

Chevy Chase Climate Protection Task Force
Minutes of 6/19/06 Meeting at Town Office

Participants: Betsey Haddad, Andy Knaus, Judy McGuire, Julia Randall, Christine Real de Azua, Dian Seidel, Stuart Sessions

Judy proposed an agenda, to which the group agreed.

- I. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: Stuart provided an update to the group on the status of this activity, whose purpose is to provide baseline information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Town. Software to help prepare the inventory is expected from ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), an international association of 660 local governments, which the Town recently joined. Stuart is working with Ryan Jones to evaluate the utility of the ICLEI software and prepare the assessment. The software addresses emissions from homes, transportation and waste, but does not address emissions associated with consumer decisions or carbon sinks such as biomass accumulation, including tree growth. The group agreed that the Town's interest in preserving its tree canopy makes it important to consider the latter. By the next meeting Stuart expects to have concrete issues regarding inventory implementation for the task force to discuss.

- II. Topics for the Forecast: The task force would like to include a short item on climate change in each issue of the Town's monthly newsletter, the Forecast. The group brainstormed on topics to be included in upcoming issues. The suggested format is to include an energy-saving tip, some sense of GHG emissions associated with different choices, and perhaps an anecdote about a Town resident making GHG-saving choices. They include:
 - a. Light Bulbs – Judy has prepared this for the July issue
 - b. Air Conditioning - Julia will prepare for August
 - c. Transportation – Dian will prepare for September
 - d. Leaf Blowers – Julia will prepare for October
 - e. Home Energy Audits
 - f. Appliances, esp. refrigerators
 - g. Green Energy Purchase Options (e.g., Terrapass ??? and Carbon Fund)
If no one else volunteers to write them, Judy will write up e, f, and g. Note from Judy: Although I didn't say it at the time, I think we need to have some sort of editorial review (Betsy Johnson has agreed to help with this) and also I will be responsible for the interactions with the Town office on submissions (to avoid confusion).

- III. Activity at the Town's July 4th Celebration: Judy has requested that the Town Council purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs for free distribution to residents (one bulb per household) at the picnic. If the proposal is approved, Task Force members would man a table to hand out bulbs. Judy, Christine, Stuart and Dian

(others welcome!) volunteered to help, and Betsey volunteered to deliver bulbs after the 4th (by bike or on foot). Judy volunteered to gather some handouts on tips for reducing GHG emissions to give residents. Judy will inform the group of the Council's decision and coordinate the table.

- IV. Task Force Email: Judy announced that the task force has requested its own email address, so that residents can contact the group without using members' individuals addresses. She is awaiting word from Todd Hoffman, Town Manager.
- V. Proposals for Task Force Activities: The group considered a series of proposals from members.
- a. Switching to Green Power for Town Street Lights: The only significant source of energy that the Town purchases directly is electricity for street lights. Christine presented a proposal, with a series of options, and associated GHG emission reductions and monetary costs. A copy of the proposal is on the Task Force's Mayetic Village website. After indepth discussion, the group made a recommendation to
 - i. begin buying carbon credits from PEPCO for the next six months, to get immediate impact and allow time for implementing a longer-term plan,
 - ii. Join the Clean Air Partnership and work with Montgomery County and other towns to negotiate a green energy contract
 - iii. ask Judy and Christine to develop a set of options for the Council to consider for purchasing energy from green sources, including renewables, carbon credits, and sequestration. Judy and Christine will rework the proposal to present to the Town Council to provide greater detail on green options.
 - b. Restricting Leaf Blower Use: Julia proposed coordinating with Bruce (?? LAST NAME) who is working on a proposal to restrict leaf blower use in Town on the basis of noise problems and the group endorsed that idea. The group agreed that the proposal should address global warming specifically. Stuart and Julia will rework the proposal to examine it from the climate perspective and send the revised proposal to members for a future discussion. The proposal will be posted on the Mayetic Village site.
 - c. Household Climate Protection Pledge: Dian casually proposed that the Town implement a program asking residents to pledge to reduce GHG emissions and recognize households that make the pledge, via stickers or publishing names. This idea was folded into the next item
 - d. Social Marketing Research to Change Behavior: Judy presented a proposal to undertake research among townspeople to determine what drives or limits people's their decisions that affect their GHG emissions and how best to motivate them to change. The proposal is posted on the Mayetic Village site. Such a study would make us better able to target our messages and projects to be effective in our Town. Judy suggested hiring a consultant to do oversee work, which would be carried out by task force members and other volunteers

but the Task Force members were uncomfortable with the requested budget at this time. The group liked the idea and suggested investigating engaging academics rather than consultants to help. Judy agreed to explore options, write up what has been done elsewhere, delete the budget request for the time being, explore the possibility of bringing in expertise and (free) students from local universities that have related programs or courses, and rewrite the proposal accordingly for consideration at a future meeting. The group did agree to staging a survey of town residents to help with the GHG Inventory and the Social Marketing program. I thought I received the go ahead to get the adolescents/young adults together also, but perhaps I am just dreaming.

- VI. Adjourn. The group agreed to meet next in July or August, at a time to be arranged.