

Memorandum



Date: December 4, 2007

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Chicago Climate Exchange Progress Report

Agenda Item No.
12(B)6

As requested by Commissioner Seijas at the last Governmental Operations and Environment Committee meeting, the following report provides an update on activities related to Miami-Dade County's membership in the Chicago Climate Exchange, Inc.

Background

On June 26, 2007, the Board approved Resolution No. R-757-07, authorizing Commissioner Seijas' initiative for the County to join the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) as a Phase II member for direct emissions only. CCX membership requires that the County closely monitor, track, and make efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions associated with County fuel usage of unleaded, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas, propane, jet fuel, and aviation gasoline.

Baseline Submittal

The County's membership in CCX became effective July 26, 2007 and requires submission of an emissions baseline report by November 5, 2007. Based on a preliminary assessment of available data, CCX determined that Calendar Year 2000 would serve as Miami-Dade County's baseline year.

In accordance with CCX guidelines, the County's emissions baseline will be based on various forms of data associated with fuel dispensation, consumption, and/or purchase. Information has been collected from the 58 County departments in existence during the baseline year (2000). Emissions calculations will be finalized, and the baseline will be submitted to CCX on or before the deadline.

Next Steps

- After the County submits its baseline report, a third party CCX contractor will audit the data supplied by the County in order to determine the County's baseline. The audit timeframe will depend on the complexity of the data submitted and the auditor's workload.
- After its baseline submittal, the County's first emissions report for Calendar Year 2007 will be submitted in April 2008.
- Staff is working with other CCX members in order to develop some kind of credit for public transit expansion and to explore options for other offsets.

Other CCX Related Activities and Information:

- On September 19, 2007 staff submitted questionnaires to CCX to determine eligibility for two proposed CCX Carbon Offset Projects: the ongoing use of digester gas at the South and Central District Wastewater Treatment Plants; and a proposed project that will pipe methane gas, which is currently flared, from the South Dade Landfill (SDLF) over to the South District Wastewater Treatment Plant to be used as fuel in the WASD generators.

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- On October 3, 2007 the Climate Change Advisory Task Force Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee was presented an overview of the County's CCX membership.
- On October 22, 2007 the County's CCX Registry Accounts were established.
- The average price of Carbon Financial Instruments (CFIs) has dropped significantly from the \$4 referenced in Miami-Dade County's preliminary analysis to \$1.85 per metric ton as of October 29, 2007. Market price trends will be analyzed to determine when to buy the CFIs needed to achieve compliance.
- A national recruitment for the Sustainability Program Manager has been initiated.


Director
General Services Administration