



COUNTY OF SOLANO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

FOCUS GROUP MEETING/ COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

County Administrative Center
1st Floor Multi Purpose Room 1610/1620
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

March 8, 2010
6 – 8 pm

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome

Matt Walsh welcomed and introduced the focus group participants and consultants. Two members of the public were present.

Focus Group Members:

Mike Amman, Solano Economic Development Corp.
Bruce Brazelton, AAC, Farm Bureau (orchards/field crops)
Moirra Burke, Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) (grass-fed beef, grass hay)
Jeff Dittmer, Ag Advisory Committee (cattle)
Robert Macauley, STA Director of Planning
Russ Lester, Dixon Ridge Farms, AAC (orchards/processing)
Ben Wallace, Solano Land Trust
David White, City of Fairfield (Public Works), Sustainability Initiatives

Focus Group Members not present:

James Dunbar, Potrero Hills Landfill
Leslie Fay, Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce
Bonnie Hays, enXco
Ozzie Hilton, City of Vacaville Traffic Engineering
Steve Lessler, The Lessler Group, Professional Business Services
Mike Marcus, City of Benicia (Sustainability Planner)
Brian McLean, City of Vacaville City Fleet and Transit Manager
Al Medvitz, Ag Advisory Committee (sheep)

Members of the Public

Steve Peterson, ESP
Jillian Rich, PMC

Consultants: Jeff Goldman, Jeff Henderson, and Yanna McLaughlin (AECOM)

2. Overview: Solano County GHG Emissions Inventory

Jeff Henderson presented an overview of the GHG Emissions Inventory findings for unincorporated Solano County, by sector, as captured in the GHG Inventory Memorandum, which was distributed to the Taskforce members. The following comments were received:

- ▶ *Energy: the majority of Natural Gas in the unincorporated areas is not from PG&E, but from propane-tanks. Is propane included in the inventory?*



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- ▶ *Did you include data from the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District as well (and not only information from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District)? The majority of Agriculture is located on the Yolo-Solano side.*

We did, where it was available. In many cases the information from the BAAQMD was more detailed and there was more available, so we applied what we could.

- ▶ *Regarding Pesticide application – are you including the VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) in pesticides and other fumigants? Or are the/ their emissions attributed to the production (versus the application side)?*

We are not currently including Life-Cycle assessments, which would look at the GHG emissions caused by production processes. In the future this may be included.

- ▶ *Is there a type of Agriculture not incorporated in the GHG Inventory?*

No.

- ▶ *Are you distinguishing between dairy and beef cows? There is a huge difference between them. Also, there is only one [large] dairy operation in the County. There are many more sheep and beef cows.*

(<http://fromthereporter.com/specials/made/pages/made43.html>) lists at least 3 Dairies near Dixon and mentions that Solano County's milk production was valued at \$16.5 million in 2005. That makes milk the largest livestock product turned out by County farmers (vs. Lamb Wool that brings 1 percent of the value of Solano milk.) However the processing is done outside of Solano County. Another website lists 5 Dairy Factory farms in Solano County- 4 in Dixon and 1 in Benicia: http://www.californiafactoryfarms.com/wst_page4.html)

Have you looked at the cow feed and the impact this may have on methane emissions? According to the "Cows in bubbles"-research by Frank Mitloehner at UC Davis, cows produce 18% less methane if they are grass fed. Nationwide, 6% of GHG emissions can be attributed to Agriculture, and 3% of those to livestock. In California it is 7% and 3.5 % respectively. There was also just a Time Magazine article on January 25, 2010 about how eating grass-fed beef could help reduce climate change.

We are cooperating with agricultural researchers at UC Davis regarding best management practices and GHG reductions.

- ▶ *Residue Burning is tightly regulated. We actually need to confirm with the Air Quality Management District that it's a Permissive Burn Day and in order to get a permit need to call up with the acreage and materials we are planning to burn.*

- ▶ *Are all County Emissions, including all Municipal Emissions, incorporated in the inventory?*

County operations, such as traffic and street lights, are included, yet separated out from the County Baseline.

- ▶ *How about landfills?*

The portion of landfill gases are attributed specifically (as applicable) to the county or municipality where the waste originated.



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- ▶ *What about sewage sludge? Some of that is from San Francisco? Our Fairfield-Suisun District supervises and regulates these.*
- ▶ *What about Travis Air Force Base?*
Travis Air Force Base will be handled separately. The federal government has oversight.
- ▶ *What about Methane emissions from tidal marshlands? Is it included? If mitigation for Delta projects increases the size of the marsh lands, won't there be an increase of Methane emissions as well? What are the methane/gas production of marshlands? Can you look into those projections?*
- ▶ *What about the refineries in Benicia? Are they included in the City's GHG inventory?*
- ▶ *Do you know how well we are doing? Can you provide context to GHG inventories of other counties? So we have a frame of reference?*
Solano is unique because it has a much lower population and a higher amount of industrialization, which we will also need to consider when setting our target.
- ▶ *Do corporations do their own CAPs? Would the County trump a corporations' CAP?*
The County would provide a framework for the business to implement a strategy.
- ▶ *What are the resources available to implement these measures? What is the level of enforcement ("teeth") of this document?*
It's a balancing act. Finding the funding resources and a cost-analysis with staffing is part of the process.
- ▶ *What constitutes the industrial emissions sector? What is included and how can the County address it?*

3. Overview: 2020 GHG Emissions Projections

Jeff Henderson summarized the 2020 GHG Emissions Projections. No specific comments were provided regarding the projections.

4. Discussion: Preliminary List of Reduction Measures, Comments from Constituents

Yanna McLaughlin summarized the preliminary GHG reduction measures for unincorporated Solano County per sector. The following comments and recommendations were recorded during the discussion:

Agriculture

- ▶ *Regarding connectors across I-80... it is not just I-80 that is a barrier. Broaden the wording of the measure.*



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- ▶ *Improve efficiencies for agricultural vehicle motors. Check with ARB requirements. The Board could incentivize a more rapid implementation.*
- ▶ *We can't justify or afford an upgrade of (all) equipment. However, those used a lot will phase out (more) quickly. (Minor uses are exempted).*
- ▶ *Encourage expansion of the Carl Moyer Program [The Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program provides incentive grants for cleaner-than-required engines, equipment and other sources of pollution providing early or extra emission reductions. Eligible projects include cleaner on-road, off-road, marine, locomotive and stationary agricultural pump engines. The program achieves near-term reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and reactive organic gas (ROG) which are necessary for California to meet its clean air commitments under the State Implementation Plan. NOx and ROG combine in the presence of sunlight to form ozone (smog), while PM, a component of diesel exhaust, has been identified as a toxic air contaminant by the ARB.]*
- ▶ *Proposed measure AG-3 should be worded as "sustainable renewable energy" and not be specific to wind and solar.*
- ▶ *Attract processors and keep produce local for sale. Address in Agricultural Region Strategic Plans. There is a potential crisis with a facility in the Dixon area – it's the only lamb-processing facility west of the Rockies. Losing it would cause more transportation emissions. A comprehensive plan is needed. The current FDA policy to consolidate all processing may pose problems as it is not conducive to strengthen smaller operations.*
- ▶ *AG-4: Work with retailers, school districts to facilitate use of local products from local producers.*
- ▶ *At the Yolo-Solano ag summit later this year, we'll be discussing the opportunities to operate processing facilities year-round and not just for certain harvests. There may be opportunities in seed, grass and beef markets.*
- ▶ *Get some assistance for local, smaller facilities to meet food safety standards and protocols. It is difficult to develop the required documents. The County could provide some assistance to meet the requirements in the form of templates, adopted on a local basis.*
- ▶ *Receiving produce locally would have co-benefits for schools. School food would be transported less, be fresher, and would be combined with education about local food sources.*

Land Use

- ▶ *LU-2 and LU-3 are excellent ideas.*
- ▶ *Cost of Ag land prohibits new, younger farmers to get into the market. Maybe some of the conservation/mitigation can support the generational succession.*

Waste



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- ▶ *Review the fee-structures and increase recycling and green waste pick-up. We are currently paying for recycling!?! And they don't even pick up plastics.*

Energy

- ▶ *Make more use of agricultural by-products to harvest energy (E-6 Sustainable Energy) through combined Heat and Power (CHP), biogas, biomass, etc.*
- ▶ *Link big energy users with renewables. County can help by facilitating and working with the air districts.*

General

- ▶ *Connect measures to reduction sectors. Cross-reference where necessary. Address the large industrial sector in particular (and ways to reduce the GHG emissions for this sector).*
- ▶ *Break measures into County-wide and MSAs (Growth areas) to capture the difference in implementation.*

5. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Jeff Henderson and Matt Walsh thanked the participants, closed the meeting and reminded attendees of the next community meeting on April 26, 2010 from 6:00- 8:00 PM.