



## Environmental Commission

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**2013/14 Work Plan Accomplishment**  
(as of March 11, 2014)

Goal	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	Status
Community education and outreach	City website – Environmental information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify information gaps and update content (Reed, Yuan, Bray)</li> </ul>	Dependent on City timetable Est. July, 2014	Recommended and worked with staff to plan the movement of EC web content onto the City's Community Resources / Green Initiatives web page to make environmental information more integrated and quicker to access. This will also enable environmental information of all departments to be represented in this single location.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop web info on fostering local birds (Eyre)</li> </ul>	May 2013	Completed

	Public information forums to the community (quarterly or tri-annually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop proposal for initial event (Ardehali, Hedden, Keller)</li> </ul>	May 2013	Subcommittee developed plan for quarterly public forums. First one occurred Feb 22, 2014
	City performance Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify parameters and sources of information (Bray)</li> </ul>	TBD: Dependent on CAP timetable	Modeled design to display CAP data.
	Additional	Special presentations	Ongoing	Scheduled several speakers during EC meetings to update EC and public on environmental trends (Mission Trail, Community Choice Aggregation, San Jose State recycling, PG&E).
Climate Action Plan	Aid in developing, Public input to a Los Altos Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine next steps after Council approves 2020 goal (Eyre, Bray, Hedden)</li> </ul>	Public input meetings in Aug. & Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee and commission consulted multiple times with staff on CAP drafts, providing input and suggestions.</li> <li>Held public meetings to gather feedback on CAP draft.</li> <li>Sept: Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Council adopt the draft Climate Action</li> </ul>

				<p>Plan with a reduction goal greater than 15% and with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allow exceptions to the net-zero energy standard (2.2E) for properties with limited solar access; and</li> <li>○ Include the use of a "dashboard" to share annual activity data (e.g., natural gas, electricity, water, waste, VMT) in association with staff annual reporting process</li> <li>● Council adopted plan in December with the commission's recommendations.</li> </ul>
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Watershed stewardship	Signage on bridges over local streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take photos of bridges over streams and recommend where creek signage should be placed (Eyre, Keller)</li> <li>• Review plans for creek signage on new Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek when design is finalized</li> </ul>	Done	Initiated research and site selection of creek signage throughout city. Staff accepted recommendations; now installing signs.
	Stream water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive status of new SCVURPPP study data on water quality of local streams</li> <li>• Incorporate stream quality data into Dashboard (Bray)</li> <li>• Review Storm Drain Master Plan when released.</li> <li>• Encourage staff to label storm drain inlets with signage that specifies the recipient stream</li> </ul>		<p>Data not available for local level</p> <p>Dashboard will focus on CAP measures.</p> <p>Storm Drain Master Plan in progress.</p> <p>Staff began installing creek-specific storm drain medallions.</p>
Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices	MTWS diversion rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand diversion rates and possible ways to improve it. (All)</li> </ul>		<p>Mission Trail presented diversion trends. This meeting was open and attended by the public.</p> <p>After meeting EC recommended that staff require contractors to use Mission Trail debris boxes. Now stated on permit document. Need for an ordinance</p>

				now being evaluated.
Restrictions for use of selected environmentally-harmful products	Single use bag ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate assisting on community outreach (All)</li> </ul>	Done	Assisted staff on public outreach in preparation for 7/4/13 start of the ban
	Expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider recommendation based on staff presentation/input (All)</li> </ul>	Fall, 2013	Coordinated with staff and augmented its resources by reaching out and researching EPS use at 100+ Los Altos establishments.
Green business practices	Green purchasing and operational practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate applicability of Green Business Initiative program to Los Altos businesses (Yuan)</li> </ul>	Under discussion	Researched possible approaches for encouraging local business to pursue green business certification

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
***Proposed 2014/15 Work Plan***  
(as of March 11, 2014)

Goal	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	Status
Provide environmentally - relevant information to the community to improve sustainability.	City website – Environmental information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with staff on web site changes. Add additional content as appropriate. (Reed, Bray, Yuan)</li> </ul>		
	Public Information Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially focus on forums relevant to CAP reduction goals and water conservation. (Ardehali, Hedden, Keller)</li> </ul>		
	Speakers at EC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite several speakers to present relevant environmental information at EC meetings (All).</li> </ul>		
	Understand community's needs for environmental information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a community survey to understand residents' and businesses' environmental information needs. (Ardehali, Eyre)</li> </ul>		

Climate Action Plan	Assist departments on CAP implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee to work with staff to develop additional workplan items and community outreach activities (Eyre, Bray, Hedden)</li> </ul>		
	Investigate and recommend ways for our community to improve on CAP measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial focus is on improving transportation and energy efficiency (e.g. investigate appropriateness of options such as PG&amp;E programs, Acterra Residential Energy Efficiency Program, etc. (Eyre, Bray, Hedden)</li> </ul>		
	CAP Measures dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and implement in coordination with staff (Bray, Keller)</li> </ul>		
Water Conservation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist staff, as appropriate, in developing and/or communicating water conservation measures.</li> </ul>		
Restrictions for use of selected environmentally-harmful products	Expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist staff on outreach before ban is implemented on 7/4/14 (Ardehali, Yuan)</li> </ul>		
Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices	MTWS diversion rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have Mission Trail present diversion trends at EC meeting. Investigate possible ways to improve diversion rates. (All)</li> </ul>		
Green business practices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to research means of getting more businesses to achieve Green Business certification (Yuan)</li> </ul>		

**Additional possibility:**

**Provide suggestions on environmental aspects of Community Center, both for conservation and also as a way to demonstrate sustainability methods to the community.**