



Date: January 13, 2023
To: Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Michael Chandler, City Manager
Prepared by: Aryana Sherzai, Sustainability Programs Assistant
Subject: Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs Update

Recommendation

Receive report and hold discussion regarding the City's Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs. This report is provided for informational purposes.

Background

The City continued to make progress over the past year in support of its Climate Action Plan and Sustainability programs. The following list reflects recent key accomplishments or notable metrics:

- 1) Completed 7th Year of Martinez Unified School District Recycling Project
 - a. Program partners: New Leaf Collaborative, Martinez Unified School District (MUSD), and Republic Services.
 - b. In-person lessons were provided at all MUSD Elementary schools
 - i. Ecoliteracy Education: Number of students served: 1,524 students received Ecoliteracy lessons in 2022.
 - ii. Green Teams:
 1. 20 students participating in the 4th Grade Green Team at John Swett Elementary.
 2. 68 students participating in the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade Green Team at John Muir Elementary, along with approximately 39 students from the 3rd, 4th, 5th grade who help during snack recess.
 3. 40 students participating in the 4th Grade Green Team at Morello Park Elementary.
 - iii. 1,207 students were supported during the lunch periods by Green Teams through correct sorting of materials at the three elementary



- schools. Recycling and composting signage was updated at Las Juntas Elementary.
- iv. School site waste audits are conducted twice a year with Republic Services to evaluate current sorting and custodial behaviors and level of re-education needed.
 - v. Each site was provided with their own set of corn hole games with New Leaf Collaborative (NCL), City of Martinez, and Republic Services branding for use at the elementary schools as an activity during recess. The games will provide continuous education to students on what to put in recycle and compost vs. landfill bins.
- c. The John Muir Earth Day/Birthday was canceled for 2022. Instead, Earth Ambassadors from New Leaf Collaborative joined with the City of Martinez and Republic Services to present a booth at the April 24th Farmers' Market in celebration of Earth Day. Several interactive and educational games were provided, including:
- i. Sorting scavenger hunt
 - ii. Corn hole game
 - iii. 4 R's dice
 - iv. Planting station

2) Began SB 1383 Implementation & Outreach

To coincide with SB 1383 becoming effective on January 1, 2022, the City began implementation and designed outreach events to increase awareness of the new composting mandate among residents, businesses, and schools:

- a. Earth Day Booth at the Farmers Market: In collaboration with New Leaf Collaborative and Republic Services, the City tabled at the Farmers Market in the Main Street Plaza on April 24th in celebration of Earth Day. Posters and visual aides about composting were displayed, and sustainability expert Todd Sutton of Waste Sleuth & Associates attended to answer questions and promote an upcoming workshop alongside City staff. Republic Services gave away 75 kitchen compost pails with educational materials and liners.
- b. Free Virtual Composting Workshop: In collaboration with Waste Sleuth and Associates, the City held a free composting workshop via Zoom webinar in May. The workshop was promoted through social media, the City Sustainability webpage, and emails. A free compost bin was raffled off at the end of the presentation.



- c. SB 1383 Education Table at City Hall: A temporary table was set up at City Hall that provided educational materials and free kitchen compost pails and liners to the public. The table was available through the summer months of June-August, and over 200 kitchen compost pails were distributed.
 - d. Senior Center Event: In September, staff hosted a Sustainability Event for Seniors at the Senior Center to educate on SB 1383 and proper waste sorting. A sorting quiz was distributed and giveaways were provided to those that participated. The City was joined by Republic Services, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, Contra Costa Water District, and MCE to promote other environmental programs available. Republic Services gave away 50 kitchen compost pails at this event.
 - e. Paper Procurement Policy: As mandated under SB 1383, the City adopted a paper procurement policy to require the purchase of recycled-content paper products that are recyclable. A virtual training was provided to inform procurement staff across all departments of the new policy's purchasing, documentation, and recordkeeping procedures.
 - f. Billboard Signage: In August, the City posted a SB 1383 educational message on the Benicia-Martinez bridge billboard. The billboard message encouraged the public to place food scraps in your green bin to combat climate change.
 - g. Residential and Business Educational Materials: In collaboration with Republic Services, the City has sent multiple direct mailers to residents and businesses on SB 1383. The mailers include educational information on SB1383, the use of the green bin for composting kitchen scraps, and sorting and recycling items into correct bins. Additionally, the City has regularly posted on SB 1383 through the City's social media outlets as part of the awareness campaign.
- 3) Provided Compost Giveaways to Residents through Republic Services
Two compost giveaways were held in 2022. On March 26th, 20,000 pounds of compost were collected by 250 Martinez residents, nearly double the attendance of the previous year's April giveaway. On August 20th, 100 residents attended and 65 yards of compost were given out. Since the Compost Giveaway's inception in August



2016, over 1,300 residents have taken advantage of this program. The next planned Compost Giveaway is in March 2023.

4) Provided Recycling Collections to Residents through Republic Services

Republic Services held its 4th annual post-holiday recycling collection event on January 22, 2022 at its Pacheco Headquarters. More than 50 people attended, dropping off 940 pounds worth of cardboard and Styrofoam that would have otherwise been landfilled. A second event was held on October 22nd, with 65 people attending and dropping off 1,340 pounds of cardboard and Styrofoam. The 5th annual post-holiday recycling collection event is scheduled for January 28th.

5) Provided Reuse Roundup Event to Residents through Republic Services

The annual “Reuse Roundup” event was held on October 29th at Light of Grace Korean Presbyterian Church. 1,700 pounds of clothing, housewares, toys, games, and more were collected and will be repurposed as gifts this holiday season.

6) Completed Energy Services Company RFP and Selection

In May, the City released an RFP in search of an Energy Services Company for a Guaranteed Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) and Energy Savings Performance contract. After conducting formal interviews and thorough evaluations, the selected firm was NORESKO. Staff is working to develop a third-party scope of services for NORESKO’s bid, which may lead to implementation of various water and energy conservation projects.

7) Adopted AB 1276 Ordinance

The City adopted an AB 1276 ordinance requiring retail food operations to offer only disposable foodware accessories upon customer request, expanding the scope of the single-use plastic straws law to include single-use foodware accessories such as utensils and condiments. Outreach materials were developed and shared on the City website and with local business organizations, Downtown Martinez & Co and the Martinez Chamber of Commerce, to be distributed among local food retailers.

8) Adopted All-Electric Building Ordinance

The City adopted an ordinance prohibiting natural gas and propane plumbing and appliances in new buildings, which went into effect on November 5th. Building electrification will significantly reduce the City’s emissions as well as improve health



and safety through reductions in gas cooking and heating, which contribute significantly to indoor and outdoor air pollution.

9) Joined the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

The City joined the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, a website platform that helps residents with tips, action guides, resources, and custom estimates on their impact and savings from sustainability actions. Through our personalized [Cleaner Contra Costa Martinez website](#), 250 residents have reported 17 tons of CO₂E saved, 3,704 KWH saved, 331 therm saved, 596 gallons of gas saved, and 18,596 gallons of water saved. The Challenge has been promoted on City website, social media, and e-newsletter.

10) Initiated Sustainability e-Newsletter

The sustainability e-newsletter was created to provide residents with timely updates on upcoming sustainability events, home and electric vehicle rebates, educational materials and more. The first newsletter was released in September and will continue to be sent on a monthly or as-needed basis. The City's sustainability website: (<https://www.cityofmartinez.org/government/sustainability-resources>) provides a link for easy subscriptions. The newsletter has also been promoted on City social media and in the Citywide e-newsletter. As the mailing list continues to grow, the newsletter will act as a valuable communication tool for sharing sustainability-related information.