

CITY OF MERCED
Development Services

TO: Climate Action Plan Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee
FROM: Bill King, AICP. Principal Planner
DATE: March 3, 2011
SUBJECT: Energy Forum

ACTION REQUIRED: Information

DISCUSSION

The March 3, 2011, Committee meeting marks the end of the “educational” phase of the Committee’s work, and is capped with what I am generically calling an “Energy Forum,” which will be open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to have an opportunity to hear and ask questions about local greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts. The public will be given an opportunity to provide written comments. A press release has been prepared (below). The event will utilize approximately 1.5 hours of the Committee Meeting.

City of Merced’s Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Hosts Energy Forum

What do water conservation, recycling, transportation, and energy efficiency have in common?

Depending upon how we act, they all affect our pocketbook and the environment in which we live. Funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy, the temporary Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee will draft a plan that identifies how Merced can continue to live, work and play in ways that reduce our impact to the environment.

The Committee will listen to the ideas of a variety of invited speakers including local UC Merced students, Fresno’s Sustainability Manager and Merced City Staff, and then hold a question and answer session. The event will be part of the Committee’s regular monthly meeting, and is open to the public.

Written comments will be accepted from the public. The event will be held on March 3rd in the Sam Pipes Room at the Merced Civic Center located at 678 W. 18th St. from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Information gathered at the event will be utilized by the Committee to assist them in drafting a Climate Action Plan.

To learn more about this event or the Committee, please call the City’s Principal Planner, Bill King, at 209-385-6858, or visit the City’s website at www.cityofmerced.org and link to Climate Action Planning in the Planning Division section.

In response to a question raised at our last meeting, I invited Joseph Oldham, the City of Fresno's Sustainability Manager, to speak directly about their efforts from the perspective of "what works and what doesn't." City Staff that comprises the Technical Advisory Committee for the Climate Action Plan will also describe our current and planned actions relative to water conservation, recycling, building code, and land use planning. UC Merced students will describe their projects at the campus. Each group of speakers will be provided 15-20 minutes to present, leaving 15-10 minutes for questions and answers from the Committee.