

CITY OF MERCED
Development Services

TO: Climate Action Plan Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee
FROM: Bill King, AICP, Principal Planner
DATE: May 5, 2011
SUBJECT: Phasing Plan

Last month, the Committee reviewed and commented on the first two paragraphs of the “Phasing Plan” section of the Climate Action Plan. This month, the Committee is requested to review the language that provides DRAFT purpose statements of each implementation phase. Please review the draft section below (see italics) and come prepared to discuss what should be the characteristics of these phases.

Phasing Plan

The structure of the CAP Phasing Plan is based on Council’s direction to recognize short-term and near-term approaches to meet the long-term goal. For example, in the near-term, to implement measures that provide significant emission reductions with low initial costs, while laying the groundwork for more complicated projects to be implemented in the later phases. This approach is consistent with another Council directive to implement strategies in an incremental manner, based on the needs and ability of the Community. While all of the recommended reduction strategies are essential to reach the goals set forth in this Climate Action Plan, some of these measures are expected to be implemented during later phases due to obstacles of available data, technology, or finances.

The City Council did not specify a specific year or goal for the long-term. For purposes of this CAP, 2020 is regarded as the long-term goal. The Committee recommended the use of interim targets to facilitate additional support and accountability, and help to ensure continued momentum of Merced’s efforts.

A phased approach is recommended for implementation.



Phase 1: Measures to Implement in the Near-Term (2012 to 2013)

Phase 1 measures are those that have already begun to be implemented, are required by state law, or are enhancements of existing City or Community programs. This phase also provides the essential education and promotion component and involves several voluntary compliance measures for the Community.

Phase 2: Measures to Implement in the Mid-Term (2014 – 2016)

Phase 2 measures are new programs that provide the greatest reduction of GHG emissions for the lowest costs and which are either shovel-ready or need minor preparations to allow for implementation.

Phase 3: Measures to Implement in the Long-Term (2017 – 2020)

Phase 3 measures depend on future technology, monetary resources, or political feasibility. Several of the Phase 3 recommendations involve mandatory requirements and capitalize on the voluntary compliance period of Phase 1 programs.