATE: 10/12/21

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 10/05/21

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/02/21, 10:30 a.m.

## Committee Meeting Agenda:

- A. Climate Action Roadmap Presentation to City Council
  - 1. Existing Home Energy Sustainability Ordinance and Energy-Related Elements
  - 2. Transportation and Other Elements
- B. Clean Energy Requirements for Large Commercial Businesses
  - 1. Cannabis Industry Seminar
  - 2. Cannabis Environmental Impact Reports
  - 3. Large Commercial Business Data Request
- C. EV Charger Expansion
  - 1. City Project Status Update
  - 2. CALeVIP Southern California Level 2 Program
  - 3. EV Charger Requirements for Commercial and Multi-Family
- D. Home Energy Assessment Rebates
- E. Legislative and Regulatory Update
- F. DCE Issues/Updates
- G. Agenda Items for October Commission Meeting
- H. Adjournment

## Summary:

Manager Tallarico and Program Coordinator Sheldon represented the Office of Sustainability, and Chair Clark also attended.

- A. Climate Action Roadmap Presentation to City Council

Manager Tallarico will present the Climate Action Roadmap to Council at its October 28 meeting. He reported that he was working with PlaceWorks to add details on how much natural gas contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, since half of residential emissions comes from natural gas. The Roadmap will look at what the GHG reduction effects are of actions the City could take, such as additional EV adoption of fleet electrification and other efforts at City facilities. Manager Tallarico said he was simplifying the staff report to focus on specific requests to Council for direction.

- 1. Existing Home Energy Sustainability Ordinance and Energy-Related Elements

Vice Chair Freedman presented the latest draft of the Existing Home Energy Sustainability Ordinance, which reflects input from the Codes and Standards Program.

The proposal now just covers single-family homes, as the Program is still working on multi-family homes. The proposal will be included with the Climate Action roadmap, with a request for Council to provide direction on whether to continue research on it. The Codes and Standards Program has just released its model ordinance and flexible compliance paths, which can be used as a template for an ordinance to bring to Council.

Vice Chair Freedman said further GHG reductions could be obtained if the City required new buildings to be all-electric or more energy efficient than Energy Code-compliant mixed-fuel buildings, as many other California cities have done. Manager Tallarico said one of the challenges with an all-electric home is pool heaters, which are gas-powered. Vice Chair Freedman said the Codes and Standards Program is researching this question, but more work would need to be done and a consultant retained if Council provided direction to pursue this issue.

2. Transportation and Other Elements

The Roadmap will include options for GHG emissions reduction from the transportation sector, which represents more than half of the City's GHG emissions. Commissioner Garratt noted the GHG emissions effect of more flights at the Airport. Manager Tallarico noted that a shuttle from the Airport to downtown would be one of the options in the Roadmap, and one of the car rental companies had requested space for EV charging.

B. Clean Energy Requirements for Large Commercial Businesses

1. Cannabis Industry Seminar

Vice Chair Freedman outlined revisions to the draft renewable energy ordinance, which he has sent to the City Attorney's Office for review. He noted the need for the City to retain a consultant to reinforce the energy and water use findings in the ordinance, prior to presenting the ordinance to stakeholders and then to Council. Manager Tallarico said he would follow up.

2. Cannabis Environmental Impact Reports

Vice Chair Freedman said that the cannabis environmental impact reports he reviewed were inaccurate and the consultant could establish a framework for calculating energy and water use and GHG emissions by cannabis cultivators. Manager Tallarico said he had forwarded Vice Chair Freedman's comments on a draft environmental impact report to the Planning Services Division.

3. Large Commercial Business Data Request

Vice Chair Freedman said he had requested from Desert Community Energy (DCE) data on nonresidential building electric customers who had opted out of DCE or opted down to its Desert Saver product. He also requested and received from Southern California Edison its GHG emissions intensity, which is in its 2020 Power Content Label. This information will help qualify data on GHG emissions from the commercial and industrial sector, which represented nearly 15% of the City's 2020 GHG emissions. The draft renewable energy ordinance would also require large nonresidential businesses to be powered by renewable or carbon-free energy.

C. EV Charger Expansion

1. City Project Status Update

Manager Tallarico reported that installation of EV chargers at the Museum garage was delayed until the following week, as the engineering firm working for the City's EV Charger vendor had miscalculated the amount of space needed for an ADA cut-out. Manager Tallarico said the work would have to be scheduled so it did not interfere with the planned opening ceremony for the downtown park.

2. CALeVIP Southern California Level 2 Program

Manager Tallarico and Vice Chair Freedman are following the California Energy Commission (CEC) Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (CALeVIP), which will be launching a new round of funding for Level 2 chargers in Q1 2022. CALeVIP has reserved \$2.5 million for Riverside County and is proposing a minimum of 60% of funding required to be invested in disadvantaged / low-income community applications in each county. Rebates will be \$3,500 per connector or up to 75% of project cost, whichever is less. Additional rebates will be available for installations located in disadvantaged / low-income communities and at multi-family dwellings.

Manager Tallarico said the City had received some grants for the EV charger expansion, but they expired before they can be used. The launch timing of the new funding round should coincide with installation of additional EV chargers.

3. EV Charger Requirements for Commercial and Multi-Family

Manager Tallarico said he was looking into EV charger requirements for commercial and multi-family buildings, as a multi-family building had recently removed its chargers. Vice Chair Freedman said he would research what other cities have done and provide that information to Manager Tallarico.

D. Home Energy Assessment Rebates

Manager Tallarico reported that no further rebate applications have been received.

E. Legislative and Regulatory Update

Governor Newsom has signed several energy-related bills that were passed by the Legislature, which become effective on January 1, 2022. AB 525 was signed into law on September 23 and directs the CEC to collaborate with other state agencies to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy. AB 525 requires the CEC complete the strategic plan by June 30, 2023. The CEC's report to the Governor on priority actions to accelerate the transition to carbon-free energy as required by SB 100 includes offshore wind development in the recommended priority actions.

AB 1124 was also signed into law on September 23, 2021. This bill revises the definition of "solar energy system" to include any structural design feature by eliminating the provision that it be a feature of a building. Vice Chair Freedman will include in the draft renewable energy ordinance a provision to align Palm Springs Municipal Code Chapter 8.100 on solar energy system permits with the new legislation.

SB 589 was signed into law on October 8, 2021. It directs the CEC, working with the State Air Resources Board and the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to prepare a statewide assessment of the EV charging infrastructure needed to support the levels of EV adoption required for the state to meet its goals of putting at least five million zero-emission vehicles on

California roads by 2030, and of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The assessment will examine existing and future infrastructure needs throughout California, including in low-income communities.

Governor Newsom also signed the same day AB 970, which sets strict deadlines for applications to install an electric vehicle charging station to be deemed complete and deemed approved. The implementation deadline for with a population of less than 200,000 residents is January 1, 2023.

In addition to this legislation, the CEC, CPUC and Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development hosted a joint workshop on EV charging infrastructure deployment acceleration and grid integration on October 12. Vice Chair Freedman attended the workshop and will report back at the October 19 Commission meeting.

The CEC is continuing its 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report workshops, which Vice Chair Freedman is also attending. The October 5 workshop was on grid-interactive efficient buildings, and the October 25 workshop is on doubling energy efficiency by 2030, the goal set by SB 350.

The CEC approved the 2022 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) at its September 30 Business Meeting. CALGreen will enter into effect on January 1, 2023, at the same time as the 2022 California Energy Code that the CEC approved at its August 11 Business Meeting. CalGreen has mandatory as well as voluntary provisions that local jurisdictions can adopt in support of their GHG emissions reduction goals. The CEC staff presentation on CALGreen at the September 30 Business Meeting is attached to this report.

F. DCE Issues/Updates

The DCE Board met on September 27. OhmConnect presented its program to help prevent blackouts by incentivizing individuals to be energy efficient. DCE staff will discuss with OhmConnect possible ways to promote its program to DCE customers.

The Board also approved DCE's Power Content Labels for 2020, as required by CEC regulations. Both the Carbon Free and Desert Saver products were fully carbon free in 2020, with the power being supplied from solar, wind and hydroelectric projects. The Power Content Labels have been posted on DCE's website.

Vice Chair Freedman has asked Mayor Holstege for a recommendation of a District 4 resident to fill the remaining vacancy on the DCE Community Advisory Committee.

G. Agenda Items for October Commission Meeting

Manager Tallarico and Vice Chair Freedman divided the topics they will each present at the October 19 Commission meeting, reflecting the matters discussed above.

H. Adjournment

The Committee meeting adjourned to November 2, 2021, at 10:30 AM.

**Recommendation/Request:**

Continuing working on energy and transportation-related GHG reduction measures to further City and State goals.

<p><b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Climate Action Roadmap action items when they are presented, including proposed renewable energy and home energy sustainability ordinance proposals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present Climate Action Roadmap to Council on October 28.</li> <li>• Work with City Manager, City Attorney and Building and Planning Divisions on Climate Action Roadmap and related ordinance proposals.</li> <li>• Work with the Department of Special Program Compliance to schedule cannabis industry seminar.</li> <li>• Implement EV charger deployment, including sustainability scholarships for private-sector EV chargers.</li> <li>• Process home energy assessment rebate program applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City will not incur any costs for the Level III stations but will incur a cost of \$4,500 for each Level II charging station. The City will receive leasing revenues totaling about \$18,900 per year. Both the costs and the revenues are in the Sustainability budget.</li> <li>• The home energy assessment rebate program has a \$5,000 budget allocation in FY 21-22.</li> </ul>