



# City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive  
Bowie, Maryland 20715

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** David J. Deutsch, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Climate Change Worksession Item

**DATE:** January 22, 2009

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The worksession agenda for Monday night includes an item on Climate Change requested by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). Chairman Gary Allen of the EAC will make a presentation and discuss a proposed City Council resolution the Committee has formulated (see attached memo). In addition, Mr. Stuart Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will provide an overview of the topic and discuss COG's Climate Report for the National Capital Region. A copy of Mr. Freudberg's presentation is attached.

Attachments



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## **Proposed Bowie Climate Change Resolution**

WHEREAS, The City of Bowie is committed through its actions and policies to work in partnership with its citizens, businesses and schools as active and informed stewards of the environment; to promote clean air, water and land and protect wildlife, in furtherance of the physical, environmental and economic health of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie has adopted policies in Green Infrastructure Planning, Wildlife Habitat Protection and Green Building; and has developed services such as recycling and composting (through the Leaf Collection Program), and other active environmental stewardship efforts such as growth limits, bicycle trails, transit studies, hybrid car purchases, cooperative purchases of renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives and tree planting; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Washington Region is experiencing the effects of climate change with rising temperatures, drier summers and a warmer Chesapeake Bay; with uncertain and possibly severe consequences to the future health and well-being of the citizens of Bowie; and

WHEREAS, transportation source emissions have been linked to increased incidents of asthma, exposure to benzene and other harmful chemicals, and the formation of ground level ozone, all of which negatively impact the public health; and

WHEREAS, both the State of Maryland (the State) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) have issued reports on the status of climate change in Maryland, calling for local governments to lead by example; and

WHEREAS, the State and COG reports rely in part on the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which concluded that industrialized nations need to take substantial early action to stem the growth of and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie recognizes it can and should reduce its contributions to these climate effects and that traditional energy sources continue to contribute to these effects;

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie recognizes that energy use associated with the operation of its motor vehicle fleet exacerbates local air quality problems and results in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change; the City of Bowie maintains a fleet of vehicles which are routinely replaced; gasoline prices topped \$4.00 per gallon (retail) in 2008 and continue to fluctuate widely and that by improving the energy efficiency of its fleet, monetary savings will result in the long term; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie desires to reduce its use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions and create greater budgetary and operational flexibility; and

WHEREAS The City of Bowie recognizes that it plays a role in improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving the energy efficiency of its buildings and vehicle fleet and reducing emissions from fleet operations, and that encouraging participation from the public and private sectors in these areas will contribute to energy use reductions, efficiency improvements and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, governmental bodies around the country, in partnership with the private sector have adopted climate change and green fleet policies, and are providing public leadership benefiting the environment, operating fleets more efficiently, improving public health, and providing positive examples to the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie wishes to exercise its power as a participant in the marketplace to ensure that purchases and expenditures of public monies are made in a manner consistent with the policy of improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie wishes to establish a "Climate Change" policy, in addition to its Green Infrastructure policy, addressing energy efficiency, consumption and alternative sources, transportation, recycling, tree canopy expansion and land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bowie wishes to establish a "Green Fleet" policy addressing the management, operation and procurement of fleet vehicles under the control of the City of Bowie, in order to improve the energy efficiency of its fleet, reduce emissions from its fleet, and increase the capacity of the fleet to save municipal tax dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bowie will

1. Build on existing policies and programs to make progress toward consistent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the vulnerability of its citizens, natural resources and built environment to environmental damage and other climate change impacts;
2. Inventory global warming emissions from City operations, set reduction targets and create an action plan to reduce energy use and city emissions by 10% by 2012, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2018; place priority on the purchase Energy Star equipment and appliance for all appropriate City uses; and make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, directing staff to provide a plan for retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and heating systems, including street lighting, and urging employees to conserve energy and save on energy costs;
3. Manage the operation and procurement of fleet vehicles under the control of the City of Bowie in order to improve the energy efficiency of its fleet, reduce emissions from its fleet, and increase the capacity of the fleet to save municipal tax dollars; and direct staff to investigate the conversion of city diesel vehicles to alternative fuels and report by the

next budget cycle on the cost and schedule to make such a conversion of all appropriate vehicles within six years;

4. Establish a municipal goal of 10% renewable energy purchase by 2010 and 15% by 2015 in cooperation with other local governments in the Washington Metro area through regional cooperative purchase, to facilitate green power implementation and use and to encourage investments in clean low-emitting energy sources;

5. Continue to practice and promote sustainable building practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program for all new city facilities;

6. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community yielding the gross tonnage of recycled materials to be at an increased rate of at least 2% per calendar year, for the next five years; and

7. Maintain a healthy urban forest and street tree population through the adoption of a community canopy goal in 2009 and by adopting incentives to promote tree planting on private lands to increase shading, energy savings and to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and within one year of adoption of that goal consider the establishment a "Community Greening Fund"\* for tree purchase reimbursement for any native tree purchased and planted by a homeowner on their property outside of the BGE utility corridor. Furthermore, the City commits to mitigate (plant) the total number of trees removed as part of the current utility tree removal process based upon data reported by BGE as a component of the City's future adopted urban canopy goal; and;

8. Promote transportation options such as bicycle/pedestrian trails, commuter trip reduction programs, and incentives for car pooling and public transit; expand existing and fund new programs to enhance access to transit and alternative modes, commuter connections, guaranteed ride home, telework programs, park and ride lots and smart bike programs.

9. Adopt, refine and follow land-use guidelines that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create a cooler, compact and walkable community by identifying practices for Bowie that will include greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy as an element in the local planning review process. Council directs the Environmental Advisory Committee to recommend criteria, which should include practices that address climate change and energy reduction guidelines for use in building codes changes and site planning review;

10. Establish a policy defining the community's commitment to creating and maintaining a fuel efficient and environmentally responsible fleet of municipal vehicles by incrementally replacing fleet vehicles with hybrid and alternative fueled vehicles, raising the fleet's average mileage; explore the use of electric vehicles for appropriate city functions. The City of Bowie directs staff to establish measures of fleet average mileage based on appropriate vehicle classes and implement and report on a vehicle procurement

program to achieve at least an overall 3% mileage improvement in the total fleet average annually for the next decade.

11. These policies will further dictate procurement procedures and management changes to be reported to the Council within one year of enactment of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Of Bowie will conduct public outreach and support partnerships through the Environmental Advisory Committee and through the City's Green Pages to educate the public, schools and local businesses about the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; to encourage the purchase of more efficient and alternative-fueled vehicles by both public and private entities, and to encourage the provision of energy audits and retrofits for individuals and businesses through regional cooperative efforts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Bowie shall actively pursue Federal, State, and other incentive and cooperative programs and grants to assist in achieving the goals and policies in this Resolution.