This Item is provided for your information and will be brought up under the Oral Report from City Manager section of the docket on Tuesday night.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ENDORSING CLIMATE COMMUNITIES' “BLUEPRINT FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT AND 111TH CONGRESS”

ISSUE: Consideration of endorsing the “Empowering Local Government-Climate Action-Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress.”

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the City Council:

(1) Endorse “Empowering Local Government-Climate Action-Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress;” and

(2) Direct staff to consider action items in the Blueprint as it develops City’s Climate Action Plan and track their progress at the federal level.

Please note that the recommendation does not include joining “Climate Communities” at this time.

DISCUSSION: In February 2005, Mayor Euille endorsed and signed the 2005 U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. In November 2005, the Sierra Club recognized the City of Alexandria as a Cool City for becoming a signatory to the agreement. In January 2007, the City of Alexandria initiated a strategic planning process called “Eco-City Alexandria” and adopted an Eco-City Charter in June 2008. This Eco-City Charter is one of the first in the region and serves as the environmental vision for the City.
Consistent with the City's commitments as a signatory to the Climate Protection Agreement, Cool Cities program, and the City's Eco-City Charter, the City is working to develop an Environmental Action Plan. In order to develop City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a mitigation plan consistent with a widely accepted methodology, the City joined the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in January 2008. ICLEI is a membership association of 1,000 local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. ICLEI seeks to assist local governments in taking action to reduce GHG emissions, quantify their progress, and realize multiple benefits for their communities.

ICLEI has partnered with Climate Communities and has jointly developed a document "Empowering Local Government-Climate Action-Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress" (Attachment 1). Climate Communities, an advocacy group, has convened cities, counties, councils of government, and other units of local government to: (1) educate national policy-makers on the critical role of local governments in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change; and (2) ensure that Congress and the federal agencies enact policies and programs that provide the resources, tools and incentives localities need to meet the climate change challenge. This document (Blueprint) lists and endorses several changes at the national level that relate to enacting national climate policies, clean energy policies, and investment in local climate capacity through federal appropriations.

As you already know (Docket Item dated September 9, 2008, Attachment 2), the City is completing its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. This will be followed by development of the City's Climate Action Plan with reduction goals consistent with Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Climate Change Report. The items listed in the "Empowering Local Government-Climate Action-Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress," if implemented by the new President and 111th Congress, will provide leadership at the federal level on Climate Change as well as potentially provide funding at the local level to implement the City's Climate Action Plan. Therefore, the City staff recommends that City Council endorse the action items of the Blueprint. Staff does not endorse joining Climate Communities at this time because of its cost of $8,000/year coming at a time the City's budget will need to be reduced.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct fiscal impact with respect to the recommendations in this docket item. However, at the time the City adopts and implements a Climate Action Plan, long-term financial commitments will be a result.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1. Empowering Local Government Climate Action-Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress
Attachment 2. Docket Memo dated September 9, 2008 accepting Capital Region Climate Change Report
STAFF:
Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES Department
William Skrabak, Director, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES
Lalit Sharma, P.E., Division Chief, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES
Erica Bannerman, Senior Air Pollution Control Specialist, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES
Empowering Local Government Climate Action

Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress

New to the role local governments are equipped to take on is the Climate Action Special Report, a new and the first of its kind across American communities. Published January 2009, this Blueprint will be formally released with major events in December 2008 and beyond.

Visit our website for more information or to sign onto the Blueprint:
www.climatecommunities.us 
wwwICLEIusa.org
Local government action on climate change is essential for America to achieve energy independence, renew economic prosperity and preserve our planet. Federal policies must empower local governments with the tools and resources to solve the climate challenge.

Local government leadership and action is critical to addressing the climate change challenge. Localities are in the best position to foster the innovation and new practices that will achieve building efficiency, cleaner transportation choices, new green jobs and businesses, green infrastructure and more sustainable communities. America's local governments have been at the forefront of the movement to address climate change. Our citizens are demanding action, and continued leadership from localities is essential to solving the issue. Here's why:

- More than 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions comes from commercial and residential buildings. Local governments are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and houses.

- One third of GHG emissions comes from the transportation sector. We must improve public transit and engage in more effective land use and transportation planning to reduce gasoline use and emissions. Localities must lead in the transit and smart growth initiatives needed to reduce vehicle use.

- Localities are the first responders who must deal with the impacts of climate change including drought, heat waves, water shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, public health threats, and economic shifts.

- Local governments can promote the deployment of green infrastructure that reduces carbon emissions including community forestry, green roofs, and parks and open space.

- Local governments are uniquely positioned to drive new economic development strategies that create homegrown green businesses and green jobs to help America transform our economy and compete in the world.

Addressing climate change from the ground-up with local solutions will help our nation:

- Achieve energy independence and improve national security;
- Create new jobs, technology innovation and business opportunities for a vibrant American economy;
- Build livable, sustainable local communities;
- Prepare for and avoid the costly potential impacts of climate change; and
- Preserve our planet for future generations.

But the local government role in combating climate change and building a green economy cannot be fulfilled without strong national leadership from the President and Congress. The nation must recognize that the climate solution cannot be achieved without local governments. We need a strong federal-local-state partnership on climate change. Federal policies must provide resources to empower local communities across America to play our part in solving the climate challenge.
The world's leading scientists say that we must begin now to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 to turn the tide on climate change. Local governments are ready to play our part in reducing emissions and leading the world toward climate solutions, but the President and Congress must take the following steps if we are to achieve these important targets:

**Enact a national climate policy that:**

- Sets mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions with market-based trading;
- Invests the proceeds from carbon trading into local government actions that reduce emissions through green buildings; transit; smart growth and other VMT reduction strategies; green local fleets and fuels; renewable energy; green infrastructure; and green jobs and businesses; and
- Allows regulated emitters to invest through carbon offsets in local green infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gases, including community forestry, green roofs, and open space and farmland preservation.

**Implement clean energy policies that:**

- Reduce building energy use by 30 percent by 2025 by establishing national building efficiency targets and providing annual funding to help local governments meet or exceed the national targets; and
- Produce 25 percent of the nation's power from renewable energy by 2025 through renewable portfolio standards, and measures to overcome interconnection and rate barriers to community-scale renewables.

**Invest in local climate capacity through annual federal appropriations that:**

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants at $2 billion annually;
- Provide $250 million annually for EPA Local Climate Demonstration Grants;
- Provide $400 million annually for the DOE Clean Cities program to support low emission vehicles and cleaner fuels including alternative fuels infrastructure and plug-in hybrid vehicles; and
- Provide $100 million annually for the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program.
Transform the nation's transportation strategy by:

- Substantially increasing federal resources for public transit;
- Supporting local initiatives to reduce vehicle-dependence and use including resources for smart growth and transit-oriented development, VMT reduction planning and implementation, walkability programs, bikeways and greenways, infill and brownfields revitalization, and reuse of historic and existing buildings; and
- Funding low-emission busses, clean local fleets, and local alternative fuels infrastructure.

Create American green jobs and green businesses by:

- Creating a $500 million "Climate Prosperity" demonstration grant program that directs Economic Development Administration, HUD, Small Business Administration, and USDA Rural Development funding to support local economic development strategies that produce green businesses and green jobs;
- Fully funding the Green Jobs Act of 2007 at $125 million annually to support worker training in emerging manufacturing and hi-tech sectors; and
- Creating an "Energy Conservation Corps" service program to empower young Americans to be part of new clean energy solutions.

Build self-reliant communities that are prepared for climate impacts by:

- Creating a federal interagency task force on Climate Resiliency and Community Preparedness to produce a federal action plan for (a) national research and development; (b) local technical assistance; and (c) new protocols for intergovernmental collaboration at local, state, regional and federal levels;
- Expanding the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program to $500 million annually to support local government initiatives to address climate impacts;
- Expanding NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Act and climate programs to directly support local climate adaptation planning and implementation; and
- Fostering and funding local efforts to support families and populations most vulnerable to climate impacts.
Climate Communities and ICLEI USA are seeking the endorsement of local elected leaders from across America for the "Empowering Local Government Climate Action" Blueprint for the new President and Congress. The Blueprint will be released the first week of December 2008 at a series of local media events across the country. Climate Communities members will convene in Washington, DC in mid-February 2009 to meet with leaders of the new President's climate change team and the incoming Congress to discuss the Blueprint recommendations.

These Founding Leaders helped to develop and endorse the Blueprint--you can join them!

Sacramento County, CA
- Supervisor Roger Dickinson

Santa Ana, CA
- Mayor Miguel Pulido

Sonoma County, CA
- Supervisor Valerie Brown
- Supervisor Paul Kelley
- Supervisor Mike Kerns
- Supervisor Mike Reilly
- Supervisor Tim Smith

Stamford, CT
- Mayor Dan Malloy

Boynton Beach, FL
- Vice Mayor Jose Rodriguez
- Commissioner Marlene Ross
- Mayor Jerry Taylor
- Commissioner Ronald Weiland

Charlotte County, FL
- Commissioner Richard Loftus

Gainesville, FL
- Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

Leon County, FL
- Commissioner Bob Rackley
- Commissioner Cliff Thaell

Miami-Dade County, FL
- Commissioner Natasha Seijas

St. Petersburg, FL
- Commissioner James Bennett
- Commissioner Jeff Danner
- Commissioner Karl Nurse

Savannah, GA
- Mayor Otis Johnson
- Alderman Larry Stuber

Dubuque, IA
- Mayor Roy Buol

Story County, IA
- Supervisor Jane Halkburton

Annapolis, MD
- Mayor Ellen Moyer

Montgomery County, MD
- Councilmember Roger Berliner
- County Executive Isaiah Leggett

Washington County, MN
- Commissioner Conan Smith

Blue Earth County, MN
- Commissioner Colleen Landkamer

High Point, NC
- Mayor Rebecca Smothers

Keene, NH
- Councilor James Duffy
- Mayor Phillip Dale Pregent

Nassau County, NY
- County Executive Thomas Suozzi

Westchester County, NY
- County Executive Andrew Spano

Hamilton County, OH
- Commissioner David Pepper

Greenville, SC
- Mayor Knox White

James City County, VA
- Supervisor John McGlennon

Loudoun County, VA
- Supervisor Stevens Miller
- Supervisor Andrea McGinsey

New Kent County, VA
- Supervisor James Burrell

King County, WA
- Councilmember Dow Constantine
- Councilmember Jane Hague
- Councilmember Larry Phillips
- County Executive Ron Sims

San Francisco County, WA
- Councilmember Mike O’Connell
- County Executive Aaron Beidler
- Councilmember Dave Somers

Sonoma County, WA
- Commissioner Karen Webster

Tacoma, WA
- Mayor Bill Baarsma

Whatcom County, WA
- County Executive Pete Kremen

To endorse the Blueprint, visit www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html or www.icleiusa.org/blueprint

Climate Communities is a national coalition of local governments seeking national support for local climate action.
EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CLIMATE ACTION
Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress

Current List of Endorsers (as of 11/25/08)

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Commissioner
Calhoun County, Alabama

Gary Davis
Mayor
Elk Grove, California

Maryann Moise Derwin
Mayor
Portola Valley, California

Bruce Botelho
Mayor
Juneau, Alaska

Anu Natarajan
Councilmember
Fremont, California

Jake Mackenzie
Mayor
Rohnert Park, California

Dr. Ron Aames
Councilmember
Peoria, Arizona

Bob Wasserman
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Fremont, California

Roger Dickinson
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Sacramento County, California

Dan Coody
Mayor
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Denise Rushing
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Lake County, California

Miguel Pulido
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Santa Ana, California

Mark Stodola
Mayor
Little Rock, Arkansas

Art Madrid
Mayor
La Mesa, California

Marty Blum
Mayor
Santa Barbara, California

Mark Wheelley
Mayor
Arcata, California

Daniel Cort
Mayor
Pacific Grove, California

Blanca Alvarado
Supervisor
Santa Clara County, California

Don Saylor
Mayor Pro Tem
Davis, California

Bill Bogaard
Mayor
Pasadena, California

Donald Gage
Supervisor
Santa Clara County, California

Janet Abelson
Councilmember
El Cerrito, California

Pierre Rivas
Councilmember
Placerville, California

Liz Kniss
Supervisor
Santa Clara County, California
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Otis Johnson
Mayor
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Northbrook, Illinois

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Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Farmington Hills, Michigan

Conan Smith
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Kip Bruender
Commissioner
Blue Earth County, Minnesota
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John McGlennon  
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Julia Patterson  
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King County, Washington

Tim Lovain  
Councilmember  
Alexandria, Virginia

Sally Kurtz  
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Loudoun County, Virginia

Larry Phillips  
Councilmember  
King County, Washington

Redella “Del” Pepper  
Vice Mayor  
Alexandria, Virginia

Andrea McGimsey  
Supervisor  
Loudoun County, Virginia

Ron Sims  
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King County, Washington

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Alexandria, Virginia

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Washougal, Washington

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Whatcom County, Washington
Kathleen Falk
County Executive
Dane County, Wisconsin

Brett Hulsey
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Dane County, Wisconsin

Wyndham Manning
Supervisor
Dane County, Wisconsin

Matt Veldran
Supervisor
Dane County, Wisconsin

David Conley
Supervisor
Douglas County, Wisconsin

Dave Cieslewicz
Mayor
Madison, Wisconsin

Chris Larson
Supervisor
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

ISSUE: Receipt of the National Capital Region Climate Change Report prepared by the Climate Change Steering Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors and preliminary results of the City's governmental and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

(1) Receive the National Capital Region Climate Change Report;

(2) Authorize staff to submit technical comments to COG on the draft Climate Change Report and proposed greenhouse gas reduction goals for the region; and

(3) Receive the preliminary results of the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

DISCUSSION:

National Capital Region Climate Change Report

On July 9, 2008, the Board of Directors of COG approved for comment the National Capital Region Climate Change Report. The report was authored by the Climate Change Steering Committee to:

- Develop an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, and forecasting the future level of emissions out to 2050 under a "business as usual" scenario;
- Evaluate a wide range of potential regional greenhouse gas reduction goals, and reaching consensus on an aggressive sequence of reduction targets starting in 2012; and
- Review a wide range of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and frame a regional Climate Action Plan.
Using a baseline year of 2005, GHG emissions in the metropolitan Washington region totaled 74 million metric tons (MMt). The transportation and electricity sectors contributed more than 70 percent of regional CO₂ emissions. It is projected that GHG emissions will increase 33 percent by 2030 and 43 percent by 2050 under a business-as-usual approach based upon COG’s population growth forecast for the region of 1.6 million new residents and 1.2 million new jobs.

The Climate Change report recommends establishing the following regional GHG reduction targets based on scientific evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the similarity to goals adopted by jurisdictions in the Washington region:

- Reduce Business As Usual (BAU) emissions by 10 percent below 2005 levels by 2012;
- Reduce BAU emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020; and
- Reduce BAU emissions by 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

The report contains 78 recommendations to help area leaders and citizens work together to achieve the reduction targets aforementioned. The main recommendations highlight energy use, transportation and land use mitigation measures. Examples of energy use mitigation measures include improving building efficiency (such as fully implementing COG’s regional Green Building Policy), reducing local government energy usage by 15 percent, and purchasing more renewable energy like wind and solar power. With regard to transportation, the report recommends supporting California’s low emission vehicle standards, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and using fuels that result in few emissions per gallon. Land use recommendations include increasing development around transit and activity centers as well as preserving more trees throughout the region.

The report does not cover the economic implications of GHG reduction to the Washington region but instead presents several ways governmental agencies can cover the cost associated with implementing a climate change program. For instance, localities could redirect utility savings directly into a fund for implementing climate change activities; establish a carbon fee or carbon offset program; or a utility tax.

MWCOG will be finalizing the draft report in the fall and begin to develop a detailed plan for meeting the report’s 2012 goal as well as a more intensive fiscal analysis of the cost of implementing the recommendations.

City of Alexandria’s Preliminary Estimates of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In February 2005, Mayor Euille endorsed and signed the 2005 U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. In November 2005, the Sierra Club recognized the City of Alexandria as a “Cool City.” In January 2007, the City of Alexandria initiated a strategic planning process called “Eco-City Alexandria.” The City Council adopted an Eco-City Charter in June 2008, one of the first in the region. The Charter serves as the environmental vision for the City.

Consistent with City’s commitments as a signatory to U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the “Cool City” program and the City’s Eco-City Charter, the City is working to
develop an Environmental Action Plan which includes climate change mitigation via a Climate Action Plan. Conducting a baseline emissions inventory is a first step in developing a Climate Action Plan. In order to develop the City’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory and a mitigation plan consistent with a widely accepted methodology, the City joined the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in January 2008, and selected 2005 as its baseline year. ICLEI is a membership association of 1,000 local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. ICLEI seeks to assist local governments in taking action to reduce GHG emissions, quantify their progress, and realize multiple benefits for their communities.

The City Government Operations inventory provides an estimate of GHG emissions produced by City government activities. The inventory includes emissions from fuel use, electricity use, and waste production resulting from City government operations. The emissions inventory both direct emissions (for example, emissions within the City from fossil fuel combustion at City buildings) and indirect emissions (emissions generated outside the City by City employees commuting to Alexandria to work). In 2005, City government operations resulted in the production of about 87,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from fossil fuel and electricity consumption in City buildings and schools.

The Community inventory estimates GHG emissions produced by residents, businesses and agencies, and residents and commuters traveling within the City. The GHG emissions for fossil fuel and electricity consumption totaled approximately 2.9 million tons in 2005. Electricity is also generated in the City, both by the Mirant Generating Station and the Covanta waste-to-energy plant. Some of this electricity is consumed within the City, while most is transmitted for sale in other areas. The total demand within the City therefore differs from the total generation. The GHG emissions from electricity generation totaled approximately 1.7 million tons. Typically, only GHG emissions from consumption and not electricity generation are used for establishing baseline and the reduction targets to avoid double counting the emissions and reductions.

The City is currently evaluating the mitigation measures with the goal of proposing reduction targets that are consistent with the COG National Capital Region Climate Change report.

The next steps in the GHG initiatives process are as follows:

- Finalize the GHG draft emission inventory report including the proposed emission reduction targets and emission reduction measures;
- Develop the Climate Action Plan and incorporate it into the Environmental Action Plan and
- Monitor progress and report results.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no direct fiscal impact with respect to the recommendations in this docket item. However, when the City’s reduction targets are adopted, financial commitments will be required to implement the Climate Action Plan and achieve those targets.
ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1. National Capital Region Climate Change Report
Attachment 2. Alexandria's Climate Change Initiative Brochure

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