

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID GUHIN, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
AMY NICHOLSON, SENIOR PLANNER
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: EVERGREEN STUDY SESSION

AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Climate Action Subcommittee and the Planning and Economic Development Department that the Council hold a study session regarding the EverGreen power source option provided by Sonoma Clean Power for municipal operations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During goal setting in 2019, the Council identified implementation of the Climate Action Plan as a Tier One priority. Related to this goal, the Council directed staff to evaluate EverGreen from Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) as a potential power source for municipal operations.

The study session will include an overview of SCP's current power sources, the City's energy usage, potential costs, and possible next steps. Following the study session, City staff members are seeking Council feedback on the various options moving forward which include remaining on CleanStart service, engaging in a facilities audit, switching all or some municipal accounts to EverGreen service, or a combination thereof.

BACKGROUND

In February 2019 the Council recognized implementation of the Climate Action Plan as a Tier One priority and recommended formation of the Climate Action Subcommittee (Subcommittee). The Subcommittee was created to provide guidance and oversight of the implementation of the City's Municipal Climate Action Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan with a goal of reducing the local greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience from climate change and its effects.

EVERGREEN STUDY SESSION
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On July 10, 2019, following a Staff presentation to the Subcommittee, it was recommended that the Evergreen power source option be presented to the full Council for information and staff direction.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

SCP is a not-for-profit public agency operated by the Cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Fort Bragg, Petaluma, Point Arena, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Willits and the Town of Windsor, and the Counties of Sonoma and Mendocino. SCP sources clean energy from renewable resources throughout Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The two available energy sources, CleanStart and EverGreen, provide higher percentages of renewable energy than PG&E, resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2014, the City switched municipal power accounts from PG&E to SCP's CleanStart program. This change was implemented to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) and save costs on citywide energy. CleanStart, SCP's standard option, is comprised of 48.6% renewable sources including wind, biomass and geothermal energy. The remaining 42% is generated from large hydropower facilities which are non-renewable but carbon free. The remaining 9.4% comes from "system power," which is largely natural gas, but may include some renewables.

EverGreen is comprised of 100% local renewable sources including 16% solar and 84% geothermal sources. The Geysers generates 24/7 energy by harnessing steam located over four miles beneath the surface. The Geysers continue to power EverGreen service when the sun isn't shining and when energy demand is high.

In 2018, EverGreen's emissions were 53.4% lower than CleanStart emissions. During the year 2018, City operations powered by CleanStart generated approximately 1,714 metric tons of CO₂. If the City had been utilizing EverGreen as a power source, approximately 799 metric tons of CO₂ (*915 metric tons fewer*) would have been emitted. Municipal operations include but are not limited to powering facilities including City Hall, public safety buildings, pools, recreation centers, parks, the provision of water, the Laguna Treatment Plant, in addition to street lights and traffic signals. Approximately 73% of the City's energy usage is attributable to water operations and water reuse.

Based on historical energy usage for the aforementioned operations, it is anticipated that switching to EverGreen would result in a premium increase of approximately \$1,000,000 per year. Compared to CleanStart, EverGreen costs 2.5 cents more per kilowatt-hour.

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various options moving forward which include remaining on CleanStart service, engaging in a facilities audit, switching all or some municipal accounts to EverGreen service, or a combination thereof.

FISCAL IMPACT

The study session item before the Council does not in and of itself have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. Should the Council direct staff to move forward with modifying the power source from SCP, additional analysis would be required to determine the cost that would be absorbed by the General Fund, and any impacts to rates for water operations. These details would be provided by Staff prior to, or during, the budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed study session item is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that this action may have significant effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subcommittee received a presentation on EverGreen as a potential power source alternative on July 10, 2019. The Subcommittee was in support of a switch to EverGreen for at least some of the City energy accounts, and directed staff to provide a study session to the full Council with additional information regarding efficiencies and potential changes to water rates.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Presentation

CONTACT

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