

## City of Madera General Plan Update Sustainability

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To: General Plan Update Steering Committee  
From: General Plan Update Project Team  
Re: February 25, 2008 Steering Committee Meeting  
Date: February 22, 2008

The February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee will focus on Sustainability. The objectives of the meeting will be to:

- Review the broad definition of Sustainability;
- Provide an overview of sustainability from the Vision Madera 2025 Plan;
- Discuss sustainability as it relates to the updated General Plan;
- Review examples of sustainable practices; and
- Seek community input on incorporating sustainability in the updated General Plan related to Land Use, Circulation, and Energy.

### **Steering Committee Action**

To assist with process of identifying goals and setting priorities, the project team is looking for confirmation of Vision 2025 actions and strategies by gauging the Committee's and the public's support for a variety of sustainability-related strategies in the areas of Land Use, Circulation, and Energy. All of the potential strategies are derived from the Vision 2025 plan, including:

- Creating more walkable neighborhoods
- Providing more transportation options
- Encouraging energy conservation and the use of renewable energy

The feedback received at this meeting will help guide the creation of detailed policies for the Updated General Plan. These detailed policies will be presented to the Steering Committee for review and approval at a later stage in the General Plan Update process.

### **Sustainability Resources**

The following resources may be helpful in offering additional information and background on sustainability and related topics. They are provided to you herein as website references to ease accessibility and to reduce the amount of paper that is generated. Should you wish to have them printed and distributed, please let us know.



## SUSTAINABILITY

### **World Commission on Environment and Development**

*Our Common Future* (1987); Chapter 2, Towards Sustainable Development

<http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-02.htm>

The term “sustainable development” became widely used after it was defined internationally in a 1987 report by the World Commission on Environment and Development titled *Our Common Future*. It is sometimes referred to as the Brundtland Report, because the Commission was chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland.

### **State of California General Plan Guidelines** (2003)

Chapter 2, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice (pages 20-31)

[http://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/publications/General\\_Plan\\_Guidelines\\_2003.pdf](http://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/publications/General_Plan_Guidelines_2003.pdf)

### **American Planning Association:** Policy Guide on Planning for Sustainability

<http://www.planning.org/policyguides/sustainability.htm>

### **Local Government Commission:** Center for Livable Communities

<http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html>

The Local Government Commission (LGC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization that provides inspiration, technical assistance, and networking to local elected officials and other dedicated community leaders who are working to create healthy, walkable, and resource-efficient communities.

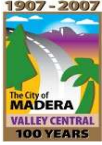
### **EMRGNC:** Defining Sustainability – A Hundred Perspectives

<http://www.emrgnc.com/SustainabilityDefinitions.pdf>

### **Smart Growth Network**

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/about/default.asp>

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined with several non-profit and government organizations to form the Smart Growth Network (SGN). The Network was formed in response to increasing community concerns about the need for new ways to grow that boost the economy, protect the environment, and enhance community vitality. The Network's partners include environmental groups, historic preservation organizations, professional organizations, developers, real estate interests; local and state government entities. The SGN works to encourage development that serves the economy, community and the environment.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

<http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-syr.htm>

The IPCC was created by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program to assess peer reviewed scientific and technical studies and reports in order to present scientific information on climate change. The IPCC's fourth assessment report was released in 2007.

Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report

### **Executive Order Signed by the Governor of the State of California (S-3-05)**

<http://gov.ca.gov/executive-order/1861/>

Executive Order S-3-05, signed in 2005, proclaims that California is vulnerable to climate change impacts and established total statewide greenhouse gas emission targets to combat these concerns. Specifically, emissions are to be reduced to the 2000 level by 2010, the 1990 level by 2020, and to 80% below the 1990 level by 2050. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) is directed to coordinate a multi-agency effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the target levels. A multi-agency and -commission Climate Action Team (CAT) released its first report in March 2006, which proposed to achieve the targets by building on voluntary actions of California businesses, local government and community actions, as well as through state incentive and regulatory programs.

### **California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: AB 32**

Signed by the Governor of California in September 2006, AB 32 requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels (427 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) by the year 2020, an expected 29% reduction. This reduction will be accomplished through an enforceable statewide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that will be phased in starting in 2012. To effectively implement the cap, AB 32 directs the California Air Resources Board to develop and implement regulations to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources.

### **California Air Resources Board**

Climate Change Portal

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm>

## GREEN BUILDING

**Build It Green:** <http://www.builditgreen.org/>

Build It Green is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote healthy, energy- and resource-efficient building practices in California. Build It Green works with mainstream stakeholders in the housing industry to accelerate the adoption of green building



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practices, and their short-term goal is to facilitate the greening of 10,000 housing units in California by the end of 2008.

**US Green Building Council:** <http://www.usgbc.org/>

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that certifies sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools, and neighborhoods. USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education, and its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™.