

Summary of December 5, SBI Second Roundtable on Green Building

On December 5, 2005, as part of Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy's Sustainable Business Initiative, 13 participants representing various sectors of the green building industry met at City Hall. Included were architects, builders, trades representatives, equipment installers and technical assistance providers. This meeting aimed to bring together member of the SBI roundtable with members of the City Green Building Advisory Group. Many recommendations suggested by the two groups overlapped. The following is a summary of the outcomes, with suggestions for the task force to pass on to the city council listed as recommendations one through seven.

Recommendation One:

- Establish committee to develop Mayor's Sustainability Awards
 - Committee will set criteria.
 - Multiple awards: ex – practices, products, large and small scale, private and public, etc.
 - Publicize awards and winners – LCC sustainability website, luncheon, etc.
 - 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

Recommendation Two:

- 1) Identify and continuously update existing incentives to green building,
 - Roger Ebbage will maintain this information on LCC sustainability website
- 2) Consider suite of incentives selected by Green Building Advisory Group
 - Possibilities: SDC reductions, fast track permitting, tax credits, etc.
 - 12 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 opposed (to both parts of the recommendation)

Recommendation Three:

- The City should partner with the University of Oregon, Lane Community College, BRING, and other non profit agencies to seek grant dollars to support green building.
 - 13 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

Recommendation Four:

- The City should give priority in providing incentives to green building projects aimed at low income members of the community.
 - 12 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

Recommendation Five:

- City staff should convene a meeting of information providers to put together a comprehensive education strategy.
 - Proposed entities involved include UO, LCC, BRING and other nonprofits. See Green Building Advisory Group for complete list.
 - 12 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

Recommendation Six:

- Support Green Building Advisory Group's decisions on changes to policies and permits
 - 11 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed

Recommendation Seven:

- The City should adopt green building standards for city and city funded buildings.
 - The standard could be set in the spring, based on the recommendations of the Green Building Advisory Group. The standards may be based on LEED.

Other key themes and suggestions:

- Recognition (Recommendation one and beyond)
 - Portland's BEST program as example (Roger Ebbage will find out more info)
 - EWEB can support advertising
 - Keep focus on big picture
 - Create logo attached to a program that recognizes ability to build green, like the Master Builder Program in Portland, or one that recognizes green buildings, such as the one already being used at city's green building pilot projects.
 - Publicity through the media – ex: Register Guard weekly sustainability section

- Incentives (Recommendation two and beyond)
 - Discussion for and against city staff specifically to walk sustainable projects through permitting vs. education of all city staff
 - Discussion for and against disincentives for non green building as opposed to solely implementing incentives for building green
 - City Green Building Advisory Group is discussing incentives in depth
 - City of Springfield can waive land use fees for affordable housing projects – this or something similar could apply to green affordable housing projects.

- Education (Recommendation five)
 - City can support existing education and information efforts, such as Sustainable Business Symposium (SBS), Solar Research Monitoring Lab, etc.
 - We need better interaction between the City, LCC and UO
 - Rather than attempt to bring the Chamber of Commerce to SBS, for example, bring UO activities to the Chamber.
 - LCC working on program in sustainability
 - Ecological Design Center at UO working on curriculum with certification process for green building

- Green Building Network
 - Could meet quarterly
 - Ecobuilding Guild could be one sponsor
 - US Green Building Council has expressed interest in starting chapter here

- Audience comments:
 - Prioritize green building projects, particularly for siting
 - Planning needs to be addressed