



**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 23, 2008**

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this report regarding activities pertaining to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) sustainability efforts.

ISSUE

During the October 2007 Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting, staff had presented action items that it planned to initiate and implement between November and December 2007. This Receive and file report summarizes the status of the specific sustainability efforts initiated by staff to date. The status of these efforts are outlined in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

Staff recognized the need to develop projects to further LACMTA's efforts towards sustainability. In staff's previous report to the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee, staff divided LACMTA's sustainability efforts into three major categories: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Related Efforts, Energy Related Activities, and Other Sustainability Initiatives. A set of Sustainability Guiding Principles was also developed to guide staff in the development and implementation of sustainability projects.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee members recommended that staff expand the scope of the Sustainability Guiding Principles to include projects for LACMTA and all other recipients of our funding programs used in regional transportation projects. This was necessary to better reflect LACMTA's role as Los Angeles County's regional planner, designer, builder, and operator.

In response, staff completed the development of Sustainability Vision and Mission statements; and began revising the Sustainability Guiding Principles that will incorporate an expanded scope of LACMTA's regional sustainability responsibility.

Additionally, during November and December 2007, staff surveyed LACMTA's various business units to gain an understanding of sustainability efforts that have either commenced or are still being developed. Based on that survey, staff summarized the known efforts to date into the three sustainable implementation categories previously identified. Additional projects were initiated to further expand the list of sustainability projects. Staff selected these projects based on probability of success and ability to be incorporated into ongoing efforts.

NEXT STEPS

At the January 2008 meeting, staff will present the proposed Vision and Mission statements to the members of the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee. If adopted, these will help guide the final development of the regional Sustainability Guiding Principles.

The following are the proposed Vision and Mission statements:

LACMTA's Vision for Sustainability

LACMTA will be the leader in maximizing sustainability efforts and its benefits on Los Angeles County's people, finance and environment.

LACMTA's Sustainability Mission

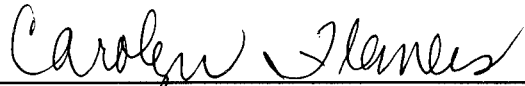
LACMTA will provide leadership in sustainability within the Los Angeles region without compromising our core mission of moving people efficiently and effectively.

As our sustainability projects grow in scope, more permanent staff and financial resources are needed to continue implementation or initiate new programs. Staff will develop a long-term (multi-year) work plan and will report efforts on the work plan, including needed resources, at the February 2008 Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting. In that work plan, staff will summarize the anticipated long-term needs of all initiated projects. Staff will also explore the feasibility of reinvesting savings from current sustainability projects into future sustainability projects. In the interim, staff will continue and expand the existing programs outlined in Attachment A.

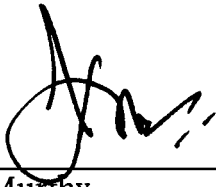
ATTACHMENT

A. Status of Staff Initiated Sustainability Efforts

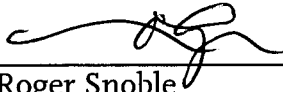
Prepared by: Cris B. Liban, Manager of Environmental Compliance and Services



Carolyn Flowers
Chief Operations Officer



Krishniah N. Murthy
Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

Table A. Staff Initiated Sustainability Efforts

Projects Initiated as of December 26, 2007

Item Number	Activity	Project Location	Description	Efforts to Date	Actions	Target Date of Completion
Sustainability Guiding Principles						
1	Sustainability Guiding Principles	Regionwide (Los Angeles County)	A Sustainability Guiding Principle document is the first step in the revision of LACMTA's current Energy and Sustainability Policy to incorporate the operational definition of sustainability for LACMTA as a corporation and as a regional transportation Authority.	A draft Sustainability Guiding Principles document was developed and presented to the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee in October 2007 for adoption. Comments from the Committee included changes to the draft Guiding Principles to better reflect LACMTA's regional role in transit planning, construction, operations, and finance. Staff continues to enhance the Guiding Principles. Mission and Vision statements were developed to further focus on the development of the regional Sustainability Guiding Principles.	Complete majority of the revisions prior to the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee Meeting in January 2008.	Jan-08
Clean Air and Greenhouse Gas Initiatives						
1	Integrated Planning and Management	Regionwide	LACMTA is responsible for the planning of all transportation projects within Los Angeles County. An integrated approach to improving air quality includes coordinated planning of sustainable transportation corridors within the region.	LACMTA continues to develop plans for transportation corridors that include sustainable elements and applies sustainability principles. The LACMTA Orange Line has so far incorporated most of the elements of sustainability that addresses the goals and objectives of a sustainable transportation system.	Continue a similar effort on all ongoing studies to select a Locally Preferred Alternative for the Canoga Transportation Corridor. LACMTA will enhance its joint development efforts by exploring the incorporation of sustainability elements in these types of projects. Coordinate sustainability efforts on air quality improvement and greenhouse gas reductions with Southern California Association of Governments and other agencies.	Ongoing
2	Commuter/Employer Programs	Regionwide	LACMTA's Commute Services Department coordinates a regionwide effort to promote the use of transit and other alternatives ways of reducing car dependency in Southern California.	LACMTA has developed various commuter and employer services that are available to employees, students, employers, and the general public. LACMTA Communications assists in the marketing of these services through brochures, website use, and other conventional means of advertising.	Incorporate "Green Thinking" into the Commute Services program to act as additional business case in reducing car dependency in Southern California. Initiate discussions with Commute Services staff on specific details on how this idea can be implemented.	Jan-08
3	Emission Reduction Efforts	Regionwide	LACMTA operates the nation's largest compressed natural gas fleet. LACMTA will continue to be the leader in exploring cleaner ways to operate its transit system.	Approximately 97% of all diesel buses have been retired. Current diesel buses use ultra low sulfur fuel. All buses have also been fitted with bike racks for multi-mobility.	Explore the use of new buses that have adopted hybrid technology and other innovative fuels such as biofuels.	Ongoing
4	Coordinate with Various Legislative and Government entities regarding Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change Legislation	Agencywide	The pace of the development of greenhouse gas reduction regulations and initiatives has significantly accelerated in the last year. Staff has recognized the need to closely monitor legislation to ensure LACMTA's accurate response to the evolving greenhouse gas reduction landscape.	Staff has traveled to Sacramento and met the California Transportation Commission and the California Air Resources Board on AB 32 scoping issues for transportation.	Continue government coordination efforts.	Ongoing
5	Coordinate with Various Trade Groups, specifically APTA, regarding Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change Initiatives	Agencywide	LACMTA has initiated discussions with the California Climate Registry. However, carbon footprint calculations do not take into consideration the Vehicle Miles Traveled reductions resulting from LACMTA's transit efforts. Staff has recognized the need to lead in the development of appropriate protocols so that transit agencies like LACMTA can more accurately report and better represent their carbon footprint in the registry.	Staff has recently met with the APTA Standards Group in Salt Lake City, UT to go over the transit greenhouse gas protocol methodology.	Continue APTA coordination efforts.	Ongoing

Table A. Staff Initiated Sustainability Efforts

Projects Initiated as of December 26, 2007

Item Number	Activity	Project Location	Description	Efforts to Date	Actions	Target Date of Completion
6	Explore Cap and Trade Opportunities	Agencywide	A specific carbon trading marketplace is slowly evolving wherein entities with lower carbon emissions can trade credits with entities that need such credits to reduce their carbon footprint.	The cap and trade marketplace is still developing. LACMTA needs to commit staff in exploring the cap and trade opportunities.	Continue current efforts.	Ongoing
7	Continue Coordination with LACMTA Clean Air Task Force	Agencywide	Created in December 2006 to maximize LACMTA's efforts in improving air quality.	Task Force continues to develop LACMTA Clean Air inventory and outreach to other agencies on clean air issues.	Continue coordination with Task Force.	Ongoing
8	Coordinate with Congestion Reduction Pricing Task Force	Agencywide	The Board of Directors directed R. Snoble in June 2007 to work with Caltrans and other agencies, as appropriate, to develop a detailed operating plan with at least three options for implementing congestion pricing in Los Angeles County by 2010.	A Statement of Work has been developed by staff on October 2007 and presented to the Board of Directors for review. The Request for proposals to solicit professional services for a Congestion Pricing Feasibility Study for Los Angeles County has been released in December 2007.	Coordinate with Task Force and capture activities as part of LACMTA's overall Sustainability efforts.	Ongoing
Energy Related Activities						
1	Energy Conservation Initiatives	Agencywide	Based on a staff paper developed in 2002, LACMTA needs to formally establish a strategic effort to eliminate inefficient energy use. This is a less costly investment that is projected to make a bigger dent in energy cost reduction.	Develop energy conservation and efficiency principles in the planning, design, and construction of new and remodeled facilities. Perform energy audits of existing facilities. Develop other renewable energy sources.	Energy conservation and efficiency methods have already begun within LACMTA. Continue existing projects and initiate new ones.	Ongoing
2	Energy Efficient and Sustainable Buildings	Agencywide	LACMTA is committed to designing and building structures that are greater than 10,000 square feet in area to meet or exceed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. LEED certified buildings are manifests to our agency's efforts in promoting and adopting sustainable construction.	Completed our first LEED Silver rated building at Division 9.	Continue to work with LACMTA staff and partners in designing and building LEED rated structures throughout the agency.	Ongoing
3	Installation of Additional Solar Panels	Agencywide	Installation of solar panels of various configurations in various LACMTA facilities to relieve LACMTA's reliance on supplied electrical power. This will result in reduced electrical bills.	LACMTA currently has the largest solar panel installation in the transit industry. LACMTA has recently completed a 417 kW solar panel installation at Division 18. LACMTA Facilities is currently completing its negotiations with a private entity for the installation of solar panels capable of generating 1 mW of power at LACMTA's MMC. Request to proceed on implementing this latest project will be presented for approval to the LACMTA Board in January 2008.	Complete Private/Public partnership agreement by the end of December 2007. Complete Board Report for approval by the LACMTA Board of Directors in January 2008.	Ongoing
4	Exploring Other Renewable Resources	TBD	Development of Wayside Energy Storage Substation (WESS) pilot project. A WESS is an energy storage system to store energy from train braking that can be brought back to the grid and can be reused by the trains when needed. Potential sites will be in between the TPSS locations, systemwide.	Applied for a Coalition of New California Infrastructure (CNCI) grant to develop the prototype system.	Waiting for CNCI response. Funding is expected in early 2008. Explore opportunities to determine the role of microturbines in reducing peak energy consumption at various LACMTA facilities.	Ongoing
Other Sustainability Initiatives						
1	Recycling and Reuse Policy	Agencywide	Develop a policy that address Board Member Gloria Molina's LACMTA Board Action and Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal's Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee Motion regarding reuse and recycling of materials in all LACMTA and LACMTA funded construction projects.	Completed the final version of the policy and has been signed off by the CEO on December 24, 2007 as policy GEN 51, a LACMTA internal policy.	A Board Box is currently being developed to advise the Board that the new policy is designed to address both Director Molina's and Lowenthal's motions on the subject.	Jan-08

Table A. Staff Initiated Sustainability Efforts

Projects Initiated as of December 26, 2007

Item Number	Activity	Project Location	Description	Efforts to Date	Actions	Target Date of Completion
2	Sustainability Design Guidelines	Agencywide	Develop Sustainability Design Guidelines that will be used for implementing an agencywide Design Criteria revision. The design guidelines shall incorporate sustainability elements, such as low impact development, recycled material usage, drought tolerant landscaping, reclaimed water use, etc.	Has began process by meeting with representatives of other agencies throughout the nation doing similar design criteria change work. Staff has identified existing resources that can be used in the development of the Sustainability Design Guidelines.	Begin writing the draft Sustainability Design Guidelines.	Complete Draft in March 2008.
3	Sustainability Transportation Corridor Development	Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension (MGLEE), Canoga Transportation Corridor Project	Transit oriented development at MGLEE; Incorporate sustainable elements in the design of the Canoga Transportation Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative. Sustainable elements can include the use of drought tolerant plants, reclaimed water use, recycled or recyclable materials, non-structural stormwater treatment methods, energy conservation techniques, etc.	Staff has been coordinating to explore and implement the feasibility of incorporating sustainability elements in the design and construction of the MGLEE and Canoga Transportation Corridor.	Regularly meet with joint Development and Canoga Transportation Corridor staff. Joint Development projects are underway. Preliminary Engineering is scheduled to begin in February 2008.	Ongoing
4	Capital Projects that Incorporate Sustainability Principles	Orange Line North Hollywood Depot; Atlantic Pomona Parking Structure; Car Wash and Bus Wash Projects	Incorporate sustainable elements in the design and construction of various LACMTA capital projects and use these as models for other capital projects.	Staff has been coordinating to understand the feasibility of incorporating sustainability elements in the design and eventual construction of various capital projects. LACMTA is in the ground level of these efforts. This is an excellent opportunity to include these principles with little or no added project cost.	LACMTA staff is coordinating to ensure appropriate implementation.	Ongoing
5	Sustainability Management System (SMS) Pilot Study	Division 10	Develop a Sustainable Management System that incorporates the ISO 9001 (Quality), 14001 (Environment), and OHSAS 18001 (Safety) standards. This is a holistic approach towards creating a sustainable environment within the agency. Once implemented, secure ISO 9001 and 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification.	Met with Division 10 management to secure commitment of resources; Conducting Gap Assessment to determine specific types of information that need to be developed or put in order; Conduct environmental audit to determine current Division 10 environmental conditions and opportunities for cost savings.	Complete Gap Assessment and Process Mapping at the end of December 2007. Develop preliminary SMS tools by January 2008.	First Phase: November 2008; Second Phase (for ISO and OHSAS Certification): December 2009
6	FTA Environmental Management System (EMS) Grant Application	TBA	FTA will assist LACMTA in developing an Environmental Management System for at least one "Fenceline" site. There will be a series of quarterly training sessions to be held in FY 2008 to FY 2009 in Seattle, WA. Shaw Environmental will assist the FTA in implementing this program.	LACMTA applied for this grant on August 31, 2007. The FTA has announced on December 12, 2007 that LACMTA has been selected to participate in the EMS program.	LACMTA and FTA will complete a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure success and participation of both entities. LACMTA will finalize its team that will implement the EMS at a selected Facility.	Will commence Spring 2008 with a projected completion date of Spring 2010.
7	Regionwide Sustainability Program Coordination	Regionwide	LACMTA recognizes that various City and County governments are doing their own sustainability efforts. LACMTA also recognizes that in order to be successful, it must align its plan, action, and programs with the other government agencies within the Los Angeles Basin.	Organize a Los Angeles County Sustainability Summit that will provide a venue for government and agencies within Los Angeles County to exchange ideas and learn from each other's efforts of achieving sustainability.	Developed a draft letter of invitation for all county agencies to participate in the LACMTA sponsored Sustainability Summit. This event is tentatively scheduled for February 2008.	Jan-08
8	Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Coordination	Regionwide	Ensure that LACMTA's Sustainability Efforts are in line with SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP).	The Regional Comprehensive Plan outlines concrete sustainability efforts that can be implemented by SCAG's member organizations to ensure a coordinated regionwide sustainability effort. LACMTA and SCAG will work hand in hand in ensuring that LACMTA's programs are consistent with the RCP's sustainability goals and objectives.	LACMTA met with SCAG on December 18, 2007 to coordinate each agency's sustainability efforts. SCAG invited LACMTA to present in its RCP Task Force Committee meeting on January 14, 2008 to further explore ways on how LACMTA and SCAG can work together.	Jan-08
9	Work with Smart Growth Partners to reduce region's Carbon Footprint	Regionwide	Coordinate with LACMTA's Planning and Joint Development groups on Transit Oriented Development Partnerships.	Several transit oriented development projects have been completed or are underway.	Monitor the progress of the Transit Oriented Development projects.	Ongoing

Table A. Staff Initiated Sustainability Efforts

Projects Initiated as of December 26, 2007

Item Number	Activity	Project Location	Description	Efforts to Date	Actions	Target Date of Completion
10	Public/Private Partnership Sustainable Product Demonstrations	LACMTA Orange Line/Division 10	Coordinate with private entities to conduct sustainable product demonstrations.	Met with Rotary Club members to explore possibility of use of Stormwater trash collector inserts at the LACMTA Orange Line. Division 10 meeting with 3M Corporation and existing suppliers to try out two products: UV reduction window film and biodegradable product that can be used for bathroom cleaning agent substitute.	Meet with LACMTA Operations to understand feasibility of trash collectors pilot. Meet with Division 10 management and existing Division 10 suppliers for possible product demonstration partnerships.	Stormwater inserts expected to be in the ground on January 31, 2007.
11	Coordination with LACMTA Communications	Agencywide	LACMTA Communications has a significant role in both capturing LACMTA's current sustainability efforts as well as communicating to the general public our specific views and actions on sustainability. LACMTA Communications is the voice of LACMTA's sustainability efforts.	Completed the following projects: LACMTA's global warming poster, "LACMTA's Getting Green" brochure. A LACMTA webpage in www.LACMTA.net on sustainability is currently being developed. Other opportunities being explored include an issue of the LACMTA Quarterly devoted to the environment and/or sustainability as well as marketing materials to accelerate the development of "green" consciousness among LACMTA's corporate and non-profit partners.	Continue regular meeting with LACMTA Communications. Complete webpage development.	Ongoing
12	Coordination with LACMTA Management Audit Services Department (MASD)	Agencywide	MASD has initiated two audit efforts to capture LACMTA's environmental liabilities as these affect our financial statement as well as LACMTA's environmental compliance as these relate to decreasing operations costs.	Staff coordinating with MASD staff to ensure the accuracy of the ongoing audits.	Continue coordination until audit is completed.	Ongoing
13	Coordination with LACMTA General Services	Agencywide	There are a number of potential low cost but high visibility opportunities in LACMTA's Cafeteria to advocate LACMTA's sustainability efforts.	Coordinate with General Services and Cafeteria Committee to develop specific projects that can be implemented in LACMTA's Cafeteria.	Develop details of opportunities and present in a brainstorming session with the Cafeteria Committee on the feasibility of these ideas.	Ongoing
14	Coordination with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Staff	Agencywide	Staff must ensure compliance of sustainability projects with American with Disabilities Act requirements.	Coordinate with LACMTA's ADA compliance officers regarding specific guidelines to meet ADA requirements in all sustainability projects.	Meet with ADA compliance officers prior to Ad Hoc Committee meeting.	Jan-08
15	Coordination with Procurement and Material Management	Agencywide	LACMTA's ability to influence sustainability efforts throughout the region can be implemented through the proper leverage of our procurement practices. It is imperative that LACMTA look into developing policy details to comply with GEN 51 and our sustainability Vision and Mission Statements.	Initiate discussions on how sustainability principles can be incorporated in LACMTA's procurement practices.	Meet with Procurement and Materials Management staff to brainstorm recommendations for upper management.	Jan-08

