

STAFF REPORT TO: AMADOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR MEETING OF: APRIL 14, 2015

ITEM 1 Review of the Draft Energy Action Plan and Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors

In 2006, the State Legislature passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) which sought a 15% reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020, based on 2005 emission levels. In response, the California Public Utilities Commission authorized utility companies to conduct strategic plan activities aimed at reducing energy consumption and thereby reducing the GHG emissions associated with energy production and use.

To facilitate this process, PG&E has funded grants to local governments through its Green Communities Program to establish baseline GHG emission inventories and subsequently prepare Energy Action Plans. In the Sierra Nevada region, those grants are administered by the Sierra Business Council.

Amador County has been actively working toward the development of the EAP. In 2009, the Amador Citizens for Energy Conservation prepared the *Amador County Government Operations Energy Use & Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory*, establishing the 2005 baseline GHG emissions data for County facilities. The County partnered with the SBC in 2012 to prepare the *2005 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory*. This inventory expanded the work on the government operations and established the baseline GHG emissions data for various sources in the unincorporated portion of the County. In 2013, the County was awarded a grant for the SBC to prepare an Energy Action Plan. The Plan identifies strategies and goals for reducing GHG emissions through decreased energy consumption in County facilities and Countywide through voluntary energy conservation programs.

The EAP supports environmental stewardship efforts identified in the Draft EIR for the proposed General Plan Update, specifically:

- Mitigation Measure 4.7-1a: Develop and Implement a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
- Mitigation Measure 4.7-1b: Implement Interim Project-Specific Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures.

In addition, the Conservation Element of the Draft General Plan contains a variety of policies and programs aimed reducing energy use and GHG emissions:

- Policy C-6.1: Encourage new development to be pedestrian-friendly, and located near existing activity centers to limit energy use associated with automobile transportation
- Policy C-6.2: Encourage energy-efficient businesses and manufacturers of green products to locate in Amador County
- Policy C-6.3: Promote increased energy efficiency and green building practices through the County's use of these practices and through use of incentives
- Policy C-6.4: Encourage development of renewable energy generation options
- Policy C-6.5: Support use of renewable and locally-available sources of energy where feasible

- Policy C-10.1: Evaluate the potential effects of climate change on the County's human and natural systems and prepare strategies that allow the County to appropriately respond and adapt
- Policy C-10.2: Develop and adopt a comprehensive strategy to reduce GHGs within Amador County by at least 15 percent from current levels by 2020
- Policy C-10.3: Guide new development to areas where pedestrian and bicycle/NEV access to existing activity centers are possible, in order to reduce the need for automobile travel and VMT
- Policy C-10.4: Work with service providers to ensure that transit offerings in the County are stable or expanding, and that transit is tailored to meet residents' needs
- Policy C-10.5: Require new development projects to incorporate building placement and design features to increase energy efficiency in new structures
- Policy C-10.6: Support green building through incentives for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of new commercial, industrial, public, and multi-family residential buildings. Promote incentives for compliance with this standard as a way to increase the energy efficiency of new structures. Promote increased energy efficiency and green building practices through the County's use of these practices
- Policy C-10.7: Support parcel-scale energy generation, including addition of solar panels for residential structures and cogeneration for larger commercial or industrial uses

While the Energy Action Plan is not intended to address all of the above strategies, the Plan is an initial step in mitigating the County's GHG emissions through reductions in energy consumption. Staff from the Sierra Business Council will make a presentation to the Planning Commission covering the specifics of the EAP, and will be available for questions.