



2009 OCT - 13 PM 4: 19

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JANE BRUNNER
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To: Chair Nadel and Members of the Public Works Committee
From: Council President Jane Brunner
Date: October 13th, 2009
RE: Resolution to Accept an Invitation to Participate in the United States China Low-Carbon Cities, Communities and Regions Program

Low-Carbon Cities, Communities, and Regions

Low Carbon Cities, Communities, and Regions (Low Carbon Cities) is one of 5 programs included in a major U.S./China climate initiative called U.S. China Cooperation on Energy and Climate.

The purpose of the Low Carbon Cities program is to demonstrate successful strategies for addressing the challenges of climate change in ways that save money, produce sustainable business and community development, and generate substantial economic and employment growth.

The Low-Carbon Cities program will include 6 U.S. and 6 Chinese cities/communities/regions. The proposed U.S. participants are: 1) Metropolitan Atlanta, GA; 2) Research Triangle Park, NC; 3) San Antonio, TX; 4) Greensburg, KS; 5) Oakland/Berkeley/East Bay Green Corridor, CA; and 6) Palo Alto, CA.

The Low-Carbon Cities program will establish a process (including a web-based system, conference calls, and occasional meetings) for sharing information, ideas, and best practices among the participants in the program to encourage each city to learn from and contribute to the accomplishments of all the other cities.

Participants in the Low-Carbon Cities program will be able to work with a team of globally respected experts in climate action and sustainable economic development to obtain assistance in:

- Establishing 2020 greenhouse gas reduction targets of their choice (if they have not already done so).
- Tracking their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Implementing greenhouse gas reduction plans (by, for example, making buildings more energy efficient, generating more energy from clean renewable energy sources, improving transportation options, and reducing waste and industrial pollution).

In addition, the Low Carbon Cities team will work with participants to develop Climate Prosperity Strategies to strengthen their local economies through:

- Green Savings – encouraging businesses, government agencies, and households to save money through energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and resource efficiency.
- Green Opportunities – assisting Green and Clean Tech businesses to locate, grow and thrive in their areas.
- Green Talent – providing the education and training to develop the entrepreneurial and employment skills needed to contribute to and succeed in the green economy.

Eventually the U.S. and China will scale up this initiative by including many more cities, communities, and regions in the U.S. and China, as well as in other countries throughout the world.

Reasons for participating in the Low Carbon Cities program include:

- Opportunity to share best practices in carbon reduction and sustainable economic development with other cities and to learn about best practices from around the world.
- Engagement with a team of globally respected experts who will assist participants with their carbon reduction and Climate Prosperity strategies.
- Encouragement of the Green and Clean Tech businesses located in the U.S. cities to initiate or expand markets in China and encouragement of Chinese businesses to locate in participating U.S. cities.
- Consideration for public and/or private investment in the Green and Clean Tech businesses of participants.
- Participation in creation of a system for encouraging a very large number of cities around the world to become Low Carbon Cities.
- Opportunity for publicity, in the U.S., China, and around the world, for the accomplishments of the participating cities.

The formal announcement of the Low-Carbon Cities program will be made in Beijing in November, 2009 during the summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality

DRAFT

City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Council President Brunner

Resolution to Accept an Invitation to Participate in the United States China Low-Carbon Cities, Communities, and Regions Program

WHEREAS, Low Carbon Cities, Communities, and Regions (Low Carbon Cities) is one of 5 programs included in a major U.S./China climate initiative called U.S. China Cooperation on Energy and Climate; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Low Carbon Cities program is to demonstrate successful strategies for addressing the challenges of climate change in ways that save money, produce sustainable business and community development, and generate substantial economic and employment growth; and

WHEREAS, the Low-Carbon Cities program will include 6 U.S. and 6 Chinese cities/communities/ regions. The proposed U.S. participants are: 1) Metropolitan Atlanta, GA; 2) Research Triangle Park, NC; 3) San Antonio, TX; 4) Greensburg, KS; 5) Oakland/Berkeley/East Bay Green Corridor, CA; and 6) Palo Alto, CA; and

WHEREAS, the Low-Carbon Cities program will establish a process for sharing information, ideas, and best practices among the participants in the program to encourage each city to learn from and contribute to the accomplishments of all the other cities; and

WHEREAS, participants in the Low-Carbon Cities program will be able to work with a team of globally respected experts in climate action and sustainable economic development to obtain assistance in establishing 2020 greenhouse gas reduction targets of their choice (if they have not already done so), tracking their greenhouse gas emissions, and implementing greenhouse gas reduction plans.

WHEREAS, the Low Carbon Cities team will work with participants to develop Climate Prosperity Strategies to strengthen their local economies; and

WHEREAS, eventually the U.S. and China will scale up this initiative by including many more cities, communities, and regions in the U.S. and China, as well as in other countries throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to share best practices in carbon reduction and sustainable economic development with other cities and to learn about best practices from around the world, to engage with a team of globally respected experts who will assist participants with their carbon reduction and Climate Prosperity strategies; and

WHEREAS, this program will encourage Green and Clean Tech businesses located in the U.S. cities to initiate or expand markets in China and encourage Chinese businesses to locate in participating U.S. cities and will provide opportunity for publicity, in the U.S., China, and around the world, for the accomplishments of the participating cities; and

WHEREAS, the formal announcement of the Low-Carbon Cities program will be made in Beijing in November, 2009 during the summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council hereby accepts an invitation to participate in the United States China Low-Carbon Cities, Communities, and Regions Program.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California