

ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



To: City Council

From: Energy and Environment Commission

Date: January 20, 2015

Subject: Environmental Considerations Section of CIP

Attachments None

Action Requested:

The EEC congratulates the Council and City Staff for including an “environmental considerations” section in the CIP process for the first time in 2014. We request the Council take additional action in 2015 (see recommendations section)

Situation:

The Council approved and the City Staff implemented an “Environmental Considerations” section on the CIP form for the 2014 capital process. The goal was to raise awareness and to solicit capital spending options that could provide additional energy reductions, water conservation and other environmental benefits to enable the City to achieve its standing environmental goals.

Background:

In Chapter 10 of the 2008 Comprehensive plan the City of Edina committed itself to a “leadership role” in achieving aggressive reductions in Green House Gas emissions. Unfortunately, historically there had been little if any consideration of the environmental impacts of the City’s facility and fleet decisions. Those capital decisions determine the City’s environmental footprint and impact for years and decades to come.

Assessment:

We have been told by City Staff that they considered this new section of the CIP form to have been a useful and successful addition to the CIP process. The hope is that there will be more and better comments and discussion in the next CIP process and that this will lead to providing Council with more options that can help the City reduce its energy use and environmental impact.

Recommendation:

The EEC suggests that Council takes further actions related to the environmental section of the CIP specifically and the capital budget in general.

- 1) Council should take the lead in soliciting from Staff and then reviewing and advocating energy conservation options in individual capital project approvals that will come before Council in the



next 2 years.

- 2) Council should direct the City Manager and City Staff to devise on-going processes that will encourage and reward Staff to explore multiple beneficial environmental options in all individual capital projects and in the next CIP.
- 3) Council should direct the City Manager and City Staff to revise the next CIP process so it allows more time for analysis and discussion of environmental options by City Staff leadership and individual capital project sponsors.



To: City Council
From: Energy and Environment Commission
Date: January 20, 2015
Subject: Support for 2 Capital Projects Related to City Energy Use
Attachments None

Action Requested:

The EEC urges Council to either approve or direct staff to accelerate the implementation of 2 CIP requests, or asset and energy management modification proposed by staff.

- 15-116 Centralized energy analytics
- 15-110 Centralized HVAC controls

Situation:

The Public Works Department made capital requests for two projects that would give them tools to analyze and manage City energy use.

Background

In Chapter 10 of the 2008 Comprehensive plan the City of Edina committed itself to a “leadership role” in achieving aggressive reductions in Green House Gas emissions. This effort is handicapped by a lack of data on the City’s energy usage in its facilities.

Assessment:

The EEC lauds Publics Works staff for submitting capital projects which will provide additional information and control of the city’s energy usage. These tools and the data they provide will give City Staff the insight needed to save energy (and money) thus reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Recommendation

EEC requests Council either approve or direct staff to accelerate the implementation of the 2 previously mentioned capital projects, or asset and energy management modification proposed by staff.



To: City Council
From: Energy and Environment Commission
Date: January 20, 2015
Subject: Special Task Force to Review City Vehicle Fleet
Attachments None

Action Requested:

The EEC congratulates the Council and City Staff for including an “environmental considerations” section in the CIP process for the first time in 2014. We request the Council take additional action in 2015 by asking City Staff to launch a short duration task force to review the City vehicle fleet.

Situation:

The Council approved and the City Staff implemented an “Environmental Considerations” section on the CIP form for the 2014 capital process. The goal was to raise awareness and to solicit capital spending options that could provide additional energy reductions, water conservation and other environmental benefits to enable the City to achieve its standing environmental goals.

Background

In Chapter 10 of the 2008 Comprehensive plan the City of Edina committed itself to a “leadership role” in achieving aggressive reductions in Green House Gas emissions. Unfortunately, historically there had been little if any consideration of the environmental impacts of the City’s facility and fleet decisions. Those capital decisions determine the City’s environmental footprint and impact for years and decades to come.

Assessment:

We have been told by City Staff that they considered this new section of the CIP form to have been a useful and successful addition to the CIP process. Our discussions with staff revealed that the City does not have comprehensive vehicle fleet plan that incorporates environmental considerations and thus often defaults to a “like for like” or “most vehicle for the money” approach.

Recommendation

The EEC suggests that Council direct City Staff to launch a special, short duration task force to explicitly analyze what environmental and cost benefits may be possible from an explicit effort to change the



utilization and specifications of the City vehicle fleet.

The EEC would like to have observer status on this cross-departmental task force. The task force should report its findings and recommendations to the city Manager and to the Council. The EEC also requests a presentation of the findings.



To: City Council

From: Energy and Environment Commission

Date: January 20, 2015

Subject: Special Task Force to Review Environmental Options for Braemar Golf Course
Capital Projects

Attachments None

Action Requested:

The EEC congratulates the Council and City Staff for including an “environmental considerations” section in the CIP process for the first time in 2014. We request the Council take additional action in 2015 by asking City Staff to launch a short duration task force to review the environmental options for proposed Braemar Golf Course capital projects (Chapter 15 of the CIP).

Situation:

The Council approved and the City Staff implemented an “Environmental Considerations” section on the CIP form for the 2014 capital process. The goal was to raise awareness and to solicit capital spending options that could provide additional energy reductions, water conservation and other environmental benefits to enable the City to achieve its standing environmental goals.

Background

In Chapter 10 of the 2008 Comprehensive plan the City of Edina committed itself to a “leadership role” in achieving aggressive reductions in Green House Gas emissions. Unfortunately, historically there had been little if any consideration of the environmental impacts of the City’s facility and fleet decisions. Those capital decisions determine the City’s environmental footprint and impact for years and decades to come.

Assessment:

We have been told by City Staff that they considered this new section of the CIP form to have been a useful and successful addition to the CIP process. Our brief review of the staff recommended CIP proposals seems to indicate that City staff involved in the various Braemar capital projects may not be taking full advantage of the opportunity to present to City staff leadership and Council options that might have long-term environmental benefits as well as potential operating cost benefits.

We think that a short but thorough effort could find opportunities in energy and water conservation while raising the environmental awareness of staff involved in the Golf Course capital project planning



and decisions.

Recommendation

The EEC suggests that Council direct City Staff to launch a special, short duration task force to explicitly analyze what environmental and cost benefits may be possible from an explicit effort to analyze what environmental options may be considered and possibly incorporated into the various capital projects proposed for the Braemar golf course.

The EEC would like to have observer status on this task force. The task force should report its findings and recommendations to the city Manager and to the Council. The EEC also requests a presentation of the findings.