



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Green Events Program Resolution – May 13, 2014
DATE: April 24, 2014

SUMMARY:

Staff and the Sustainable Tacoma Commission recommend that the City Council consider adoption of a Green Events resolution that will advance the City’s commitment to sustainability and greenhouse gas reductions by requiring large, City-sponsored or funded events to implement sustainable event practices and report on those measures.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee (IPS) members: David Boe, Anders Ibsen, Ryan Mello, Lauren Walker.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The City’s commitment to promote and/or require events to implement sustainable practices and reduce greenhouse gas best aligns with the following Council policy priority:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

BACKGROUND:

Staff from the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, Community and Economic Development Special Events, and Environmental Services worked to develop the policy and program with input from all affected event planners over the last year. The IPS Committee reviewed the draft resolution on April 23rd and recommended it be sent to the full Council for consideration. The program will be integrated into the special events permit process. Staff has developed a Green Event Guide for event planners that includes resources, tips, contacts, and other materials to assist event organizers.

ISSUE:

The City permits and supports many community events throughout the year. In order to better represent the City’s environmental values, the Green Event Program will require pre and post reporting by event planners in 2014, and based on this year’s results, will set minimum achievement levels in 2015. Approximately, 35-40 events would qualify for the program, although any size event may choose to participate. Participation in the Green Event Program can provide benefits to event organizers through reduced waste and increased promotion.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City can continue to support community events and encourage them to implement sustainable practices without creating minimum achievement thresholds or a recognition branding seal.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends approval of this resolution to support the City’s environmental values.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Existing staffing resources will be used to implement the program. For event planners, there could be no to minimal additional funds needed to comply with the program; however, there will be additional reporting requirements.