



**Summary
GreenPrint Committee**

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 11:00 am Location: Council Conference Room 391

Committee Members Present: Nevitt, Chair; Linkhart, Vice-Chair; Brown, Lehmann

Agenda:

1. *Briefing: Sunnyside Neighborhood Blitz Pilot*
 2. *Briefing: Denver Compost Pilot*
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1. Briefing: Sunnyside Neighborhood Blitz Pilot

Summary of Discussion

Scott Morrissey and Denise Stepto, Greenprint Denver, discussed the Sunnyside Project which provides multiple energy conservation assistance to the neighborhood via door to door canvassing by over 200 trained volunteers. Ms. Stepto explained that a coalition of organizations that work on various aspects of conservation chose a low income neighborhood with high energy usage to canvas providing free home energy audits, CFL light bulbs, and, access to recycling, free trees, home insulation, and other services and energy conservation information. Partners included:

- Greenprint Denver
- Governor's Energy Office
- Energy Outreach Colorado
- Groundwork Denver
- Sun Power
- Mile High Youth Corps
- LEAP (Low-income Energy Assistance Program)
- Department of Environmental Health
- Office of Economic Development

Of the 3,455 dwellings in Sunnyside, volunteers canvassed 2,457 or 71% and had direct communication with 465. This directly contacted group represents 19% of those canvassed, or about twice the expected rate. The following outcomes were realized:

- 279 audits requested
- 153 income-qualified audits requested
- 121 non-income qualified
- 5 needing income verification
- 270 porch light CFLs installed
- 102 recycling signups
- 112 trees signups
- 216 junk mail reduction forms signed
- 67 applications for the low income energy assistance program (LEAP)

These are exceptional results: LEAP outreach is generally done via booths at public gatherings which produces an average of 3 applications per day per booth. It is much more effective to target areas with high numbers of income-eligible people and provide easy access to multiple programs. The insulation and home improvements are targeted to the resident not the home owner. GreenPrint staff is collecting data to evaluate the program's social and environmental impact on the City and preliminary data indicates the following:

Free audit for 153 households

- Annual savings per household = \$158 (\$24,174 collectively)
- Annual CO2 savings per household = 2,595 lbs (387,035 collectively)

Full Weatherization of 153 homes (includes attic and wall insulation, refrigerator, furnace, air and duct sealing)

- Annual savings per household = \$590
- Collective annual savings = \$90,270
- Annual CO2 savings per household = 9,650 lbs
- Collective CO2 savings = 1,476,450 lbs

The program will be offered in the Globeville neighborhood in early 2009 and staff hope to expand the program throughout the City as part of efforts to reach goals set in the Climate Action Plan.

2. Briefing: Denver Compost PilotSummary of Discussion

Charlotte Pitt, Public Works, provided information on the City's new composting programs making the following points:

- The program is being piloted in 3,300 volunteer homes in representative neighborhoods.
- Green 65-gallon carts and 2-gallon kitchen pail were distributed to these homes for collection of compostable materials including: yard debris, food waste and soiled paper.
- Collection is weekly in growing season and every-other-week during the winter.
- The material is being commercially composted by A-1 Organics through a controlled process that accelerates the natural decomposition process to produce soil ensuring sterile compost that meets organic standards.
- The residential pilot ends in June 2009 and a separate pilot will be conducted next year for three months at Denver International Airport.
- The program is currently being financed with grants and donations in an effort to test its feasibility and test several outcomes including: 1) the quantity of materials collected as diversion from trash collections, 2) costs and resources needed in terms of equipment, staff, educational, start-up, composting fees, 3) participation and public interest.
- Potential environmental benefits include a reduction in greenhouse gases released by the landfill from organic products that could be composted; methane—the gas produced in landfills from organic debris—is 23 times more efficient at trapping heat than CO₂.
- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 25% of the nation's waste stream is compostable; Pilot data to date suggests that Denver's proportion of compostable materials could be significantly higher potentially reducing the average trash weight per household from
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- 53 pounds (minus 19 pounds for recycling and 30 pounds of composted material) to about 13 or 14 pounds.
- The program is not expected to generate revenues, but the cost analysis will consider how the program fits into the overall costs of managing the waste stream such as trash hauling and delays in paying increased tip fees at the landfill.