



DATE: October 8, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Sarah Henricks, Interim Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Review and Discuss Updates on 2018/19 Environmental Commission Targets and Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and action, as appropriate, on 2018/19 Environmental Commission Targets and Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 1, 2018 to review its 2017/18 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and Draft 2018/19 Target areas and discuss issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the Targets were finalized, and the 2018/19 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2018/19 year.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan development for 2018/19 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Visioning process
3. Community outreach and education
4. Water Conservation and stormwater management
5. Solid waste diversion

The Commission will review the Targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and take action as appropriate.

Attachments:

- A. October 8, 2018- 2018/19 Targets and Work Plan
- B. Communications with City of Sunnyvale re: Single Use Plastics

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2018/19 Targets & Work Plan

October 8, 2018

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan & SVCEA	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers and SVCE staff outreach efforts for residential and business (Staff) Customer Program Advisory Group (CPAG) (Weiden) Program development via MAWG 	Ongoing	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair attend CPAG meetings Receive update from MAWG staff member EC identified and prioritized community objectives and provided them to SVCE MAWG as potential items for synchronization with other jurisdictions and for SVCE to provide support.
	Resource to Director Bruins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy & Program guidance (Staff & Commission) 	Monthly	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review SVCE packet and recommendations with comments to Director Bruins as needed; request specific clarification from Dir. Bruins as needed MAWG staff to update Dir. Bruins as needed
	Plastic Straw/ single-use food containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and formulate plan for educ. Outreach (Halkola, Yuan, Weiden) 	New project	Climate Action Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate Educational Outreach project
	Anti-Idling Community Education and Outreach Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Community Educational Plan (Weiden, Yuan, Klein) Partner with elementary and High School Districts (Weiden, Yuan, Klein) City Program for civic properties 	Ongoing project	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from Chair to Superintendents 5-18 High school interested in receiving bullet item about anti-idling in Pick up/Drop off Procedures memo going to parents in Fall 2018 EC subcommittee to develop general education plan City developed organization-wide anti-idling campaign, requesting compliance from staff and installing anti-idling signs in City facility parking areas, such as Civic Center Campus, MSC, and Parks

Climate Action Plan & SVCEA (cont'd)	Partner with Community Development Department on Green Building Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and Commission to identify outreach efforts and discussion of potential reach codes for green building measures (Tekslar, Yuan, Bray) Subcommittee to reformat report to provide user-friendly checklist to go to City Council for 2019 priorities 	Quarterly	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Develop checklist for Green Building Enhancements
	Home Energy efficiency measure for community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission to explore and research programs offered by PG&E, Acterra, Energy Upgrade California, CA First (Unassigned-TBD) 	11/2018 workshop w/SCCo Off. of Sustainability	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Energy Efficiency Workshop presented by Santa Clara County Office of Sustainability staff: November 14, 2018; 6:30-8:00 pm, Hillview Multi-Purpose Room
	With staff, refine CAP GHG reduction measures to actionable strategies (Tekslar, Weiden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission to support staff's efforts to update CAP with inventory & assess measures (Weiden, Bay, Halkola) Staff to assist Work with consultant or staff to update CAP Subcommittee to consider scope of CAP update 	Annual	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAP Report with analysis of measures and data in CIP Budget; staff attend Member Agency Work Group (MAWG) meetings.
	Environmental Resources (ER) Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and enhance GHG reporting and data on Green Initiatives pages of City website (Staff, Bray) 	Ongoing as data is available	Climate Action Plan Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection ongoing. Dashboard updated with data through 2017 if available
Water Conservation & Stormwater Management	Support community and municipal water conservation related measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track water usage via ER Dashboard (Staff, Halkola) Monitor water rates and support CalWater conservation efforts as needed (Staff, Halkola) 	Summer/Fall focus with ongoing review	Water Conservation Resolution No. 2015-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor water use Update website CalWater annual presentation – September 2018
	Stormwater management/shoulder paving policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final review from staff on shoulder paving policy and other emerging environmental issues (EC) 	Subcommittee meetings; staff reports	Stormwater Master Plan and Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoulder paving policy details revisions (May, June)

Water Conservation & Stormwater Management (cont'd)	Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in development of plan to be adopted June 2019 (Unassigned) 			
Solid Waste Diversion	Review of progress toward diversion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with staff to review MTWS contract renewal Assist MTWS in achieving diversion goals Explore opportunities with staff for public outreach (Staff) 	MTWS compost available at MSC	Recycling and diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compost to be made available at MSC Spring 2018 at MSC Update on event recycling- add events to CM weekly updates
Visioning Process for new Community Center and Downtown Vision Discussions	Provide environmental perspectives and sustainability goals to assist visioning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Commissioners 	New Community Center design - Ongoing	Provide support to DDWG & Council on natural and built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in LEED Charrette 3-22-18 Continue to participate in DDWG as needed; advocating for all-electric, zero-carbon building 6/11/18- Public Works Director Susanna Chan provided update to EC on the electrification and LEED Gold achievement (looking at lighting studies, reducing water usage, managing rainwater, installing all-electric systems) to minimize carbon use of the new community center Staff still exploring various options for installing solar panels and plans to share discoveries with the City Council at the July 10, 2018 meeting Staff to provide information about a design workshop at July EC meeting Design to Complete Streets Commission June 27, 2018 Design to Planning Commission August 2, 2018 Design to City Council September 11, 2018

<p>Visioning Process for new Community Center and Downtown Vision Discussions (Cont'd)</p>			<p>Downtown Visioning - Ongoing</p>	<p>Contribute to downtown visioning process where applicable</p>	
<p>Community Outreach & Education</p>	<p>Support Green Initiatives project implementation by public outreach and education efforts</p> <p>Continue supporting project implementation that impacts the natural and built environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City webpages; social media; engage with community groups (unassigned) • Invite speakers to EC meetings on Work Plan related topics (All Commissioners) • Focus on educational campaigns addressing anti-idling and gas-powered leaf blowers (Teksler, Klein) 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public outreach and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with GTLA, SVCEA, community non-profits, community organizations, County Office of Sustainability
	<p>Update residents on special events (compost availability, recycling events, workshops)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unassigned 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public outreach and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Home Energy Upgrade Workshop; November 14, 2018; 6:00- 8:30 p.m. HVCC MP Room

Don Weiden

From: Don Weiden
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 4:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Single Use Plastics

Kim and Melody, I received your email addresses from Margaret Suozzo and James Tuleya as contacts knowledgeable about the subject of Single use Plastics Bans.

By the way of an introduction, I am the Chair of the Los Altos Environmental Commission and a member of GreenTown Los Altos. Both of these groups are interested in investigating this topic. I would appreciate your providing links to reference information that you have gathered and descriptions of actions that Sunnyvale has taken or considering.

In addition, I believe there may be interest in this topic among a number of individuals involved in sustainability issues in other local communities and am reaching out to them to see what is happening in their communities. I will be pleased to share information we gather.

Don Weiden
Chair Los Altos Environmental Commission

City Site



Legislative Public Meetings

[City Home](#)
[Guide](#)
[Search Files](#)
[Meetings](#)
[City Council](#)
[Members](#)
[Pre-2014 Meetings](#)
[TCMAC](#)
[f](#)
[t](#)
[s](#)
[Share](#)
[Details](#)
[Print Version](#)

File #: 18-0824

Type: Study Issue Paper Status: Agenda Ready

Meeting Body: Sustainability Commission

On agenda: 9/17/2018

Title: Draft Study Issue: Single Use Plastics Ban

[Text Version](#)

2019 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

Title

Draft Study Issue: Single Use Plastics Ban

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Environmental Services

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor(s): Sustainability Commission

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

Plastic waste is a significant concern for the city, state, country and world ². Many documentaries ³, and news stories have reported the issues which include collapse of the plastics recycling market in China, ocean gyres and remote beaches littered with plastic pollution, and the effects of plastics on wildlife (birds, land, and ocean dwellers) as they ingest or become entangled in plastic litter. Most single use plastics are not recyclable and even bioplastics or compostable plastics are made of a wide range of materials that can be problematic for composters. Several California coastal cities have passed single use plastics bans this year (2018) ^{4, 5, 6} that relate to utensils, straws, stirrers, lids, bowls, etc. The California legislature has passed a law that requires businesses to offer plastic straws only on request. ⁷

A few items from a National Geographic Fact sheet ¹ offer some startling statistics.

- Some 18 billion pounds of plastic waste flows into the oceans every year from coastal regions.
- 40 percent of plastic produced is packaging, used just once and then discarded.
- The United States recycles just 9 percent of its plastic trash.
- About 8 percent of the world's oil production is used to make plastic and power the manufacturing of it. That figure is projected to rise to 20 percent by 2050.

There is increasing concern for human health as ocean plastic particles are ingested by sea life. Toxins become more concentrated higher on the food chain, and humans are at the top of that chain. ⁸

Reducing the amount of plastic trash generated in the city will have far reaching impacts by:

1. Reducing the flow of plastics from streets and waterways to the bay and ocean from Sunnyvale
2. Reducing the 'contamination' of the plastic recycling stream with non-recyclable plastics
3. Reducing plastic volume going to the landfill and helping to meet waste reduction targets
4. Reducing 'consumption based' Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the city and market demand for single-use plastics
5. Providing an example for other cities to follow, and
6. Educating businesses and residents about how their purchasing decisions affect land and ocean pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and human health.

References:

1. National Geographic Fast Facts about Plastic Pollution <<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/05/plastics-facts-infographics-ocean-pollution/>>
 2. Single Use Plastics Fact Sheet from Earthday.org <<https://www.earthday.org/2018/03/29/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/>>
 3. A watchlist of documentaries on plastic pollution <<https://www.documentary.org/blog/watch-these-docs-about-plastic-pollution>>
 4. City of Santa Monica Single Use Plastics Ordinance August 2018 (effective January 2019 for single-use plastic straws, utensils, cups, lids, lid plugs, stirring sticks, bowls & more) <<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Santa-Monica-Plastics-ban-490979531.html>>
<https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Disposable_Food_Service_Ware_Ordinance.aspx>
 5. City of Malibu Single Use Plastics Ban April 2018 (effective June 1, 2018 for single-use plastic straws, utensils and stirrers) <<https://www.npr.org/2018/04/20/602170604/malibu-moves-to-ban-single-use-plastic>>
 6. Manhattan Beach single use plastics ban 2018 effective January 1,2019 for straws, stirrers and utensils)
<<http://www.citymb.info/Home/ShowDocument?id=36620>>
<<https://www.citymb.info/departments/environmental-sustainability/plastic-free-mb>>
 7. California Legislature passed AB 1884 requiring plastic straws to be provided only on request in August 2018.
<<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-plastic-straw-limits-california-20180823-story.html>>
Here's where plastic straws have to be requested, and here's where they are banned. Source: California Public Interest Research Group
- | Available by request | Banned |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ashbury Park, N.J. | Davis, Calif. |
| Berkeley | Fort Meyers Beach, Fla. |
| Bradenton, Fla. | Malibu |
| British Columbia | Manhattan Beach |
| Huntington Beach | Miami Beach |
| London | San Luis Obispo |
| Miami | Seattle |
| New York | |
| San Diego | |
8. Plastics in the ocean are affecting human health
<https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/plastics.html>

What are the key elements of the study?

Key policy questions include:

- Which single use plastics should/could be addressed?
See examples from Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach and Malibu. Possibilities range from straws, lids, stirrers and utensils to take-out clamshells, cups, bowls, & plates.
- Types of plastic to include. Many single use items are not recyclable including some which may be marked with recycling triangles ranging from #1 to #7. Various forms of bioplastic whether marked as 'compostable' or not should also be considered since some may break down very slowly or only be broken down by commercial composting. Currently in Sunnyvale bioplastics are landfilled.
- Availability and cost of alternatives Non-plastic alternatives are available for all items though some may be more expensive or less convenient. It would be good to understand costs and usability factors for the alternatives.

Straws:

Reusable - metal, glass, bamboo

Single use - paper, & food based (sugar, pasta, seaweed)

Utensils:

Reusable - Metal, Bamboo, Wood

Single use - bamboo, wood, edibles

Stirrers:

Reusable - metal, glass, wood

Single use - wood, bamboo, edibles

Lids, bowls, plates, cups, clamshells:

Reusable - glass, wood, ceramic, metal (not all are suitable for all applications)

Single use - paper

- Amount of time needed to allow businesses to prepare before an ordinance would go into effect.
- Costs and methods for implementation (outreach, education, enforcement)
- Assessment of community and business support

Estimated years to complete study: <1 year