

Climate Crisis Workgroup

Meeting Notes Saturday March 20, 2021

- The Grassroots Institute (GRI) Climate Crisis Workgroup (CCW) met in a breakout session to discuss and adopt climate change mitigation project recommendations to present to the Fort Bragg City Council. At the previous CCW meeting on Saturday March 13, 2021, City Council members Tess Albin-Smith and Jessica Morsell-Haye asked the CCW to recommend climate change mitigation projects that could be undertaken using American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- The CCW discussion began with a brief summary of a list of potential projects.
- There was substantial discussion about increasing the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panel systems on rooftops in Fort Bragg and encouraging the expanded use of electric vehicles. In addition, the CCW discussed the value of encouraging the Mendocino Transit Authority to use electric vehicles that could be charged using PV panels on Municipal Buildings and public parking lots. There was also support for public PV system powered Public Safety Power Shutdown charging stations.
- After extensive discussion the CCW settled on three climate change mitigation projects to recommend at the Monday March 22, 2021 Fort Bragg City Council meeting:
 - **Installation of Photovoltaic (PV) Panels on Municipal Buildings** - Photovoltaic systems have a proven track record providing reliable clean electricity. Once installed, PV systems substantially lower the need to purchase electricity from commercial suppliers, and often provide new revenues thru the sale of excess electricity. Installing PV systems is consistent with the City's previously adopted energy conservation and climate change goals. Indeed, the City has already done much of the prerequisite research into which municipal buildings would be best suited to PV panel applications. Installation is a one time capital improvement, which enhances the City's long term fiscal security and sustainability.
 - **Install Additional Electric Car Charging Stations** - The health of Fort Bragg's economy is strongly linked to tourism. Electric car owners are a growing segment of consumers traveling to coastal destinations. The City's ability to attract a strong market share of tourists using electric vehicles will be significantly increased by ensuring easy convenient access to electric vehicle charging stations. Further, electric vehicles are favored by a growing number of City residents as a clean

alternative to fossil fuel. Adding charging stations will directly serve the needs of these City residents. The Grassroots Institute also recommends combining installation of municipal PV systems with installation of electric vehicle charging stations and Public Safety Power Shutoff battery charging stations wherever possible as a way to further capture multiple public benefits.

- **Transition Public Transportation to Electric Vehicles** - The Grassroots Institute urges the City to collaborate with the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) to convert as much as possible to electric vehicles. Converting the public transit system fleet provides an excellent one time capital investment consistent with the grant nature of American Rescue Plan Act funding. The Grassroots Institute further urges the City and MTA to explore how smaller more efficient electric vehicles might be used to expand services routes at the same or reduced cost.

The meeting ended with the CCW tasking Peter McNamee with preparing a summary of the three project proposals and transmitting them to Carrie Durkee and Jim Tarbell so that the GRI could present them to the Fort Bragg City Council.