



DATE: October 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #4

**TO:** Environmental Commission  
**FROM:** Emiko Ancheta, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Environmental Commission Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2021/22 Environmental Commission Work Plan

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**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 4, 2021 to review the Commission's 2020/21 Accomplishments and Draft 2021/22 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2021/22 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2021/22 year.

**DISCUSSION**

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2021/22 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Green/Sustainability Activities
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

**ATTACHMENT:**

- A. 2021/22 Targets and Work Plan
- B. BayREN Homeowner Electrification Webinar
- C. Cal Water Service Rebate Programs

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## 2021/22 Targets &amp; Work Plan

October 11, 2021

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Building Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	Fall 2022	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach Codes approved at the November 10, 2020 Council meeting</li> <li>On January 25, 2021, the CEC approved the Reach Code ordinances</li> <li>Reach Codes currently implemented and in effect</li> <li>Work to implement CAP building electrification actions</li> <li>Council adoption of Reach Code ordinance update (2.0) targeted for Fall 2022</li> </ul>
	Update of City's CAP (Climate Action and Adaptation Plan-CAAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Bruno Delagneau, Raashina Humayun to work with staff and consultant</li> </ul>	Dec. 2021	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC to work with staff and consultant to update the CAP - Climate Action and Adaptation Plan</li> <li>Staff and CAAP subcommittee update the EC at regular commission meetings</li> <li>Council CAAP adoption targeted for December 2021</li> <li>CAAP survey #1 and #2 completed</li> <li>CAAP Community Workshop held June 28, 2021</li> <li>Consultant to present to the EC October 11th</li> </ul>
	Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC cooperative with Complete Streets Commission</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to implement CAAP transportation actions</li> <li>Advance walking, biking, and shared transit</li> <li>Complete Streets Master Plan draft available at the City website</li> </ul>

<p><b>Green/Sustainability Activities</b></p>	<p>Green Infrastructure and Other Sustainability Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist staff in implementation of the Green/Sustainability Actions</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit and other Environmental Related Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy update finalized August 14, 2020</li> <li>Assist with City Streetscape efforts such as rain gardens, storm water quality, surface water infiltration</li> <li>Assist with Land Use and Public Spaces efforts such as trees, street closures, pest management and storm water - cooperative with Complete Streets Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission</li> </ul>
<p><b>Solid Waste Diversion</b></p>	<p>Solid Waste Disposal Contract- Recycling and Composting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	<p>Monthly</p>	<p>Recycling and Composting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Amended and Restated Collection Service Agreement between the City of Los Altos and MTWS was executed on April 23, 2020</li> <li>EC to assist staff and Mission Trail Waste System with education and implementation, set goals, measures and report for both Commercial and Residential</li> <li>Subcommittee to work on strategies for waste reduction</li> <li>Subcommittee to work with staff and MTWS on Public Education and Outreach plan</li> </ul>
	<p>Reduction- Investigate initiatives on limiting Single-Use Plastics and CA SB 1383 compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Bruno Delagneau</li> </ul>	<p>Fall 2021</p>	<p>Recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft ordinance presented at EC meetings of Sept. 14, 2020, and Oct. 12, 2020</li> <li>On Nov. 10, 2020 Council decided to hold on ordinance adoption due to COVID-19</li> <li>Assist staff with SB 1383 compliance ordinance to reduce methane emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills</li> <li>SB 1383 - Draft Muni Code update and Edible Food Recovery Ordinance review (included in packet)</li> <li>SB 1383 Ordinances scheduled for the October 26, 2021 City Council Meeting</li> </ul>
	<p>Reuse- Develop Repair Assistance</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop repair assistance- information resource, Repair Café, volunteers, solid waste hauler diversion and more</li> </ul>

Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Education Fund held by LACF</li> <li>• Subcommittee- David Klein, Laura Tekler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC coordinates with History Museum for the EnviroThon Challenge</li> <li>• Ed fund balance \$1,636.85 as of Jan. 13, 2021</li> <li>• A Subcommittee was established February 2021</li> <li>• Subcommittee to develop programs that utilize LACF Environmental Education Fund balance</li> </ul>
	Sustainability Lens- assist Council in project evaluations and update environmental webpage on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC to assist Council</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's Public Information's Officer, Sonia Lee and staff will continue to update the City's website</li> <li>• Dashboard updated as of January 2021</li> <li>• EC to work with staff on updates to the environmental webpage on the City web site as needed</li> <li>• Assist Council in project evaluations for Policy Resolutions</li> <li>• Lehigh Hansen and Stevens Creek Quarry Subcommittee formed with Commissioners Lu and Klein</li> </ul>
	Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Program assistance		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Program</li> </ul>
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's Public Information's Officer and staff will continue to update the community with programs and opportunities offered by SVCEA</li> </ul>
	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Plan</li> <li>• Water Conservation</li> <li>• Storm Water Management</li> <li>• Solid Waste Diversion</li> <li>• Native Landscaping</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On July 14, 2021, Cal Water Service activated Stage 1 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Schedule 14:1)</li> <li>• Los Altos has reduced water usage by approx. 7% from July of 2020</li> <li>• Cal Water has re-launched their Lawn-to-Garden and Spray-to-Drip rebate programs</li> </ul>



Join us for a free homeowner energy efficiency and electrification webinar on **Thursday, November 18 from 6:00-7:15pm** for Los Altos residents.

The webinar will feature presentations from the City of Los Altos, BayREN Home+, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Bay Area SunShares, and others to help make the process of home energy improvements a breeze. This webinar is perfect for Los Altos homeowners exploring:

- Energy efficiency improvements
- Home electrification – switching from gas to electric appliances
- Residential solar and battery storage
- Rebates and financing options

RSVP today at [LosAltosRebates2021.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/los-altos-rebates-2021-tickets-15088888888)

If you are unable to attend this webinar, call a Home Energy Advisor at (866) 878-6008 or visit [BayRENresidential.org](https://www.bayrenresidential.org) to learn more about BayREN Home+ and get started on your home improvement journey.

## **Cal Water Service Rebate Programs**

Cal Water just re-launched two water savings programs. The [lawn-to-garden](#) rebate program enables customers to transform grassy areas into water-wise gardens and landscapes. The [spray-to-drip](#) program pays customers for every square foot of landscape area that is converted from spray-to-drip irrigation.

All applications for these two new programs must be submitted through the new online application system.

Single-family, multi-family residential, and commercial customers are eligible to receive \$3.00 for every square foot of lawn removed, with the option of receiving an additional \$0.50 per square foot if converting from spray-to-drip irrigation. The spray-to-drip rebate is also available as a standalone option.

### Single-family residential

- Minimum converted: 250 square feet; maximum eligible: 1,500 square feet
- Eligible areas include front yards, backyards, and side yards

### Multi-family residential and commercial

- Minimum converted: 250 square feet; maximum eligible: 10,000 square feet
- Eligible areas include common landscape areas, median islands, and parkways (small strips of landscape located between the sidewalk and curb)

- Artificial turf is not allowed in the converted portion of the landscape
- At least 50% of the converted landscape must include water-wise, climate-appropriate, California-friendly plant material
- A simple site plan showing plant selections and irrigation layout is required
- Clear, current, and colored before and after photos of the project are required
- Once a Cal Water conservation representative reviews and approves the preliminary application, applicants will receive a “Notice to Proceed” email. Applicants have 90 days to complete their project after receiving the Notice to Proceed approval
- Participants who have removed their lawn prior to receiving the Notice to Proceed email will be disqualified from applying
- The irrigation system in the converted landscape must be converted to drip irrigation or high efficiency sprinkler nozzles
- Only drip equipment and high efficiency sprinkler nozzles listed on Cal Water’s Qualified Product List as evidenced by a purchase receipt are rebate eligible

For additional details on the lawn-to-garden and spray-to-drip program, please visit [conservation.calwater.com](http://conservation.calwater.com) to review the application process, frequently asked questions, and terms and conditions of the rebates.

Cal Water has additional rebates and programs available to customers and free Conservation Kits, please visit [Calwater.com](http://Calwater.com) to learn more.