

2021 OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1998, the City Council established the Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) as an advisory body to recommend policies and programs related to preservation of open space, resource conservation, and sustainability. The Committee has worked with staff on a wide array of ecological issues generally following an annual work plan. Below is a summary of the work staff and the Committee has undertaken during calendar year 2021.

Policy Recommendations

- A. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) subcommittee worked with sustainability staff to recommend a Climate Emergency Declaration establishing new emissions-reduction targets which the City Council passed in July.
- B. Staff and OSEC tracked and supported County efforts to develop a Disposable Foodware Ordinance which was brought forth for City adoption in April.
- C. The Open Space Plan Update ad hoc subcommittee worked with staff on a proposed change to the 2001 Open Space Plan, which OSEC subsequently considered and slightly modified. The recommendation is expected to be brought to Council in early 2022.
- D. The Dark Skies Ordinance ad hoc subcommittee worked with staff to draft a proposed Outdoor Lighting Standards ordinance based on the International Dark-Sky Association's Model Lighting Ordinance and those in other leading Dark Sky Cities. The draft is being reviewed by other city staff and OSEC hopes to recommend it to Council in 2022.

Climate Action Plan – The Climate Action Plan subcommittee worked with provided policy support to staff to continue implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- A. Building Efficiency Program – Following the passage of an ordinance in 2019 and implementation work in 2020 funded by a grant from the BAAQMD, staff hired a Climate Corps Fellow in early 2021 to assist with the first year of mandatory compliance. Robust outreach, including four webinars and a couple hundred each letters, emails and phone calls resulted in a 79%, beating our goal of 75% for year one. Many operational, technical, communication and outreach challenges were encountered and overcome, though further improvements and resources will continue to be needed.
- B. Staff managed the DC Fast Charger in the Brisbane Village Shopping Center that OSEC supported and usage continued strong. In 2021, the station dispensed over 47,000 kWh, bringing the total since installation to nearly 154,000 kWh or an estimated 77,000 kg GHG emissions avoided.
- C. We reclaimed the station's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) credits from ChargePoint through participation in a Peninsula Clean Energy program, which will return 40% of LCFS revenues to the City without cumbersome administrative burden.
- D. In late 2020, staff applied for CALeVIP grant funds for 30 Level 2 charging stations across three city sites as well as one DC Fast Charger for City Hall. In 2021, staff recommended and Council approved CIP funds to provide the required match for the expected grants. An RFP process for design and construction was completed in the fall and City Council approved the award in December, with grant fund awards and station installations expected in 2022.

Habitat Restoration Days

- A. Summer Habitat Day with San Bruno Mountain Watch – Habitat events resumed after a year-plus hiatus due to COVID. OSEC, Public Works and Recreation Department staff supported and promoted a volunteer day hosted by San Bruno Mountain Watch on June 12th in Owl Canyon with volunteers primarily pulling invasive plants.
- B. Coastal Cleanup Day – After the covid-hiatus and a couple years at alternative sites, the annual statewide event returned to the Brisbane Lagoon on September 18. Roughly two dozen volunteers cleared an estimated 6.5 tons of waste, much of it very small.

Additional Habitat Efforts

- A. Vegetation Management Plan for city-owned property in the Brisbane Acres – On Point Land Management continued vegetation management work in the Acres and led a hike through the Acres at OSEC's June meeting to discuss their work.
- B. Weed Management Area – Sage and Salmon participate in the San Mateo County Weed Management Area (WMA).
- C. Festival Tree Replacement – A subcommittee worked with staff and Park and Recreation (P&R) Commissioners to recommend replacement trees after a recommended large sequoiadendron planting failed and the original deodar cedar Festival Tree became uprooted after heavy rains and winds.
- D. Brisbane Acres Letters and Property Donation – The Open Space Plan subcommittee reviewed the letter to property owners in the Priority Preservation Area of the Brisbane Acres, and the most recent mailing led to a property donation and communication from an interested seller.

Events, Education and Outreach

- A. Climate Jeopardy – OSEC promoted and held a gameshow to celebrate Earth Day. Community and OSEC members tested their climate and environmental knowledge with questions prepared by staff and the CAP subcommittee.
- B. Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest – After a successful inaugural event in 2020, OSEC along with sustainability and Parks and Rec staff held the second annual contest. Roughly 20 submissions (including some from overseas!) were received, with top honors receiving prizes from SSF Scavenger and recognized in City newsletters.
- C. Day in the Park – OSEC staffed an educational booth at the Day in the Park festival on October 2 featuring a design-your-own-mask art activity and environmental handouts.
- D. United Against Climate Change Fair – OSEC staffed an educational booth at the Youth Climate Ambassador created event, including displays on City climate actions to date, Climate Emergency goals, and a way for or attendees to share emission reduction ideas.
- E. Foodware Aware Ambassadors – City staff partnered with County staff to recruit and train community volunteers, including a couple OSEC members, to encourage local food businesses to begin voluntary early implementation of cost-saving and waste-reducing “accessories on request” measures.
- F. STAR Articles – Committee members and staff developed content for the City's monthly publication, including event promotions and articles on dark skies, invasive species, ocean pollution, tree maintenance and permits, and others.

- G. Lipman Science Fair Judging – In February/March, Rogers reviewed entries into the virtual science fair and presented two awards to students with environmental projects.
- H. New Library Display – The Education & Outreach subcommittee and staff connected with library staff and are developing a proposal for quarterly displays at the new facility.
- I. Earth Day Banners – The City displayed 32 Earth Day banners created in 2017 along Visitacion Avenue in April in celebration of Earth Day and Month.

Staff Projects

The following projects performed by staff in 2021 were reported to OSEC and received their full support for their consideration and mitigation of environmental impacts.

- A. SB1383 – The PW Director and sustainability staff worked with the County and SSF Scavenger on the local implementation of new state Organics Recycling and Procurement requirements, including putting forth two ordinances which Council adopted in September/October and coordinating a Memorandum of Understanding with the County for participation in the countywide Edible Food Recovery program.
- B. Compost Giveaway – Staff worked with SSF Scavenger to continue the annual spring compost giveaway at no cost to residents or the city. The 20-ton supply was placed by the Community Garden on April 19 and was quickly depleted.
- C. Fire Station Water Heater Upgrade – Staff fast-tracked participation in a pilot program with San Mateo County Energy Watch contractors to replace two gas-fired water heaters at Station 81 with electric Heat Pump Water Heaters at no cost to the city. With the replacements running on 100% clean electricity thanks to Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), they represent significant emissions savings.
- D. PCE Energy Resiliency for Critical Facilities & Bulk Procurement Pilot – Staff participated in a PCE evaluation of public emergency facilities throughout the County to identify sites well-suited for solar and energy storage as part of resilience efforts. Mission Blue Center was identified as a strong candidate and with staff’s recommendation the City Council passed a resolution in October to participate in a bulk procurement program for solar photovoltaic (PV) and possible battery storage for the site.
- E. City Fleet EVs – In July two Chevy Bolts were added to the Public Works fleet as part of an Enterprise Fleet Management pilot program. In December an electric Ranger which will perform water meter activities, offsetting the use of larger gas vehicles, was added.
- F. County 4Rs Grant - Applied for and was awarded a \$5k mini grant from the County 4Rs (Reduce Reuse Recycle Rot) program to install a water bottle filling station for the Police Department and supply them with reusable water bottles; the program will be implemented in 2022
- G. EV Permit Streamlining – Planning staff brought forward an ordinance to comply with state laws regarding streamlined permitting for Electric Vehicle infrastructure.
- H. E-Ink Signboards – Recommended in 2019 by a subcommittee of OSEC and P&R Commissioners, costly non-recyclable paper-based signboards were replaced with e-Ink signboards in 2021.
- I. Sandbag Return Program – Staff continued the annual sandbag return program in spring to reduce trash and stormwater pollution from sandbags breaking down in place.