

## **Environmental Commission 2021/22 Accomplishments and 2022/23 Work Plan**

### 2021/22 Accomplishments

#### ***Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)***

Along with staff and consultant, CAAP subcommittee directed city's process to develop 2022 CAAP leading to the successful approval of the plan by City Council in March 2022. Process included public outreach including two community focus groups (April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Climate Vulnerability; May 24<sup>th</sup> – Los Altos Potential Strategies), two community workshops (6/28/2021) and a community survey. Subcommittee met on a bi-weekly basis providing countless hours of input and expertise into the process.

#### ***Waste***

EC Reviewed Draft Municipal Code update and Edible Food Recovery Ordinance addressing requirements of SB 1383 (August and September). Council approved code updates in November.

#### ***Lehigh Hansen and Stevens Creek Quarry***

Subcommittee formed to monitor and provide support to council subcommittee.

#### ***Legislation***

Provided letter of endorsement for AB 1346 that prohibits the sale of gas-powered small off-road engines (SORE) Action to City Council (June)

Drafted memo to council regarding Commission's position on HR 2307 Carbon Dividend Trust Fund detailing reasons Commission did not take a position on legislation.

Received Presentation on California legislation from Local Government Commission

### **Informational Updates**

#### ***Water***

Cal Water presentation in June

*Los Altos conservation achievements:*

- 5 million gallons saved by conservation programs utilized in 2020
- 2020 Lifetime savings = 77 million gallons
- 750 million gallons Lifetime cumulative savings

*Residential Water-Efficiency Programs available:* High-efficiency toilets, clothes washers, Smart irrigation controllers, High-efficiency sprinkler nozzles. Conservation Kits (Free), Smart Landscape Tune-up Program (Free), Turf Replacement Rebate, Drip-line Conversion Rebate

*Standard Prohibited Uses of Water*

- Use of water on landscaping that causes runoff onto adjacent property, nonirrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures
- Use of a hose without a shut-off nozzle to wash vehicles
- Use of water for washing driveways and sidewalks

- Use of water for decorative fountains that do not utilize a recirculation system
- Use of water on landscaping during of within 48 hours after rainfall
- Use of excessive water due to unrepaired leaks or defective irrigation systems
- Providing water in restaurants (except upon request)
- Outdoor irrigation between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm

### ***Energy***

SVCE presentation in May

*Los Altos Customers in 2020:*

- 12,200 households in Los Altos receiving carbon-free electricity
- \$573,000 in on-bill savings for Los Altos customers
- \$48,700 in cash payments for surplus solar energy generated
- 99% reduction in electric utility-related emissions (24,516,000 pounds greenhouse gas emissions avoided)

*During pandemic Los Altos customers received:*

- \$26,300 in on-bill credits to 263 income-qualifies customers
- \$40,500 in on-bill credits to 162 qualifying small and medium businesses
- \$149,500 set aside for community investment in energy resiliency
- Provided Annual Product Content Label and status of investment in new Renewable Energy projects (over \$1B)
- Customer Resources: eHub online tool, heat pump water rebates (up to \$3,500), solar + battery storage incentives for low-income customers
- Reach Code technical support
- Transition to Time of Use electricity rates: 4-9 is peak pricing period every day

### 2022/23 Work Plan

Needed Resources: Staff/consultant grant-writer to seek funding for CAAP action implementation. Permanent Sustainability Coordinator.

### ***CAAP Implementation***

The EC has identified the following CAAP actions for implementation priority in 2022:

(Discuss during meeting)

### ***Reach Codes 2.0***

Conduct public outreach, technical research and develop options for Council study session in June 2022. Refine recommendation for August/September Council consideration.

### ***Single Use Plastics***

A proposed single-use plastics ordinance was brought to Council at the end of 2020 at which time it was decided to postpone the adoption of such an ordinance due to the challenges faced by restaurants during COVID. The EC has formed a solid-waste subcommittee to revisit the

ordinance. The subcommittee will engage with business committee (survey) and investigate current single-use plastic ordinances adopted or in development in surrounding communities. The Commission does not expect to be able to bring a new proposed ordinance to council until a new Sustainability Coordinator is hired.

***Lehigh Hansen and Stevens Creek Quarry***

Continue Monitoring

***Education and Outreach***

Update and expand webpage resources. Appoint subcommittee to increase public outreach efforts.