

**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2009

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of a motion to adopt a resolution in support of enhancing collaborative efforts between the Boulder Valley School District, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder County and the City of Boulder to progress toward environmental sustainability

PRESENTERS:

City Council

Matthew Appelbaum, Mayor

City Staff

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager

Stephanie A. Grainger, Deputy City Manager

Paul J. Fetherston, Deputy City Manager

Carl Castillo, Policy Advisor

Jonathan Koehn, Manager, Office of Environmental Affairs

Martha Roskowski, GO Boulder Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is asked to adopt a resolution (**Attachment A**), to enhance and formalize collaborative efforts between the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD), the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), Boulder County and the City of Boulder to further environmental sustainability. Similar resolutions have been, or are expected to soon be, adopted by each of these four organizations (referred to in the resolution as the "Alliance"). The resolutions are largely identical, all committing to creating a framework and expectations for future collaborations. However, each Alliance member's resolution contains a unique substantive commitment in furtherance of environmental sustainability.

More than merely a ceremonial document, the resolution commits the city to meet regularly with Alliance members to share best practices and identify resource sharing opportunities; prioritizes specific topics for collaboration, and, in order to ensure accountability, commits the city to participate in an annual joint session of the Alliance where updates on collaborative efforts can be presented to public officials and members of the general public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Suggested Motion Language:

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to adopt a resolution in support of enhancing collaborative efforts between the Boulder Valley School District, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder County and the City of Boulder to progress toward environmental sustainability

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACTS:

- Economic: The resolution commits the Alliance to prioritizing creation of a workforce available for green jobs through career and technical education training and teaching and internship opportunities. As such, it can be expected to contribute toward the city's goal of fostering a clean energy economy.
- Environmental: The resolution also commits the Alliance to prioritizing: greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate change adaptation planning, including identification of unified measures of carbon tracking and reporting; identification of large-scale renewable energy opportunities; pursuance of initiatives in furtherance of a zero waste production goal; and exploration of joint funding opportunities to further implementation of all of the above.
- Social: Encouraging sustainability efforts in educational institutions provides students with the on-going knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

OTHER IMPACTS:

- Fiscal: There are no immediate budgetary impacts expected as a result of adoption of this resolution.
- Staff time: Furthering regional collaboration toward reaching city goals is part of staff's normal workplan.

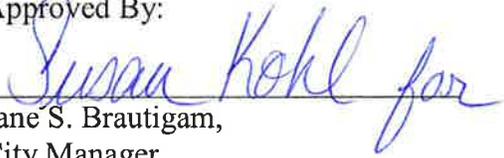
BACKGROUND:

Early in 2008, then-Mayor Shaun McGrath, received council direction to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement between the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD), Boulder County, and the City of Boulder, to promote mutual environmental sustainability goals. This idea was subsequently discussed and agreed to at a quarterly meeting of the leaders of these organizations.

Staff from these four organizations met on multiple occasions to develop the agreement. After checking in with the leadership team, it was determined that a binding intergovernmental agreement was premature. Instead, staff received direction to instead

negotiate a template for a resolution that could be approved by each individual organization committing them only to those actions appropriate to their own organization.

Approved By:


Jane S. Brautigam,
City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A: Resolution

ATTACHMENT A

Resolution Number _____

A Resolution in Support of Enhancing Collaborative Efforts Between the Boulder Valley School District, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder County and the City of Boulder to Progress Toward Environmental Sustainability

FINDINGS

The city council of the City of Boulder Colorado finds and recites the following:

- A. The Boulder Valley School District, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder County, and the City of Boulder (the "Alliance") are committed to progressing toward environmental sustainability in our separate communities and the community at large, by limiting our negative affect on the environment and using natural resources wisely and in a manner which meets the needs of the community today and in the indefinite future.
- B. In addition to providing leadership to address global and local needs and concerns, working toward the goal of environmental sustainability provides each individual organization with short term measurable benefits including financial savings from increased operational efficiencies and reduced energy costs.
- C. Educational institutions and governmental organizations that engage in these practices provide students and citizens with the on-going knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.
- D. These efforts will further assist with attracting excellent students and faculty, new businesses, new sources of funding, and increased support of alumni and community members.
- E. The Boulder Valley School District is working toward a goal of environmental sustainability in many ways including: adopting energy efficiency practices such as installation of a district-wide Andover energy management system and participating in a recommissioning project; supporting cleaner fuels through transition to use of B-5 in all school busses, purchasing our first hybrid vehicle, and supporting alternative transportation in all of our schools; engaging in pilot renewable energy projects that include solar photovoltaic displays and a geothermal heat pumps; building the first LEED school in the district and including elements of green design in all new construction; supporting environmental education by offering a variety of environmental education programs in the schools, including concepts of sustainability in many of our courses and supporting the work of environmental student groups within the schools; piloting integrated pest management strategies; switching to post

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consumer recycled content paper and supporting recycling in all of its schools and composting in over a dozen green star schools.

- F. The University of Colorado at Boulder offers environmentally focused programs, classes and curricula, including courses in which students form partnerships with campus professional staff to address specific campus sustainability issues, strives to efficiently manage water use, and decrease energy usage for electricity, steam, chilled water utilities, and the campus fleet by various means including the installation of solar panels, building to LEED standards, and “right” sizing and managing loads and routes for delivery vehicles, and, will develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral that includes existing programs such as implementation of zero waste management at Folsom Field, and use of environmentally preferable purchasing guidelines, programs in the demonstration phase such as single stream recycling in residence halls, and programs yet to be created and imagined.
- G. Boulder County has a strong commitment to increasing the sustainability of both county operations and the community as a whole, has adopted two resolutions in support of sustainability in 2005, one focused on a sustainable energy future and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and one focused on zero waste, has, along with other local governments representing over 97percent of the county’s population adopted resolutions in support of a countywide Sustainable Energy Plan that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2020 as compared to a 2005 baseline, and has a longstanding commitment to fostering collaborative efforts among local governments in the county and among other public and private partners.
- H. The City of Boulder has policies focusing on reducing resource consumption, promoting market transformation in the areas of renewable energy and alternative fuels, growing the number of qualified energy efficiency professionals to serve the public’s increased demand for services, increasing alternative transportation options, and furthering a compact and walkable land use pattern, and has furthered these goals through many means including the adoption of a climate action plan and a carbon tax to fund its implementation, development of a multimodal transportation network which has helped reduce single occupant vehicle trips by Boulder residents from 44 percent in 1990 to 38 percent in 2007, provision of single stream curbside recycling and organics collection, acquisition and protection of over 45,000 acres of open space outside the city boundaries, and the continuous development of progressive residential and commercial green building codes.
- I. Alliance members recognize the limitations of working within the confines of independent organizational purviews and the necessity of adopting an integrated and intergenerational approach toward achieving sustainability, and have thus already been working collaboratively on many of the efforts described above.

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- J. The ability to successfully reach the environmental sustainability goals of each organization would be greatly improved by high level recognition of the importance of this collaboration and a commitment to allocating the staff resources necessary to accelerate efforts in this regard,

RESOLUTION

1. The City of Boulder commits to holding regular forums with Alliance members to identify resource sharing opportunities and increase the sharing of best practices in environmental sustainability.
2. The City of Boulder will work with Alliance members to prioritize collaborative efforts in the following areas: creation of a workforce available for green jobs through career and technical education training and teaching and internship opportunities; greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate change adaptation planning, including identification of unified measures of carbon tracking and reporting; identification of large-scale renewable energy opportunities; pursuance of initiatives in furtherance of a zero waste production goal; and exploration of joint funding opportunities to further implementation of all of the above.
3. While each Alliance member is committing to unique efforts to further the goals of this resolution, the City of Boulder commits to a collaborative cross-agency approach to develop and implement plans to contribute to the successful achievement of greenhouse gas reduction targets and to prepare for future effects of climate change. Swift action is required by the city to address these broader tenets and to meet its Kyoto obligations. The City of Boulder commits to a major transformation of its energy use by actively pursuing a path towards future energy independence. This will be accomplished by aggressive fuel switching to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind along with energy conservation and efficiency upgrades in its buildings. The city will also take full advantage of the Smart Grid by looking for new and emerging opportunities to reduce energy consumption. The City of Boulder will also continue to review its own policies, contracts, and standard operating procedures to incorporate zero waste provisions and actions into all aspects of its organizational culture to encourage the use of materials and products that are durable, repairable, and reusable, have a minimum of packaging, toxic content or chemical hazard potential, are resource and energy efficient in their manufacture, use and disposal, and in their use or disposal minimize or eliminate the city's potential environmental liability.
4. In order to maintain a high level of investment in, and awareness of, such efforts, the City of Boulder will participate in an annual joint session of the Alliance where updates on collaborative efforts can be presented to public officials and members of the general public.

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLVED this 5 day of May 2009.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk on behalf of the
Director of Finance and Record