

DATE ISSUED: March 28, 2001

REPORT NO. 01-059

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of April 2, 2001

SUBJECT: Report on the San Diego Climate Wise Program

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

Climate Wise is a nationwide, voluntary federal program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) as part of its Energy Star program. Climate Wise strives to stimulate comprehensive industrial actions to enhance energy efficiency, prevent pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing profits. This is done by recognizing industry's actions and by providing information and assistance on a range of emissions-reducing opportunities. Climate Wise also believes that government can spur innovation by establishing performance-based goals and allowing individual organizations to determine how best to contribute to meeting those goals. The program currently includes more than 500 companies nationwide, roughly half of which joined at the local level, and are assisted by local administrators from cities, counties, and municipal utilities.

The Environmental Services Department (ESD) was selected by US EPA to administer the San Diego Climate Wise Program in 1997 as part of a grant from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), through which the City is also a member of the "Cities for Climate Protection Program." ESD's commitment to that program includes producing a comprehensive report recommending a Citywide Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This Citywide Action Plan will be submitted to Council for review at a later date. In the meantime, however, several prominent and innovative San Diego companies have made tremendous strides toward energy conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

DISCUSSION

The San Diego Climate Wise Program involves 22 public and private entities that share a commitment to reducing greenhouse gases through energy efficiency, alternative transportation, waste reduction and recycling. The Climate Wise Business Partners are:

San Diego State University

Qualcomm
Solar Turbines
The Salk Institute
Unisys
Hewlett-Packard San Diego
J.C. Penney
ST Microelectronics
Herco Technologies
University of California at San Diego Housing & Dining Services
Cubic Defense Systems
B.F. Goodrich Aerostructures
Poway Unified School District
Dexter/Quantum Materials
Honeywell/Home & Building Control-West Coast Operations
Eco-Air, Inc.
Parker Hannifin Co.
Trader Publications
Kinko's San Diego
Martin Furniture Manufacturing
Callaway Golf
Continental Maritime Co.

The current Climate Wise Business Partners represent many of the most important industrial sectors in the San Diego area, including electronics, retail, computers, publishing, sporting equipment, and aeronautics.

ESD encourages Partners to publish a corporate policy or statement defining their commitment to greenhouse gas reductions, establish an energy management team, set performance levels, and increase awareness of energy efficiency among employees. Each Partner is supported in producing an Action Plan detailing current and future greenhouse gas reduction measures. Fifteen of the City's Partners have successfully completed Action Plans.

Program Benefits and Achievements

With the current energy situation, it is especially important to tell the public about companies and public institutions that are making efforts to save energy and money. Since 1999, ESD has hosted two events to recognize outstanding achievements by businesses and provide a forum for valuable peer exchanges. ESD has worked to show that local government can play a positive role in the operations of private organizations, serving as a resource and facilitator, and contributing to their positive public profiles. In keeping with this role, the ESD has made its own commitment to greenhouse gas reductions through developing a Climate Wise Action Plan that sets greenhouse gas reduction goals for the Department and serves as a model for Climate

Wise Partners.

Annually, implementation of the fifteen Climate Wise Action Plans completed will save approximately:

22 million kWh of electricity
\$2.3 million in energy costs
1.6 million gallons of gasoline
23, 200 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Climate Wise Partners have achieved these goals through using innovative technologies and common sense practices. These practices include: energy savings through lighting retrofits, use of solar panels and compressed air audits; fuel savings with subsidized trolley passes and carpooling incentives; and waste reduction through recycling programs.

CONCLUSION

Coordinating the Climate Wise program has offered the City a unique opportunity to closely interact with local businesses in a cooperative, non regulatory atmosphere that fosters close partnerships and helps the City and private industry pursue common goals. It has demonstrated to companies not only how their operations impact the local environment, but also how they can take action to lessen that impact and improve the livability of the region. Finally, Climate Wise shows how business and government can better coexist to create a sustainable future for San Diego.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Hays
Environmental Services Director

Approved by: George Loveland
Deputy City Manager