



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 8, 2020

***This report covers San Francisco Department of the Environment updates
for the period of September 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020. Glossary of acronyms at bottom of report.***

Residential Programs

- ZERO WASTE: Finalized new composting pail distribution system with Recology and vendor. Trained 118 virtual attendees on ethics of reducing, reusing, recycling and composting. Developed affordable housing Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance (RSO) outreach strategy with Environmental Justice. Mediated issues with tenants and property managers at 8 residences, resulting in Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance compliance and increased service. Met with Millennium Tower to review their RSO plan (they hired a zero waste facilitator, are installing compostable bag dispensers on every floor and ordered 265 composting pails). Added items on SFRecycles and updated textile collection references on SFE and Recology websites. Called over 30 grocery stores and restaurants to encourage them to join Kitchen Zero SF (Visitation Valley Grocery Outlet signed on). Connected with Refuse Waste to understand how zero waste facilitator industry has been affected by covid. Provided information to Sway (company working on seaweed based packaging) about compostability standards. Met with Ferguson (compostable bag distributor) regarding zero waste legislation. Added Raley's and Sprouts to Pacific Coast Collaborative commitments. Facilitated virtual session with Food Tech and Israeli delegation, and Food Security Task Force meeting with SFE. Assisted with completion of SF thrift textile characterization by CPSC and Green Mary. Provided data and attended CPSC stakeholder (including brands and nonprofits) meeting on textile legislation. Reviewed and adjusted split residential accounts citywide.
- SCHOOL ED: Gave 31 virtual synchronous presentations to 13 schools, reached 899 students and 30 staff members (Districts 1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11). Presented as a workshop speaker at the Bay Area Youth Climate Summit, reached 100 Students.
- ENERGY: September 1 – October 31 the BayREN Home Plus program continued its bilingual campaign in English and Cantonese. The program offers rebates and helps homeowners make their homes healthier, more comfortable, and more energy efficient. Messaging and imagery leverage home comfort; emphasizing homes that run too hot or too cold. Ad buys were increased during heat wave events to optimize increased clicks during weather extremes. Ads continued to reference staying home due to the COVID-pandemic, as well as promoting induction cooktops and smart thermostats. Ad channels included Google search engine messaging and digital display, World Journal (Cantonese), and Facebook. During September and October, ads across all channels generated approximately 1.5 million impressions and 8,500 clicks. In parallel, a partnership with Bay Area SunShares program was

leveraged to co-promote Home+; 5 webinars were held; the October 21 webinar received 275 registrations and 107 attendees.

The BayREN Multifamily program continues to complete projects for the 2020 program year.

- ENERGY: EnergyAccess SF, the 2020-2023 Local Government Partnership with PG&E, continues to ramp up. The Energy Team developed and submitted the Program Management Plan to PG&E and continues to work with Radiant Labs to refine the software that uses permitting data from DBI to identify potential homes for energy efficiency upgrades and electrification.
- ENERGY: DPH, OEWD and SFE continue to develop the lead paint abatement program--“Fix Lead SF” which is moving into the stakeholder engagement phase of program development.
- TOXICS REDUCTION: On 10/23, SFE and our contractor performed an annual audit of Recology's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility to identify issues to improve future operations of the facility and ensure Recology is following all regulatory requirements.

Commercial Programs

- TOXICS REDUCTION (Green Business): Announced Green Business RFP for Green Business Recruitment and Pre-Bate project. Three grants will be awarded to nonprofits; one will go to an organization to assist in administering the prebate and rebate program to qualifying businesses and two will be awarded to community-based organizations to engage and recruit businesses in underrepresented communities into the Green Business Program. Underrepresented communities include businesses in Districts 10 and 11, or businesses that are majority-owned by individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.
- TOXICS REDUCTION: The team partnered with Children's Council and the SF Department of Public Health to provide “Healthy Homes, Healthy Child Cares,” a workshop for child care providers that covered topics of flame retardants, lead prevention, and safer cleaning and disinfection. Two bilingual trainings were held (1 in English/Spanish, 1 in Cantonese/Mandarin) reaching 75 attendees total. Attendees were given a reusable bag from SFDPH with informational materials and 2 bottles of safer disinfectants. Select providers also received flame retardant-free nap mats.
- ZERO WASTE: Met with More Recycling regarding plastic film recycling drop-offs and updating their SF listings. Met with 2 food delivery platforms regarding foodware opt-in functionality and reusable foodware network partnership. Contacted 15 food distributors that will be affected by SB 1383 to recruit them for Kitchen Zero SF. U.S. Green Building Council approved SFE model (i.e., registered facilities) compliant with LEED criteria for third-party verification of construction & demolition (C&D) debris recovery rates. In partnership with Green Building, launched developer and contractor surveys and interviews for Construction Surplus Materials Reduction & Redistribution Study. Approved 46 material reduction & recovery plans (including 11 completed) for 74% and 280 tons recovered. Approved 19 demolition debris recovery plans (including 5 completed) for 85% and 629 tons recovered.

- ENERGY: The collaboration between CleanPowerSF and SFE continues. During the reporting period, both teams finished their application to the CPUC to administer ratepayer funds for energy efficiency programming. However, the budget calculation requires clarification from the CPUC, and the teams await.

City Department Programs

- ZERO WASTE: Presented to 471 employees at SFMTA, DPH, and Human Resources. Tailored presentation for DPH clinics to include specific items such as PPE. Worked to improve communications between Rec & Park (RPD) and Recology, ordered adequate refuse service for 5 RPD locations and added service at 3 SFPL branches. Facilitated meeting with the Paper Reduction Committee and DHR regarding the latter's success in moving from paper to electronic workers' compensation payments. Met with Rheaply, a virtual materials management system and was provided a tutorial of their software to see fits our needs. Met with Toxics and Staples to complete a blocked list of non compliant specifications and categories of office supplies. Provided revisions for updated regulations in the environmentally preferable purchasing ordinance.
- BIODIVERSITY: Convened several interagency meetings with Public Works, RPD, PUC, the Port, to solicit feedback on the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of the Climate Action Plan.
- URBAN FORESTRY: At the October meeting of the Urban Forestry Council, the UFC approved the 2020 Annual Urban Forest Report, as well as a motion to forward to the Board of Supervisors recommendations for changes to the Public Works Code for stricter criteria for the removal of Landmark Trees.
- TOXICS REDUCTION (Green Purchasing): Held quarterly meeting of City Sustainable Purchasing Committee, featuring recently retired DHR Director Miki Callahan, who spoke about toxics body burdens. Attendees also reviewed draft purchasing regulations.
- TOXICS REDUCTION (Green Purchasing): Staff presented recommendations for updating Citywide Information Technology purchasing requirements to the Committee on Information Technology (COIT) meeting. Questions from COIT members about cost impacts of change.
- TOXICS REDUCTION (IPM): Held monthly IPM Technical Advisory Committee meeting featuring a talk and discussion about human-wildlife interactions.

Citywide/Cross-Sector Programs or Initiatives

- OUTREACH (Sustainable Transportation): The Essential Worker Ride Home program continues to provide reliable and safe taxi rides home from work for essential employees. The multilingual paid marketing campaign, which ran from August 4 to September 11, delivered 517,290 impressions on Facebook and Instagram, and 6,214 landing page views. The campaign also significantly increased program reach to Chinese and Spanish speaking communities, resulting in 11 Chinese and 6 Spanish applications. As of October 29, SFE has received 782 total applications, 300 of which have been approved, and has provided more than 1157 taxi rides home to essential workers.

- CLEAN TRANSPORTATION: The CEC released a \$2.5 million solicitation for Phase II of the EV-Ready Community Blueprint. This winner-takes-all solicitation asks SF, the City of Santa Clara and the County of Contra Costa to identify a suite of projects to implement by 2025. As such, the team sprung into action by prioritizing 3 to 4 from Phase I and initiated stakeholder engagement. The application is due on 10/23.
- CLEAN TRANSPORTATION: The team also continued to develop an application for CEC's Blueprint for Medium-duty / Heavy-duty Zero Emissions Vehicles. The application is due on 11/13.
- CLEAN TRANSPORTATION: The team has initiated plans to develop a database to not only track the # of EV-chargers and their locations, but also to track equity-related metrics associated with charger siting, EV registrations, etc.
- TOXICS: Released second annual report of the Antibiotic Use in Food Animals Ordinance, which highlighted the meat and poultry industry's lack of transparency about their use of antibiotics, which can drive the development of antibiotic resistance. Due to this lack of disclosure, consumers are not able to make informed decisions about the meat and poultry they purchase. Next steps include issuing warnings of violation letters to SF chain grocers for failure to report full antibiotic use information.

New/Revised Legislation and/or City Hall activity

- ZERO WASTE: Supervisor Safai introduced updated C&D debris recovery ordinance. Presented overview to Building Owners and Managers Association.

Press and Media Highlights

- ZERO WASTE: [The broken system that sends most food waste and organic matter to landfills](#) Food waste producers should discuss what's possible with local waste operations, said panel member **Alexa Kielty of the San Francisco Department of the Environment**.
- TOXICS: KQED featured a news piece about the release of the second annual report of the Antibiotic Use in Food Animals Ordinance. KQED reporter Adhiti Bandlamuti highlighted how the report shows that consumers are left in the dark about how antibiotics are used to raise the meat and poultry in SF grocery stores. The news piece discussed consumer right to know and how antibiotic overuse in the livestock industry can fuel antibiotic resistance.

Proposals submitted and grants and contracts awarded TO the Department

- DEVELOPMENT: Submitted a \$1M proposal to the Department of Energy to create a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) that aggregates energy efficiency technology in multi-unit/low-income housing in order to reduce impact to the electrical grid of building decarbonization. Unlike conventional VPP, SF's VPP aims to monetize all the "behind-the-meter" energy interventions, battery storage, energy efficiency, demand response, etc. to create a fund for further building decarbonization. Partners include the SFPUC, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, and Recurve Data Analytics. After review of the full proposal, the DOE has responded with additional questions. Award notices will be made in December.

- DEVELOPMENT: Submitted a \$2.4M proposal to the California Energy Commission to implement the City's Community EV Blueprint by installing charging plazas, enhancing the mapping tool, piloting a program to help food delivery workers switch from automobiles to e-bikes and streamlining the City's process for developing charging infrastructure. Partners include Google, EVgo, food delivery companies, LAFco, and other city departments.

Requests for Proposals issues, Contracts and grants awarded FROM the Department

- ZERO WASTE: Certified Garden for the Environment and Upstream/Surfrider grant agreements. Conducted check-ins with UCSF Recycling and Waste Reduction team regarding Zabble implementation, and Upstream regarding procedures.
- ENERGY: The BayREN Business program intends to contract with Joule Energy Services to become the program's implementer. The BayREN Business program is one of the first programs in the US to provide rebates for energy efficiency equipment based on measurements from utility meters at project locations. Lime Energy was the program implementer from 11/2018 to 07/2019, but unexpectedly closed due to economic conditions from the pandemic. As a consequence, program staff consulted with the Office of Contracts Administration and the City Attorney Office to determine next steps. Upon their advice, Joule Energy Services was selected because it scored the 2nd highest points in the original RFP for Implementer
- SF CARBON FUND: Finalized grant agreements with Friends of the Urban Forest and Climate Action Now to implement community greening projects in SOMA, Bernal Heights and the Sunset.

Public Events/Conferences (e.g., conferences attended, speaking engagements, travel for work, etc)

- ZERO WASTE: Attended Northern California Recycling Association virtual Recycling Update and zero food waste forum webinar. Participated in World Economic Forum Consumers Beyond Disposability City Peer Network webinar. Listened to C40 Food Waste Action Lab. Attended Upstream Racial Justice and Environmentalism webinar. Participated in Zero Waste: A Path Toward Just and Sustainable Cities Salon and Instituto Polis: How São Paulo Can Recycle Your Organic Waste; San Francisco, Milan and Parma Experiences webinars. Recology completed major upgrades at C&D debris recovery and composting facilities. Submitted CalRecycle electronic annual report documenting a slight decrease in disposal for 2019. Four supervisors completed 24 Plus management training. Took GrassRoots Recycling Network and Zero Waste USA Introduction to Zero Waste course and passed the exam. Completed writing, reviewing and editing carbon sequestration actions and strategies for the healthy ecosystems chapter of the climate action plan. Assisted C40 Waste to Resources Working Group in planning Advancing Toward Zero Waste virtual workshop in November. Led principles of the mobile redemption pilot on a tour of Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) operations in Portland. Established excellent relations with OBRC and gained critical knowledge of bag drop separation techniques.

- OUTREACH: Presented “Feeling gassy, SF?” campaign to CNCA cities during their Zinterview series.
- ENVIRONMENT NOW: Attended Northern California Recycling Association virtual Recycling Update.
- SCHOOL ED: Attended the Northern California Recycling Association Recycling Update as part of the department. Attended and participated in STEM Teachers EXPO 2020, a teacher-led professional development conference focused on “Growing Responsive STEM Communities.”
- TOXICS REDUCTION: Attended the North American Hazardous Material Management Association (NAHMMA) virtual conference. Presented on San Francisco’s battery collection program.
- TOXICS REDUCTION: Delivered presentation at the Green Science Policy Institute’s PFAS Workshop regarding the numerous ways that SFE has been addressing PFAS in products, particularly through the Green Purchasing Program.
- TOXICS REDUCTION: Participated in a multi-stakeholder panel presentation held by Clean Production Action regarding how to drive safer alternatives and hazard assessments more widely.
- POLICY: Delivered presentation at Acterra’s Silicon Valley Green Team Network’s forum on: Expanding Inclusion in the Environmental Space.

COPY GLOSSARY FROM LAST REPORT

ABAG: Association of Bay Area Governments
 ACCO: Association of Climate Change Officers
 AOA: Apartment Owners Association
 BAAQMD: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
 BOMA: Building Owners and Managers Association
 BayREN: Bay Area Regional Energy Network
 BC3: Business Council on Climate Change
 C40: C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
 CAEECC: California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee
 CAISO: California Independent Systems Operator
 CalGreen: California State Green Building Code
 CARB: California Air Resources Board
 CEC: California Energy Commission
 COIT: Committee on Information Technology
 CNCA: Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance
 CPSC: California Product Stewardship Council
 CPUC: California Public Utilities Commission

DBI: SF Department of Building Inspection
DER: Distributed Energy Resources
DOE: U.S. Department of Energy
DPH: SF Public Health
DOT: U.S. Department of Transportation
ECBO: Existing Commercial Building (energy benchmarking) Ordinance
EJ: Environmental Justice
EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EV: Electric Vehicle
EVWG: Electric Vehicle Working Group
FAA: Federal Aviation Administration
FCEV: Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles
FUF: Friends of the Urban Forest
GARE: Government Alliance on Race and Equity
GHG: Green House Gas
HERO: Home Energy Renovation Opportunity HOPE SF: Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere, San Francisco
HHW: Household Hazardous Waste
ILG: Institute for Local Governments
IOU: Investor Owned Utility
IPM: Integrated Pest Management
kW: Kilowatt
kWh: Kilowatt hour
LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System
LGC: Local Government Commission
LGSEC: Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
NCRA: Northern California Recycling Association
NREL: National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PACE: Property Assessed Clean Energy
PEV: Plug-in Electric Vehicle
PV: Photovoltaic
RAD: Rental Assistance Demonstration
SFE: San Francisco Department of the Environment
SFEECC: SF Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee
SFEW: SF Energy Watch
SFO: SF International Airport
SFMTA: SF Municipal Transportation Agency
SFPL: San Francisco Public Library
SFPUC: SF Public Utilities Commission
SFPW: SF Public Works
SFUSD: San Francisco Unified School District
Title-24 2016: California Energy Code 2016 version
UCSF: University of California, San Francisco
UFC: Urban Forestry Council

USDN: Urban Sustainability Directors Network
USDOE: United States Department of Energy
USDOT: United States Department of Transportation
U.S. EPA: US Environmental Protection Agency
USF: University of San Francisco
USGBC: United States Green Building Council
ZNE: Zero net energy
ZW: Zero Waste