

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MAY 1, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #79: CITY EFFORTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES AND DEVELOP AN EMISSIONS INVENTORY

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City staff has begun researching what the level of effort would be needed to perform an emissions inventory. The Environmental Quality Division of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services met with Arlington County during the week of April 9, 2007 to look at the software used there to measure carbon dioxide levels. Based on discussion with Arlington County and rough estimates from a consultant, staff estimates the cost to range from \$50,000 to \$200,000, and that \$75,000 would likely provide sufficient funding. A \$75,000 study would allow staff to develop an estimate of overall Citywide emissions and the portion of emissions produced by the City government based on assumptions of vehicle activities, energy consumption and other factors. A study costing between \$75,000 and \$200,000 would generate a similar report, but with more precise calculations the cost of the studies increases.

City staff has also strongly supported and encouraged that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) conduct an emissions inventory on a regional basis, which would include local governments such as the City of Alexandria. The reasons for supporting this effort by MWCOG are: MWCOG is best equipped because they already perform emissions inventories in the region for other air pollutants; MWCOG would ensure a consistent approach throughout the region; and, the approach would begin to address the greenhouse gas issue in the regional context, which is the most appropriate forum since the strategies to reduce greenhouse gases may have impacts and co-benefits for regional air quality as well.

Even though the City has not yet completed an emissions inventory, the City is moving forward on climate change. In 2005, the Mayor signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the City was recognized by the Sierra Club as a "Cool City" for moving forward with solutions to reduce global warming. As part of this broad effort, the City is pursuing a variety of measures that will help reduce global climate change. Specifically, the City is implementing the Open Space Master Plan, developing an Urban Forestry Plan, increasing and enhancing our recycling program, pursuing good land use

policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact walkable urban communities, promoting transit and the use of bike trails, and participating in the Clean Air Partners Program.

Additionally, the City Department of General Services has adopted a Green Building Policy for City facilities that includes the use of energy efficient fixtures and compact bulbs. The City has installed green roofs on City buildings including the Health Department and the Duncan Library, and is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification on many more City projects. The new T.C. Williams High School will also be a LEED certified building. All of these actions are part of the City's efforts to address climate change.

Finally, the Environmental Action Plan, currently under development, is expected to include specific recommendations on climate change, including the recommendation to develop an emissions inventory.