

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SUBJECT: 2015 Sustainability Committee Report

SUMMARY: The Committee is providing an annual report to Council on its activities, and requests direction for future projects.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:** No direct impact

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

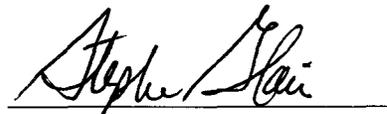
Staff recommends that Council provide direction and identify top priority issues that Sustainability Committee can research during 2015, related to financial and environmental sustainability.

MOTION RECOMMENDED:

"I move to direct Sustainability Committee to provide research and recommendations to City Council on (..... specific issues) during 2015."

Roll Call vote required

Prepared by:



Stephen Glain
Mgt. Asst. to City Manager

Recommended by:



Tom Griffith
Chair, Sustainability Committee

Recommended by:



Bryce Haderlie
Interim City Manager

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Our committee appreciates this opportunity to serve our city and for making time for this report. We especially appreciate those city council members who attended our monthly meetings and gave us feedback on the projects we studied and helped to guide our work. Our desire is to address only those issues that are pertinent to the council and helps you meet city goals and objectives. Committee officers for 2014 were Tom Griffith chairman, Zach Jacob vice chair, and Lyle Summers Secretary.

In keeping with our responsibility as outlined in amended ordinance 12-17 dated 6-27-2012 we have spent considerable time and effort evaluating the adoption of LED technology for city lights along our streets, in our parks and other public spaces. Committee members provided input to the investment analysis that estimated the return on investment and payback aspects of the project's economic and financial feasibility. We also met three times with city public works staff to give input to the RFP process as well as the impact the LED change-out project can have on the strategic plan directives, e.g. imaging, safety, economic development, property values, infrastructure to support growth, etc.

Earlier in the year we reviewed several proposals for converting city vehicles to compressed natural gas and other alternative fuel sources. We determined that wholesale conversions are not feasible now. Water conservation is an ongoing objective for the city and our committee has been monitoring the progress of the city's water conservation plan update and provided comments on the draft. Additional issues addressed by the committee:

- Funding sources for maintenance of parks and other open spaces
- Utility fee increases
- SCADA system for water management
- Transfer of funds from solid waste to storm drains

The Sustainability Committee prefers to focus on a small number of projects that will help Council reach its goals for the city. Some ideas for areas of committee focus are as follows:

1. **Be more engaged in the upcoming budget process** beginning when the city manager's proposed budget becomes available. We have held several discussions on how we can be of more help to the city council in this regard. We feel we need to have the opportunity to learn from city council and staff what major problems the city is facing with regard to meeting the citizen directives in the strategic plan. With this information the committee would be in position to explore related environmental and budgetary issues.
2. **Revisit the alternative fuel vehicles issue periodically** to address changes in technology that may tip the balance to improving the feasibility of switching to CNG, hybrids and/or electric.
3. Follow progress on implementing the best management practices and projects contained in the city's **Water Conservation Plan**.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve on this important committee and for the support the council has given us. **We request Council's direction on the three areas of focus shown above and welcome any additional directives you may have for us.** We look forward to further assignments and opportunities to assist you in moving West Jordan to becoming a great city.