

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 24, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Donna Silva, Director Parks and General Services Department
Mitch Sears, Sustainability Program Manager

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity - California Energy Commission's Renewable-Based Energy Secure Communities Program (RESCO)

Recommendations

1. Adopt attached resolution supporting submission of the grant application.

Council Goals

This recommended action addresses the Council goal of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Specifically, the action is a preliminary step in implementing the Council objective of addressing global warming and reducing the City's carbon footprint.

Fiscal Impact

The grant requires a 25% match by the applicant. If awarded, City staff time would be eligible as the local match. Staff estimates that up to \$50,000 of staff time could be applied as the local match over the next two years. This would be staff time spent on these types of energy related issues as part of the City's efforts to reduce local GHG emissions.

Background and Analysis

As stated in the request for proposals, the Renewable-Based Energy Secure Communities Program (RESCO) is targeted at the development of a mix of renewable energy technologies in an integrated, sustainable, and optimum manner coupled with advancements in energy efficiency, smart grid integration, energy storage, combined cooling, heating and power, and co-production of value-added products such as biofuels in communities that will help make California's electricity and transportation fuels more diverse, safe, cleaner, and affordable.

The City would be applying in the "exploratory" category of the RESCO program to develop the information necessary to determine what, if any, renewable energy strategy should be employed at the local level to reach its GHG emission reduction targets and adapt to predicted climate change. This program provides the City with the opportunity to partner with the California Renewable Energy Collaborative to identify, analyze and implement a local renewable energy strategy for Davis. Made up primarily of UC Davis subject matter experts, the Collaborative is a statewide group of renewable energy researchers committed to supporting the development of safe, reliable, cost effective, and environmentally responsible renewable power in California. The Collaborative is a partnership between the University of California and the California Energy Commission.

Attachments

1. RESCO Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 09-XXX, SERIES 2009

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DAVIS TO THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FOR THE RENEWABLE-BASED ENERGY SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (RESCO)

WHEREAS, the Davis General Plan establishes visions, goals and policies that guide the community toward a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted resolutions supporting the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in 1999 and the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2006 that outlined the emerging global warming threat and encourage cities of all sizes to take preventative steps; and

WHEREAS, through local action the City of Davis has demonstrated leadership over the past four decades in the development and adoption of innovative policies and programs designed to increase energy efficiency and the production of local renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, examples of these innovative projects include the Davis energy ordinance (1974), solar housing developments (1970's), and the PVUSA solar power research and production facility; and

WHEREAS, the City is developing a Climate Action Plan to achieve local greenhouse gas emission reductions and help the State of California reach its greenhouse gas emissions goals; and

WHEREAS, the City's draft Climate Action Plan includes community energy efficiency projects and the development of local renewable energy supplies as part of a comprehensive GHG reduction strategy, however the City lacks the information necessary to determine what, if any, renewable energy strategy should be employed at the local level to reach its GHG emission reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, the California Energy Commission's Renewable-Based Energy Secure Communities Program (RESCO), provides the City the opportunity to partner with the California Renewable Energy Collaborative to identify, analyze and implement a local renewable energy strategy for Davis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Davis City Council does hereby support submission of a grant application to the California Energy Commission's Renewable-Based Energy Secure Communities Program (RESCO).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Davis City Council this 24th day of February, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

Ruth Uy Asmundson, Ph.D.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk