

## Burlingame's Green Initiatives

### In 2007

- The Burlingame City Council unanimously voted to have Mayor Terry Nagel sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which pledges to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol.
- The city joined ICLEI (now called Local Governments for Sustainability).
- Burlingame joined the Association of Bay Area Government's Energy Watch program, and ABAG completed an Energy Assessment Report for city facilities on August 27, 2007.
- The city held a Town Hall Meeting at which dozens of residents offered suggestions for cutting carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices.
- Mayor Nagel appointed Burlingame's first Green Ribbon Task Force, which formed subcommittees and began researching proposals for green city initiatives.
- Burlingame was one of four cities that participated in the county's new Green Business Certification Program.
- The city installed a co-generation system at the city's wastewater treatment plant that saves the city \$105,000 a year by providing a large percentage of the plant's electrical needs.

### In 2008:

- Burlingame completed municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas inventories to serve as baselines for future progress.
- The Green Ribbon Task Force focused on 11 initiatives, which included adding green resources to the city's website, creating a green info kiosk at City Hall, exploring a city car share program, adopting a green building checklist, investigating storm water drainage regulations and hardscape limits/requirements, simplifying the solar permit process and encouraging hotels to recycle more.
- The city hired a consultant to assist the city's 13 hotels in creating individual hotel recycling programs that increased hotel diversion an average of 37 percent.
- Burlingame created a "Sustainable Burlingame" section on the city's website.
- In Fiscal Year 2008-09 (effective July 1, 2008), the city reduced the permitting fee for solar installations to zero dollars.
- The Green Ribbon Task Force held its first Burlingame Green Street Fair (now an annual event).
- An op-ed Council Member Nagel wrote on the difficulty of disposing of compact fluorescent bulbs appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on September 4 and prompted the county to consolidate and publicize all CFL drop-off locations.
- In 2008 the residential waste stream diversion rate was 5.3 pounds per person per day.

### In 2009:

- The Green Ribbon Task Force held a series of six "Green Seminars" and the second annual Burlingame Green Street Fair.

- The City Council enacted a comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) to serve as the city's roadmap for reaching energy-efficiency targets for 2012 and 2020, as mandated by Assembly Bill 32.
- With the completion of the CAP, the Green Ribbon Task Force disbanded, and a new citizens' group started to work in partnership with the city on green projects. The new group is called Citizens Environmental Council-Burlingame (CEC).
- The city kicked off the new group with a Green Town Hall Meeting that gathered ideas from the public for "going green."
- CEC representatives began meeting regularly with city staff members as part of the Green Information Group to monitor progress on green city initiatives.
- The City Council approved a green building regulation that requires building permit applicants to complete at least one point on a Green Point Checklist.
- The city adopted a Preferable Purchasing Policy that directs city staff to buy environmentally friendly products when the difference in cost does not exceed 5 percent.

**In 2010:**

- The City Council adopted a new Housing Element and a Specific Downtown Plan (3-1/2 years in the making) that both stress transit-oriented development, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and connections with public transit.
- The City Council adopted a green building ordinance for residential and commercial construction.
- The city hired a green building specialist/permit technician to assist in educating the public about sustainability practices, particularly related to building construction.
- The City Council adopted a water-efficiency landscaping ordinance.
- CEC held the third annual Burlingame Green Street Fair and the second annual Green Speaker Series and participated in the Drive Less Challenge for the first time.
- Council Member Nagel organized a meeting on car sharing with five Enterprise Rent-a-Car (WeCar) leaders that was attended by Supervisor Carole Groom, council members from three cities, and transit and environmental representatives from throughout the county.

**In 2011:**

- Burlingame was honored with the National Environmental Hall of Fame Award for its sustainability efforts, one of 30 cities recognized.
- With grant funding, the city constructed a rain garden in Parking Lot C on Donnelly Avenue. The rain garden treats and filters storm water before it is discharged into the city's storm drainage system.
- Mayor Nagel introduced a "Healthy Living" initiative that promotes our first community garden, biking and walking, and other sustainable practices.
- In May the City Council approved an ordinance banning polystyrene food containers.
- Burlingame hosted a county seminar on home energy audits available to consumers with substantial rebates.

- CEC held the fourth annual Burlingame Green Street Fair and the third annual Green Speaker Series and participated in the Drive Less Challenge for the second time.

**In 2012:**

- The City Council adopted a leaf blower ordinance, effective July 1, that restricts use of leaf blowers to certain days in specific areas and requires blowers to be certified at 65 decibels or less.
- The City Council approved a 767,000 square foot office/biotech campus on the bayfront that includes 3-1/2 acres of public space, improvements to the Bay Trail, bike and pedestrian trails, and bike rentals. It is designed to LEED standards and its Transportation Demand Plan is expected to reduce peak-hour trips by at least 16 percent.
- The city achieved a residential waste stream diversion rate of 68 percent.
- The City Council has agreed to enact an ordinance banning plastic bags as soon as the county's law becomes effective (expected to be in the fall).
- CEC will hold the fifth annual Burlingame Green Street Fair on September 16.
- The city and CEC teamed up with the Sierra Club and other organizations to offer a seminar with six experts called "Going Green Without Going Broke."
- One of the City Council's goals is to create a community garden during 2012-13.
- Two new bike paths are scheduled to be built with grant funds up Hillside Drive and along Airport Boulevard.
- The city is working with a major car rental company on a proposal that would bring a car share program to the city.
- Burlingame has completed a "readiness" application for electric charging stations and is awaiting the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's decision on where stations will be installed using state funds.
- During 2012-13, the city will look at current policies requiring property owners to discharge sump pump water into streets.
- During 2012-13, the city will develop a policy regarding the maximum percentage of impervious surface for properties that are subject to development or redevelopment.
- Within the Downtown Specific Plan, the city will consider creating an incentive for a "house vehicle" (owned by the development and available to occupants as a "pool" vehicle) during 2012-13.
- The City Council is moving to enact water conservation rates that reward households for using less water.
- On September 15, the city held a bayfront cleanup project at which 310 volunteers collected 1,200 pounds of trash, including 300 pounds of recyclables.
- The city completed conversion of approximately 800 city-owned streetlights to energy-saving LED lights. This project is estimated to conserve approximately 473,000 kilowatt hours annually, reduce CO<sup>2</sup> (carbon dioxide) by 248,000 pounds per year and save \$57,000 in energy costs each year.

**Ongoing Policies:**

- Burlingame provides incentives to employees who commute by bike, train, bus or walking. They receive 10 minutes per day in time off or transportation vouchers.
- The city offers three free shuttles.
- The city requires building permit applicants to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of construction and demolition waste.
- It requires all major development projects to include a Transportation Demand Management program to reduce single-occupancy car trips.
- The city has purchased three hybrid cars for the city's fleet and converted three city trucks to use biodiesel fuel.
- The city promotes water conservation measures, including retrofits of public buildings with low-flow toilets and rebates to residential and commercial customers for low-flow toilets and water-saving washing machines
- The city has a centralized irrigation system that uses data from past history, gauges and current weather conditions to adjust watering of public parks and property.
- The city has upgraded 90 percent of its light fixtures with energy-efficient fluorescent lighting in city building facilities.
- The city has a Bicycle Master Plan that promotes bicycling throughout the city.
- Its North Burlingame/Rollins Road Specific Plan encourages mixed use and higher density in the north end of the city.
- The city conducts two free electronic waste recycling events each year.
- It sponsors two events each year in which volunteers pick up tons of litter from areas along Burlingame's bayfront and lagoon areas, thus protecting local waterways. It also works with local volunteers who regularly pick up litter and do landscaping along major streets.
- Burlingame regularly sends news about "green" events and activities via the city's e-newsletter.
- It offers green information materials in its Planning and Building Departments.

Updated 10/11/12