

You are not logged in. (Log in | Create account | Subscriber Center | Contact Us | Bookmark Us)

Search



Home News Opinion Tell Willie Obits Arrests Sports Celebrations Entertainment Restaurants Movies Worship Directory Classifieds Jobs

82° Clear Sky



5 Day Forecast | Radar



Member FDIC Loans to meet your needs and your budget. State Farm FM THERE Anne McAlister State Farm Agent Seneca, SC 29678 Contact me

Clemson urged to go 'green'

E-mail story Discuss story iPod friendly version Share



By Greg Oliver (Contact / Staff Bio) August 19, 2009 - 12:00 a.m. EST

CLEMSON — Members of the Green Ribbon Committee, the city of Clemson's environmentally conscious group formed more than a year ago, say the city can become more energy efficient if it adopts a Climate Action Plan.

The four-page plan tackles building energy use, energy acquisition, generation and utilization; outdoor lighting, vehicle fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, trip reduction, recycling and waste and land use. Committee members, led by Chairman Kenneth Marsh, say the plan would guide Clemson into an environmental leadership position by enabling the city to become more energy efficient.

Council members, while pleased with the plan and the efforts of the committee, said they desire more information on the cost of implementation.

"Will this (plan) give us a handle on what some of these things will cost and the return on our investment?" inquired Jim Oswald. "Otherwise, I think we're going to have to prioritize things to get to that level."

Shelley Robinson, representing Upstate Forever, said there are plenty of "no brainers" that can be implemented from the plan even if all of the suggestions are not feasible.

"Cost wise, it depends on how far you want to go," Robinson said, adding that the action plan, if approved by council, would be the first of its kind in South Carolina.

Suggestions contained within the plan for Building Energy Use include conducting an energy audit of municipal facilities, implementing an energy tracking and management system, installing digital thermostats and energy-efficient exit sign lighting, installing motion detectors and/or timers that will turn lights off if the room is unoccupied, installing green roofs or reflective roofing on city facilities, replacing water heating units with hot water on demand systems and weatherizing all city facilities.

As far as outdoor lighting, recommendations include installing energy-efficient traffic lights and replacing all incandescent traffic signals with LED signals; installing energy-efficient street lights and installing energy-efficient lighting for city parks, including greenways and city parking garages.

Vehicle fuel efficiency recommendations include enforcing policy to trailer equipment to job sites; retiring old and under-used vehicles and equipment; purchasing fuel efficient or electric and/or smaller vehicle fleets; synchronizing traffic lights to improve fuel efficiency along major corridors and setting minor traffic lights to blink at late evening hours; and establishing incentive programs for city departments for fuel efficiency efforts and developing and enforcing policy to limit idling of municipal vehicles.

Trip reduction measures include encouraging car pooling or van pooling by municipal employees, use of alternate work schedules by municipal employees, encouraging use of mass transit by municipal employees, evaluating police use of motorcycles and bicycles, building a network of sidewalks and bike paths leading to Clemson Elementary School.

Recycling and waste recommendations include encouraging recycling programs for municipal employees and users of public facilities, encouraging home composting, utilizing city mulch material as much as possible, implementing solid waste reduction programs, evaluating methane recovery, implementing an electronic waste recycling program for residential customers, establishing collection sites for rechargeable batteries and cell phones, establishing recycled content and sustainable purchasing standards and establishing a household hazardous waste collection program.

Land use recommendations include establishing a tree protection ordinance, modifying the landscape ordinance to allow planted green rooftops, reviewing and modifying planning and zoning codes to discourage sprawl and promote green space, instituting programs to preserve open space, creating a reward system for development projects that demonstrate an environmentally sensitive design, revising the parking lot ordinance to provide incentive for employee participation in the mass transit tax credit by reducing minimum required parking spaces and encouraging the development and expansion of community gardens.

City Administrator Rick Cotton expressed concerns over the audit recommendation, saying an audit for a city the size of Clemson could cost \$30,000 and that some audit firms engage in price gouging.

"I prefer to receive an audit on what you can save and where they're not peddling anything," Cotton said. "A performance

ADVERTISEMENT

Oconee County's Friendliest Pharmacy Park Place PHARMACY 864.985.1299

ADVERTISEMENT

Lake Keowee DENTAL Best of Best Advanced Dentistry With Just the Right Touch

ADVERTISEMENT

COUPONS.com SAVE BIG WITH NAME BRAND COUPONS! START HERE

Most Discussed Most E-mailed

Most Discussed

- 1. Corbell is Tuesday's best choice (6 comments)
2. Walhalla man faces decades-old sex charges (20 comments)
3. Practice makes perfect, even for preachers (1 comments)

audit is a sham because you buy the audit company's audit and then pay it back over a period of years."

Committee member John Wagner told council the committee is introducing a petition to begin a comprehensive rail system at no cost to the city.

"Traffic congestion is becoming an increasing problem on the I-85 corridor and train travel is more [environmentally friendly](#), a way to be more green," Wagner said. "The resolution is an attempt to raise awareness in Columbia that communities in South Carolina are interested in seeing some development in passenger rail.

"There will be rail travel in South Carolina — the only question is whether South Carolina will be in front or dragging its tail."

Abernathy said he appreciated the committee's report and action plan, adding that members "share my compassion for being greener." Mayor Larry Abernathy then requested that Cotton prepare two petitions — one for approval of the Climate Action Plan and the other in support of a comprehensive rail system — for council consideration at its next scheduled meeting Sept. 8.

Get home delivery of the Daily Journal/Messenger for as little as 30 cents a day! [Click here to sign-up.](#)

[LEED Certification Prep - Local Classes](#)

"I have taken a number of review courses and this one was by far the best." - Raymond, LEED AP

[Sign Up Now and Save \\$200](#)

www.EverblueEnergy.com

Feedback - Arts by Google

Comments

Readers are solely responsible for the content of the comments they post here. Comments are subject to the site's terms and conditions of use and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or approval of Upstatetoday.com. Readers whose comments violate the terms of use may have their comments removed or all of their content blocked from viewing by other users without notification. Please read our entire [posting policy before commenting.](#)

Post your comment

Commenting requires free upstatetoday.com registration.

Username:

Password: (Forgotten your password?)

Comment:



Sections
[upstatetoday.com](#)
Submit
RSS

[Local / State / Nation / World / Sports / Weather / Entertainment / Business / Contests / Movie listings / Events calendar / Classifieds](#)
[Contact us / Privacy policy / Staff / Advertise / Subscribe now](#)
[Submit an obituary / Submit a birth / Submit an anniversary , wedding announcement or engagement / Submit an event](#)
[View all RSS feeds](#)

Online Contents of this site are © Copyright 2008 Edwards Group . All rights reserved. See our terms of use for RSS feeds .