STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council's PED Committee DATE: January 20, 2015

VIA: Gary Jackson, City Manager

FROM: Kerby Smithson, Interim Sustainability Officer

SUBJECT: Update - City's Carbon Footprint Update FY 2014

Summary Statement: In FY 2014 the City of Asheville reduced our carbon footprint from municipal operations 4.5%.

Review: In 2008, City Council established a 2% annual carbon footprint reduction goal. That goal was increased in 2011 to 4%. For the 6th year in a row, the City has met the goal by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 1,328 metric tons of CO2 equivalent.

Last year's increase was due, in large, to conversion of the biodiesel the City uses from B-5 to B-20 for all fleet and transit operations. The lower carbon footprint of the B-20 fuel alone accounted for 40% of the year's improvement. In concert with the fuel change, the City's fleet overall managed a 2.1% reduction in fuel volume consumption of diesel, gasoline and CNG. More efficient vehicles purchased through the more robust Fleet CIP had a large part to do with this achievement.

Additional actions that resulted in the reduction included:

- 1,500 more streetlights were converted in the City's fourth phase of LED streetlight installations;
- Environmental performance in the Water Resources Department for the 4th year in a row; and,
- Efficiency improvements in City buildings.

City reduced its energy spending to $5.6M, a reduction of $164,000 from the previous year.