



DATE: April 13, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 4

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission and City Council Joint Meeting Report

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Review presentation of 2014/15 Accomplishments to Council
 2. Approve Draft 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan
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BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met with Council at a Joint Meeting on March 17, 2015 to review and discuss: 1) 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and; 2) engage in discussion of Environmental priorities to formulate the 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission will review the March 17, 2015 discussion with Council and approve the 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan.

Attachments:

- A. Report to Council on March 17, 2015 – 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments
- B. 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities and Projects
- C. Draft 2015/16 Work Plan



DATE: March 17, 2015
Joint Council meeting with
Environmental Commission

TO: City Council
FROM: Environmental Commission
SUBJECT: 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and 2015/16 Work Plan Priorities and Projects

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission presents its 2014/15 Environmental Commission Work Plan Accomplishments. The Work Plan serves to focus the Commission's agenda items and discussions and serves as a roadmap for the year. The Work Plan Accomplishments also serve to focus the Commission for discussions, revisions and development of a subsequent Work Plan. The Commission now approaches Council for a discussion of the 2014/15 Accomplishments and for a review and discussion of the 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities and Projects.

DISCUSSION

Six Environmental Commission Goals were targeted for 2014/15:

1. Provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability
2. Climate Action Plan
3. Water Conservation
4. Restrictions for use of selected environmentally harmful products
5. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices
6. Green Business practices

2014/15 Accomplishments:

1. **Provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability**
 - A. Community outreach and education
 - Commission participated in the Community Center Focus Group and provided suggestions on the environmental aspects of the proposed community center (April)

- A public interest survey was developed and input collected in four sessions at the Farmers' Market with the intention to better understand the environmental needs and interests of residents to target topics for community outreach and education (July)
- Invited speakers presented information on topics of environmental interest to the Commission and public. Speaker were from Acterra on residential energy efficiency programs in Los Altos; multiple speakers on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) feasibility study
- Outreach and preparation to host a joint public forum with Los Altos Hills, Cal Water, Purissima Water District for a Water Innovation Seminar scheduled on March 12, 2015
- Updated draft dashboard to display Climate Action Plan (CAP) data is in progress
- In coordination with the Engineering Division, Commissioners conducted broad outreach and visits to food establishments regarding the polystyrene ban

B. Discussion and planning for materials to add to the City website under the Green Initiatives landing page on water conservation.

2. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- Subcommittee met with staff to discuss CAP implementation goals, measures and timelines
- A Special Presentation on a residential energy efficiency program was received in May (Debbie Mytels, Acterra)
- An effort to jointly promote CAP related efforts with BPAC is under consideration and a meeting was held with Chairs and Liaisons of both Commissions
- The Sunnyvale Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) feasibility study was tracked and discussion held with staff to encourage the resulting staff report to Council (Dec.)
- Two special presentations on CCA were made (Margaret Bruce, Business for Clean Energy in July, and Dustin Clark, Sunnyvale Sustainability Coordinator) in August

3. Water Conservation

- Possible Los Altos measures through adoption of a water conservation ordinance were discussed; survey of surrounding jurisdictions was completed; outreach to Santa Clara Valley Water District staff for guidance was conducted; comments from residents were received
- Resolutions and Ordinances in neighboring communities were studied and discussed
- Requests for monthly City of Los Altos Water District aggregate water usage data was proposed to Cal Water with on-going discussion
- Water Conservation materials were posted on the Green Initiative homepage of the City Website

4. Restrictions for use of selected environmentally harmful products

- Assisted Engineering staff with visits to food service establishments to provide education on expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban
- Assisted Engineering staff with follow-up on the plastic bag ban and promoted educational outreach on re-usable bags
- Surveyed retailers and food services establishments about implementing EPS ban

5. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices

- Staff presentations by Public Works Director Jim Gustafson were received in April, June, and July
- Discussion and planning to encourage local businesses to pursue green business certification continues
- A joint presentation by Jim Gustafson and Richard Tagore-Erwin, consultant was received (Sept.)
- The draft solid waste ordinance was reviewed and action taken to recommend that staff recommend Council to:
 - Separate Solid Waste Ordinance from the new C&D (construction and demolition) requirements
 - Incorporate Commercial and Multi-family recycling
 - Incorporate Special Event Recycling
 - C&D actions to be integrated into the Green Building Code (Sept.)

6. Green Business Practices

- Discussion and planning to encourage local businesses to pursue green business certification continues

The Environmental Commission is prepared to answer questions or receive comments from Council.



2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities and Projects

1. **Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Support achievement of the goal of 17% GHG reductions**
 - A. **Evaluate Feasibility of Community Choice Energy (CCE)**
 - Environmental Commission to:
 - a. Recommend specific goals/priorities to be achieved by establishing/joining a CCA
 - b. Explore the various CCA options and business models outlined in the Environmental Commission March 10, 2015 memo
 - c. Explore business decisions necessary to join or form a JPA (revenues and staff required)
 - d. Report back to Council in a phased approach.
 - B. **Continue to develop, implement and publish CAP Dashboard**
 - C. **Evaluate Feasibility of Bus/Shuttle Service**
 - Consider pilot program with LASD such as service for school children living north of El Camino
 - Consider such a service during non-school use times for senior transportation
 - Explore opportunities for public/private partnership to create the pilot program
 - D. **Support staff on implementation of CAP measures as appropriate**
2. **Promote Water Conservation**
 - A. **Identify and promote incentives and rebates**
 - B. **Consider additional City water saving resolutions**
 - C. **Consider a Los Altos water conservation ordinance**

For all priorities and projects: 1) provide outreach and educational efforts; 2) evaluate and utilize best practices programs in neighboring cities; and 3) partner with local community groups.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Draft 2015/16 Work Plan 4-13-2015**

Goal	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	Status
Climate Action Plan	Evaluate Feasibility of Community Choice Energy (CCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend specific goals/priorities • Explore various CCE options • Explore business decisions necessary to join or form a JPA • Report to Council in a phased approach 	2015 on-going	TBD
	Develop, Implement and Publish CAP Dashboard		2015 on-going	TBD
	Evaluate Feasibility of Bus/Shuttle Service		2015 on-going	TBD
	Support Staff with CAP Implementation		2015 on-going	TBD
Water Conservation	Identify and Promote Incentives and Rebates		2015 on-going	TBD
	Consider Additional City Water Saving Resolutions		2015 on-going	TBD
Outreach and Education	Consider a Los Altos Water Conservation Ordinance		2015 on-going	TBD
	For all Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide outreach and education • Evaluate and utilize best practices • Partner with local community groups 	2015 on-going	TBD

On-going
Complete