



MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
Council Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Community Center Presentation by Mayor Valorie Cook Carpenter

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

1. Commission Minutes
Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting of February 13, 2012.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Appointment to Environmental Commission
Welcome and Introduction of Zahra Ardehali.
3. Climate Action Plan (CAP)
Presentation by PMC Consulting regarding CAP project.
 - a. Activity progress report by Environmental Commission Task Force.
4. Nomination and Election of Environmental Commission Chair and Vice Chair and Commission Reorganization
Nominations and election by Commissioners.
5. Tour of Newby Island Composting Facility
Appointment of Environmental Commission subcommittee to attend tour.
6. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene
Staff update on Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan.
7. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
Discussion led by Commissioner Eyre.

8. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review
 - a. Continue discussion of Summary of Achievements for 2011 Work Plan to present to Council at joint meeting on April 3, 2012.
 - b. Continue discussion of draft for 2012 Environmental Commission Work Plan to be discussed with Council at joint meeting on April 3, 2012.
9. Earth Day Public Outreach and Education

Discussion of Environmental Commissioners to staff information table at the event on April 21, 2012, noon to 4pm.
10. Environmental Commission Website

Staff report on monthly hits to website.
11. City of Los Altos 60th Anniversary Celebration

Report by Commissioner Anderson on Planning Committee meeting progress.
12. Announcements and Items for Information
 - a. Environmental Commissioner Representative at March 13 and March 27, 2012 Council Meeting – Commissioner Keller and Vice Chair Reed respectively.
 - b. Annual Volunteer Recognition Event, Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 5:30pm at LAYC. The event will honor all City volunteers, about 215 in total, and includes commissions, committees, senior center and all other volunteers. April is the month nationally associated with volunteer recognition.
 - c. Report by Commissioner Eyre on Public informational meeting held by the staff of the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant.
 - d. Handout – Brown Act and Agenda Process Updates for Liaisons.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Human Resources Department 72 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2607.

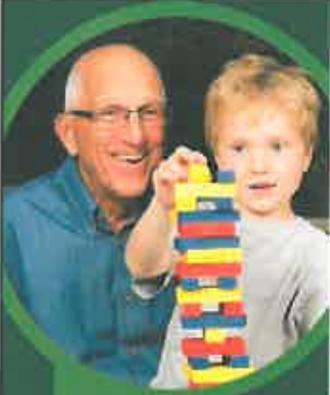
Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/meetings.html>

On occasion the Environmental Commission may consider agenda items out of order.

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, and that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk's Office, City of Los Altos, located at One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Any draft contracts, ordinances and resolutions posted on the Internet site or distributed in advance of the Environmental Commission meeting may not be the final documents approved by the Commission. Contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720 for the final document.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Environmental Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.



Building for Tomorrow

An important update about community space for Los Altos children, teens, families and seniors



From the Los Altos Community Center Advisory Committee

Today's Objectives

- Review the current condition of the Los Altos Community Center Campus
- Provide community information regarding progress of the Los Altos Community Center Master Plan
- Seek feedback and input on the final decisions regarding public financing options



Tradition and Quality of Life

Los Altos has a long tradition as a great place to live, raise a family and retire.

- Excellent schools
- Safe neighborhoods
- Beautiful natural surroundings
- Friendly downtown
- Activities for families, teens and seniors



Historic Los Altos
Image provided by the Los Altos Historical Museum

All of these attributes contribute to our consistently strong property values.



Renewing our Aging Facilities

Many of the existing facilities on the Community Center Campus are 65 years old and in urgent need of replacement

The Hillview Recreation Center

- Built in 1945 as an elementary school and was never intended for its current use
- Not enough meeting space for current demand
- Restrooms are frequently out of service and cannot be used
- Old heating and cooling systems break down regularly



Police & Emergency Operation Center

Our police and emergency operation center is outdated and overcrowded for a community the size of Los Altos.



- Outdated electrical systems that do not support modern technology
- Worn-out heating and ventilation systems
- Inefficient doors and windows



Other Specific Campus-wide Issues Include:

Worn out heating and ventilation systems that cost money each year to repair

Buildings do not meet current seismic and safety standards

Leaking and damaged roofs



A Two-year Planning Process



Rendering of new community center

The Los Altos City Council working with a committee of Los Altos residents, known as the Community Center Advisory Committee, has developed a plan to improve our community center campus to continue our community's legacy of providing quality facilities and programs for all Los Altans.



Phase I of the Plan

The most critical and urgent needs are addressed first, including:

- Replacing the Hillview Recreation Center to bring it current with safety standards and make it accessible for people with disabilities
- Providing space for after-school programs for children and teens, enrichment classes, arts, music and recreation



Phase I of the Plan



- Providing space for senior programs and services that keep them healthy, active, independent and connected to the community
 - Utilizing energy efficient green building practices to reduce operational costs and protect the environment
- Replacing the emergency operation center and outdated Los Altos Police Station to ensure stable communication during earthquakes or other disasters and to support the quickest possible emergency response times



Phase I Funding Options

The City of Los Altos has set aside funding for a portion of the project, including for the proposed City Hall building. The remainder would be funded with a bond measure that would be presented to local voters for consideration.

By acting now, we will be able to address the urgent needs at our aging facilities while taking advantage of historically low construction costs and interest rates that will allow these projects to be completed for less.



Our Timeline

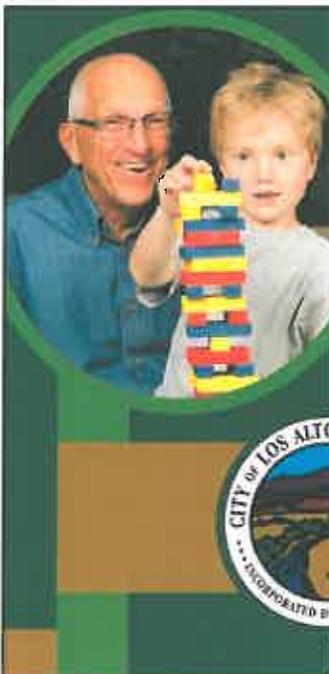
The Los Altos City Council is currently in the process of considering placing a measure on an upcoming ballot to fund the improvements.

January - April 2012

- The Council and Committee will be seeking and reviewing additional input from the community regarding financing options
- Council will review bond measure options

May 2012

- Final Council decision to place measure on the August 28, 2012 mail-in ballot



Questions?

We want to hear from you!

To review more information, or to provide your feedback, please visit:
www.losaltoscommunitycenter.org.



You may also speak to city staff regarding the plan to renew the community center facilities.

Call James Walgren at (650) 947-2635 or email him at Jwalgren@losaltosca.gov.



Existing to Remain

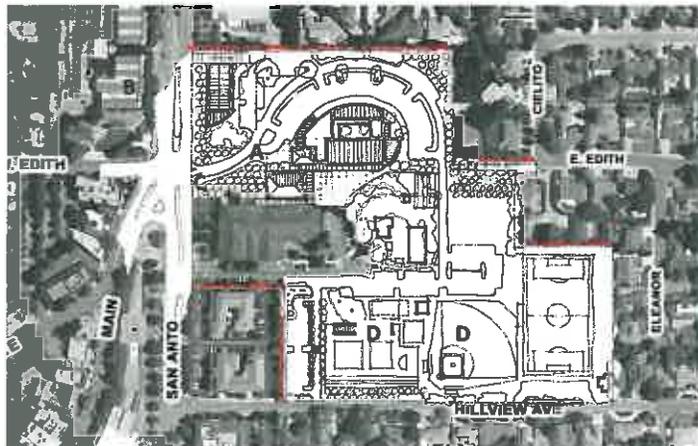


Phase I



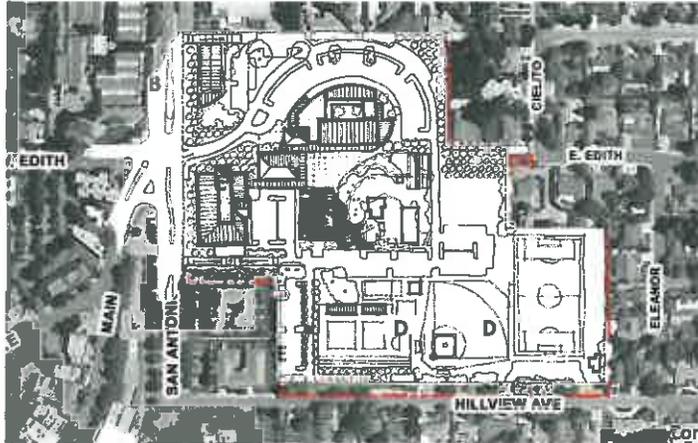
- A Community Center
- B Police
- C City Hall

Phase II



- A Community Center
- B Police
- C City Hall
- D Play Fields
- E Swim Facility

Phase III



- Community Center
- B Police
- C City Hall
- D Play Fields
- E Swim Facility
- F Library

Phase IV



- A Community Center
- B Police
- C City Hall
- D Play Fields
- E Swim Facility
- F Library
- G Theater

LACC Master Plan



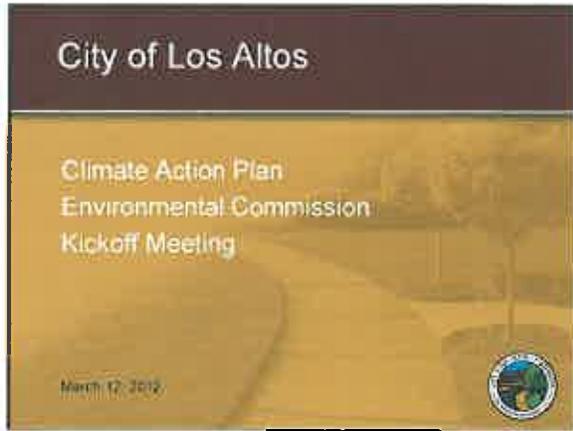
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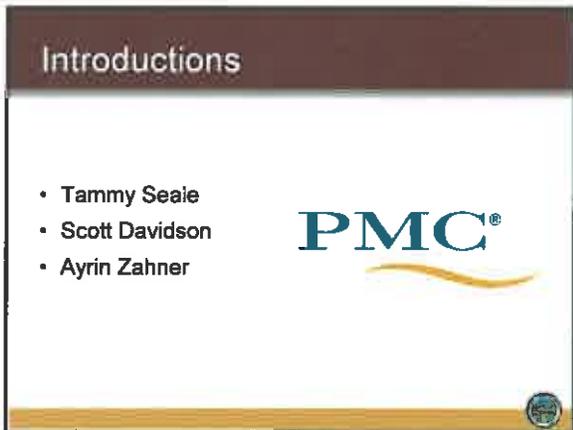
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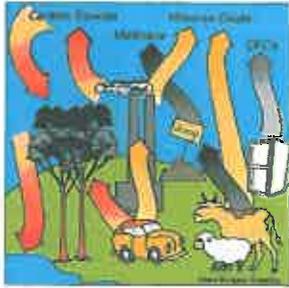
Item 1







Background



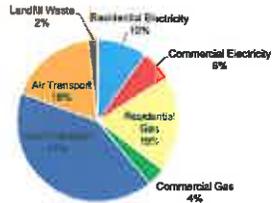
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Methane (CH₄)
- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFC)
- Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)

Local Efforts

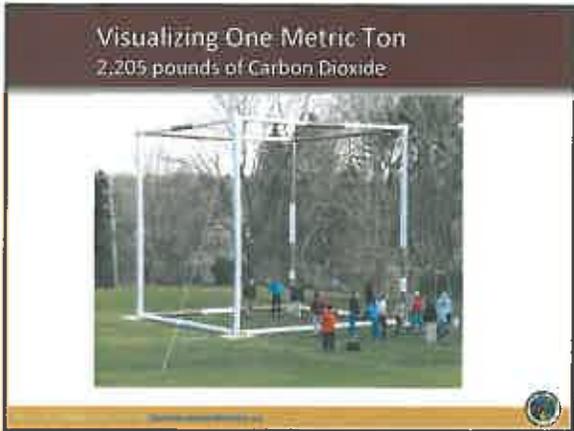
- GHG Inventories
 - 2005 Municipal
 - 2005 Draft Communitywide
- Hazardous Waste
- Recycling
- Green Building
- Water Conservation
- Education

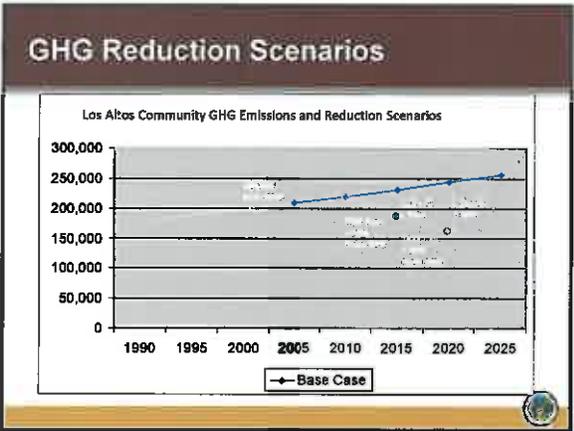


Community-wide GHG Inventory



Los Altos 2005
Community Emissions
203,640 tonnes CO₂e





- ### Climate Action Planning for Los Altos
- Update the 2005 Municipal Inventory
 - Complete the 2005 Community-wide Inventory
 - Forecast Emissions
 - Policy Audit
 - Set Reduction Targets
 - Develop Reduction Measures
 - Quantify the Results
 - Adopt and Implement a CAP

Policy Focus

Residential Emphasis

- Home Audits & Educational Programs
- Continued promotion of Residential Solar PV
- Greening of Grid Electricity by PG&E
- Availability of Green Energy option by 2012

Natural Gas

- Home Audits & Educational Programs

Commercial Gas & Electric:

- Outreach to Foothill College, etc.

Residential Solid Waste:

- Switch to Green Waste 10

Infill/Operational Strategies

- Utility Programs
- Sustainable Purchasing
- Transportation and Land Use
- Green Building
- Zero Waste
- Education Strategies



GHG Reduction Targets

- California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)
 - Reduce statewide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020
 - Reduce local emissions by 15% below baseline by 2020
- Executive Order S-3-05
 - 80% reduction below 1990 by 2050.
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
 - 15% below baseline by 2020
- Los Altos Targets?
 - TBD



What's New?

- BAAQMD Guidelines
 - Off-road equipment
 - Water & Wastewater
 - Air Transportation emissions
 - Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)



The Role of the Commission

- Provide a Forum for Community Participation
- Provide Policy Direction
 - Reduction Targets
 - Reduction Measures
 - Level of Ambition
- Identify Issues & Opportunities
- Evaluate Feasibility (Fiscal, Political, Etc.)



Schedule

Task	Start	End
Task 1: Management and Project Team Meeting		
Task 2: Preliminary Informational Conference and Q&A		
Task 3: Inventory and Forecast of Emissions		
Task 3.1: Develop GHG Inventory and GHG Reduction Measures		
Task 3.2: GHG Inventory		
Task 3.3: GHG Reduction Measures		
Task 4: Develop and Report on GHG Reduction Measures		
Task 4.1: Develop GHG Reduction Measures		
Task 4.2: Report on GHG Reduction Measures		
Task 5: Prepare and Submit Final Plan		
Task 5.1: Prepare and Submit Final Plan		
Task 5.2: Prepare Public Review Public Hearing Report		
Task 5.3: Prepare Final GHG		
Task 6: Develop an Implementation and Monitoring Plan		
Task 6.1: Develop an Implementation Plan		
Task 6.2: Develop a Monitoring Plan		



Next Steps

- Data Collection
- Policy Audit
- Preliminary Reduction Measures
- Environmental Commission Meeting



For More Information

Please Contact:

Zach Dahl
City of Los Altos
ZDahl@losaltosca.gov
(650) 947-2633



Article Published on GreenGuideNetwork.com, May 17, 2010

The 7 Types of Plastic & What They Mean to Your Health.



Regardless of whether you're concerned about recycling or not it is safe to say that most of us are concerned about our health. It is also safe to assume that you have drunk from a plastic container at least once in your life. Do you know the difference between the number 3 and number 7 types of plastic?

Did you know that BPA, the highly toxic chemical found in plastic, is linked to obesity, cancer, and endocrine problems in fetuses and children?

Green Guide Network has created this guide to the 7 types of plastic and what they mean to your health, many recycling programs depend on these numbers to tell which plastics are recyclable and which are not - you can also use these numbers to determine which are safe to use and which are not.

Try this: Within reach, or somewhere at your home or office find a plastic container. You'll notice a number inside of a recycling symbol - typically on the bottom, side, or top - and ranging from 1 to 7. Many recycling programs depend on these numbers to tell you which plastics you can and can't recycle.

The numbers, reflecting seven different types of plastic available in the market, are found on the 200 million tons of plastic that is produced annually to make baby and water bottles, sports equipment, medical and dental devices, CD's, DVD's, and more. The number is a resin identification code associated with the type of plastic used in the container with some plastics rating healthier and more environmentally friendly and some considerably less so. Some are easier to recycle, some considerably less.

Here's the GGN guide to what the plastic numbers mean, whether they're safe, and how easily recyclable they are (or skip to the end for the summary):



Plastic #1: Polyethylene terephthalate, also known as PETE or PET. Usually clear in color, the vast majority of disposable soda and water bottles are made of #1 plastic. This plastic is considered generally safe and is picked up by most curbside recycling programs. However, the porous nature of its surface allows bacteria and flavor to accumulate, so avoid reusing these bottles as makeshift containers.

Plastic #2: High-density polyethylene, or HDPE. Most milk jugs, detergent bottles, juice bottles, butter tubs, and toiletries bottles are made of HDPE. Usually opaque in color and picked up by most recycling programs. This plastic is considered safe and has low risk of leaching.

Plastic #3: Polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. It is used to make food wrap, bottles for cooking oil, and the highly common plumbing pipes. PVC, although tough in terms of strength, it is not considered safe to cook food near it. PVC contains softening chemicals called phthalates that interfere with hormonal development. Never cook using food wrap, especially in a microwave oven. This plastic is rarely accepted by recycling programs.

Plastic #4: Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) is used to make grocery bags, some food wraps, squeezable bottles, and bread bags. While considered safe it is unfortunately not often accepted by curbside recycling programs.

Plastic #5: This is polypropylene. Common items produced with it include yogurt cups, medicine bottles, ketchup, syrup bottles, straws and similar wide-necked containers, as well as water bottles with a cloudy finish. This plastic is also considered safe, and is increasingly being accepted by curbside recycling programs.

Plastic #6: Polystyrene, or Styrofoam, from which disposable containers and packaging are made. Also found in disposable plates and cups. Overwhelming evidence suggests that this type of plastic leaches potentially toxic chemicals, especially when heated. Try

to avoid the use of #6 plastic as much as possible. It is difficult to recycle and most recycling programs won't accept it.

Plastic #7: This category basically means "everything else" and is composed of plastics that were invented after 1987 - the use of plastic in this category is at your own risk since you don't know what could be in it. Polycarbonate falls into this category, including the highly toxic BPA. Products produced include baby and water bottles, sports equipment, medical and dental devices, CD's, DVD's, and even iPods. It is wise to dispose of any food or drink related product that is known to contain BPA. It is difficult to recycle #7 plastic and most curbside recycling programs won't accept it.

To summarize, plastics in categories #2, #4 and #5 are generally considered safe. Plastic #1 is safe but should not be re-used due to the risk of growing bacteria. Any of the other categories should be used with extreme caution, especially around food or drink, and the risk is even greater when heating food. For microwaving, know that microwave safe containers aren't necessarily healthy they just won't melt. Do yourself, your body, and the environment a favor - avoid plastic entirely and stick to glass when you can.

2011-2012 Environmental Commission Plan Highlights and Accomplishments
March, 2012

- Rebuilt 'Los Altos Environment' Website
 - Clear and separate link from home page, installed traffic counter
 - Updated and added numerous content pages as resource to community
 - Updated menu, established consistent branding/look & feel
 - 200 hits in first month, a 10X increase
 - No cost to City; work led by Linda DeMichiel, with contributions by all commission members

- Climate action plan/sustainability element
 - At start of year, presented EC-developed community GHG inventory to city; accepted by city council
 - During last spring/summer, developed and presented background research on 'sustainability elements' and 'climate action plans' to city staff
 - In the fall, assisted with RFP development and evaluation/selection of contractor to support CAP development process

- Water conservation and stewardship
 - Co-sponsored community forum on water-efficient landscaping with CalWater
 - 35 attendees
 - EC partnership with CalWater; EC arranged logistics, hosted event, CalWater did postcard mailer, lined up content & presenters
 - Developing Los Altos water use baseline with new CalWater data
 - Researching and developing initiatives on watershed awareness

- Solid waste management
 - Publicized initial 2010 results via article written for LATC
 - For downtown, reviewed single stream can vs. multi-stream, including outreach and education; championed new downtown receptacle rims 'Recyclables – Organics – Garbage OK – Contents Sorted Offsite'
 - Received 2011 summary report from MTWS; 71.44% overall diversion rate

- Expanded polystyrene
 - Per city council request, studied county RWRC recommendation to ban EPS
 - Made specific recommendations in January to put a ban in place, harmonizing various elements of Water Board's directions, and RWRC recommendations

- Participated in energy efficiency/reduction outreach with GTLA, Acterra
- Participating in planning of Los Altos' 60th anniversary celebration, and incorporation of 'green' event guideline
- Participation in Creek clean-up activities
- Celebrated life and contributions of late EC chair Patty Rosewater at memorial service and tree planting ceremony

Los Altos Environmental Commission - Update February 29, 2012

Approved Projects 2011-2012

Goals Approved by City Council Oct 19, 2010	Goals
b. Projects 2011-2012	– Progress Updates
1	Continue to provide approved community education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos. (Steve Anderson, Linda DeMichiel)
a. Deliver updated web site that is visually pleasing, navigates well, has relevant, current content, and ties into city look and feel. (Owner: Linda)	<p>Jan 2012: Complete. New site is now up and operational. Dedicated 'quick link' is now set up to access the Environment website directly from the city's homepage. Initial traffic report showed 190+ hits in December, more than 10X increase from prior to upgrades. Staff will continue to provide periodic reports on traffic to site, and a general website discussion item will be put on EC meeting agenda periodically to review content and news on main landing page.</p>
b. Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g Packard Building, Solar) (Owner: Steve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Will engage here when there are specific opportunities related to city programs or policies. One opportunity will be for interim review and input to upcoming Climate Action Plan development. – Nov 2011: Successfully co-sponsored with Cal Water a forum on Water Efficient Landscaping. They provided speaker, refreshments, staffing, publicity. We provide venue and publicity.
c. Investigate new education and outreach activities re watershed awareness and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feb 8 email communication from Jim Gustafson notes a standard format, dated 1/4/10, for labeling storm drain inlets 'NO DUMPING!' - Only Rain Down the Drain - Flows to xxxx Creek'; suggestions for community outreach re Stormwater plan may be incorporated with re-activated city Communique; Also, Jim notes that Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek is being rebuilt so may be a good time to design permanent engraving of creek name. – Joe discussed potential for marking on all city storm drains – stream specific, along the lines of what is going on storm drains downtown. Michael and J to follow up with staff on potential for incorporation of this as recommendation in the upcoming 'Storm Water Master Plan' being prepared by city staff. Done – report by Michael. – Discussed elevating the general topic of 'Watershed Stewardship' to one of the primary goals for the 2012/13 workplan, to include other potential topics such as creek signage.

Item 4

<p>2</p>	<p>Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson, Joe Eyre)</p>	<p>February 2012: MTWS presented update on diversion statistics, and other key developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall diversion rate of 71.44% for calendar year 2011; need to achieve 78% in 2013; in 2011, estimate diversion rate for single family residential at 81% (75% of overall tonnage), commercial at 39% (23% of tonnage), and multi-unit residential at 52% (2% of tonnage). Some natural differences in commercial/multi-unit statistics due to no or limited yard waste component. MTWS sense is that businesses are doing well in general, and some are doing great (e.g. Peets, Draegers) with 'front of store' programs and/or aggressive recycling/composting at the back of store. - AB 341 regs have just been finalized, and implementation is being followed closely by MTWS; this bill requires a business, defined to include a commercial or public entity, that generates more than 4 cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week or is a multifamily residential dwelling of 5 units or more to arrange for recycling services, on and after July 1, 2012. The bill would also require a commercial waste generator to take specified actions with regard to recyclable materials. MTWS notes that 73 businesses currently produce >4 CY/week, and currently have 66% diversion capacity. - Regarding guidelines around what's recyclable and compostable, vs. garbage; MTWS notes that compostable/bio-plastic items that look like conventional plastic items (e.g. cups, cutlery) continue to be difficult to separate and can be problematic for both recycling and composting streams. Also, MTWS collects plastics 1-7, but there's really only a market for plastics 1&2. Such factors should be considered in discussions of EPS bans, use of alternative products, etc. <p>July 2011 – MTWS gave update on diversion rates. Residential ahead of target, commercial lagging. Efforts to work with individual vendors necessary.</p> <p>May 2011 – article published in LATC re diversion rates and customer satisfaction.</p> <p>Feb 2011: Update from MTWS, showing diversion rate of 73.3% in December, 70.9% YTD since beginning of contract. Customer satisfaction stats very positive as well.</p> <p>Feb 2012 - Discussed possible development of a news article featuring waste management efforts at leading local businesses – to highlight 'best practice' examples, and educate the public and other businesses; also, discussed establishing a date and logistics for a Newby Island facility tour in the March timeframe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 2011: Some new receptacle rims now installed; others in-transit, to be installed over next few weeks. - August 2011 – EC and staff review preliminary design, recommended specific updates to "Recyclables, Organics, Garbage OK, Contents sorted offsite" label around lid of receptacles. - Mar 2011: Commission is disappointed to learn that the new streetscape plans do not include receptacles for composting and recycling for downtown shoppers.
<p>a.</p>	<p>Monitor MTWS diversion rate for regularly scheduled pickups and event waste management. Look for ways to meet and exceed contracted diversion rate. (Owner: Don)</p> <p>b.</p> <p>Make results available to community, along w/ education on how they can help improve outcomes. (Owner: Steve)</p>	<p>c.</p> <p>Work with MTWS to provide recycling and composting services for downtown shoppers.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>Help educate citizens as soon as new services are available. (Owner: Steve)</p>

3	<p>Provide modeling and analysis of ways to reduce environmental impact in the community. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)</p> <p>a. Use CAPP A tool to model the impact of various behaviors (i.e. change to florescent bulbs, use energy star appliances...). (Owner: John)</p> <p>b. Pick a limited number to pursue; with Council approval, develop education/outreach activities. (Owners: Don, John, Patty)</p>	<p>– ITEM CLOSED. Moving directly to Climate Action Plan (#4 below).</p> <p>– Apr 2011: Each EC member to gather information on how other cities have addressed this problem.</p> <p>– Mar 2011: Top 20 opportunities from CAPP A modeled identified, however definition of those opportunities very broad. Need to continue to drill down to get to a meaningful discussion on program possibilities.</p>
4	<p>Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Sustainability element to Los Altos General Plan. (Joe Eyre, Don Bray, TBD)</p> <p>a. The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role. (Owners: Joe, Don)</p> <p>b. Review draft Grant Application developed by City Staff</p>	<p>– Feb 2011: City staff has decided not to pursue state grant opportunity; CAP development to start up in March; staff and PMC will present to EC at March meeting.</p> <p>– December 2011: Development of Climate Action Plan approved by City Council, and PMC selected as consultant. Joe and Don met with city staff re next steps, and getting started with the project. New opportunity has emerged to apply for state grant to support CAP-related activities, and program start-up activities will be extended into the spring/summer.</p> <p>– October 2011: Proposals for assistance with development of Climate Action Plan submitted by three prospective consultants, and reviewed by City Staff and EC subcommittee. Decision on consulting firm to be finalized by City Staff and City Council.</p> <p>– Delete this item; State's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program funding will not be pursued by City Staff.</p>
5.	<p>Implement approved education program regarding re-useable bags in Los Altos. (Steve Anderson)</p> <p>a. Continue to partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-useable bag programs. (Owner: Steve)</p> <p>b. Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate. (Owner: Steve)</p>	<p>Environmental Commission will look at investigating potential recommendations, timing, and approach for a single use plastic bag ban, as a possible work plan item for 2012/2013.</p> <p>– August 2011: California Supreme Court sided with Manhattan Beach, said EIR was not required for its ban on plastic bags.</p> <p>– July 2011: Contacted Safeway for an update re implementation of bag ban in San Jose, law scheduled for implementation in Jan 2012. They said it took ~5 years of work to get that in place, they don't take a position either pro/con for legislation but did say that banning ALL single-use bags is much better than banning only plastic (as SFO did), because there is no incentive to reduce single use bags and all are environmentally undesirable. Recommended we take a "wait and see"</p>

		<p>approach to see how SJ does before considering anything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan 2011: EC Member and ED of Los Altos Chamber of Commerce visit Drug stores in Los Altos to inquire about re-useable bags program. Report published on web site; article in LATC.
6.	<p>Continue to work to foster water conservation in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Chris Keller)</p> <p>a. Continue to work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline. (Owner: Chris)</p> <p>b. Incorporate water resource plans into broader "Climate Action Plan/Sustainability Element" above. (Owner: Linda)</p>	<p>Joe will work on submission of official data request form to Cal Water, coordinating with City Staff.</p> <p>TBD Cal water data + 4 months: Article re water usage in LATC.</p> <p>TBD Cal Water data + 2 months: Updated baseline with most current information published on web site.</p> <p>TBD based on Cal water data: Baseline of trends over 5 years established, and incorporated into dashboard (see Goal #3).</p> <p>TBD: Program presented to Council as part of Climate Action Plan (to include measures and initiatives related to water).</p> <p>TBD Cal Water data + 4 months: One program selected and documented to propose to staff and Council for water conservation.</p> <p>This issue will grow in urgency and priority if 2011-12 winter remains dry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By Mar 2011: Report from staff that annual creek cleanup is required by state in order to fulfill permits for storm drainage into creek. <p>- Does the EC foresee any funding requirements associated with EC plans or initiatives for 2012/2013? If so and agreed, it may be worthwhile to provide a high-level preview of the request during April meeting with City Council.</p> <p>General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For March meeting, staff will provide update on the current status of recommendations associated with EPS and Water Board Requirements
7.	<p>Other Council goals as directed.</p> <p>a. Investigate state requirements and funding opportunities for creek-clean up. (Owner: j)</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c. Review recommendations by Recycling and Waste Reduction</p>	

Commission of Santa Clara County (RWRC) for related to disposal and management of Expanded Polystyrene (Owner: Chris & Steve)

- In February, EC subcommittee studying EPS met with Los Altos city engineer and staff to discuss perspectives on potential issues such as EPS ban enforceability, inspection, budgets, burden to merchants, etc; it turned out that banning EPS is part of a new Water Board requirement, related to trash load reduction in storm water outflows. City staff has prepared detailed recommendations, including an EPS ban, to meet the Water Board requirements of 40% load reduction by 2014. After a thorough discussion the EC voted to support staff's 'Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan' as written, with two additional recommendations. Firstly, the EPS ban be made effective 1/1/13, consistent with the original RWRC recommendation, and secondly, that the EPS ban requires that replacement products are compostable or recyclable, consistent with the MTWS diversion program (also per the original RWRC recommendation).
- December EC discussion focused on agreement with general spirit/direction of RWRC proposal, but concern about complexity of recommendations (e.g. policy vs. ordinance, prohibiting use in parks, EPS specific ban vs. broader focus on syncing up with what MTWS diversion program can and can't handle). Subcommittee will present initial findings and recommended next steps to the EC
- By December 2011, EC subcommittee will review RWRC recommendations, and examples of steps taken by other local municipalities. MTWS and Green Town's Co-op have provided additional content and perspective based on their experience. Questions include likely cost to businesses, what businesses have already adopted; experience of 40+ local cities that have already implemented a ban; policing costs/approach; possible involvement of citizens in policing efforts? (Owner: Chris)

