



Date: December 8, 2021
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Eric Figueroa, City Manager
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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 6th Year of Martinez Unified School District Recycling Project
 - a. Program partners: New Leaf Collaborative, Martinez Unified School District (MUSD), and Republic Services
 - b. A combination of virtual programming and in-person lessons were provided
 - i. New Leaf collaborated with Boys and Girls Clubs of Contra Costa County to create video content about recycling, composting, and watersheds, which were promoted on the City's social media, Sustainability webpages, and in virtual programming.
 - ii. New Leaf collaborated with the City of Martinez to build a "Passport to Earth Day" virtual program, allowing K-12 students to partake in environmental activities and lessons and receive sustainable prizes. A total of 92 students registered and 60 were active participants.
 - iii. Number of students served: 1,076 students thus far have received outdoor Ecoliteracy lessons in the 2021-22 school year. Approximately 50 4th & 5th graders joined Green Team at John Swett Elementary and 55 4th & 5th

graders joined Green Team at John Muir Elementary, along with approximately 35 3rd graders who help during snack recess, all leading to contact with 1,490 students during the lunch period to help them sort lunch waste correctly at John Swett and John Muir Elementary schools. Additionally, one recycling presentation was given to Martinez Kiwanis Club as part of the Summer 2021 EcoKids program involving 20 students and 6 youth mentors.

- iv. School site waste audits were conducted with Republic Services to evaluate current sorting and custodial behaviors and level of reeducation needed.
- v. Core components: educational reinforcement online, in classrooms, and in cafeterias; “Green Team” engagement with a focus on sorting organics, establishing new teacher champions/liaisons, and custodial support.

2) Secured Staff Resources

Hired 9th part-time Sustainability Programs Assistant since 2012.

3) Initiated Green Business Recertification Process

Met with a representative from the Contra Costa Green Business Program and began the process of recertifying City Hall and the Police Department Annex. Recertification will be complete once a virtual audit of City Hall is conducted.

4) Provided Free Virtual Sustainability Workshops

In collaboration with Waste Sleuth and Associates, held two sustainability workshops via Zoom Webinar and promoted through the City’s social media and Sustainability Webpages, with a raffle prize offered at each. A total of 38 people registered for either the “Home Composting” or the “Recycle Right” workshops. One raffle winner received a compost bin and the other received a \$50 gift card to Sloat Garden Center.

5) Provided Compost Giveaways to Residents through Republic Services

At the April 2021 event, 131 residents attended, equivalent to a 52% increase in attendance from the August 2020 event. Approximately 75 yards of compost was given out to residents at this event. At the August 2021 event, 110 residents signed up and 80 yards of compost were given out. Since the Compost Giveaway’s inception in August 2016, over 1,000 residents have taken advantage of this program. The next planned Compost Giveaway is in March 2022.

- 6) Coordinated Special Reuse and Recycling Events through Republic Services
Republic held its 3rd annual post-holiday recycling collection event on February 20, 2021 at its Pacheco Headquarters, and a second drop-off event on October 16th at which over 1,120 lbs of cardboard was dropped off to be recycled. The 9th annual “Reuse Roundup” event was held on October 30th at Light of Grace Korean Presbyterian Church. The next packaging drop-off event will be held on January 22, 2022.

- 7) Installed New Electric Vehicle Charging Station at City Hall
A new dual-port EV charging station was installed at City Hall to augment the existing single port station, providing a total of 3 ports available at this location for both public and employee use.

- 8) Upgraded City Energy Accounts to MCE Deep Green
As of July 1, 2021, all City energy accounts, including buildings and streetlights, were upgraded under the City’s community choice energy plan (MCE Clean Energy) to “Deep Green,” which utilizes 100% renewable energy.

- 9) Adopted SB 1383 Ordinance in Municipal Code
SB 1383, or California’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, requires the adoption of an ordinance mandating the provision of organic waste collection services for all residents and businesses. The City adopted this ordinance on December 1, 2021. Next steps include public outreach and edible food recovery programming.