

**Environmental Commission
2022/23 Accomplishments and 2023/24 Work Plan**

2022/23 Accomplishments

The EC worked across several initiatives in 2022/2023, as summarized below. The city lacked resources to support the commission for most of the year but hired two new sustainability coordinators in late September and October. We are optimistic that we can be more productive and efficient in the coming year with the now more experienced coordinators. The key focus items of the 2022/23 term included Reach Codes, EV education, Tree Protection, Building Electrification Information and Water Conservation.

Focus Area	Accomplishments
<u>Energy</u>	Reach Codes (Leads: Hecht, Teksler and Weiden): Held several meetings, conducted outreach (business and community), developed a resident survey, and presented recommendations to the council (study session in July and draft recommendations presented in September). The proposed reach codes were approved by the council in April 2023. Because of the 9 th circuit court decision on Berkeley gas ban, legal review is currently ongoing before further action.
	New Energy Resource Page (Leads: Delagneau, Humayun, Van Reis): Developed documents on building electrification (including solar panels and batteries), discounts, rebates, and tips for residents. Published a letter to the town crier to promote the new resource page. Page is accessible through the Environmental Commission page at https://www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission/page/energy

Focus Area	Accomplishments
	<p>Building Electrification: Met with BlocPower to explore a potential pilot program to accelerate and facilitate residential building electrification.</p>
	<p>Resident Engagement and Outreach: Received a presentation from Community Climate Solutions (CCS) to evaluate a partnership for accelerating climate action. Explored the Cool City Challenge concept with the CEO of the Empowerment Institute.</p>
<p><u>Transportation</u></p>	<p>Electric Vehicle Fair (Lead: Van Reis): Collaborated with Greentown Los Altos, Silicon Valley EV association, and staff to organize the first Los Altos EV Fair on June 3rd. Showcased electric vehicles and educated residents on their benefits.</p>
	<p>Enforcement of GPLB Ordinance: Supported a proposal by Greentown to fine homeowners for operating gasoline-powered leaf blowers on their property. Also recognized the importance of additional education and outreach.</p>
<p><u>City Operations</u></p>	<p>Energy Audit of City Buildings: Initiated a collaboration with BayRen's technical assistance program to perform an energy audit of city buildings. Due to staff availability, further action will take place in 2023-24.</p>
<p><u>Resource Conservation</u></p>	<p>Water Conservation (Leads: Humayun, Lu, Teksler): Received presentations from Cal Water and Santa Clara Water valley District on current conservation efforts and a proposed water efficiency ordinance (MWENDO). Work was initiated on MWENDO but is being reassessed since Santa Clara Valley District stopped</p>

Focus Area	Accomplishments
	updating the model ordinance. Council will be updated by staff in at upcoming meeting.
	Single-use Plastics Ordinance (Leads: Delagneau, Teksler, Weiden): A Single-Use Foodware accessories and condiments ordinance in compliance with AB1276 was approved by council in March 2023. The commission is considering a complete Single-Use Foodware and Foodware Accessories ban for 2023-24.
	Waste: Received a presentation on the Food Recovery Program (SB 1383).
<u>Green Community</u>	Tree Protection Ordinance (Leads: Humayun, Van Reis, Lu): A new tree protection ordinance was developed with staff. Planning to present a draft ordinance to the council in September.
<u>Other</u>	State and Federal Climate Action: Received a presentation on new state legislation for building and transportation decarbonization. Reviewed state decarbonization targets.
	Lehigh Hansen and Stevens Creek Quarry (Lu): Regular updates provided on new developments and future actions related to the cement plant and quarry.

Focus Area	Accomplishments
	<p>2022 Beacon Spotlight Awards: 3 platinum level awards (gas reductions, Community and Agency GHG reductions) and one silver award (best sustainability practices) were received by the city from the Institute for Local Government.</p>

2023/24 work Plan

For 2023/2024, the EC will be focusing on a) very specific priorities as identified in the Los Altos CAAP and b) identifying for staff/council other potential environmental priorities for the City. The work plan below highlights these items.

REQUESTED RESOURCES: We're grateful for the addition of two Sustainability Coordinators at the end of last year. They will help us accomplish our goals and stay on target to reach carbon neutrality by 2035. However, a better definition of the interaction between staff and commission is needed to maximize our collaboration and make it more efficient.

Moreover, in the current context of current and future federal and state funding for electrification in general as well as climate adaptation, we believe that to access those grants council should discuss hiring a **dedicated Grant Manager** with successful experience applying for and getting both federal and state grants. He/she can be shared with other commissions such as the Complete Street Commission or Parks and Recreation. Short of receiving state or federal funding, we may not be able to complete some of the most important actions listed in the CAAP. Currently grant applications are done by the sustainability coordinators but we believe more expertise is required to be successful at this highly competitive grant process.

The commission has identified several actions for 2023/24. Three are being prioritized and additional actions listed in the table will be moved up the list based on progress or available grant. Additionally, the commission recommends that staff update our GHG inventory as soon as 2022 data is available. In addition, the commission is planning to hold a second EV Fair in Spring 2024.

Priority #	CAAP Action Item	Overall Priority Item	Specific Goals	Funding
1		Greening City Operations		
	4.3a	a. Fleet electrification planning	Complete SVCE Fleet Technical Assistance Program; Identify and apply for funding	Grant dependent for second phase (City EVs acquisition and EV charging infrastructure)
	4.1a	b. Municipal Building Energy Audits	Complete BayREN Technical Assistance Program for Municipal Building Portfolio	Building modifications based on audit will be grant dependent
2	3.1b	Single use plastics ordinance	Conduct outreach. Adopt ordinance	n/a
3		Accelerate Existing Building Electrification		
	2.3A, 2.3B	a. Programming / Project Management Support to Electrify Existing Commercial and residential Buildings	Program Planning / Grant Research	May be grant dependent based on scope.
	2.3A, 2.3B	b. Community Outreach	Contract with CCS or another firm to conduct community outreach around building electrification and other sustainability initiatives.	Budgeted FY23/24
n/a		Emergency Management / Resilience		
	7.1B, 7.2C, 8.1A	a. Resilience Hubs	Evaluate existing municipal buildings / resilience hubs; identify potential improvements to building infrastructure and operations for extreme heat and wildfire smoke events	n/a

			as potential sites for resilience hubs.	
	7.1A, 7.2B, 7.2C	b. Heat Safety and Air Quality Protocols	Evaluate existing heat safety and air quality protocols, make recommendations for policy updates.	n/a
n/a		Transportation		
	1.5A, 1.5B	a. DCFC Plan / Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Master Plan	EVSE needs assessment (conduct or create RFP)	Grant Dependent
	1.5A, 1.5D	b. EV Infrastructure Grants	Identify and apply for funding to install Community EV Charging Infrastructure	Based on a.
n/a	Overall CAAP Goal	GHG Inventory for 2022	Conduct GHG Inventory for 2022 (City Staff); Compile and publish 2024 CAAP Progress Report (EC and City Staff)	
Ongoing Efforts				
	1.4A	2024 EV Fair	Plan and execute EV Fair for 2024. Adjust as needed based on 2023 EV Fair.	
	n/a	Outreach and Education Efforts	EC to assist Staff as needed on outreach and education items.	
	n/a	Update Environmental Commission Webpage on City Website		