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PRESENTER: Kristin Lynett, Environmental Services; Sue Coffman, Planning and Development
Services
SUBJECT: Green Building
DATE: September 26, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The interdepartmental Green Building Program Team has been meeting for almost a year to assess existing efforts and green building resources, identify best practices, and gauge local interest. This presentation will summarize those efforts and describe strategies and options for a range of next steps.

BACKGROUND:

Developing a green building program has been a priority action since the adoption of the 2008 Climate Action Plan, and reaffirmed in the 2016 Environmental Action Plan. Limited and one-off initiatives have been implemented in the past ten years, but sustained and substantial actions have not been achieved. Development has increased dramatically in the past couple years and the Sustainable Tacoma Commission, in particular, is very interested in seeing the City encourage and support more green building.

ISSUE:

The green building field has evolved and matured in the last decade, but Tacoma has not kept pace with the rest of the region. Resources, tools, and best practices have been developed and the City could benefit from implementing those methods and policies.

Green buildings can be healthier, safer, affordable and more durable, desirable and marketable than traditional buildings; however there are real and perceived barriers to greater adoption in Tacoma. Reducing the educational, financial and technical hurdles will help the City achieve its goals as well as provide businesses and residents with the benefits of sustainable buildings for decades to come.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing. Staff will present recommended feasible near-term, moderate-term and long-term actions towards more sustainable building development, and ask for support from the Committee on further developing such strategies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing. Operating budget requests have been submitted by various Departments to hire a Green Building Specialist to coordinate implementation of the recommended actions. The fiscal impact will be addressed as a part of the budget process.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing. Staff will ask the Committee for guidance on further developing the proposed near-term strategies.