

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM - Monday, February 13, 2023

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: 862 7489 9477, Passcode: 556422), or go online to

https://losaltosca-gov.zoom.us/j/86274899477?pwd=Q3hRb3gwN2JLUHJBQWFqWjBzMTJMQT09

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 <u>ECpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov</u>. 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

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2022.

2. <u>Reach Codes</u>

Discuss and provide a statement of support for reach code recommendations brought by City Staff.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. Presentation from Community Climate Solutions

Presentation by Lisa Altieri from Community Climate Solutions.

4. Environmental Commission Work Plan

a. Tree Protection Ordinance

Status update by staff.

b. MWENDO

Status update by staff.

c. Other Work Plan Items

Subcommittees to provide updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan (Continued)

d. Electrification Information on EC Website

Status update by staff, followed by a discussion.

<u>e. EV Fair</u>

Status update by staff, followed by a discussion.

CITY STAFF UPDATES

COUNCIL MEETING ASSIGNMENTS

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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 <u>https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261</u>.

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.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M. TELECONFERENCE

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT:	Chair Delagneau, Commissioner Teksler, Commissioner van Reis, Commissioner Humayun, Commissioner Weiden, Commissioner Lu
ABSENT:	Vice Chair Hecht
ATTENDEES:	Director Aida Fairman (Environmental Services and Utilities) Director Nick Zornes (Development Services) Tania Katbi (Sustainability Coordinator) Casey Leedom (Sustainability Coordinator)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Gary Hedden provided public comment.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. <u>Environmental Commission Minutes</u> Approved minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2022.

<u>Action</u>: Upon a motion by Commissioner Weiden, seconded by Commissioner Teksler, the Environmental Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2022.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote: AYES: Delagneau, Humayun, Teksler, van Reis, Weiden, Lu NOES: None ABSENT: Hecht ABSTAIN: None

2. Designate Chair Pro Tem

Canceled meeting of January 9, 2023, in lieu of designating a Chair Pro Tem.

Action: Upon a motion by Chair Delagneau, seconded by Commissioner Humayun, the Environmental Commission canceled the meeting of January 9, 2023.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote: AYES: Delagneau, Humayun, Teksler, van Reis, Weiden, Lu NOES: None ABSENT: Hecht ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. <u>Presentation on SB1383 Food Recovery Program</u>

Ciara Low from Joint Venture presented on Santa Clara County and the City of Los Altos'

Food Recovery Program. This was followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

<u>Public Comment</u> Gary Hedden and Sybil Cramer provided public comment.

4. <u>CPUC Net Energy Metering Solar Tariff</u>

Tania Katbi provided information on the CPUC update from the Net-Energy Metering Tariff (NEM 2.0) to the proposed Net Billing Tariff (NEM 3.0). This was followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

Action: Upon a motion by Chair Delagneau, seconded by Commissioner Lu, the Environmental Commission voted to put the new CPUC Net Billing Tariff on the agenda for a future meeting.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote: AYES: Delagneau, Humayun, Teksler, van Reis, Weiden, Lu NOES: None ABSENT: Hecht ABSTAIN: None

<u>Public Comment</u> Gary Hedden provided public comment.

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan

a. <u>Reach Codes</u>

Tania Katbi provided a status update, followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

b. <u>Tree Protection Ordinance</u>

Tania Katbi provided a status update, followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

c. <u>MWENDO</u>

Tania Katbi provided a status update, followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

d. Other Work Plan Items

Chair Delagneau and EC Subcommittees provided updates on various items from the workplan, followed by questions and comments from Commissioners.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Environmental Commission Work Plan (Continued)

e. <u>Electrification Information on EC Website</u>

Tania Katbi provided a status update, followed by a discussion amongst the Commissioners.

f. <u>EV Fair</u>

The EV Fair Planning Committee provided an update on the status of the EV Fair, followed by a discussion amongst the Commissioners.

Commissioner Teksler left the meeting at 9:04pm.

CITY STAFF UPDATES

7. <u>City Staff Updates</u>

There were no city staff updates.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Lu provided an update on the Lehigh Cement Plant and the County Board of Supervisors meeting. Commissioner Weiden provided information regarding submitting public comments for the County Board of Supervisors meeting. Chair Delagneau provided a comment about Commissioners attending upcoming Council meetings. Chair Delagneau provided information about an upcoming webinar to discuss state legislation.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. EV Fair
- 2. Presentation on Reach Codes
- 3. Presentation on Tree Protection Ordinance
- 4. Presentation from Community Climate Solutions or BlocPower
- 5. Presentation from CPUC on Net Energy Metering Solar Tariff

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Delagneau adjourned the meeting at 9:24 P.M.



SUBJECT: Reach Codes

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

On September 6, 2022, City Council accepted staff's recommendations to (1) complete a cost effectiveness study based on the recommendations of the Environmental Commission on Reach Codes, (2) refer the recommended Codes to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for comment, (3) affirm or re-adopt the existing Reach Codes to continue after 12/31/2022, and (4) direct staff to review what other peer and local agencies have adopted with regards to Reach Codes after the new State Codes take effect on 1/1/23.

On November 29, 2022, City Council adopted the updated California Building Standards Code (Title 24) with local amendments that included the previously existing Reach Codes. These will continue to be in effect for three years or until the new Reach Codes have been adopted.

STATUS UPDATE

City Staff has completed the following tasks:

- Staff reviewed the Bay Area Model Reach Code, the existing Los Altos Reach Code, and the Reach Code recommendations presented by the Environmental Commission during the September 6, 2022, City Council meeting.
- Staff conducted research and compiled data on reach codes adopted in late 2022 in peer and local jurisdictions.
- Staff reviewed and gathered cost effectiveness studies relevant to Los Altos' Climate Zone based on the Reach Code recommendations presented by the Environmental Commission.
- Staff is finalizing a local cost analysis to determine electrification costs for a typical singlefamily home in Los Altos.

Staff has developed recommendations to present to the Environmental Commission for comment and approval. These recommendations are included in the following presentation.

After the Environmental Commission reviews the updated Reach Code recommendations, Staff will bring the recommendations to City Council in March 2023. Once the Reach Codes are formally adopted by Council, they will be submitted to the CEC for review.



SUBJECT: Presentation on Community Climate Solutions

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

Community Climate Solutions (CCS) is a local non-profit organization that provides a simple, easy, and fun engagement platform and program that empowers residents to take climate actions at home and beyond in the areas of transportation, home electrification, water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction. The program helps identify easy, affordable actions that residents can take to make a difference, and as a result, most households see savings between \$1,000 and \$3,000/year while reducing their household climate impact. The CCS program is a low cost, effective strategy to engage the community and reduce residential emissions.

STATUS UPDATE

Lisa Altieri will provide a presentation on Community Climate Solutions, the services that the organization provides, and potential opportunities to directly engage Los Altos residents in climate actions.

"The CCS Platform has everything our city needs to engage residents and make an impact."

- Rachel DiFranco, Sustainability Manager, City of Fremont, CA

It's time to empower residents on Climate Solutions

CITIES ARE STEPPING UP.

Cities across the U.S. and beyond are looking for innovative ways to take action on climate change. Many initiatives focus on renewable energy, building codes, or city facilities. However, there is another opportunity for significant impact—engaging residents.

YOUR RESIDENTS CARE.

According to Yale research, over 60% of Americans are worried about climate change and want to help, but don't know what to do. In many cities, the percentage of concerned residents is even higher. The important news—they can now make a big difference.

40-60% of Climate Action Plan emissions come from just

basic household activities residents do every day—









Where residents NOW have options to take action, lower their impact, save money - AND help your city meet climate goals.

Introducing Community Climate Solutions

DRIVING RESIDENTIAL ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Community Climate Solutions provides a simple, easy, and fun engagement platform and program that empowers residents to take climate actions at home and beyond. There are many easy, affordable actions that everyone can take to make a difference. And the savings are tangible—most households will save between \$1,000 and \$3,000/year while reducing their household climate impact.



Community Climate Solutions provides an easy, cost effective way to engage residents and accelerate emissions reductions.

with Community Climate Solutions:

YOUR RESIDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO:

- Learn about solutions
- Take action
- Save money

YOUR SUSTAINABILITY TEAM HAS A LOW-COST, PLUG AND PLAY PLATFORM TO:

- Include residents in your climate goals and initiatives
- Target a significant source of city emissions
- Build a more sustainable, resilient community

What Makes Community Climate Solutions Unique



ROBUST CARBON ANALYTICS ENGINE with data customized for each user so residents can see the true impact and savings from actions.



SIMPLE, FUN PLATFORM that makes it easy to learn to take climate actions, track progress, and save money



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT with built-in features for residents to work in teams, share tips, and celebrate wins

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CUSTOM PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT

local branding and custom engagement programs with dashboards and data reporting to track progress

"It's a Fitbit for Sustainability"

-James Keene, former City Manager, City of Palo Alto

COMMUNITY CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Building a safe, healthy future

Agenda Item 3.

Empowering residents to take action on climate change and build more resilient communities

The Power of Policy + Engagement

Agenda Item 3.

Electrifying Transportation

Electrifying Households

Streamline solar and heat pump permitting process, require electrification on new buildings or large remodels

install EV charging stations, require charging infrastructure on new buildings 73% of Californians are worried about global warming

Yale Program on Climate Change Communication





Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2021

73%

Community Engagement

What Works



Easy to use information for residents to learn about solutions and find resources for taking action



Events & Activities - EV ride & drive, composting classes, etc.



Empowering community leaders and existing social groups



Community Based Social Marketing highlighting solutions



Provide or connect residents with incentives and financing options



Educate local contractors ex: heat pump technology



Agenda Item 3.



EVERYDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION



Santa Cruz County: resilientsantacruzcounty.org



San Luis Obispo County: resilientSLO.org



Santa Barbara County: climateresilientSBC.org



Climate Smart San José

Agenda Item 3.

Agenda Item 3.

CCS Platform: Climate Smart Challenge

CLIMATE SMART CHALLENGE - GOGREEN TEAI Agende Item 3.

1. Join Your Team



3. Learn About Solutions

- Home energy
- Transportation
- Food and waste
- Water conservation
- Emergency Preparedness & Community resilience

2. Discover Your Impact



4. Create a Plan and Take Actions







Login English Agenda Item 3.

Join the Fremont Green Challenge to reduce your impact, save money and help create a cleaner, healthier future!











TOP COMMUNITY GROUP

Thornton Jr. High School - Fremont Green Challenge

TOP TEAM

green goobers



Agenda Item 3.

Join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to create a cleaner, healthier community and save money!

JOIN THE CHALLENGE

WHY JOIN? >







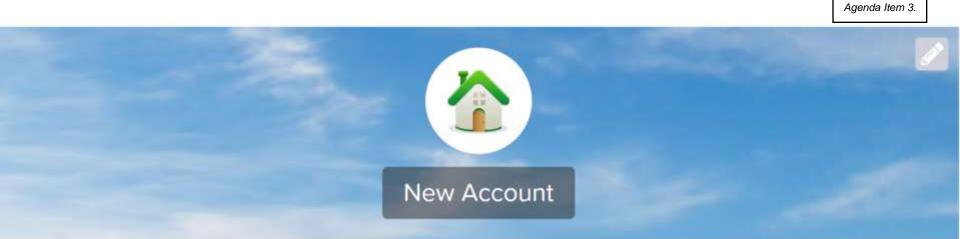


TOP COMMUNITY GROUP

Campolindo High School

TOP TEAM

Jackman Living Earth 20-21



Welcome to your dashboard! It's easy to get started. Just 3 simple steps:





How do you get around?

Transportation has the highest impact in most households.

Select ALL the ways people in your household get around

If you walk, bike, skateboard or unicycle, your miles are carbon free! So no need to report them here.



Make sure to select all the options that apply above.

Tell us about the cars in your household



Advanced Calculator

Personalized action recommendations, custom estimates on impact and savings and progress tracking.





Agenda Item 3.

Take action to make a difference

Agenda Item 3.

Action Categories

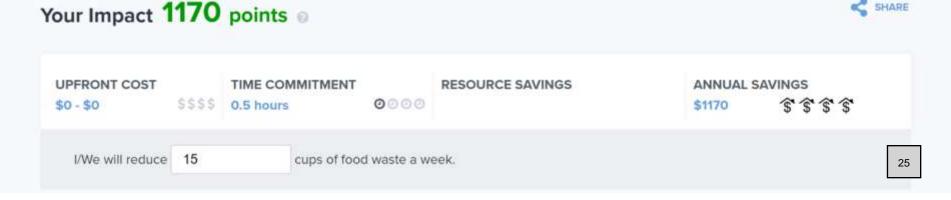
CO Recommended Actions



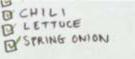
YOUTH FRIENDLY

Make a Meal Nan

Did you know the average American throws away more than 200 pounds of food every year, costing the average household of four \$1,800? That's a lot of food and money to throw out! And food waste creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The great news - it's easy to reduce food waste and save money by creating a meal plan!



+ CREATE POST



C SHARE

Agenda Item 3.

Introduction

Studies show that Americans today waste 50% more food than we did in the 1970s. While this is clearly going in the wrong direction, it also means we have a big opportunity to improve! Just a few easy changes can make a big difference.

It all starts with a bit of planning. By taking just a bit of time to make a weekly meal plan based on your favorite foods before you shop, you'll streamline your shopping and cooking - and save time, money and food.

Why is this important? Right now, about 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food waste. Reducing your household food waste by making a meal plan helps eliminate some

of those emissions, and means that the land, water and energy that produced your food will go to good use.

Think about what you eat

Make a plan 2

3

Figure out how much food you're saving





Agenda Item 3.

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Resources

Agenda Item 3.

PROGRAMS

QuitCarbon - create a plan to electrify your home

Electrifying your home's fossil fuel appliances (especially water heater and furnace) is the single most impactful thing you can do to reduce your family's carbon pollution and fight climate change.

But quitting carbon ain't easy! You need a plan, and someone by your side. QuitCarbon[™] is excited to write you a free Quittin' Plan!

Currently serving the San Francisco Bay Area. All outside of current service area will be put on a waitlist.

REBATE/CREDIT

Home Energy Score

Learn your home energy score to start saving big!

FINANCING

Residential Energy Efficiency Loan

You can recieve affordable Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) financing for your energy efficiency projects. Start your project today with 5 simple steps!

REBATE/CREDIT

BayREN Home+

Cash rebates for home energy improvements

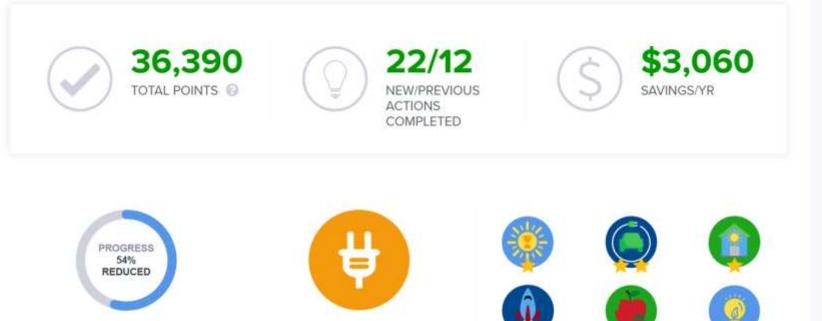
REBATE/CREDIT

Heat Pump Water Heater Rebate

Rebate for installing a new electric heat pump water heater.

My Progress

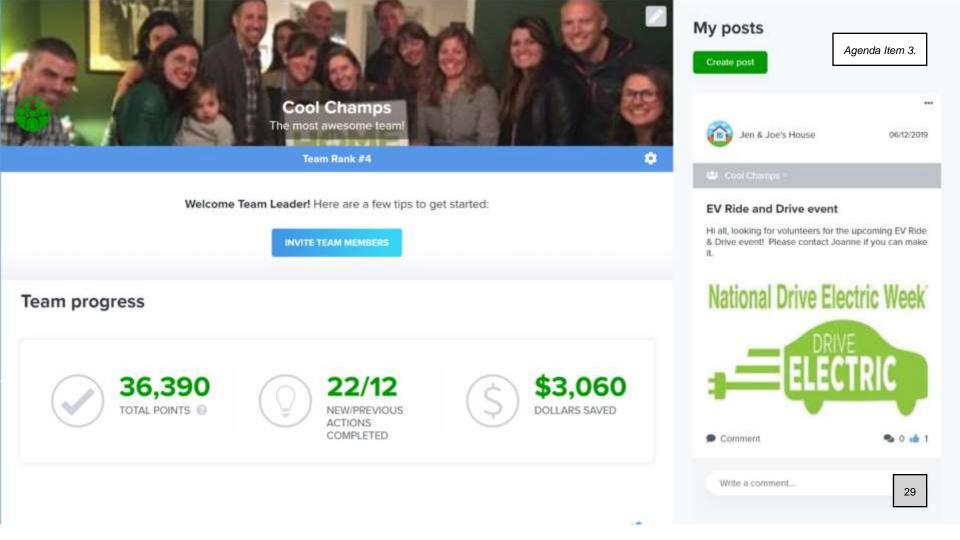
Agenda Item 3.



9.9 TONS/YR REDUCED WAY TO GO!

CONGRATS! YOU'VE REACHED THE PLUGGED IN LEVEL!

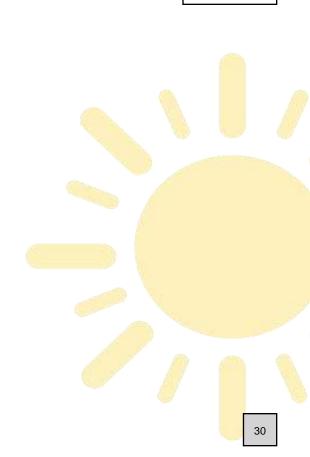




COMMUNITY CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Building a safe, healthy future

Lisa Altieri laltieri@communityclimate.org (650) 274-5171



Agenda Item 3.



SUBJECT: Tree Protection Ordinance

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

The City's Tree Protection Ordinance (Los Altos Municipal Code Chapter 11.08) provides regulations regarding the removal of certain trees within the City of Los Altos. The Ordinance was last updated in 2007. The City also has an existing Street Tree Planting List that regulates which trees may be planted in the public right-of-way.

On May 24, 2022, the Los Altos City Council directed the Environmental Commission and City staff to evaluate the existing Tree Protection Ordinance and provide recommendations for an updated ordinance.

Staff met internally with the Development Services Department to learn about the processes and procedures of Tree Removal Permits and researched neighboring jurisdictions' policies on protected trees. Staff presented initial recommendations on the Tree Protection Ordinance to the Environmental Commission Subcommittee on November 2, 2022.

To inform this update, City staff reached out to three certified arborists for fee proposals to provide technical recommendations related to tree species, tree replacement ratios, and prioritization of protected trees. The Arborist will also provide technical input on an updated Street Tree Planting List and a Replacement Tree Planting List.

STATUS UPDATE

Staff reviewed arborist proposals and selected a consulting firm to provide technical and policy recommendations to inform the update of the City's Tree Protection Ordinance and Street Tree Planting List, and to create a Private Tree Planting List for replacement trees. City staff are meeting with the consultant this week to kick off the project, assess the current implementation process for the tree protection ordinance, and review goals for the updated ordinance. The consultant will continue their work over the following weeks. City staff will bring updated recommendations to the Environmental Commission Subcommittee before bringing them to the Environmental Commission in March or April of 2023.



SUBJECT: MWENDO

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Santa Clara County Water Efficient New Development Task Force ("Task Force") was formed to develop a Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance to be adopted by jurisdictions in Santa Clara County to ensure that new developments are to be water efficient in order to extend the region's water supplies. In September 2018, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, on behalf of the Task Force, procured the technical assistance of a qualified sustainability consulting firm to finalize the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance, with input from Task Force representatives, the California Building Standards Commission, and the California Energy Commission.

City Staff met in November 2022 with the EC subcommittee, Valley Water, and their contractor, Green Evolution, to get up to speed on MWENDO. City Staff also met internally with the Planning Division to review specific measures within the Ordinance.

STATUS UPDATE

Green Evolution is currently working on updating the Model Ordinance based on the recent California Building Standards Code cycle and will provide it to jurisdictions upon completion. Staff will review the updated ordinance and meet internally to discuss any critical changes. Staff will then move forward with additional research, meetings with the EC subcommittee and Planning and Building Divisions, and recommendations.



SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission Work Plan is intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and align them with City Council priorities, and to serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2022/23 year. The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and review its priorities every three to six months.

At the Environmental Commission's regular meeting on August 8, 2022, the Commissioners discussed prioritization of the Commission's Work Plan items upon request by staff and put forth the following priorities (listed in order) for review by staff. City staff have updated "EV Fair" to Priority #5 and "Greening City Operations" to Priority #6.

- 1. Reach Codes
- 2. Tree Preservation Guidelines
- 3. Water Conservation (MWENDO), Implementation of CAAP priorities
- 4. Update Environmental Webpage on City website
- 5. EV Fair
- 6. Greening City Operations
- 7. Assist staff with Outreach and Education Effort
- 8. Single Use Plastics
- 9. Gas-Powered Off-Road Engines

The prioritization of the tasks in the Work Plan and target dates will be updated by staff as needed.

STATUS UPDATE

City Staff are primarily focusing current efforts on the first three items listed above.

Subcommittees to provide updates on recent work related to the work plan.



SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Website - Electrification

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

The "Energy" section of the Environmental Commission webpage is meant to be a resource and guide for residents looking to electrify their homes and install solar panels and battery storage. Among other benefits, building electrification is a crucial step towards meeting the City's climate goal of carbon neutrality by 2035.

City staff worked with Commissioners to update the Environmental Commission webpage to provide new sections specific to residential building electrification and solar energy. Staff and Commissioners completed multiple rounds of review to ensure the information provided on the website is accurate and easy to digest.

STAFF UPDATE

The "Building Electrification Resource Page" and "Residential Solar Resource Page" have been published on the Environmental Commission website at the following links:

Building Electrification Resource Page

Residential Solar Resource Page

Information regarding the new sites was published in the Los Altos Town Crier on 1/25/2023 and in the City Manager's Weekly Update on 1/30/2023.

DISCUSSION

Commission to discuss additional strategies for publicizing the electrification website.



SUBJECT: EV Fair

PREPARED BY: Casey Leedom, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

Goal 1.4A of the Climate Action and Adaptation (CAAP) Plan recommends the following:

- Develop a yearly EV fair with participation from local dealerships and owners.
- Develop a map of the city charging network and available dedicated parking spaces.
- Create a webinar series on EV ownership.
- Promote all available incentive programs and encourage their use.

The goal is to increase education and awareness of available EV resources and incentive programs.

STATUS UPDATE

City staff have continued to meet with the EV Fair Planning Committee (Sybil Cramer – Silicon Valley Chapter of Electric Vehicle Association, Suresh Venkatraman – GreenTown, and Commissioner Van Reis) to establish elements of the fair and coordinate next steps.

The event will be held at the Los Altos Community Center on June 3, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm. The plan is to incorporate a 'meet and greet' model where EV owners will display their vehicles. Attendees can chat with EV owners, ask questions, and explore different features of the vehicles. There will be E-bikes on display, as well as informational booths and exhibits.

The Committee plans to send out notifications to informational booth vendors and EV owners in the next month.

The Committee plans to advertise the event through multiple platforms: Main Street and South Los Altos banners, webpage, Town Crier, GreenTown Newsletter, social media, City Manager Weekly Update, school newsletters, neighboring jurisdictions' newsletters, and informational fliers.

Staff will bring a more detailed update to the Environmental Commission in March.

DISCUSSION

- 1. Environmental Commission / City of Los Altos Booth
- 2. Event Names:

Agenda Item 5.

- a. Destination Electric
- b. Electrify Your Ride
- c. The EV Everything Extravaganzad. The Los Altos Ultimate EV Expo