



Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS)

Minutes of October 6, 2009, Meeting

Attendees

Beth Gorman, Chair, PDEQ
Lee Alter, Western Climate Initiative
Wayne Byrd, PDEQ
Jennifer Christelman, Town of Marana
Tedra Fox, Pima County
Charles Komadina, TEP
David Schaller, City of Tucson

PAG Staff

Lee Comrie
Sue Cotty
Andy Gunning
Steve Matthews
Juliee Morrison
Ruth Reiman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Beth Gorman at 1:34 p. m. and introductions were made.

2. In-Kind Form

Attendees were encouraged to sign the in-kind form as appropriate.

3. Call to Audience

No comments were offered.

4. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2009

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Subcommittee members.

5. Announcements/Comments

October announcements were sent electronically as part of the meeting packet. Ms. Comrie noted that on Sept. 16, 2009, the EPA announced it would reconsider its 2008 decision on the ozone standards. EPA will propose any changes to the standards by December 2009 and will make its final decision in August 2010. The EPA will release the area designations by August 2011, and State Implementation Plans will be required for ozone nonattainment areas by December 2013.

6. Update on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Sue Cotty provided an update to the PAG's Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory, originally released in 2008. The 2009 update included Tucson and Eastern Pima County 2007 community data, use of updated computer models and electricity emission

factors and Central Arizona Project energy-related emissions. A copy of Ms. Cotty's PowerPoint presentation is available at:

<http://www.pagnet.org/documents/Committees/AQS/2009/AQS-2009-10-06-GHGUpdate.pdf>

The 2009 GHG EI Addendum is available at:

<http://www.pagnet.org/Programs/EnvironmentalPlanning/Air/tabid/179/Default.aspx>

7. Pima County's Sustainability Plan and Recent Accomplishments

Tedra Fox provided a summary of the County's recent activities aimed at achieving the goals outlined in the County's government operations Sustainable Action Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in August 2008. The report tracks 31 success indicators and describes the level of success after one year for each indicator (goal achieved, in progress or not met). Several of the main accomplishments were:

- The installation of several solar photovoltaic units, significant reductions in electricity use in County buildings, increased fuel efficiency in fleet vehicles, expansion in the number of recycling collection centers, construction of a LEED-Silver certified government building and the planning for two additional LEED-Silver certified buildings. These actions have saved the County millions of dollars and have significantly reduced their government GHG emissions.
- The report is available at:
<http://www.pima.gov/cob/e-agenda/08042009/AD%20bd-sustainability%20report%20card%20FY2009.pdf>

8. City of Tucson Climate Change Committee

David Schaller provided an overview of the City's plans to reduce GHG emissions and a synopsis of recent activities of the Climate Change Advisory Committee. Some of the major discussion points included:

- Mayor Walkup signed the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006; in doing so, the City committed to developing a GHG inventory and preparing a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (CMAP)
- To assist in the development of a CMAP, the Mayor and Council approved the establishment of a Climate Change Advisory Committee. This Committee is composed of individuals from various local economic sectors and their goal is to draft a plan for GHG reductions and adaptation. This plan is subject to approval by Mayor and Council and the Committee anticipates having the plan available to the Mayor and Council for review at their April 2010 meeting.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available at:

<http://www.pagnet.org/documents/Committees/AQS/2009/AQS-2009-10-06-ClimateChange.pdf>

Additional information about the City's sustainability activities and Committee actions can be found at: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd/>

9. Regional Environmental Issues List for 2010

Ms. Comrie provided the Subcommittee members with the 2009 list of regional environmental issues compiled for PAG's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), to whom AQS reports. Ms. Comrie solicited ideas for updating the list for 2010. Andy Gunning suggested the addition of sections on buffelgrass management and the tracking of regional and national GHG activities and legislation. Additional comments can be submitted by contacting Ms. Comrie, lcomrie@pagnet.org or 792-1093.

10. Air Quality Roundtable

Jennifer Christelman noted that the Marana's Town Council adopted an ordinance to conduct a GHG emissions inventory. They hope to assign a town employee to coordinate the project. They will work with PAG staff to develop the inventory for Marana.

Wayne Byrd summarized Pima County's ozone monitoring preliminary results for the 2009 season and other air quality information. Based upon preliminary data, Pima County ozone 3-year average of the 4th highest 8-hour average will place Pima County in attainment. However, if EPA lowers the current standard (0.075 ppm) to 0.065 ppm or lower, the County may be in nonattainment.

- AQI readings for ozone and PM_{2.5} levels were low in 2009, resulting in fewer moderate and unhealthy days than in 2008. Despite studies done by researchers, it is unknown why the ozone and PM_{2.5} levels were low this year.
- On July 22, 2009, PM₁₀ level exceeded the standard at several monitoring locations. This was attributed to a storm in Pinal County. To address this issue, PDEQ submitted Exceptional Event documentation to ADEQ for review.

Ruth Reiman announced that Travel Reduction Program (TRP) coordinator workshop will be held on Oct. 27, 2009. Additionally, an electronic TRP survey was conducted for the first time this year; the survey was a success with all participants responding.

Charles Komadina noted that TEP submitted 2008 data to the Climate Registry and is beginning the data verification process. He added that in 2009, the Irvington plant began using more natural gas for electricity generation which will undoubtedly result in less GHG emissions.

Sue Cotty mentioned her work on completing the 2009 update to the Tucson and Eastern Pima County GHG emission inventories (the results were presented at today's meeting). In addition, Ms. Cotty is working with staff from Oro Valley, Marana and Sahuarita to develop GHG inventories for their communities. In cooperation with the City of Tucson and University of Arizona staff, she is assisting in the evaluation of potential GHG emissions from proposed reduction measures.

Lee Comrie presented a recently completed outreach publication, "Reduce Your Carbon Footprint" rack card which provides information on national, state and local GHG emissions and ways for area residents to reduce their emissions. In addition, Ms. Comrie is updating the PAG Tucson Region Indicators Report, a snapshot of environmental, economic and transportation issues in the Tucson metropolitan area.

Beth Gorman mentioned that PDEQ is helping with 40+ local schools on the International Walk to School Day, Oct. 7, 2009. Additionally, PDEQ staff has been coordinating the Green

Living Fair on Nov. 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the HabiStore, (SW corner of Ajo and Palo Verde). The fair provides the public with opportunities to learn about air quality, recycling, energy conservation, biking and other environmentally friendly topics.

Lee Alter noted that the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) is striving to become more transparent, offering public call-in sessions and opening up meetings to the public. Their main activities focus on the WCI's Work Plan, updated in February 2009. This plan emerged from the work of WCI's seven committees who analyzed technical aspects of creating a regional greenhouse gas reduction program. The plan is available at:

<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/component/remository/general/workplans/2009-2010-WCI-Work-Plan/>

David Schaller mentioned the formation of a local carbon-offset program in which area residents can compensate for emissions from their activities such as vehicle or air travel by paying a fee per ton of GHG emissions. These fees will be used locally to fund programs to reduce GHG emissions. Several upcoming projects include tree plantings at Fort Lowell Elementary (Nov. 9th) and at Banks Elementary. For more information about the program:

http://gsa-usa.org/local_trust.php

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

It was suggested a survey of air-quality related topics be provided to committee members for review prior to the January meeting. Additional suggestions for meeting topics included: ozone update and nomination of an AQS chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m. The next AQS meeting is scheduled for January 2010.