



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM - Monday, August 08, 2022

Telephone/Video Conference only

Please Note: Per California Executive Order N-29-20, the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission will meet via teleconference only. Members of the Public may call (669) 444-9171 to participate in the conference call (Meeting ID: 819 4713 0360), or go online to <https://losaltosca.gov.zoom.us/j/81947130360?pwd=RDloalpkUTc0bGVmY1kxVGm1U2thQT09> .

Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments.

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Chair and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the meeting to ECpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov . Emails received prior to the beginning of the meeting will be included in the public record.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes (Updated 2022-08-08)

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of July 11, 2022

2. Environmental Commission Meeting Schedule

Consider a change in the Environmental Commission meeting schedule for the meetings to commence at 6:00 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M. on second Monday of a month.

3. Reach Codes Subcommittee's Recommendations on Reach Codes Update

Discuss and amend/approve the recommendations by the Reach Codes Subcommittee for the City Council on Reach Codes Update (Reach Codes 2.0)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GPLB) Ban

Discuss potential endorsement by the Environmental Commission of a GPLB ban enforcement.

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan

- a. Discuss Work Plan updates and Prioritize Work Plan Projects
- b. Environmental Commissioners' Assignment for Council Meetings

6. City Staff Updates

Receive information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

A. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Presentation by BlocPower, a climate technology company, on the Company services
- B. Presentation by Ken Branson, Aide to Senator Josh Becker on new environmental legislation from Sacramento
- C. Presentation by Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) on Tariffs On-Bill (TOB) pilot program

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports, and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the interment at https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For further questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
TELECONFERENCE**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Delagneau, Vice Chair Hecht, Commissioners Humayun, Lu, Teksler, van Reis.
ABSENT: Commissioner Weiden.

ATTENDEES: Council Member (Council Liaison) Fligor, Anthony Meyer, Dawn Smithson, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, David Siddique, Gary Hedden, Ellie El-Fishawy, Farida Abd el hak, Hannah Cushing, Olivia Fritsch, Aida Fairman, Betty Chin.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes

Approved minutes of special meeting of June 20, 2022

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Teksler, seconded by Commissioner van Reis, the Environmental Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2022.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Humayun, Lu, Teksler, van Reis

NOES: None

ABSENT: Weiden

ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. Introduction: New Director of the Environmental Services Department

Aida Fairman introduced herself to the Environmental Commission as the new Director of the Environmental Services and Utilities Department. Aida Fairman provided information on this newly created Department and was welcomed by the Commission. Fairman also provided information on the recruitment schedules for the sustainability coordinator and sustainability manager positions.

Public Comment

None

3. Road Map to a Tree Master Plan

Farida Abd el hak and Ellie El-Fishawy of GreenTown made a presentation on “Road Map to a Tree Master Plan” supplemented by comments by Gary Hedden of GreenTown. The Commissioners asked questions and discussed items such as tree preservation as a follow up to the presentation.

Public Comment

Betty Chin commented on community concerns about existing trees and their preservation, and inquired about the City’s plan for preservation of existing trees. Chin offered to inform her neighbors and offered her assistance on the Urban Forest Master Plan in its preparation.

4. Water Conservation

a. Presentation by California Water Service (Cal Water)

Dawn Smithson and Anthony Meyer from Cal Water made a presentation on the water conservation programs by Cal Water followed by questions and comments by the Commissioners.

Public Comment

Hannah Cushing inquired about the requirements of Cal Water’s “Lawn to Garden” program. Betty Chin commented on the need for penalties to facilitate water conservation.

b. Presentation by Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) on Water Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO)

Roseryn Bhudsabourg and David Siddique from SCVWD made a presentation on the background and requirements of MWENDO followed by questions and comments by the Commissioners.

Public Comment

None

c. Subcommittee formation

The Environmental Commission formed a Water Conservation Subcommittee comprising of Commissioners Teksler, Humayun, and Lu.

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan

a. Summary of Information by Commissioner Teksler from the SVCE MAWG Meetings, April to June

Commissioner Teksler reported on her participation in the SVCE MAWG meetings that included providing information on mechanisms to avoid power outages, SCVE contractor training program for switching gas appliances to electric appliances, and SVCE grant programs.

b. Discuss Work Plan Updates

Chair Delagneau provided and discussed updates on the work plan items with other

Environmental Commissioners. Commissioner Humayun provided an update on the work of the Urban Forest Management Subcommittee with the addition of Commissioner Lu to the Subcommittee.

6. City Staff Updates

Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities Department referenced the information provided by her, under Item 1, regarding the recruitments schedules for the sustainability coordinator and sustainability manager positions.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

No Comments

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Reach Codes Subcommittee Report
- Discussion: Change start time for the Environmental Commission Meetings to 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Delagneau adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Environmental Commission Reach Code Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

1. NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS
 - Propose a Reach Code that Modifies the CA Building Code
2. ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE
 - Propose a Reach Code that Modifies the CA Building Code
3. EXISTING BUILDING ALTERATION
 - Propose a City Council resolution to expedite electrification of existing buildings



Newly Constructed Buildings

	<u>2022 CA Building Code</u> <u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Bay Area Model Reach Code</u>	<u>Current Los Altos Reach</u> <u>Code</u>	<u>EC Subcommittee Draft</u> <u>Recommendations</u>
<u>Effective /</u> <u>Expiration Date</u>	Effective 1/1/2023	Amends Building Code. Effective after Adoption / State Filing. Expires 1/1/2026	Expires 1/1/2023	Amend Building Code. Effective after Adoption / State Filing. Expires 1/1/2026
<u>New Buildings*</u>	(Not previously used/occupied)	(Applies if >50% foundation or framing modified)	(Not previously used/occupied)	(Applies if >50% foundation modified, >50% framing modified, or >750 sf added)
Air Heating/Cooling	EHP	EHP	EHP	EHP
Water	EHP or G	EHP	EHP	EHP
Clothes Drying	E or G	E	E	E
Cooking / Fireplaces	E or G	E	E or G	E
<u>Exterior (Pool, SPA, Firepit)</u>	N/A	No G	N/A	No G
*Does not apply to Building Alterations, Renovations, Tenant Improvements				
EHP = Electric Heat Pump, E = Electric, G = Natural Gas (must be wired for replacement)				



City of Los Altos

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

	<u>2022 CA Building Code Mandatory</u>	<u>Bay Area Model Reach Code</u>	<u>Current Los Altos Reach Code</u>	<u>EC Subcommittee Draft Recommendations</u>
Effective / Expiration Date	Effective 1/1/2023	Amends Building Code. Effective after Adoption / State Filing. Expires 1/1/2026	Expires 1/1/2023	Amend Building Code. Effective after Adoption / State Filing. Expires 1/1/2026
Single Family Residence	1-L2 EV Ready	1-L2 EV Ready + 1-L1 EV Ready	1-L2 EV Ready + 1-L2 EV Ready	1-L2 EV Ready + 1-L2 EV Ready
Multi Family Residence and Other Buildings	Various Requirements	Various Requirements	Various Requirements	Apply Requirements the Greater of Bay Area Model or Current Los Altos
Off-Street Loading Docks	N/A	Applies	N/A	Apply Requirements of Bay Area Model
Parking Addition, Alteration, Renovation	N/A	Applies	N/A	Apply Requirements of Bay Area Model



City of Los Altos

Existing Building Alteration

- COUNCIL MOTION DIRECTING STAFF (with assistance from the Environmental Commission) to develop recommendations for expediting Electrification of Existing Buildings
 - Develop recommendations after researching and evaluating applicable actions (include actions presented in the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan) on
 - Education
 - Incentives and ordinances
 - Resources and funding
 - Develop recommendations concerning the partial or total end of gas utility service in the City
 - Present recommendations no later than June of 2024



City of Los Altos

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Los Altos Environmental Commission](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: EC PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 3 AUGUST 8, 2022 REACH CODES
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 4:10:13 PM

All,

Re the subcommittee presentation at:

<https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/losaltosca-meet-a920377cd8ec45b5858cc7d0b9b1e64f/ITEM-Attachment-001-882f8fecc9ff4a58b3587358f877107f.pdf>

Re last slide (below): Do we have to reinvent the wheel? The state, the county and several cities have already done a lot of this work. For example, Palo Alto has a sustainability site with a ton of information:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/City-Hall/Sustainability/Get-Involved/Sustainability-News-Start-Your-Home-Electrification-Journey-&Make-the-Switch-from-Gas-to-Electric>
<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Sustainability/Electrification>

Can't we just use what's already out there?

Pat Marriott

EXISTING BUILDING ALTERATION

COUNCIL MOTION DIRECTING STAFF (with assistance from the Environmental Commission) to develop recommendations for expediting Electrification of Existing Buildings

q Develop recommendations after researching and evaluating applicable actions (include actions presented in the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan) on

- Education

- Incentives and ordinances

- Resources and funding

q Develop recommendations concerning the partial or total end of gas utility service in the City

q Present recommendations no later than June of 2024

Town Crier submission from Environmental Commission

Dear Editor,

Recent articles and letters to the editor have referenced the Environmental Commission's work on reach codes. As the commission conducts this work we want residents to have accurate information about our recommendations.

Every three years California adopts a new building code that sets the minimum standards for new construction. Local municipalities can adopt codes that are stricter or "reach" beyond this base code. Los Altos' current reach code requires new construction to be all-electric with exceptions for cooking and fireplaces. Beginning in January of 2023, Los Altos' current reach code will be replaced by the new 2022 California Code, which requires building electrification to a lesser extent. Like many other local cities, Los Altos is considering adopting new reach codes to go into effect in January.

Nearly forty percent of Los Altos' greenhouse gas emissions come from natural gas use in buildings. Natural gas is mostly methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas that is twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide and which is exacerbating the climate crisis we are already experiencing. New research also indicates that natural gas appliances release emissions that are even more harmful to the health of building occupants than previously recognized. To make progress on Los Altos' Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) goal of carbon neutrality by 2035 we must address these emissions through building electrification. Building electrification also helps prepare our buildings to align with future state laws and the increasing demand for electric vehicle charging.

The Environmental Commission has been evaluating model codes developed by three community energy providers (SVCE, PCE and EBCE). In addition to the outreach and survey on reach codes we conducted in 2020, the commission held two public workshops in June and presented at a city council study session to explain the model codes and receive feedback. At its August meeting the commission developed recommended reach codes based on that research and input and we are now seeking community input on our recommendations via a survey. The commission will present its recommendations and survey outreach to the city council who will then decide whether to adopt or revise the codes, or to forgo implementation. The survey is available on the Environmental Commission website.

The Environmental Commission's recommended reach codes would require all-electric new construction as detailed below:

- Requires all-electric appliances in newly constructed buildings (space & water heating, cooking, fireplaces, clothes drying) and additional EV-charging infrastructure.
- Applies to buildings when 50% or more of framing or foundation is modified or when 750 or more square feet are added.
- Prohibits extending gas service lines to outdoor appliances and equipment (e.g. pool and spa equipment)
- DOES NOT APPLY TO EXISTING BUILDING ALTERATION OR APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT. This has been the subject of resident feedback and concern about the cost of replacing gas appliances with electric ones when they fail or are replaced. The commission is not currently recommending any requirement for electrification in these cases but will seek direction from the council on investigating future action on existing building electrification. The council has already indicated an interest in exploring policies and funding programs to help offset such costs to residents.
- DOES NOT INCLUDE A NATURAL GAS “SHUT-OFF” DATE.

The survey can be found on the Environmental Commission home page as well as the reach code webpage which includes information and resources that may be helpful to residents in understanding the various aspects of this topic (from commission webpage at losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission select ‘Reach Codes’). There is also a plethora of information about the various aspects of home electrification on BayRen.org.

The Environmental Commission thanks residents for taking time to review and comment on our recommendations.

To: Los Altos Environmental Commission
From : GreenTown Los Altos Clean Air Advocates
Date: August 8, 2022

Who We Are

We are GreenTown Los Altos volunteers who formed a group in January 2019 to address the issue of gas leaf blowers in our community. The ordinance prohibiting gas leaf blowers was added to the Los Altos Municipal Code in 1991 and yet they continue to be in use throughout the City. (Municipal Code 6.16.070 – Prohibited Acts Section B.15).

What We Have Accomplished

We launched a public education campaign which is continuing.

- We created handouts for homeowners and notices for landscape workers which inform them of the gas leaf blower prohibition and fines for citations and which educate about the environmental effects and health hazards of gas leaf blowers. Volunteers have distributed over 800 of these flyers.

(See them and other resources on the GreenTown website: greentownlosaltos.org/gas-leaf-blowers.)

-Members of our group authored articles, letters-to-the editor, and opinion pieces in the Town Crier and the monthly GreenTown newsletter. Also, we have been active in conversations on Nextdoor.

-We applied for a \$25,000 grant from Bay Area Air Quality Management District for a gas/electric leaf blower exchange, but did not receive the grant.

-We met several times with Los Altos Police Code Enforcement, hired in March 2019, and with other officers and Chief of Police Galea.

-We partnered with Los Altos Hardware for an electric leaf blower promotion.

Where We Are Now

Complaint calls received by Los Altos Police concerning gas leaf blower violations:

- 2019: 403
- 2020: 478
- 2021: 384

Number of gas leaf blower citations issued:

- 2018: 12
- 2019: 40 (the first year of our Clean Air Advocate activities)
- 2020: 13
- 2021: 7

Why We Need to Curtail the Use of Gas Leaf Blowers

The use of gas 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.

Despite the Los Altos Municipal Code Ordinance prohibiting gas leaf blowers and our years of public education, the use of gas leaf blowers has persisted to the community's detriment.

How to Curtail the Use of Gas Leaf Blowers

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

In Los Altos, the operator of the blower receives the citation. We have researched gas leaf blower prohibitions in other cities and learned that when the homeowner is fined for a violation, enforcement is more effective. Some of the other cities that fine the property owner are Palo Alto, Cupertino, Saratoga, Menlo Park (in study session), Santa Monica, Laguna Beach, Redondo Beach.

We urge the Environmental Commission to support the efforts of the GreenTown Los Altos Clean Air Advocates by signing the attached statement.

Linda Ziff
GreenTown Los Altos Clean Air Advocate, Lead
lindaz@greentownlosaltos.org

Proposed Statement

The Environmental Commission recognizes that gas leaf blowers contribute significantly to air pollution. The 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) designates the phase-out of off-road fossil fuel engines as a Priority Action in (1.6A). Seventy percent of respondents to a CAAP Task Force survey ranked air and air quality as “most important” to Los Altos quality of life.

In 1991, Los Altos was the first city in the Bay Area to ban gas leaf blowers. But a 10-minute walk or ride through Los Altos will confirm that the illegal use of gas leaf blowers is still prevalent in our community. Police rarely issue citations (40 in 2019, 13 in 2020, 7 in 2021), even though they witness violations on a daily basis.

In order to protect the health of our community, the Environmental Commission requests the enforcement of the Municipal Code ordinance that prohibits gas leaf blowers in Los Altos. As demonstrated in other cities such as Palo Alto, Cupertino, Saratoga, Santa Monica, Laguna Beach, Redondo Beach and soon Menlo Park, enforcement will be much easier if the ordinance is modified to hold the property owners as well as the operators responsible for the illegal use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Los Altos.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2022/23 Targets & Work Plan
Updated August 2022

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action and Adaptation Plan	Implementation of City's CAAP priority actions for year	Subcommittee- Bruno Delagneau, Raashina Humayun, Carl van Reis	Ongoing	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority actions identified and owners (staff/EC) identified • Exploring fuel-switching incentives and options (on-bill financing, etc) • Subcommittees formed as of May meeting of the Environmental Commission • Subcommittee meeting with BlocPower
	Reach Codes 2.0	Subcommittee - Tom Hecht, Laura Teksler and Don Weiden	September 2022 adoption	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online public outreach workshops held on June 6, 2022, and in person workshop on June 8, 2022 • Coordinating with SVCE to provide technical resources • Evaluating model ordinances • Presentation to the City Council on July 12, 2022
	Greening City operations	Appropriate City staff coordinating with CAAP subcommittees	Ongoing	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritized energy efficiency audits of city buildings and alternative work schedules/telecommute options
	Gas Powered Off Road Engines	Subcommittee TBD	Ongoing	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for subcommittee identified • Next step: Partner with citizen group to increase and enforcement for GPLB ban
	EV Fair	EC Liaison Carl van Reis	Annual	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial staff discussion with GreenTown • Next steps: Develop objectives, scope and location and coordinate with staff • Commissioner van Reis coordinating with GreenTown

<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resource Management</p>	<p>Urban Forest Management</p>	<p>Subcommittee - Raashina Humayun, Shiaoping Lu, Carl van Reis</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>CAAP Goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs identified: public outreach to protect drought-stressed trees, prepare for Urban Forest Master Plan including objectives, scope of work, consulting needs • Investigate expanding non-organic pesticide/herbicide ban • Commissioner Lu added to the subcommittee as of July meeting of the Environmental Commission • Subcommittee working on long and short term tasks for Urban Forest Management
<p style="text-align: center;">Solid Waste</p>	<p>Single Use Plastics</p>	<p>Subcommittee- Bruno Delagneau, Laura Tekler, and Don Weiden</p>	<p>Spring 2023</p>	<p>CAAP & Solid Waste Reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee to create business survey for distribution via Chamber of Commerce to effected businesses • Subcommittee to research status of regional actions
<p style="text-align: center;">Water Conservation</p>	<p>Public communication and outreach efforts Assist staff with MWENDO</p>	<p>Subcommittee – Raashina Humayun, Shiaoping Lu, and Laura Tekler</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CAAP & Resource Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittees formed as of July meeting of the Environmental Commission.
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Outreach & Education</p>	<p>Update environmental webpage on the City web site</p>	<p>Staff (webpage) Commissioner Carl van Reis (Energy & Water usage metrics)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public outreach and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City’s Public Information’s Officer, Sonia Lee and staff updated the CAAP page and will continue to update the City’s website • Commissioner van Reis to obtain CalWater & SVCE usage data with staff assistance
	<p>Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public outreach and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City’s Public Information’s Officer and staff will explore options and possibilities for further community outreach



CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

August - September 2022
Adopted December 14, 2021

Council Meeting	Environmental Commissioner Assigned
August 23 2022	
September 6, 2022	
September 20, 2022	

The adopted August-September schedule, as shown above, includes cancelling the first regular meeting in August for a summer break, and a different schedule in September to account for Jewish Holiday on September 27.