



CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA REPORT

DATE: January 26, 2010

TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor McLaughlin, Councilmember Rogers, and Vice Mayor Ritterman

SUBJECT: RECOGNIZE 350PPM CO2 AS A SENSIBLE CLIMATE TARGET

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

There is a growing consensus among researchers that there is a need to get atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ down below 350 ppm as soon as possible or risk self amplifying feedbacks that will result in abrupt, catastrophic, and irreversible heating of the earth.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a report and ADOPT a resolution in recognition of the 350 ppm CO₂ as the sensible limit to prevent extreme climate change– Mayor McLaughlin (620-6503), Councilmember Rogers and Vice Mayor Ritterman (620-6581).

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

There is no financial impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

As referenced in the 350.org Copenhagen Press Release, 350.org is an international climate campaign working for a climate treaty that meets the latest science. On October 24, 2009, 350.org coordinated an International Day of Climate Action with over 5,200 events in more than 180 countries all united by a common call to action: reduce the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million, the safe upper limit according to top scientists. According to CNN it was the “most widespread day of political action in the planet’s history.” Photos and video from the day can be seen on the 350.org website.

350.org was founded by author and environmentalist Bill McKibben and is led by a team of young organizers based in offices, internet cafes, and apartments around the world.

The objective of this movement is to get the attention of leaders and residents around the world to join the effort in addressing global warming. The world's leading experts on climate change state that immediate reductions in CO2 must occur this decade if we are to prevent island nations from going under water and runaway climate change.

Richmond is home to a large oil refinery making issues related to climate change of immediate concern to all Richmond residents. Providing educational opportunities to Richmond residents in an effort to reduce the effects of global warming is of extreme importance. With the adoption of this resolution, the city of Richmond will join the charge to reduce the CO2 level to 350ppm.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

Attachments:

Resolution

Press Release: Coalition of the Realistic: Over 100 Countries Now Support
1.5C / 350ppm Target