



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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14-0837

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

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### 2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

#### **NUMBER**

CDD 15-13

**TITLE** Early Adoption of State Zero-Net-Energy Model Building Policies

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Community Development Department

Support Department(s): Environmental Services Department

#### **Sponsor(s):**

Board/Commission: Sustainability Commission

#### **History:**

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What are the key elements of the study?**

The State of California has a policy goal of making all new buildings zero-net-energy - essentially combining energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation so that a building can produce as much energy as it uses annually - by 2020 for residential and 2030 for non-residential. The State has developed a Strategic Plan that focuses on market transformation and recognition that deep energy savings can be achieved only through a common vision and coordinated efforts of both utility and non-utility entities. Programs established through the public utilities have been designed either to: 1) encourage suppliers, manufacturers, designers and other market actors to provide efficiency products or services; or 2) encourage consumers and end-users to buy or use efficiency products and services through voluntary rebate programs (which will end when these products/services are sustainable in the market without the need for additional incentives or ratepayer subsidies).

The non-utility efforts that are being made are largely through the 2016 and 2019 Energy Code development cycles, which are planned to increase the efficiency of new buildings by 20 percent to 30 percent each cycle. Additionally, the California Energy Commission anticipates establishing reasonable exceptions to account for building and building site limitations, including the need for "development entitlements" for off-site renewable energy resources, such as community based renewable energy generation.

The study would include examination of the State's zero-net-energy codes as they become available and how and when to integrate them into city policy and ordinances, staff education, community and business outreach.

**What precipitated this study?**

This study issue was proposed by the Sustainability Commission.

In researching the recent update of Sunnyvale's green building code, Commissioners became aware that the State of California has developed a program to support its goal that all new residential construction be zero net energy by 2020 and non-residential buildings by 2030.

**Planned Completion Year:** 2015

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$0

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

**EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS**

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Position:** Drop

**Explanation:** Achieving the State's policy goal of zero-net-energy is a multi-faceted issue that involves collaboration of the utility company as well as increased energy code standards. It is premature for Sunnyvale to implement higher energy efficiency standards before the infrastructure and marketplace is available to support the increased standards. When the State adopts increased energy code standards designed to achieve the zero-net-energy goal, Sunnyvale (along with other jurisdictions throughout the State) will be mandated to enforce the standards.

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