



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 23, 2022

Agenda Item 3

Work Session/Presentation

Update on sustainability and climate action in Takoma Park

Recommended Council Action

Receive presentation

Context with Key Issues

Activities in FY22 have included:

1. Establishing new Electrification and Energy Efficiency Grants for Everyone program. This program has been in high demand. The City received 88 applications (now 90), and awarded 44 grants. The total amount of the application requests was \$677,808, and the total budget for the EEE grant program was \$285,000.
 - 10 multifamily grants awarded (\$70,000)
 - 8 business grants awarded (\$120,000)
 - 26 single family home grants awarded (\$95,000)

For single family properties, projects that will remove a natural gas or oil heating system or water heater and replace them with an electric system were prioritized, followed by insulation and air sealing projects. Solar panels, car chargers, windows, replacing a gas dryer or gas stove with an electric one, and other major appliances were ranked about the same. There was also an effort to spread the projects out across the city so not all grants were awarded in the same neighborhood.

Based on the demand and success of the first round of EEE Grants, it is expected that both the volume and dollar amount of grant applications will grow exponentially in FY23 and beyond. The main need for assistance coincides with the main goal of the City – removing fossil fuel based heating systems and replacing them with highly efficiency heat pump alternatives.

2. Development of a City fleet transition plan to all electric by 2035 has been drafted and will be reviewed by department heads in April before it is finalized.
3. Development of a comprehensive Electrification Roadmap for Takoma Park is underway. It covers all sectors, including transportation, residential buildings, and commercial buildings. A draft will be complete by the end of April, and a community dialog process will be launched to complete the roadmap.
4. Development of a voluntary benchmarking program for all businesses and multifamily buildings in the city is underway. It is expected to utilize a cooperative purchase agreement via MWCOG contracts to expedite the process.
5. Partnership with University of Maryland Environmental Policy Analysis class evaluate the options of a mandatory Home Energy Labeling Policy in Takoma Park. Key findings from the class will be made available as a separate memo.
6. Participation in the Rocky Mountain Institute Electrification Cohort to develop a comprehensive electrification outreach and education campaign. This cohort includes select cities and counties from around the country, working together to research best practices and how to overcome barriers to heat pump adoption. Takoma Park is working with Montgomery County on the campaign, and it is expected to launch this summer in conjunction with the City's FY23 EEE Grant cycle. Part of this work includes reaching out to area contractors to identify BIPOC owned businesses who can offer residents and businesses electrification and high efficiency

weatherization. Contractors will be encouraged to work with the Montgomery County Greenbank to become a recommended contractor rather than develop a Takoma Park specific contractor base.

7. Research with Montgomery County staff, Columbia Law professor, and meetings with various experts from around the country, including a former attorney with the Maryland Public Service Commission, to explore the legal opportunities, incentives-based plans, and barriers for mandatory electrification. Montgomery County will continue to keep Takoma Park staff informed of their plans and vice versa.
8. Key Montgomery County updates:
 - a. The Building Energy Performance Standard, as of March 18, 2022 Bill 16-21 is with the T&E Committee for review. An additional work session will be scheduled in Spring 2022 before going to full Council for review and final votes.
 - b. Gas powered lawn care equipment ban is expected to be introduced to County Council soon. City staff has not yet received a draft of the law. It will be amendment to the noise ordinance.
9. Capital Area Solar Co-op launches April 1, included EV charging
10. Future consideration
 - a. Signing on to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Los Angeles, Sydney, Barcelona, and more have signed on.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Goal: Climate Change Mitigation: Work towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

Strategies:

- Prioritize and accelerate policies and programs that implement the 2020 Climate Emergency Response Framework strategies for buildings, transportation, renewable energy, and a fossil fuel-free community.
- Coordinate and advocate for climate change mitigation resiliency and sustainability with county, state, region and federal governments.
- Integrate City climate goals and strategies with other City policies and programs such as urban forest, housing, economic development, and Vision Zero transportation goals.

Environmental Considerations

Greenhouse gas emissions, sustainability, energy efficiency

Fiscal Considerations

The City has committed to being net zero by 2035. This can be achieved through purchasing offsets, which at current ghg emissions levels would cost at minimum about \$757,000 per year (\$5 per metric ton, 151,435 MTCO₂ per year).

With the electricity grid expected to deliver 100% renewable electricity in the next 5 years through Community Choice Energy, focusing on electrification will greatly reduce the need to purchase offsets in 2035 and beyond in order to meet the net zero goal.

Racial Equity Considerations

Grants programs are including applications in four languages, and assistance is available for all income levels. Research and outreach is being conducted to ensure proposed climate mitigation strategies meet the needs of immigrants and elderly residents.

Attachments and Links

- Presentation