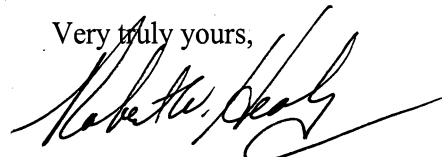


Related Cambridge Activities

Most of the actions proposed or underway in Chicago parallel many actions proposed or underway in Cambridge as part of the Climate Protection Plan process. (<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/envirotrans/envioplan/climate/index.html>)

- The Public Works Department has convened a working group on energy management that is working toward tracking City energy use in buildings and identifying opportunities to increase efficiency. The Traffic & Parking Department has begun retrofitting traffic signals with efficient LED lights. Most city buildings have had their lighting upgraded with efficient fixtures under the GreenLights program.
- Co-generation has been used increasingly in Cambridge. The MIT power plant on Vassar Street uses a co-generation design to produce both electricity and steam (for heating, cooling, and process uses). Mirant's Kendall Square Station powerplant has been upgraded with the installation of a very efficient combined-cycle generator. The upgraded facility, which is nearing start-up, will generate electricity and distribute steam throughout East Cambridge and for a few customers in Boston (Museum of Science, Mass. General Hospital).
- The City has received a grant of \$337,500 from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust (MRET) to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on City Hall Annex (57 Inman Street) as part of the renovation project. In addition, there are PV arrays located on the MBTA's Alewife Garage and on private property at Porter Square Shopping Plaza, the Union of Concerned Scientists' office at Two Brattle Square, and the Greenworks Building on Second Street.
- The draft Climate Protection Plan proposes that Cambridge aim to purchase 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Currently, there is very little renewable energy supply in New England. However, changes in state policy and the market are going to make renewable energy more available. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) recently enacted by the state requires all electricity providers to include an increasing amount of renewable sources in their generation portfolios beginning next year (starting at 1% in 2003 and ramping up to 4% by 2009). In addition, the Renewable Energy Trust is financially supporting installations with their investments. Under deregulation, some providers are working to develop services that include renewable energy, such as the Mass. Municipal Association, Health & Educational Facilities Authority, Mirant, and the Mass. Energy Consumers Alliance (Mass Energy). The City partnered with Mass Energy this year on a consumer aggregation planning project which was supported by grants from MRET and the John Merck Foundation. Mass Energy is hoping to develop a green power product that would be available to Cambridge residents and businesses sometime in 2003.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

September 9, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-73, regarding a report on investigating the City of Chicago's current attempts to find alternate means of generating power throughout the city, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein reports the following:

Chicago Energy Plan

The City of Chicago issued its Energy Plan in November 2001 to address the production and use of energy and guide municipal responses to state and federal energy policies. The development of the plan began in the summer of 1998 when the city experienced a period of extensive blackouts. Another motivating factor was Chicago's projection that demand for electricity would increase 20%, or about 6 billion kilowatt-hours, by 2010. This amount is equivalent to the output of about 11 new conventional power plants. The plan addresses how this increased demand will be met in a manner that protects consumers and the environment while assuring a reliable supply.

The plan includes 13 recommendations that focus on electricity but also address natural gas supply and prices and vehicle fuels. Chicago's strategy involves increasing energy efficiency through energy management efforts, connecting City-owned emergency backup generators into the central electricity distribution grid and encouraging the use of other distributed energy sources (e.g., microturbines and solar photovoltaic), increasing electricity supply through co-generation techniques, and purchasing electricity from renewable energy sources (i.e., wind, solar, and landfill gas). The mayor convened a task force to advance the plan.

Chicago joined with 4 regional public agencies, and 48 suburban governments to contract with Commonwealth Edison to supply 20 percent of their electricity demand from renewable sources within 5 years. This represents the single largest purchase of renewable energy in the country to date. While other local governments, such as Santa Monica and Oakland, California have contracted to buy 100 percent of their municipal electricity loads from renewable energy, Chicago's purchase is the largest in terms of the amount of energy.

A copy of the Chicago Energy Plan may be found at:

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/html/2001EnergyBook.pdf>.

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Consent Agenda #6

Awaiting Report Item
Number 02-73, regarding a
report on investigating the City
of Chicago's current attempts
to find alternate means of
generating power throughout
the City.

In City Council September 9, 2002

**REFERRED TO HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON MOTION OF
VICE MAYOR DAVIS.**