



## **Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 30, 2016 Agenda Item 5 – Revised Information**

### **Work Session**

Discussion of Green Team Priorities

### **Recommended Council Action**

Discuss the priorities in preparation for adoption of a resolution in January 2017.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Each municipality in the Sustainable Maryland certification program is required to have a Green Team to coordinate sustainability efforts. As established by the City Council, the Takoma Park Green Team is comprised of the City Council and the Committee on the Environment. At least once a year, the Green Team meets to review ongoing sustainability efforts and to set priorities for the next year. The most recent Green Team meeting was held on October 3, 2016.

The Committee on the Environment has submitted a list of action items and mutually agreed upon priorities resulting from the October 3 meeting. This work session has been scheduled to finalize the priorities in preparation for adopting them by resolution in January 2017.

### **Council Priority**

Environmentally Sustainability Community

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

The Green Team Priorities will set the agenda for sustainability efforts in the next fiscal year.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

To be determined.

### **Attachments and Links (revised)**

Green Team Possible Council Information Requests (November 2016)

Takoma Park Green Team Priorities (from the October 3, 2016 meeting)

## **Takoma Park Green Team Priorities Oct. 2016**

These mutually agreed on priorities arose from an October 3 Green Team meeting of the Takoma Park City Council, Committee on Environment, and City sustainability manager.

**First tier priorities:** Energy Efficiency (multifamily, commercial, municipal)  
Renewable Energy  
Urban Tree Canopy

**Second tier priorities:** Waste Management  
Energy Efficiency (single family residential)  
Transportation and Carbon Emissions Reduction

**Third tier priorities:** Integrated Natural Resources: Stormwater  
Integrated Natural Resources: Water Quality  
Open Space  
Environmental Aspects of Council Priorities

**Energy Efficiency Goal:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tiers. Achieve more efficient energy use for Takoma Park multifamily buildings, businesses, and City operations to save money, reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emissions in the City. After final push for Georgetown prize, focus less on single family homes.

**Renewable Energy Goal:** 1<sup>st</sup> tier. Increase renewable energy (particularly solar) in Takoma Park's energy mix in City, commercial, residential sectors, including electricity, heating/cooling, and transportation.

**Urban Tree Canopy Goal:** 1<sup>st</sup> tier. Set urban tree canopy goals for abundance (percent canopy) and diversity (species and age of trees), develop a simple and reliable way of assessing progress in attaining them, and identify both immediate steps and long term opportunities for retention, maintenance and growth.

**Waste Management Goal:** 2<sup>nd</sup> tier. Create and implement an action strategy to move City toward zero waste by improving and expanding current waste management projects, reducing litter, and incorporating new efforts in composting, multifamily recycling, polystyrene and plastic.

**Transportation Goal:** 2<sup>nd</sup> tier. To enhance transportation options for all City residents, reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions, and promote a livable/walkable/healthy community, continue and expand City's current efforts.

**Integrated NR/Water Quality and Stormwater Goal:** 3<sup>rd</sup> tier. To move towards integrating the City's natural resources strategies, develop an action strategy to improve water quality in the City and bring together stormwater goals and programs (both public and private sector initiatives). The focus is on a clear definition of specific problems the City can address, intended successes, and ways to address specific water quality issues in Sligo Creek, pursue stream restoration, and consider feasibility of daylighting one or more stream stretches. This would recognize connections with other City environmental priorities (such as tree canopy, open space).

**Open Space Goal:** 3<sup>rd</sup> tier. Create a clear and actionable open space plan that prepares Takoma Park to respond strategically to emerging opportunities while maintaining our current open space inventory to meet diverse needs.

**Integrating Environmental Opportunities Goal:** 3<sup>rd</sup> tier. Consider the environmental aspects of Council citywide priorities, and identify opportunities to build in environmental actions to all significant Council decisions and policies, specifically affordable housing initiative and economic development proposals in the New Hampshire Ave corridor.

## **GREEN TEAM: Possible Council Information Requests**

November 2016

### **Council Identify 1-3 Requests to COE for More Info from among:**

- 1. Carbon Neutral Goal:** COE and City staff outline criteria for Council to set a City goal, including realistic mitigation and sequestration prospects, and how other similar cities inventory carbon sources
- 2. Renewable Energy:** City staff and COE outline options and budget impacts for solar and other possible renewables (wind, etc) including ways Council can promote solar
- 3. Trees:** COE and Tree Commission suggest ways to implement City tree goals, consider budget implications, acknowledge connection to other goals (such as stormwater, open space), and share experience of similar communities
- 4. Affordable Housing:** COE outline ways environmental priorities can be built into affordable housing initiative
- 6. Economic Development:** COE suggest ways to promote “green” economic development, especially along New Hampshire Ave corridor
- 7. Water Quality:** COE suggest ways to actively promote stream restoration and improved water quality