



Cover Memorandum/Staff Report

File #: 23-1211

Agenda Date: 9/18/2023

Item #: 4.B.

TO: Mayor and Commissioners
FROM: Kent Edwards, Sustainability Officer
THROUGH: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM
DATE: September 18, 2023

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Recommended Action:

The City Commission is asked to hear the presentation and provide feedback on greenhouse gas reduction and Climate Action planning.

Background:

The effects of climate change have moved from predictions of the future, to being readily apparent today.

In just the last month, examples of the changing climate include:

Extreme Heat- In the West Palm Beach Area, all 31 days of August were equal to or above average for the maximum, minimum, and average daily temperatures

Stronger Hurricanes- Idalia became a Category 4 storm; Lee became a Category 5 storm

Ocean temperatures- 101 degrees F at Manatee Bay in FL Keys; Fish kills off Broward County beaches

These and other effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and heavier rainfall events, indicate action should be taken to reduce impacts.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the driving force behind climate change, and taking steps to reduce GHG emissions can reduce the impacts that we will face. Residential and Commercial Buildings, and Transportation are the main sources of GHG emissions in Delray Beach, making up more than 95% of emissions based on 2019 data. It will be necessary to focus on reducing emissions from these two source groups, to reach the goal of 50% emission reduction by 2030.

GHG emissions associated with buildings could be reduced through highly efficient new buildings, solar energy systems, retrofits for older buildings to conserve electricity and water, etc. Reducing GHG emissions from Transportation sources could be accomplished by transitioning to more efficient vehicles, making EV chargers more accessible, encouraging alternatives to personal vehicle transportation, etc.

In a July 20, 2023, memo to the City Commission, the Green Implementation Advancement Board recommended development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP). A CAP is developed to document and organize the steps that a municipality will take to address the effects of climate change. Emission reduction strategies are just one part of a CAP. CAPs from other entities in South Florida generally

include Sections/ Chapters that address: Energy, Water, Waste, Natural Environment, Built Environment, and Transportation.

Taking steps to significantly reduce GHG emissions, and working to develop a broader CAP could be done concurrently, in a manner that would complement both efforts.

City Attorney Review:

NA

Funding Source/Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact associated with the presentation. Subsequent direction regarding this matter, if any, could entail financial impacts.

Timing of Request:

NA