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Planning for Future GHG Inventory and Emission Reduction Tracking

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Introduction

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District requires updated community GHG inventories every 5 years
  - Through C/CAG, 2010 Inventory Updates have been completed for most cities
  - Regular GHG tracking is needed to determine if the CAP is on track to meet targets.

- Our goal is to determine what tools and services RICAPS will continue to support
  - Hara is the current tool provided by RICAPS, but not many cities are using the tool and the renewal is coming up soon
  - We would like to understand other tools available and the best practices for GHG tracking and GHG reduction tracking

- We interviewed three cities that are annually tracking their GHG inventory to understand what tools they are using and why

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Review of GHG Tracking Tools in Use

- Preliminary discussion with 3 cities:
  - City of San Mateo
  - City of Menlo Park
  - Town of Los Altos Hills

- What tools are you using and why?
  - Two cities are using an Excel tool, and one is using the ICLEI CACP software (at a cost of $600/year)
  - One city also used other tools in the past, including CACP and Hara

Summary of Tools

Tool Name	Pros	Cons
Hara	• Free (currently) to all RICAPS cities • Allows roll-up of individual cities to county-level • Has good collaboration support: the tool tracks who uploads what data, and when it is uploaded • Online tool: Multiple people can use it at once	• Requires time to initially set up Hara and upload the first data set (not used by one city due to initial time commitment needed) • Would be more useful if some data were auto-populated
SEEC Tools	• Free • Not currently in use by any of the cities • There is a new version of the SEEC tool that is all online	• Seems user-friendly but have not yet been tested by any of the cities

Summary of Tools

Tool Name	Pros	Cons
CACP	• Consistent from year to year • Well-established: CACP has been around a long time • There is some flexibility in how emissions are calculated, based on user preference • The city receives support from ICLEI	• Cost is $600/year • Some cities found it difficult to use • No automatic graphs/charts
Excel	• Free – everyone has Excel already • Easy to use, and everyone knows how to use Excel. • Can be easily updated each year • Is often used to create graphs/charts • New online version is available from Microsoft	• Simplistic • Unless online version is used, only one person can update at a time: may lead to version control issues

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Overall Feedback from Three Cities

- Data tracking should occur annually
  - Quarterly is too often, and every 5 years is not often enough
  - Easier to track GHG inventory trends with an annual inventory and explain the increases or decreases in emissions due to specific programs/policies
  - Annual tracking supports an annual report to City / Town Council

- Tracking community-wide data was more important than government operations data

- A consistent Excel tool created by the County would be useful, if user-friendly
  - Could have the instructions built into the tool
  - Might include separate modules for community-wide vs. government operations

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Tracking Emission Reduction Measures and CAP Progress

- How to track progress of CAP policies and measures?

- What type of data is being collected by cities right now?

- Quantitative tracking is a difficult area for all the cities we interviewed, such as:

  – Impacts on vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

  – Financing programs (e.g., PACE) requires assumptions about typical savings

  – Some data is easier to collect, such as:

  – Number of solar PV installations

  – Number of EV chargers installed each year

- A wedge chart showing progress built into a tool would be very useful

- Many cities track qualitative information, such as program implementation, and report this data to City Council each year

  – Then they review the results of their annual inventory and try to understand why emissions are going up or down

Questions for Discussion

- How should C/CAG continue to provide support for monitoring progress?
  - Should C/CAG do the community inventories every year?

- What is needed to make GHG tracking and CAP Progress tracking tools usable?
  - What needs to be in place such that your jurisdiction would use the tools?

- Do you agree that annual tracking is appropriate, or should it be more or less frequent?

- Do you agree that tracking community-wide data is more important than government operations data?

- How can we overcome barriers to tracking this information, such as limited staff time and lack of data, and how can we make the issues a priority to City Council?

Questions / Feedback

GHG Inventory and Emission Reduction Tracking Tools

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