

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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8/23/11
MVB

Date: August 23, 2011

To: Mayor Parris and Council Members

From: Jason Caudle, Deputy City Manager

Subject: **Memorandum of Understanding with Beautiful Earth Group, LLC.**

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Beautiful Earth Group, LLC. for the development of a partnership that will establish the City of Lancaster (City) as a Net Zero City and establish Smart Sister City ties with other cities around the world that are committed to similar goals.

Fiscal Impact:

This MOU will not commit the City to any current or future expense. It will, however, commit City staff time in an effort to establish this partnership. It is anticipated that any future direct relationship with Beautiful Earth Group, LLC. will be in an effort to generate revenue to the City.

Background:

The City endeavors to become the “alternative energy capital of the world” and a partnership with Beautiful Earth Group, LLC. will aid the City in achieving that goal. This partnership will establish the City as a Net Zero City and establish Smart Sister City ties with other cities around the world that are committed to similar goals.

The Net Zero City project will develop and implement a strategy to produce sustainable, carbon free energy in amounts equal to, or exceeding, the amounts consumed. As a Net Zero City, the City will make a favorable impact on its environment, locally and globally. This could also result in the creation of new jobs focusing on power conservation, systems to support the smart grid, clean/green energy generation, and downstream activities related to companies attracted to the City for its ability to supply clean energy to manufacturing, industrial and commercial processes.

The Smart Sister City project will “partner” the City with cities that share the common goal of becoming a Net Zero City. Successful partnerships will combine the benefits of traditional pairings, including increased cultural, commercial and intergovernmental relationships, with the latest technologies and the overriding commitment to attain the status of being a Net Zero City, all in the advancement of global sustainability.

These two programs will place the City at the forefront of the renewable energy sector when it comes to attracting “smart” industries which seek to locate their plants and businesses in areas which have the right mix of energy, environmental and employment resources available to

fulfill their corporate missions. Any future agreements or projects between the City and Beautiful Earth Group, LLC. will be presented to the Council for consideration.

HS

Attachment:

Memorandum of Understanding (available for review in the City Clerk Department)