



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO:

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: December 5, 2016

From: Sigalle Michael, Sustainability Coordinator, 650-558-7261

Subject: Annual Report of Sustainability Activities

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a report summarizing the City's sustainability activities over the past year.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Coordinator is tasked with supporting the City Council's goal to "strive to promote more environmentally sustainable policies and outcome;" and assisting in implementing the following supporting actions:

- A. Make progress on climate action plan.
- B. Make City facilities, practices, and emissions more sustainable.
- C. Establish Burlingame as a green and clean business mecca.
- D. Understand the threat of sea level rise on the City.
- E. Enhance recycling efforts.

The Sustainability Coordinator works closely with City staff, Burlingame residents and businesses, and other local jurisdictions to implement the above stated goals through various efforts and initiatives summarized below.

DISCUSSION

Over the last year, City staff implemented various programs and policies to improve sustainability in the City's operations and on a community-wide scale.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Burlingame joined Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), San Mateo County's new electricity provider. PCE offers electricity with a minimum 50% renewable energy content. The County's electricity customers will be automatically opted-in to PCE over two phases. The first phase occurred in October 2016 and included about 20% of Burlingame residents and Burlingame's municipal accounts. Phase two will occur in April. Electricity customers may choose to opt-out of the program and keep PG&E as their electricity provider. They may also choose to opt-up to an

ECO100 option to purchase electricity that's 100% renewable. To date only 29 Burlingame electricity customers have chosen to opt-out; and the total countywide opt-out rate is less than one percent. Staff hosted two public workshops for PCE; updated the City's website and posted an online PCE FAQ; and sent out multiple messages over social media including e-news updates, Facebook videos, and twitter posts.

Based on the City's 2015 Municipal Greenhouse Gas inventory, the City's move to PCE electricity will reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions by close to 500 metric tons as well as reduce the City's electricity costs by five percent. The City Council should consider upgrading the City's electricity to ECO100, PCE's 100 percent renewable energy option. Under this scenario, the City could decrease its greenhouse gas emissions by over 1,000 metric tons with just a five percent increase in cost compared to PG&E rates. The cost per metric ton of CO₂e (MTCO₂e) reduced would equal approximately two cents, significantly lower than the market rate of \$12/MTCO₂e. Opting-up to ECO100 is the simplest and least costly action the City can take to dramatically shrink its greenhouse gas footprint. A number of other Peninsula cities opted-up this year including: Millbrae, Brisbane, San Carlos, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside, and Menlo Park.

The City participated in Bay Area Sunshares – a bulk renewable energy purchasing program for residents. Similar to the previous Sunshares program in Burlingame, Bay Area Sunshares offered free solar audits and discounted solar contract costs to residents. This year's program also included an opportunity to purchase alternative fueled vehicles at a significantly discounted cost (Nissan Leafs and Toyota Mirais). Forty organizations, including local governments and large employers (Google, Salesforce, etc.) joined Bay Area Sunshares. A total of 1,846 people signed up to the program, including 24 from Burlingame.

This year, the City Council authorized Ygrene, the fifth Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in Burlingame, to operate in the city. PACE programs allow property owners to spread the cost of an energy efficient project, or other upgrades, over many years as part of their annual property tax payments. Property owners are slowly taking advantage of this innovative benefit. For example, HERO approved nine applications for solar and energy efficiency improvements; CaliforniaFirst approved 18 applications for solar projects; and Ygrene approved three projects for solar, energy, and water conservation projects.

With the help of the City's PACE programs, Sunshares programs, and overall trend, solar installations are growing in Burlingame. A data report from PG&E lists 269 residential solar sites in Burlingame. In the last two years, 75 systems were installed in 2015 and 80 so far in 2016.

Recycling and Waste

Staff convened a Green Purchasing Team comprised of the purchasers in each department. The team, initially created to help update the City's Environmental Purchasing Policy (EPP), shares resources and cost reduction tips for purchasing recycled products.

The EPP was updated as part of the City's Policies and Procedures for Purchasing and Contracting update. Some EPP highlights include: the City shall purchase office paper with a

minimum of 30% recycled content; the City shall purchase compostable or recyclable disposable products; and the City shall provide or require recycling and composting bins at all public events. Staff is preparing a zero waste guide for City meetings and public and private events with the help of the Green Purchasing Team and Recreation staff. The guide will provide resources and tips for how to avoid, reduce, and recycle waste. The guide will also demonstrate the City's commitment to zero waste and conserving resources.

Staff installed new attractive waste stations in City Hall and the Recreation Center to promote and increase recycling and composting. The new waste stations look great, and staff has received positive feedback on them.

Water Conservation

The City is continuing to participate in BAWSCA's free sprinkler nozzle program. The program offers water customers up to 25 free water-efficient sprinkler nozzles to use on lawns. To date, 58 have been redeemed, and 1,253 free sprinkler nozzles given out. The sprinkler nozzles use 30% less water than traditional nozzles and provide a water efficient alternative to properties with lawns.

The City's Parks crew removed the Police Station's front lawn and installed a beautiful drought-tolerant demonstration garden. They designed and installed the new garden, which includes interesting hardscape features, a custom-made bench, drip irrigation, and blooming drought tolerant vegetation. The new landscape will require less water use and maintenance compared to the previous lawn. Staff posted regular website updates and e-news clips tracking the project's progress, and encouraged the public to visit the site for inspiration.

City staff completed a toilet and faucet sink audit across the City's buildings including: City Hall, the Library, the Corp Yard, the Police Station, and the Recreation Center. All of the toilets are low flush toilets except for a few toilets in private bathrooms that are rarely used. Public Works staff installed faucet aerators in all of the faucet sinks. Despite being a relatively small and inexpensive change, the new aerators are estimated to reduce water use by approximately 18,000 gallons per year.

Alternative Transportation

Staff is tracking the use of the City's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and plans to prepare an EV strategic plan to support and expand Burlingame's EV network. The City's existing stations provide, on average, ten charge sessions per day. To date, the charging stations have had over 7,000 charging sessions, saved over 6,000 gallons of gasoline, provided 49 MWh of electricity, and avoided 20 metric tons of GHG emissions.

The City hosted its first breakfast for Bike to Work commuters this year. About 11 cyclists attended and enjoyed breakfast together. The City participated in the second annual Bike To Shop day as well and recruited about 15 local businesses that agreed to provide a discount to shoppers who arrived by bicycle on Bike to Shop day.

Staff is tracking transportation initiatives by other local cities for consideration in Burlingame. For example, the City of San Mateo's bicycle sharing program, the City of San Mateo and City of Foster City's carpool app Scoop, and the County of San Mateo's EV Strategic Plan.

Climate Action Plan

Staff worked with RICAPS (Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite – San Mateo County's multi-city working group to share information and receive coaching on climate actions) to prepare the City's 2015 Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. RICAPS is completing annual municipal inventories for all San Mateo County cities. The City, through its municipal operations, emitted 3,356 metric tons of CO₂e (MTCO₂E) in 2015 – a 3.7% reduction from 2010. The inventory will feed into the City's General Plan/Climate Action Plan update.

Staff is working closely with the Envision Burlingame consultants on the climate action and sustainability elements of the General Plan update. Staff presented to the Community Advisory Committee and coordinated invited speakers on sustainability issues such as food policies. Staff expects work on the General Plan's Climate Action Plan to ramp up in 2017 and will be exploring ambitious climate actions such as: mandatory solar on new homes; energy efficiency upgrades in existing homes; and ways to address transportation emissions.

Staff is examining sea level rise and potential impacts through the San Mateo County Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The assessment analyzes the region's sensitivity, exposure, adaptive capacity, and consequences to sea level rise. The findings will inform the City's General Plan Update and guide the County's regional approach to addressing climate change impacts.

Staff is engaging with the Bay Area: Resilient By Design Challenge (RBD). The RBD is modeled after a similar challenge in New York that created implementable solutions for climate emergencies. The City of San Francisco initiated the RBD in the Bay Area to address sea level rise collaboratively among the nine Bay Area counties. The RBD team consists of representatives from San Francisco, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and other stakeholders. Burlingame's Bayfront is one of the sites being considered for the RBD. The RBD organizers are currently finalizing the funding for the effort. The Challenge is estimated to cost \$5 million, and a single source funder is interested. Once confirmed, the Challenge is expected to be announced in January; the RBD team will then contact the sites. Staff prepared a support letter on behalf of the City Council to express the City's interest in being chosen as a design site.

Business and Community

The City hosted a Hotel Sustainability Workshop in June to connect with and engage Burlingame hotels in saving money by saving resources. Burlingame's largest hotels attended, including: Marriott, Hyatt Regency, Crowne Plaza, DoubleTree, Embassy Suites, Hilton SFO, and Hampton Inn. The event highlighted ways the hotels can save money and stay competitive by being green and conserving energy and water. Staff and invited speakers presented on various water, energy, and waste opportunities. Staff is following up and assisting the hotels with implementing actions.

For example, staff is working with the Crowne Plaza to ensure that the upgrade and receive toilet rebates as part of their renovation project.

Staff works closely with the City's Economic Development Specialist to engage with businesses and the City's business improvement districts to promote green business practices. Staff reached out to and met with local green businesses, specifically GreenCitizen, an electronic recycling company, and Proterra, an electric bus company. Staff recommends that the Rollins Road area, where Proterra and Tesla are located, be marketed with a green business focus. The area's proximity to the Millbrae Transit Station, industrial character, and existing environmentally focused businesses may be used to attract new green businesses.

Staff is collaborating with the Burlingame Chamber of Commerce to introduce a Green Business Award program to recognize the environmental achievements of local businesses. Examples of environmental achievements include: being in a green industry with the goal to conserve resources and prevent pollution; implementing green business practices in daily operations; and implementing a significant improvement with environmental benefits. Award nominees must be Chamber members and may be nominated by City staff, the Chamber of Commerce, local associations and businesses, by Burlingame residents, or self-nominated. The awardees will be selected by the City's Sustainability Coordinator, Economic Development Specialist, City Manager, and Chamber of Commerce representative. The awardees will be publicly recognized at the Chamber of Commerce's annual luncheon in January, as well as on the City's website and other social media outlets (e-news, Facebook, etc.). Staff recommends that the City consider honoring awardees by planting a City tree in the name of the business as part of the City's annual tree planting.

Staff continues to participate in several community and regional groups including: serving as a liaison to the Citizen's Environmental Council (CEC) of Burlingame; RICAPs; and Sustainable San Mateo.

The City's Sustainability web page is continually being updated and improved to inform and engage Burlingame residents and businesses. The Sustainability Coordinator also frequently posts news to the City's e-newsletter, Facebook page, and Twitter.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

Exhibit:

- Slide presentation