

Staff identified five main areas that deserve revision:

1. Add City operations to programs and services as a key mechanism for supporting the policy.
2. Modify the social equity portion of the policy because it is vague and only specifies Palo Alto. The decisions the City and its citizens make have implications beyond Palo Alto.
3. Revise the environment section to emphasize positive actions.
4. Add “global” to the description of ecosystems, not just local and regional ecosystems.
5. Highlight neighboring communities as another key category of partners with whom to work.

The modification to the word “comprise” is merely a grammatical refinement.

The proposed revised policy with changes from the existing policy highlighted is as follows:

It is the intent of the City of Palo Alto to be a sustainable community - one which meets its current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In adopting this policy, the City of Palo Alto accepts its responsibility, through its operations, programs and services, to:

Economy: Maintain a healthy, thriving and well-balanced economy ~~comprised of~~ comprising a blend of large and small business, which encourages the development of independent businesses and is resilient to the economic changes common to California's economy.

Social Equity: Continuously improve the quality of life for all Palo Alto community members without adversely affecting others.

Environment: ~~Reduce resource use and pollution in a cost-effective manner while striving to protect and enhance~~ Enhance the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources by minimizing human impacts on local, regional and global ecosystems through greater conservancy, reduced pollution, increased efficiency, and protection of; ~~promote and support the conservation of native vegetation, fish, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems.; and minimize human impacts on local and regional ecosystems.~~

In working toward these goals, the City will, when appropriate, align and partner with community groups, businesses, ~~and non-profits,~~ and neighboring communities.

RESOURCE IMPACT

Adoption of the proposed revisions to the City Sustainability Policy does not have a direct financial impact. Economic impacts of recommended specific actions in support of the policy will be addressed as they are brought to Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed revisions address Climate Protection, identified a one of the Top 4 Priorities for 2007 (CMR:163:07), and build on the existing Sustainability Policy Statement (CMR:271:02). The policy supports the Green Government Pledge adopted July 19, 1999 (CMR 284:99), and

elements of the Comprehensive Plan, the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign milestones (CMR:426:06) and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and is consistent with the California Publicly Owned Electric Utilities' Principles Addressing Greenhouse Reduction Goals endorsed by Council in August 2006 (CMR:315:06). The Sustainability Policy serves as an umbrella policy statement that provides direction for other policies and plans such as the Comprehensive Plan, various land use Master Plans, Green Building Policies, Utilities long-term resource plans, the Ahwahnee Principles, and other policy statements.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Existing City Sustainability Policy (adopted June 2006)
- B. Recommended Revised City Sustainability Policy

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