Seattle Climate Protection Initiative

City of Seattle
Office of Sustainability and Environment
www.seattle.gov/climate
Seattle’s Climate Protection Initiative

• Two core components

  – US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
    • To inspire a movement…

  – Seattle Climate Action Plan
    • To get it done at home…
• Started in 2005 by Mayor Nickels out of concern over climate change impacts and federal inaction

• Mayor pledged that Seattle would meet the Kyoto Protocol targets for United States’ 2012 greenhouse gas emissions (7% below 1990 levels)

• He challenged mayors around the country to pledge the same, and set a target of 141 US mayors
As of today:

• Over 530 cities
• From all 50 states
• 66 million Americans
US Mayors’ Pledge

• Take **actions** to reduce community global warming pollution to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012

• Promote strong state and federal climate change **policies**

• Advocate for federal **legislation** to create a cap-and-trade system for CO2 emissions
The 2012 Goal

- **Business as usual scenario**
  - 1990: 6,600,000 tons greenhouse gas equivalent
  - 2012: 6,800,000 tons greenhouse gas equivalent

- **Kyoto Target**
  - 1990: 5,800,000 tons greenhouse gas equivalent
  - 2012: 5,200,000 tons greenhouse gas equivalent
Seattles Carbon Footprint

PROJECTED 2012 SEATTLE EMISSIONS SOURCES

**Cars and trucks:** trucking and passenger transportation, including gasoline, diesel, and natural gas vehicles; **Maritime:** Ships, trains, ferries, construction equipment; **Airports:** air travel; **Heating:** natural gas (including commercial and industrial uses), heating oil, and propane heat; **City Light:** Seattle City Light emissions; **Coal:** coal from various Seattle-based industries; **Other:** closed landfills, non-road gasoline, distillate oil, liquid propane gas, fireplaces.
Green Ribbon Commission

- Appointed by Mayor Nickels to provide roadmap to 2012 goal
- 18 leaders from business, labor, nonprofit, government, and academic communities
- Recommended 18 actions to meet 2012 goal
Seattle Climate Action Plan

- Two year plan (2007-2008)
- Actions City will take to reach 2012 goal
- Highlights over $41 million of City investment in climate-related actions
- Five core strategy areas
Sea-CAP Strategy: Transportation Choices, Compact Communities

Develop transportation alternatives and compact neighborhoods

Examples of Planned Actions:
- Purchase new transit service from Metro
- Add bike lanes to city streets
- Develop Transit-oriented communities around light rail
- Eliminate parking minimums for new development
- ‘Sustainable Infrastructure’ Pilot Projects
Sea-CAP Strategy: Transportation Choices, Compact Communities

Develop transportation alternatives and compact neighborhoods

Action to Date:

– Completion of City-wide Bicycle Master Plan
– Link Light Rail Line construction underway
– Parking demand management
  • Commercial parking tax instituted
  • Business district parking minimums eliminated for new development
Sea-CAP Strategy: Clean Fuels, Clean Vehicles

Increase fuel efficiency, new vehicle technology, and use of biofuels

Examples of Planned Actions:
– Transition City’s diesel fleet to B40
– Provide “clean & green” technical assistance to private fleets
– Transition non-pursuit police vehicles to hybrids
– Issue new licenses for green taxis
Sea-CAP Strategy: Clean Fuels, Clean Vehicles

Increase fuel efficiency, new vehicle technology, and use of biofuels

Since 2003 when the City issued its “Clean and Green Fleet Plan:”

- City-wide fuel use down 12% (1990 levels)
- Increased use of biodiesel in City fleet
- 78% of the City’s new light-duty vehicle purchases have been hybrid or biodiesel vehicles
Sea-CAP Strategy:
Clean Energy, Efficient Buildings

Promote climate-friendly energy, materials, design, and operations for our homes and businesses

Examples of Planned Actions:
- Increase energy efficiency in existing buildings
- Adopted Architecture 2030 Challenge: Carbon Neutral Buildings by 2030
- Support green affordable housing projects
- Use climate-friendly materials in City capital projects
- Meet load growth with renewable energy and conservation, offset the rest

Promote climate-friendly energy, materials, design, and operations for our homes and businesses

Action to Date:
- Nationally acclaimed green building program:
  - LEED Silver standard for City facilities
  - Downtown density bonus for new development
  - Seattle Green Factor
  - BuiltGreen Residential standard
- Support green affordable housing projects
- Use climate-friendly materials in City capital projects
- Electricity conservation equating to 415,277 tons of CO2e avoided
Sea-CAP Strategy:
Leadership, Leverage

Advocate strong climate policy, share lessons learned, and lead by example

Example Actions:
- Lobby state and federal climate legislation for 80% by 2050
- Host Climate Conference for MCPA signatories
- Investigate opportunities for regional road pricing
- Be an early adopter of new technology
How do we mobilize?

- Focus on the solutions, **not** the problem
- Identify and reduce barriers to action
- Provide opportunities for collective action
- Advertise collective impact
Sea-CAP Strategy: Community Mobilization

Engage residents and businesses in climate solutions

Example Actions:
- Neighborhood Matching Fund
- Seattle Climate Partnership
- Grassroots Community Campaign
Questions?

Contact:
Amanda Eichel
Amanda.eichel@seattle.gov
206.684.3214