

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: E(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: JUNE 1, 2010

TITLE: Update on Energy Planning Efforts

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, MANAGER, ECD	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ __ No __X__
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Staff memo on ARRA applications and Climate Protection Survey	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RANDY DODD, 918-7326 MATT EFIRD, 918-7314 JAMES HARRIS, 918-7319 PATRICIA MCGUIRE, 918-7327

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to update the BOA on recent staff activities related to energy planning under two topics: results of a community survey related to climate protection; and ARRA submittals to the US Department of Energy Retrofit Ramp Up Program and State Energy Office.

INFORMATION:

Climate Protection Survey

Town staff created a survey for public input into local climate protection. The survey was created to assess community priorities and perspectives regarding establishment of approaches for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The survey included both close ended and open ended questions, and was designed to take 10-30 minutes to complete. Familiarity with climate protection science and policy and the greenhouse gas emissions inventory recently completed supported completion of the survey, but was not required. 56 responses to the survey were received, with most coming from Carrboro residents. Additional details are provided in the attached staff memo (Attachment B).

“Retrofit Ramp Up” and State Energy Office Grants

Town staff worked with Chapel Hill staff and a nonprofit, the Southeastern Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA), to participate in an application to the US Department Of Energy (DOE) “Retrofit Ramp Up” program which is geared towards community scale energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings. This partnership would focus on building science, systems, and usage behavior, with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency by 20% - 40% per structure, and a second emphasis on phasing in alternative/renewable generation. The SEEA has received preliminary notice of award from DOE, and is anticipating entering into a contract with DOE by early June. The grant includes participation from jurisdictions throughout the southeast. The project will unfold over two to three years, with the partnership and alliance being a long term, sustaining pursuit. Chapel Hill and Carrboro are expected to be invited to enter into separate contracts with DOE, through the SEEA, in early summer, 2010. As part of the submittal, Chapel Hill and Carrboro staff envisioned working cooperatively to pursue establishment of a local energy alliance. Chapel Hill and Carrboro, would be eligible to compete with other SEEA participants for additional funding after the initial year, as

described in the attached staff memo. Steve Morgan from Clean Energy Solutions has been working with Chapel Hill staff, SEEA, and other jurisdictions around the country on related efforts, and will be available to address the Board.

In addition to the Retrofit Ramp Up submittal, Town staff also applied for stimulus funding through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program being administered by the State Energy Office (SEO) to pursue energy efficiency opportunities in Town buildings. The Town has not received direct notification from the SEO on the status of this award. However, the SEO has posted a list of awardees, and Carrboro is not listed as a grant recipient. Additional details on both applications are available in the attached staff memo.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT: Staff anticipates the Town being offered approximately \$75k from the Retrofit Ramp Up program in FY10-11, and could receive more in FY11-12 if the program is successfully launched. The staff impact of the Retrofit Ramp Up is pending negotiation of a contract and details of the program to be established. There is no immediate fiscal or staff impact associated with climate protection planning, although there will be additional staff resources required to continue to pursue the Cities for Climate Protection milestones.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend that the Board accept the staff memo and draft resolution and direct staff to prepare a program design and budget for Board review in anticipation of entering into a contract with DOE, through SEEA.