Project Understanding

This project presents two separate but related challenges:

- Activity 1 – develop an energy conservation strategy to direct a broad spectrum of City actions in reducing energy consumption and encouraging conservation; and
- Activity 2 – update City codes to be consistent with the current comprehensive plan *and* implement applicable energy conservation strategy recommendations.

These two activities will be separately contracted and funded. Activity 1 focuses on energy efficiency and conservation, addressing elements such as renewable energy technologies, energy audits and weatherization, community education, transportation, zoning, policy, and other land development concerns. This activity, funded through the EECBG program, must meet the requirements of the Block Grant program.

Activity 2 includes a broad review of the City's land development code and regulations to correct inconsistencies with the current comprehensive plan, provide solutions, and draft updated code language for Council approval. Activity 2 is funded through the City's annual budgeting process.

Significant overlap exists between the two activities. As such the City envisions a concurrent approach. Our team agrees and further suggests an integrated, iterative approach. Potential code barriers to energy efficiency and conservation strategies – through inconsistencies, prohibitions, or redundancy requirements – will be identified in Activity 1 and documented as part of the analysis under Activity 2. Potential solutions to challenges identified in Activity 1 will inform goal setting and policy suggestions in Activity 2, and will be reflected in a recommended suite of implementation actions under Activity 1.

The Strategy will encompass both municipal and city-wide operations and should engage the City's utilities, planning, code and permitting staff, as well as major organizations, schools, and economic stakeholders. Community involvement and education will play a major role in the strategy development process and its implementation.

Upon Council approval of the Strategy, certain implementation activities will be selected to match available funding. These activities will depend on the outcome of the strategy, but will likely encompass: land development and building code amendments; technical guidance and assistance to the City's Energy Services Department for its energy audit program and renewable energy system demonstration projects; energy efficiency, conservation, green building and sustainability education; and City staff training on the updated energy code requirements and enforcement. Work will commence in February 2010, with a delivery date of approximately two years for Activity 1 and one year for Activity 2.