Cambridge, Massachusetts

TACKLING CLIMATE PROTECTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

John Bolduc, Environmental Planner
Cambridge Community Development Department
Energy use in buildings is the problem
- Over 80% of GHG emissions are from electricity, natural gas, & fuel oil use in buildings
- About 2/3 of total emissions are related to commercial & institutional buildings
- Nationally, buildings account for 48% of US energy
Cambridge’s Strategy

- Municipal government must lead by example: *We can’t ask people to do things their government is not doing*

- Engage all sectors of the community: *It’s a huge challenge that will require multiple actions by everyone*

- Measure GHG emissions and energy use and report to the public: *Transparency and accountability drive the process*
Benefits to Cambridge

What’s in it for the city?

- Resiliency against rising energy costs for businesses and residents
- Improve building stock
- Create jobs
- Reduce environmental impact
- Position City for grants and other resources
Municipal Actions

- Inter-departmental Energy Management Work Group
- Developed Web-based Energy Information System
- Joined EPA Community Energy Challenge
- Benchmarking City buildings with Energy Star Portfolio Manager
- Energy audits and improvement projects
- Cross-departmental Initiatives
  - Energy Star Purchasing Policy
  - Greensense employee energy awareness program
- Follow LEED standards for new construction & major renovations
- Renewable energy goal: 20% by 2010
  - RECs
  - Think Energy study
  - PV installations
  - Small hydro feasibility study
Goals
 Make energy improvements to 50% of all buildings within 5 to 7 years
 Reduce peak electricity by 50 MW (15% decrease) & fossil fuel use by 10%
 Reduce GHG emissions by 150,000 tons of CO2 annually
 $100 million of energy improvements

Structure
 Formed non-profit: operationally separate from City, but affiliated
 Pre-qualified 5 ESCOs to serve as primary contractors; CEA provides oversight
 CEA supports ESCOs with marketing
 One stop service for property owners

Financing
 Arrangements with banks for residential financing
 Working with investment bank to provide pooled financing for large projects
The Coming Green Wave

The Early Bird Gets the Worm

- Rising fossil fuel prices
- Federal climate legislation: carbon pricing & markets
- Regional climate initiatives
- Clean energy technology
- Federal Energy Block Grants
Contacts & Resources

- John Bolduc, Environmental Planner, Cambridge Community Development Dept, 617-349-4628, jbolduc@cambridgema.gov
- NOW on PBS show about CEA: http://www.pbs.org/now, see March 28, 2008 show in archives titled Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Planet