



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2010

**5:00 P.M. SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE LOS ALTOS CITY COUNCIL
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**
Neutra House - 181 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California

ROLL CALL

City Council Members
Commission Members

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2009-2010 Goals and Accomplishments
2. 2010-2011 Goals and Work Plan

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk 72 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Los Altos Environmental Commission

Project Accomplishments 2009-2010

Prepared for Joint City Council Study Session - October 19, 2010

Environmental Commission Goals approved by the City Council in June 2009 and progress to date.

Goal #1: Work with staff to secure the best value in waste management services value for Los Altos.

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Waste contract vendor has been awarded; weekly pickup, new services, flat rates, diversion rate contracted at 78%. Committee included Environmental Commission Chair Steve Anderson.
- Two Special Environmental Commission meetings held to present RFP to public in August 2009.
- Eight staff reports presented to Commission from June 2009 to March 2010.

Goal #2: Implement approved education and outreach programs to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos.

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Waste Management Contract:
 - Two MTWS progress reports presented to Commission in April 2010 and June 2010.
 - MTWS Special Presentation for public held as part of August 2010 EC meeting; approximately 175 community members attended.
 - Links to MTWS site on LA Home page and LAEC home page and recycling page.
- Water Conservation:
 - Educational material created for water conservation, including FAQs, now posted on LAEC web site.
 - Los Altos nominated for Water Conservation award for reduced municipal water use.
 - Several reports on water usage received by Commission, including [1] Los Altos Demonstration Gardens (Aug 2009); educational materials placed on website; [2] Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Los Altos Water District water conservation results (Nov 2009), [3] SCVWD mandatory 15% water reductions, model landscaping ordinance and gray water ordinance (Dec 2009), and [4] city participation in Water-Wise program for City Hall (May 2010).
- Sustainable Events:
 - Presentation on Sustainable event waste management in Feb 2010.
 - Events guide from GTLA placed on LAEC web site.
- Reusable Shopping Bags:
 - Received report on efforts of other municipalities in regards to re-usable bags (Nov 2009).
 - Received report from Chamber of Commerce on "Got Bags" program in May 2010. Project to introduce "Got Bags" materials approved by Council to in June 2010. Chamber of Commerce President and EC Chair visited 7 Los Altos grocery stores to raise awareness of re-usable bags. All have established programs in their stores.
- Other:
 - Earth Day Event: Partnered with Acterra and GTLA on Earth-Day events in Redwood Grove and at Los Altos library (April 2010)

- Received reports at public sessions regarding
 - [1] GTLA Downtown Visioning (Jan 2009),
 - [2] City application for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for municipal operations (Sep 2009)
 - [3] AB811 regarding state program to provide solar financing through property tax vehicle (Oct 09)
 - [4] City LED street light replacement project (Nov 2009)
 - [5] City participation in regional stimulus programs for residential energy efficiency retrofits (Dec 2009).
 - [6] Redwood Grove Habitat Restoration (Feb 2010 and Sept 2010),
 - [7] Environmentally Sustainable elements of Packard Foundation Building (May 2010),
 - [8] Solar installation award for highest # installations in Bay Area (Aug 2010),
 - [9] California First program for residential efficiency retrofits (Jan 2010)

Goal #3: Develop baselines and progress indicators for Los Altos usage of water, waste, energy, and greenhouse gases (GHG):

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Water: In June 2009, Council approved Environmental Commission resolution for voluntary water conservation. 2004 selected as base year. Each Cal Water monthly bill now shows a "Water Budget," calculated as 2004 consumption – 15%. Two staff reports received and sent to Council to support this resolution.
- Waste: Baseline diversion rate of 54% established by GTLA report. Diversion rates contracted at 78% in new waste management contract; metrics monitoring included in new contract.
- Energy: baseline established as part of GHG inventory. See item #4. Received ICLEI report for Municipal GHG Inventory baseline (Sep 2009).
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Community baseline completed as part of GHG inventory. See Item #4 (May 2010).

Goal #4: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Municipal Operations GHG inventory report completed by staff (ICLEI Report).
- Community GHG inventory report completed by Environmental Commission and received by City Council.
- Council approval to model potential GHG reduction strategies, costs, and payback, and recommend those with the most positive impact for our city. We anticipate that community outreach and education will comprise the largest part of that Community GHG reduction plan.

Other goals as directed by City Council

City Council goals for 2010 include the following: "Assign Environmental Commission task of developing an Environmental Element to the General Plan."

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Feb 2010: Report received from City Planning Services Manager David Kornfield (March 2010). He recommended holding off on this while his department does some preliminary work.

Los Altos Environmental Commission

Anticipated Projects 2010-2011

Prepared for Joint City Council Study Session

October 19, 2010

Listed below are proposed goals for our 2010-2011 work plan, subject to approval by the City Council.

Proposed Goals 2010-2011		Proposed Projects in support of goals
1	Continue to provide approved community education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos. (Steve Anderson, Linda DeMichiel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve look and feel of web site. Add web site content as appropriate information is available. • Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g Packard Building, Solar)
2	Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor MTWS waste diversion rate for both regularly scheduled pickups and event waste management. Look for ways to meet and exceed contracted diversion rate. Make results available to community, along with education on how they can help improve outcomes. • Work with MTWS to provide recycling and composting services for downtown shoppers. Help educate citizens as soon as new services are available.
3	Provide modeling and analysis of ways to reduce environmental impact in the community. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use CAPP tool to model the impact of various behaviors (i.e. change to florescent bulbs, use energy star appliances, use cold water in washing clothes...). • Pick a limited number to pursue; with Council approval, develop education and outreach activities to educate community.
4	Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Sustainability element to Los Altos General Plan. (Ron Labetich, Chris Keller, Linda DeMichiel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role.
5.	Implement approved education program regarding re-useable bags in Los Altos. (Patty Rosewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-usable bag programs. • Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate.
6.	Continue to work to foster water conservation in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Chris Keller)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline. • Incorporate water resource plans into broader "Sustainability Element" above.
7.	Other Council goals as directed.	

**Los Altos Grocery Store Survey
Reusable Bag Programs and Practices**
Prepared by Julie Rose and Patty Rosewater
September 2010

Summary Table

	Andron-icos	Di Martini's	Draegers	Luckys	Safeway	Trader Joe's	Whole Foods
Door signs/ other reminders?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell reusable bags?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offer rebates?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Other incentives?		No.	Weekly \$50 Raffle		Yes	Weekly \$25 Raffle	
Bagger training?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bagger buttons?	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.

Andronicos

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Took ours and will post it
Sell reusable bags	Yes. 99 cent grocery bag, \$1.99 for wine bag. Wine bag free if you buy 6 bottles.
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent credit for each bag.
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers ask customers before bagging.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	In Palo Alto they had banners and bags from the city. He is very willing to work with the city. Thinks 10-20% of customers use reusable bags.
Contact	Enrique Sanchez, Store Manager – 948-6648

DiMartinis

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Put one of our signs on each door.
Sell reusable bags	??
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	No.
Bagger training?	Yes.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Craig Kozy (Owner/Manager) and Denny (Asst Manager) – 948-0881

Draegers

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Have "Got Bags" sign from us and their own larger sign.
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Colorful Chico bags (\$6) prominently displayed, also branded bags for 99 cents.
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	Yes. Poster sized sign at store entrance advertising weekly raffle for \$50 gift certificate
Bagger training?	Yes. Cashier puts bag on counter for bagger before unloading groceries.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Ron Piazza, Store Manager – 948-4425

Luckys

Door signs or other reminders?	No. Corporate policy
Sell reusable bags	Yes. 25 cents each, posted near register.
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent credit for each bag.
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers are very well aware of reusable bags, always ask. Not interested in our buttons unless Corp blesses it.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	Said to call Community Affairs Department, Alicia Rockwell, 209-548-6511 for more information.
Contact	Tom Hamilton, Store Manager – 969-1326

Safeway

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Green signs prominently posted on doors. Took ours as well.
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Safeway Branded bags sold for 99 cents.
Offer rebates	No. Used to offer 3 cents per bag rebate but discontinued that program.
Other incentives?	Yes. People with reusable bags are offered 10% discount on Safeway “Green” products
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers always ask if people want bags, know to use as few as possible.
Bagger buttons?	No. This would have to be approved by Corp.
Other?	
Contact	Alicia Lima, Store Manager – 941-1208. Her last day is Friday, Sept 10; she will be replaced by Auggie.

Trader Joe’s

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Lots of reminders inside store. None on doors allowed per store policy
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Large selection, prominently displayed, \$.99 - \$6.
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	Yes. Each bag qualifies for one entry into a weekly raffle for \$25 gift certificate
Bagger training?	Yes. Said baggers routinely ask customers if they have bags before bagging.
Bagger buttons?	No. Did take one and said he would think about it.
Other?	Very “green” brand, go all out with the reusable bags.
Contact	John McCleod, Store Manager – 245-1917

Whole Foods

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes
Sell reusable bags	Yes
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent / bag credit, can be applied to their order or donated to selected non-profits
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Scott Yamasaki, Marketing & Community Team Leader – 559-0300 X260