



City of Encinitas

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Educational Lecture Series continues as part of the Comprehensive General Plan Update

May 3 will be the next session in the Encinitas Educational Lecture Series and will address *Smart Growth and Sustainable Design – Finding ways to ensure community vitality*.

The Encinitas Educational Lecture Series occurs the first Monday of every month through August 2, 2010 at 6:30 at the Encinitas Library. These sessions will provide a broad range of educational material and highlight topics such as climate change, sustainable design, alternative transportation, and public health.

On April 5 the Encinitas Planning and Building Department held their second of six educational lecture series events to help inform the community about issues and policies that will be discussed throughout the 2035 General Plan update.

During Monday evening's program, guest speakers from the San Diego Foundation, CTG Energetics, and USD: Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) discussed the effects of climate change.

Emily Young, Senior Director of Environment Analysis and Strategy, San Diego Foundation, noted what could occur locally if current trends continue, such as, increased wild fires, hotter/drier climate, water shortages, and increased sea levels. She also noted that there is a growing momentum to address climate change in San Diego.

Nilmini Silva-Send, Senior Policy Analyst/Adjunct Professor, University of San Diego, Energy Policy Initiatives Center, noted that the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in San Diego come from cars/light trucks (40%) and buildings (30%). She also noted that in order to achieve GHG/fossil fuel use reduction from on-road transportation at the local level, we would need to drive less, use less fuel, and use alternative fuels.

Matt Burris, Director of Climate Services, CTG Energetics, provided an overview of what the City is doing to address climate change through the development of a Climate Action Plan, which is the foundation for local government action and a basis for policy, programs, regulation, and project review.

Like the first lecture in the series, the presentation on climate change was well received and sparked numerous questions. One audience member asked about some of the benefits of maintaining open space. The response was that maintaining open space reduces the heat island effect, which is one of the greatest benefits. In addition, open space preservation also provides other benefits, such as, storm water cleansing and reduced run-off. Another audience member acknowledged that climate warming was a global issue and questioned how the public can make a difference at the local level. The guest speaker's response acknowledged that climate warming is a global issue; however, with California being ranked the 10th highest in generating green house gas emissions in the world, such reductions in California (and at a local level) can have a positive impact in the reduction of GHG emissions. It was also recognized that the most important leadership on this issue has been at the State and local level...not at the national level.

The PowerPoint presentations for each lecture will be posted on the City's General Plan web page at www.Encinitas2035.info under Educational Lecture Series, following each lecture series event. For further information contact Mike Strong, 760/943-2101.
