

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY LAUNCHES ENERGY INITIATIVE CALLED *20-40-15*

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The City of Eden Prairie is launching an energy initiative called 20-40-15 that is aimed at increasing the overall efficiency of the City’s use of electricity, fuel and other energy resources. The plan calls for increased energy efficiency in City-owned facilities by 20 percent; increased fuel efficiency in the City’s fleet of vehicles by 40 percent; and accomplishing these goals by the year 2015.

“The City has a history of being energy and fiscally wise,” said Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens. “This program will serve to remind staff and residents that when everyone contributes in small ways, great things can happen.”

The City will measure its success for meeting the goals against benchmark information from 2005, and each year the progress toward meeting the goals will be publicly announced.

Some of the actions the City has already taken include replacing standard stop lights with light-emitting diode (LED) stop lights that use 90-percent less energy. In the Police Department, traffic officers have improved fuel efficiency by reducing the amount of time their vehicles idle. Repairs to City buildings have helped reduce the amount of heated and cooled air that escapes to the outside.

The launch of 20-40-15 is Tyra-Lukens’ last act as Mayor to further the City’s efforts in addressing ways to help protect the environment. After participating in the Sundance Summit’s Mayors’ Gathering on Climate Protection in 2005 and signing the summit’s “Mayor’s Commitment to Action,” Tyra-Lukens led the effort to form the City’s Conservation Commission. The commission’s mission is to examine public and private ways people and organizations in our City can become better stewards of our natural environment, particularly in the ways that we make and consume energy.

“The Mayor’s foresight in this area has been commendable and inspiring,” said City Manager Scott Neal. “The effects of her 12 years of service to the City will be evident for many years to come, and we will all benefit from her leadership.”

One of the major components in the overall success of 20-40-15 will be the participation of City staff in the effort.

“Staff will be fully engaged in the effort and asked for suggestions on how the City could use less energy,” said Neal. “I’m excited about the creative recommendations we’ll receive from staff over the coming years that will help us become more energy efficient.”

Tyra-Lukens pointed out that given expected increases in energy costs over time, the City does not anticipate saving money with this initiative.

“It’s not likely the City will spend fewer dollars on energy over the next 10 years,” said Tyra-Lukens. “However, by making an effort to increase energy efficiency, we are being good stewards of both our energy and financial resources, and setting an example for how other cities, governmental entities and our own citizens can do the same.”

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