



MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, July 23, 2007
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

7
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Kalil, Jensen, Miyazaki, Sadigh, Schultze-Allen, Tam.

Commissioners absent: Blachman, Dodsworth

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw; Tania Levy, Wanda Redic

Presenting: Timothy Burroughs, City Climate Action Coordinator; Martin Bourque, Director, Berkeley Ecology Center; Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager, Stopwaste.org.

Members of the Public: MaryLou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore, Josh Kornbluth, A.P. Foote, Leila Khatapoush, Bridget Frederick and Katrina Zarekey.

1. Overview – distributed document: Climate Action in the City of Berkeley: a Framework Report for Community Review and Engagement. Timothy Burroughs provided an overview of Measure G, the Climate Action Planning process, and Berkeley’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
2. Debra Kaufman presented on Climate Change: How Recycling and Composting Reduce Greenhouse Gases. She described Alameda County’s climate action project which developed baseline GHG inventories for 143 cities, including Berkeley, and the County. Ms. Kaufman presented data on Berkeley’s waste composition and the ghg savings from various waste reduction activities, concluding that there is much larger potential for reduction than has been thought.
3. Levy presented a case study of the steps in making and distributing an aluminum can of soda, making the point that an item that is recycled still may have a large environmental cost, in its manufacture, packaging production and transportation. Recycling is not enough. Is the product or package appropriate and necessary to the desired function? How could we distribute soda more efficiently (if at all)? Levy distributed communication from Charles Siegel about the relationship of long work days to global warming,
4. Levy and Holtzclaw described current and planned recycling and waste reduction activities and policies toward the City’s zero waste goal.
5. Timothy Burroughs provided an overview of the role solid waste management is playing in the City’s Climate Action Plan. GHG emissions reductions from improved solid waste management are sometimes difficult to quantify and track. However, the limitations in the quantification methodology should not limit our efforts to implement strategies that divert waste from the landfill.
6. Martin Bourque distributed and described the Ecology Center’s Options for Climate Protection through Zero Waste Policy.

7. Discussion: Timothy Burroughs facilitated a discussion and question and answer period on the following themes:
 - a. Individual Actions: Audience members and commissioners shared ideas for how individuals can reduce, reuse recycle and compost more effectively at home and at work.
 - b. Stopping Waste before it begins: Audience members and commissioners shared ideas around reducing packaging and the consumption of disposables.
 - c. Recovery Energy from Organic Waste: Is this something the City should consider? Representatives from the office of solid waste and from Stopwaste.Org raised questions about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of “waste-to-energy” systems. The City is not currently considering such a system.
 - d. Waste Infrastructure improvements: Attendees discussed potential of and the barriers to the transfer station rebuild. The rebuild would reduce vehicle fuel consumption by reducing the time vehicles wait in line to dump waste, as well as generating solar energy and capturing more items for reuse and recycling.

Adjourn: M/S Miyazaki/Kalil to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.