



DATE: July 14, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 4

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental public information forums

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission 2014/15 Work Plan, Goal 1, is to provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability in accordance with the Council goals to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos.

The Commission determines topics and opportunities for approved public forums related to sustainability. An example of public outreach activities were public forums held prior to the award of the waste disposal contract and a study to determine both Municipal and Community Green House Gas emissions for the City. Current outreach efforts include the design and analysis of a survey to the community to facilitate and gain public input for the Los Altos Climate Action Plan in coordination with the Climate Action Plan consultant firm and with the Community Development Department. An additional topic is single-use bags and issues involved with polystyrene products.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission held a public forum on recycling, diversion and composting on February 22, 2014. The Commission is continuing discussion regarding community education and outreach activities for the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

To that goal, a Commission subcommittee is exploring topic ideas and approaches on additional ways to engage the public via education and information forums, various outreach mechanisms. In addition, the Commission seeks to explore with the public via a survey which topics would be of interest and ones they would participate in to gather further information.

The subcommittee composed of Commissioner Ardehali, Vice Chair Chris Keller and Chair Gary Hedden presented an update to the public education and information outreach plan. A public interest survey was created by Commissioner Eyre and vetted with Councilwoman Val Carpenter and staff to assess City of Los Altos residents' interest in environmental topics. The survey was conducted at the July 10 and July 24 Farmers' Market. The July 10th results and commissioners' observations will be discussed

Attachment:

- A. City of Los Altos Environmental Commission Survey

City of Los Altos Environmental Commission Survey

Which topic would you like to know more about?

Electric & alternative fuel powered vehicles	
Bicycle & pedestrian friendly routes & info	
Saving energy at home	
Green building	
Solar energy	
Caring for our local creeks	
Local birds and wildlife	
Water conservation	
Graywater plumbing	
Eating sustainable food	
Growing organic food	
Composting	
Native plant landscaping	
Recycling and waste reduction	
Toxic chemicals in the home and yard	
Green business certification	
Climate change	
Community environmental metrics (such as community greenhouse gas levels or energy or water usage)	
Other	

How would you like to learn about environmental & sustainability information?

Web	
Email	
Facebook	
Twitter	
Local news (ex: Town Crier or Patch)	
Workshops and events	
Other	

Are you interested in environmental programs for children and teenagers?

Yes	
No	