

Table Group Summaries
Strategic Plan Forum #2 – Environmental Organizations
Thursday - May 26, 2011
City Hall

Synopsis: Three tables reporting
22 representatives from environmental stakeholders
17 surveys returned

Table #1 Comments

Proposed objectives:

- Rate predictability is more important than keeping rates low
- Focus on how customers can reduce their bills, not keeping rates low
- Rate design should be used to encourage energy efficiency
- Strategy should drive level of rates, rather than low rates driving strategy
- City Light should try to influence policy beyond just current electricity use – particularly by expanding use of electricity to power transportation and reduce natural gas consumption/emissions

What's missing:

- More support for energy conservation and it should be available to all sectors/customer classes
- Support for local/distributed generation
- Support for increased efficiency in power generation
- Need for investments in utility assets and technologies to achieve efficiencies

Specific objective:

Environmental Stewardship

- Support for both conservation – that is, behavior by customers – and efficiency (e.g. investments in technology and systems)
- Energy conservation should be a primary objective, and its funding should not be cut when there are budget reductions
- Energy conservation can help those businesses who are especially affected by or sensitive to increased rates to keep their bills low
- Plan for success of green initiatives such as the 2030 district energy goals which hopes to achieve significant reductions in energy consumption from the utility; how will City Light collect sufficient revenues if that happens?
- On distribution side, encourage innovation and use pilots to test new ideas
- Skepticism that smart grid has significant benefits for a hydro-based utility

Table #2 Comments

Proposed Objectives:

- Lack specificity, especially number 2, 7 and 8
- Objective #7 should be broken into component parts – hard to rate as is
- Need measurable objectives and specific goals – things seemed lumped together
- Emphasize energy conservation
- Reference “fiscal stability” not “predictability”

What’s missing?

- Distributed generation/on-site generation
- Addressing climate change
- Specific goals
- How will fish be protected
- Raising rates
- How the Integrate Resource Plan fits in
- Designing our facilities to fit into the urban picture (e.g. substations)
- Giving a context to what other local utilities are doing
- Use environmental responsibility to justify raising rates – that it is a responsible thing to do and customers/ratepayers are getting something back for the money invested

Specific Objective:

#8 - Maintain a stable, cost effective, environmentally responsible power supply portfolio

- Look at bigger picture and set measurable objectives – Conservation has a MW target and focus on I-937 requirements
- Distribution – establish cost-effective methodology
- Raise rates to achieve objective – there is an unconnected pricing strategy
- Diversity power supply portfolio
- Clearly define environmentally responsible

Table #3 Comments

Proposed Objectives:

- Need a higher profile for energy efficiency/conservation programs (it appears in several different objectives)
- Conservation is a least-cost option
- Thermal energy isn't getting attention because of I-937 gap
- Opportunity for "local" district energy needs to be called out – City Light should lead by example

What's missing:

- Energy efficiency/conservation programs aren't identifying new/potential opportunities to increase outcomes – take risks
- Treat conservation as a "rate" for new source of revenue
- Too many objectives may be diminishing visibility of conservation as a least-cost resource
- Opportunities with electric car

Specific objective:

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- There is overlap with several other objectives
- City Light's customer base supports environmental issues – viewed as a national leader
- Opportunity for private and public sectors to come together to innovate
- Create a fund (Innovation Fund) to fuel new ideas – City Light needs to be a leader
- Look at power generation costs to fund new technologies (e.g. renewables/conservation)
- Rebate/incentive structure may be too rigid to include only proven technologies – need to be more innovative
- How will climate change efforts play out in 10 years? Need long-term focus
- Protect tree canopies as vegetation management is practiced