



DATE: March 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #2

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Emiko Ancheta, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2019/20 Environmental Commission Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 7, 2019 to review the Commission's 2018/19 Accomplishments and Draft 2019/20 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2019/20 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 2019/20 year.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2019/20 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

Attachments:

- A. Reach Codes Community Workshop
- B. Reach Code Ordinance Language
- C. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban Documents
- D. SVCE Watts for Lunch Workshop Summary
- E. Communities Evaluating Reach Codes
- F. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan



Reach Codes Community Workshop

Date: March 31, 2020

Time: 6-7:30pm

Location: Los Altos Youth Center

Address: 1 N. San Antonio Rd. Los Altos, CA 94022

The City of Los Altos and the Environmental Commission are hosting an educational community workshop on the Reach Codes and the proposed draft ordinance. If you have questions or concerns about the Reach Codes, we encourage you to attend. Please register here, as space is limited.

As Reviewed During 2/10/2020 Environmental Commission Meeting

Los Altos Reach Codes

Chapter 12.22 ENERGY CODE Section 12.22.020 Amendments

1. Amend Section 100.1(b) of the Energy Code
 - a. Add definition NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING (Applicable to Chapter 12.22 Energy Code Section 12.22.020 Amendments)

“NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING (Applicable to Chapter 12.22 Energy Code Section 12.22.020 Amendments) is a building that has never been used or occupied for any purpose and supported by 1) a new structural foundation, 2) an existing, structural foundation where a building has been demolished and removed to floor or below, or 3) a combination of 1) and 2).”

- b. Add definition “ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING is a building that has no natural gas or propane plumbing installed within the building.

- c. Add definition “BUILDING” roofed and walled structure built for permanent use (as for dwelling).

2. Amend Section 100.0(e)2. Of the Energy Code

2. Newly constructed buildings.

A. All newly constructed buildings. Sections 110.0 through 110.12 apply to all newly constructed buildings within the scope of Section 100.0(a). In addition, newly constructed buildings shall meet the requirements of Subsections B, C, D or E, as applicable and shall be an All-Electric Building as defined in Section 100.1(b).

Conditional Exception: Residential and non-residential buildings may apply to the Los Altos (*Insert appropriate Department*) for an exception to install a non-electric fueled appliance or piece of equipment. The Los Altos (*Insert appropriate Department*) shall grant an exception if they find the following conditions are met:

1. The applicant shows that there is a public or business-related need that cannot be reasonably met with an electric fueled appliance or piece of equipment.
2. The applicant complies with the pre-wiring provisions to the non-electric appliance or piece of equipment of Note 1 below.

The Los Altos (*Insert appropriate Department*) decision shall be final unless the applicant appeals to the City Council within 15 days of the Los Altos (*Insert appropriate Department*) decision. The City Council’s decision on the appeal shall be final.

Note 1.....

Don't Blow It!

Gas-powered leaf blowers are illegal in over 170 cities across the country because they are highly polluting, unhealthy and noisy.

LAW: Los Altos prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Fines for their use range from \$100 for the first violation to \$500 for a third violation. (*Los Altos Municipal Code 6.16.070 - Prohibited Acts Section B.15*)

ENFORCEMENT: Talk to your neighbors if you see them or their gardeners using a gas leaf blower or leave a GreenTown "Don't Blow It!" flyer on their doorstep.

<https://greentownlosaltos.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Leaf-Blower-Ban-04-21-2019-1.pdf> **Report** a violation by calling the Los Altos Police non-emergency number 947-2770 or by filing a complaint on the Los Altos Code Enforcement online complaint form. <https://www.losaltosca.gov/police/webform/online-code-enforcement-form>

HEALTH: Gas-powered leaf blowers are unhealthy for everyone, particularly children, seniors, pets, wildlife and especially the operator. They generate two very significant health hazards: toxic emissions and particulate matter. The gas leaf blower 2-stroke engines disturb neighbors and disrupt our quiet neighborhoods.

<https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/outdoor/air-pollution/particle-pollution.htm>
|

ENVIRONMENT: Gas-powered leaf blowers are bad for the environment and contribute to climate change. The California Air Resources Board states that by 2020, leaf blowers and other small gas engines will create more ozone pollution than all the cars in the state.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11310630/more-pollution-than-cars-gas-powered-gardening-equipment-poses-the-next-air-quality-threat>

GARDEN: Landscape experts advise: LEAVE THE LEAVES. Leaf blowers dry out garden soil, push mold, pollen, insect eggs, animal feces and more into the air and destroy habitats for wildlife.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6060276/dont-rake-your-leaves/>

Let your gardener know about the ordinance. Purchase an electric blower and/or batteries for your gardener, or instruct that he/she use a rake and broom.

Resources:

Emissions Are Significant

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/small-off-road-engines>

More Pollution Than Cars

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11310630/more-pollution-than-cars-gas-powered-gardening-equipment-poses-the-next-air-quality-threat>

Alternatives to Gas Leaf Blowers

<https://dengarden.com/landscaping/Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blowers-Now-Illegal>

Rakes and Brooms

<https://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/leafblow.htm#grandma>

Bad for the Environment

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/how-bad-for-the-environment-are-gas-powered-leaf-blowers/2013/09/16/8eed7b9a-18bb-11e3-a628-7e6dde8f889d_story.html?noredirect=on

Bad For Your Health

<https://www.quietcommunities.org/resolution-gas-leaf-blowers/>
<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article174020786.html>

Bad For Children

<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/leaf-blowers-health/>

Bad For Your Pets

<https://www.quietcommunities.org/leaf-blowers-harming-pets>

Leave the Leaves

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/10/05/raking-leaves-fall-stop-now-keep-leaves-lawn-mulch-them/3853468002/>

Santa Monica bans all leaf blowers

https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Leaf_Blower_Facts.aspx

4-minute video

<https://www.youtube.com/user/zeroairpollution>

Current Los Altos Ordinance

15. Portable gasoline powered blowers.

- a. Definition. Portable gasoline-powered leaf blowers are defined as portable power equipment that is powered by a self contained fuel engine and used in any landscape, maintenance, construction, property repair, or property maintenance for the purpose of blowing, dispersing or redistributing dust, dirt, leaves, grass clippings, cuttings and trimmings from trees and shrubs or other debris.
- b. Gasoline-powered blowers prohibited. Use or operation of portable gasoline-powered leaf blowers within the city for any purpose except testing noise levels is unlawful and shall constitute an infraction, punishable as provided by law.

(Ord. 07-314 § 1; Ord. 01-398 § 1; Ord. 01-396 § 1; Ord. 00-391 §§ 2—4; prior code § 10-5.07)

Suggested Los Altos revised ordinance

15. Portable gasoline powered leaf blowers.

- a. Gasoline-powered blowers prohibited. Use or operation of portable gasoline-powered leaf blowers within the city for any purpose except testing noise levels is unlawful and shall constitute an infraction, punishable as provided by law.
- b. No person of real property, tenant in possession of real property, or person in control of real property shall allow the operation of a gasoline powered leaf blower on the property.
- c. No person shall allow an employee or agent to operate a gasoline powered leaf blower within the City.

Santa Monica

4.08.270 Restrictions on leafblower operation

2. Prohibitions:

- (1) No person shall operate any motorized leafblower within the City,
- (2) No owner of real property, tenant in possession of real property, or person in control of real property shall allow the operation of a motorized leafblower on the property;
- (3) No person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance or similar service shall allow an employee or agent of that service to operate a motorized leafblower within the City.

Laguna Beach

7.25.070 Real property maintenance noise regulations.

C. No landowner, gardener, property maintenance service, contractor, subcontractor or employer shall permit or allow any person or persons working under their direction and control to operate any tool, equipment or machine in violation of the provisions of this section.

D. The use of electrical or gasoline powered blowers, such as commonly used by gardeners and other persons for cleaning lawns, yards, driveways, gutters and other property is prohibited at any time within the city limits.

1.15.030 Administrative citation authority.

D. The owner of any premises within the city has the responsibility for keeping such premises free of violations related to the use or condition of the property. The owner of such premises is a responsible party and shall be separately liable for violations committed by tenants or occupants relative to the use or condition of the property. (Ord.1395 2,2002)

Redondo Beach

4-24.507 Domestic power tools

C. It is unlawful to operate any motorized leaf blower in the City at any time.

1-2.04 Prohibited acts: Causing, permitting, and suffering.

Whenever in this Code any act or omission is made unlawful, it shall include causing, permitting, aiding, abetting, suffering, or concealing the fact of such act or omission.

Saratoga

Homeowners are responsible for ensuring compliance on their property, regardless of who is using the leafblower, and may be subject to penalties for violations.

Los Gatos

Section 16.20.060 Powered Equipment

- a. Gasoline leaf blowers shall be prohibited from use in all residential, commercial, and industrial zones or public space.
- b. Electric leaf blowers in excess of 65 decibels shall be prohibited from use in all residential, commercial and industrial zones or public space, measured 50' from the source.
- c. Miscellaneous nonstationary noise sources such as; electric or gasoline lawn mowers, electric leaf blowers, edge trimmers, hedge trimmers and other similar moveable noise sources shall be operated only during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekends in residential, commercial, industrial and public spaces or noise sensitive zones. Leaf blower use is prohibited on Sundays and holidays.
- d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to emergency work as defined in article I of this chapter.

Section 20.070 Enforcement and violation - penalty

- a. The Town Manager, or his or her designee, has primary responsibility for enforcement of this Chapter. The Town Manager is authorized to promulgate regulations, and to take any and all other actions reasonable and necessary to enforce this Chapter, including, but not limited to, investigating violations, and issuing fines.
- b. If the Town Manager or his or her designee determines that a violation of this Chapter has occurred, he/she will issue a written warning notice that a violation has occurred and the potential penalty that will apply for future violations.
- c. The violation of any provision contained in this chapter, is hereby declared to be unlawful and any person or entity found to be in violation shall be guilty of an infraction, which shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

Rationale for change in gas leaf blower ordinance

Modeled on City of Santa Monica City Council amendment to section 4.08.270 municipal code, Sept. 28, 2010

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers adversely impacts community health and welfare.

Gas leaf blowers generate high noise levels, which disrupt neighborhood tranquility, disturb residents, workers, and visitors, and thereby degrade the quality of life in Los Altos.

Gas leaf blowers generate significant amounts of toxic emissions which contribute to air pollution, thereby intensifying climate change.

The use of gas leaf blowers increases the volume of particulate matter in the air and thereby exacerbates allergies and respiratory ailments.

In order to combat these problems, the City of Los Altos has prohibited the use of gas leaf blowers since 1991.

Despite this prohibition, and despite education and enforcement, the use of gas leaf blowers has persisted to the community's detriment.

The persistence of this unlawful activity necessitates the adoption of more stringent measures, including holding business and property owners and commercial landscape companies responsible for the illegal use of the leaf blowers by their employees or agents and on their property.



SVCE Watts for Lunch Workshop Summary February 27, 2020

[Silicon Valley Clean Energy's](#) 'Watts for Lunch' workshop was jointly held with [San Jose Clean Energy](#) on February 27th at Cadence Design Systems in San Jose.

This workshop series was commissioned for SVCE's and SJCE's commercial and industrial customer community, providing a setting for peer-to-peer learning, networking and collaboration. Our February workshop was focused on Building Electrification and featured speakers from the Building Decarbonization Coalition and Google.

Future events will continue to be constructed around SVCE's mission of strategic electrification in the built environment and transportation sector. Feedback and suggestions are always welcomed for future topics! Presentations and discussions from the February workshop are summarized below:

Reach Codes Across Santa Clara County – John Supp, Account Services Manager SVCE

- Reach Codes go above and beyond Title 24 building codes and encourage new construction to limit use of gas, encourage all-electric with some gas use, or require all-electric
- Includes EV Infrastructure for new construction to upgrade conduit for EV readiness and provide faster charging when appropriate
- Majority of cities in Santa Clara County have passed some iteration of reach codes
- SVCE, SJCE, & Peninsula Clean Energy will provide technical support on how cities can implement reach codes
 - SJ to provide technical assistance to builders specifically focused on high-rise buildings
- Question: Are there any rebates for new commercial construction?
 - SJCE and SVCE do not provide rebates because previous studies show that building all electric is already cheaper than building with gas

Policy & Practice of Electrification- Panama Bartholomy, Director at Building Decarbonization Coalition

- PG&E is in support of stopping expansion of gas network
- Local governments already have climate plans to address GHG in the built environment and transportation
- UC Carbon Neutral Buildings Cost Study stated that building electrification is cheaper and safer
- Gas prices are increasing faster than electricity prices
 - PG&E just approved for a 26% rate increase
 - Electricity rates are increasing too, largely in response to fires.
- State incentives are shifting from efficiency programs to GHG reduction programs
 - CPUC has started a proceeding about the future of natural gas
 - Get in front of being on the backend of natural gas price increases
- Question: Will these dynamics affect commercial tariffs?
 - Residents subsidize every other class of customer.
 - CPUC proceeding will likely have great impacts on rate of change for gas prices and transition off the system.
- Question: Do you see the chance of a carbon tax on natural gas?

- Cap and Trade already operates as a carbon tax in CA
 - Nationally, TBD
- Question: Do you see directed biogas or agricultural sources entering the system/existing natural gas infrastructure?
 - Methane is incredibly power super pollutant, must capture methane from dairies and other sources.
 - With in-state supplies, we couldn't support more than 10-15% for total natural gas demand. With nation-wide resources, not more than 30%.
 - Simply extends lifetime of fossil natural gas system. (E3 Pathways to a Renewable Energy Future)

Innovative All-Electric Construction- Asim Tahir, District and Renewable Energy Lead at Google













- Google Bayview Project
 - 4MW of integrated PV
 - Electrified heating and cooling which shapes load seasonally via 2,000+ geothermal piles
 - Integrated restoration of wetlands in the area
- Questions: Replicable lessons from PV development?
 - Panels on current building were designed to follow architecture.
 - Innovation to put PVs on building cladding facing E/W; carbon value of solar greater even through net energy production less; if beautiful enough, could you subtract the value of the cladding replaced?
- Questions: What solutions were tied to specifics of building design?
 - Geographical needs footprint- building design allowed for majority heating/cooling from heat transfer.

Programs Overview- Don Bray, Director of Account Services and Communications at SVCE

- CALeVIP will cover majority of South Bay territory and will cross with SJCE and PCE service territory
 - SJCE and SVCE awarded 10M-12M in funds for expansion of EV infrastructure
- GreenPrime Direct (SVCE Program)
 - Large commercial customers can participate in a PPA sleeve which will allow customers to procure their own power contracts
- Eco-Invest program (SVCE Program)
 - Commercial customers can invest a portion of their generation bill amount into an SVCE account which SVCE will match for an electrification projects or demand flexibility projects

Next SVCE "Watts for Lunch" Workshop

- Planned for Fall 2020
 - Announcements will be made via email
- Questions or suggestions – please contact Peyton Parks
 - peyton.parks@svcleanenergy.org

					Building Reach			EV Reach
Member Agency	Status	Next Meeting	Date of Next Meeting	Code Language	Encourage Gas Reduction (1 + 2 + 2A)	Limit Gas (1 + 2A)	Ban Gas (1 only)	Higher than CalGREEN
Mountain View		Approved		Begins on pg. 23			X	X
Morgan Hill		Approved		Begins on pg. 45			X	
Milpitas		Approved		Begins on pg. 1132	X			X
Monte Sereno		Approved		Begins on pg. 3	X ¹			X
Saratoga		Approved		Begins on pg. 33		X		X
Los Gatos		Approved		Begins on pg. 93			X	X
Cupertino		Approved		Ordinance			X	X
Los Altos Hills		Approved		Ordinance		X		X
Campbell		Approved		Begins on pg. 41		X		
Los Altos		1st Reading					X	
Santa Clara County		Staff Proposal			X			
Sunnyvale		Staff Proposal				X		
Gilroy	-	Declined						

¹Reach code proposes wiring all homes for electric appliances and battery storage

Key

Status



Approved



2nd Reading



1st Reading



Staff Proposal



Council Briefing

Building Reach

- 1 - All-electric buildings
- 2 - Mixed fuel has higher requirements
- 2A - Mostly electric/electric heating only

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2019/20 Targets & Work Plan

March 9, 2020

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Review and comment on Building and Electric Vehicle Reach Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Teksler and Lei Yuan 	January 2020	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 19, 2019, City Council directed the EC and City staff to pursue an All-Electric Reach Code Ordinance On January 30, 2020, the subcommittee and City Staff met to discuss the next steps Ordinance language revised by subcommittee and reviewed by staff Feb. 2020 Reach Code community workshop confirmed for March 31, 2020
	Update of City's CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainability Coordinator position was approved by the City Council for the Fiscal Year 2019-20/2020-21 Operating Budget on June 11, 2019 and position was filled Jan. 2020 Staff is currently discussing budget and next steps with City management team
Water Conservation & Stormwater Management	Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist staff in development and review of Plan 	June 2019	Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff made a presentation of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan to the Environmental Commission on May 13, 2019 This was approved by City Council on July 9, 2019

Solid Waste Diversion	Provide review comments on Solid Waste Disposal Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee Don Weiden, Laura Teksler and Chad Martin 	January 2020	Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mission Trails Waste System (MTWS) Contract was approved by City Council on Oct. 22, 2019. The MTWS Contract extension will be finalized in March/ April 2020. Staff is working with R3 Consultants and MTWS on finalizing the revisions from the track changes received January 14, 2020.
	Investigate initiatives on limiting single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with Staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Trese (Assistant Civil Engineer) and Emiko Ancheta (Sustainability Coordinator) are the Los Altos representatives for the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee. The draft model ordinance was distributed to the County Ad Hoc Committee members for discussion in Nov. 2019; currently, revisions are being made. The EC submitted a status report to City Council and Staff on December 16, 2019. The second draft of the ordinance was reviewed at the Feb. 2020 Adhoc meeting.
Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Education Fund held by LACF David Klein 	June 2019	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with History Museum Apricot Stem Fair; EnviroThon Challenge held at the Apricot STEM Fair on June 30, 2019. Winners and awards were selected at the EC meeting of July 8, 2019. EC will coordinate w/ History Museum for next year's event.
	Update environmental measures on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Martin 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City has hired a new Public Information's Officer, Sonia Lee. Emiko and Sonia will work together on updating the City's website, including the Environmental Resources Dashboard.
	Continue gas-powered leaf blower (GPLB) ban outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Teksler 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Ziff will give an update on her team's efforts to educate about the GPLB at the March 9, 2020 EC meeting.

	Continue anti-idling outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Weiden 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 10, 2019, the Los Altos HS Survey Results were presented. • The EC has been supporting the efforts of Greentown Los Altos.
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach Code workshop is scheduled for March 31, 2020.
	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan • Water Conservation • Storm Water Management • Solid Waste Diversion • Urban Forest / Trees • Downtown Vision 		Public outreach and education	