

NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION MOU

7 February 2012

Presenter: Krista Milne, Manager Sustainability

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend Council enter into a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Moreland Energy Foundation. The MoU establishes City of Melbourne's membership in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), which is hosted by Moreland Energy Foundation.
2. NAGA's members include Moreland Energy Foundation and the cities of Melbourne, Darebin, Yarra, Banyule, Hume, Whittlesea, Manningham, Moreland and Shire of Nillumbik. It was formed in 2002 and is hosted by Moreland Energy Foundation. Each member has entered into a MoU with Moreland Energy Foundation. Council's current MoU with Moreland Energy Foundation is due to expire in June 2012.
3. NAGA membership provides value to Council through:
 - 3.1. information sharing on greenhouse reduction programs across local government;
 - 3.2. coordination of regional emission reduction and adaptation activities; and
 - 3.3. the opportunity to participate in projects that are more effectively and efficiently delivered at a regional scale, an example of which is a recent project called 'Delivering Clean Energy Solutions'. This is a community bulk buy scheme for sustainability products for houses and would have been inefficiently delivered for the City of Melbourne only because of the small number of detached houses in the municipality.

Key issues

4. City of Melbourne's roles and responsibilities under the proposed MoU are to:
 - 4.1. nominate a Council representative for each of the NAGA Executive and Steering Committee;
 - 4.2. work collaboratively and openly with NAGA on its strategic directions (see Attachment 1); and
 - 4.3. contribute \$20,000 (+3 per cent annual increment) per annum for three years to fund staff and projects. This fee applies to all members and will be a pre-commitment against future budgets.
5. The new MoU will operate until 30 June 2015, with the option of a two year extension to 30 June 2017.
6. All other current NAGA members are expected to enter into the new MoU.

Recommendation from management

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee recommends that Council resolve to:
 - 7.1. maintain its membership in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action; and
 - 7.2. enter into a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding with Moreland Energy Foundation until 30 June 2015 with an initial contribution of \$20,000 per annum increasing by 3 per cent annually and with an option for a two-year extension.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT

Legal

1. Legal advice has and will continue to be supplied as required with respect to the MoU.

Finance

2. Under the new MoU City of Melbourne is committed to provide \$20,000 (+3 per cent annual increment) to Moreland Energy Foundation in the 2012-13 financial year and the following two years.
3. This funding supports the salary of the NAGA Executive Officer and the Towards Zero Net Emissions Strategy Coordinator.
4. This level of funding is within the current Sustainability Branch budget for 2011-12.

Conflict of interest

5. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

6. Through its Council membership, NAGA is aiming to achieve regional-scale collaboration to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change impacts, and enhance the wellbeing of their municipalities. It does this through the following strategic directions:
 - 6.1. climate change action and responses;
 - 6.2. regional scale collaboration;
 - 6.3. advocacy;
 - 6.4. capacity building within NAGA members; and
 - 6.5. NAGA governance and organisational health.
7. Paul Murfitt, Chair of NAGA (and Moreland Energy Foundation CEO), and Judy Bush, NAGA Executive Officer, presented to the October Eco-City Portfolio meeting to discuss achievements of NAGA to date and the new MoU.

Relation to Council policy

8. NAGA's objectives, and in particular, its Towards Zero Net Emissions Strategy is consistent and supportive of Council's Zero Net Emissions by 2020 Strategy.

Environmental sustainability

9. Entering into this MoU will support Council in achieving its environmental goals due to the opportunity to participate in projects that will deliver emission reductions in the municipality.