

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT

March – June 2022



CLEARWATER
SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

INTRODUCTION

In this progress report, you will find:

1. Welcome to Our New Sustainability Specialist
2. Completion of our 2018 Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory
3. Progress with Cenergistic
4. Community Education and Outreach:
 - a) Earth Month Recap
 - b) Green Guardians Youth Education Series
 - c) World Oceans Day
 - d) Social Media Outreach
 - e) Staff Education
5. Upcoming Goals

*Look for the “*Greenprint 2.0 Strategy*” to find what Clearwater Greenprint 2.0 goal we are helping to meet with each effort.





NEW SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST



We are thrilled to have Melody Yin join our team as a sustainability specialist!

“My interest in sustainability and conservation stemmed from my interaction with the sea when I started scuba diving 10 years ago. I’ve learned so much about the beautiful marine ecosystem, how the ocean provides for humans, but also witnessed how Anthropocene is causing so much stress on the marine environment such as climate change and pollution. In search of my role in sustainability, I moved from the little red dot on the map to Florida (some say ‘ground zero’ for climate change) to deepen my knowledge through the graduate program M.A. Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida. I’m delighted to work with the Clearwater community for sustainability outreach and education, while implementing solutions for positive change.”

2018 MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

We previously calculated our community-wide greenhouse gas emissions for 2018.

This year, we partnered with ICLEI and Audubon Florida to calculate the total amount of our municipal emissions. We plan to continue monitoring the progress of both our municipal and community-wide emission levels moving forward.

To summarize:

Total: 66,759 Metric Tons of CO₂ equivalents (MTCO₂e)

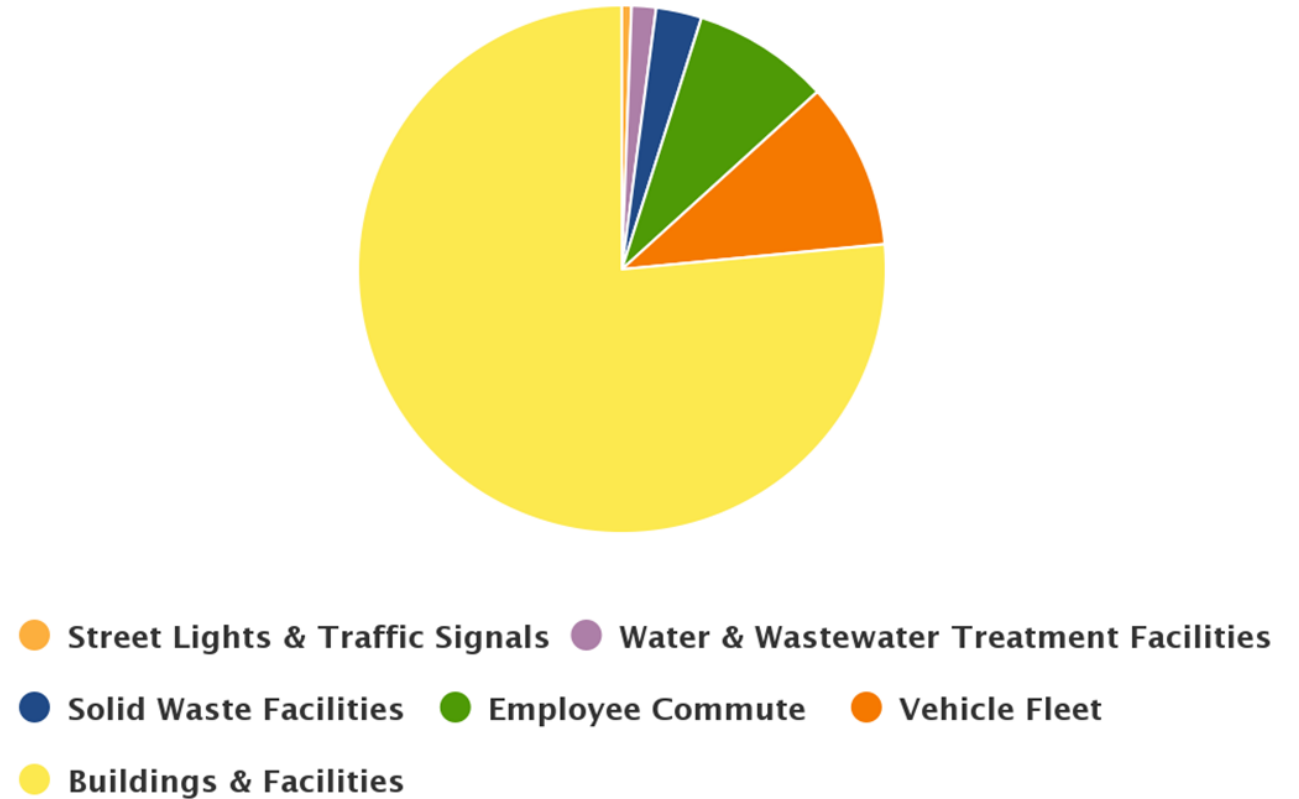
- This makes the city responsible for 5.9% of our 2018 community-wide emissions.

Largest Contributors:

- Facility/Operations Energy Use: 76.5%
- City Fleet: 10.2%
- Employee Commute: 8.4%

✓ *Greenprint 2.0 Strategy: Continuous Reporting*

2018 Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions



PROGRESS WITH CENERGISTIC

✓ FACILITY BENCHMARKS CREATED

36 months of historical electricity data (41,000 bills) have been collected and analyzed for each facility. This allows Cenergistic to understand how every facility runs and establishes a baseline for each.

✓ ENERGY SPECIALIST HIRED

Kristin Wheatley started on 5/31 and is currently being trained by Cenergistic. She will work closely with our staff to maximize energy savings in city facilities and increase staff awareness of the program.

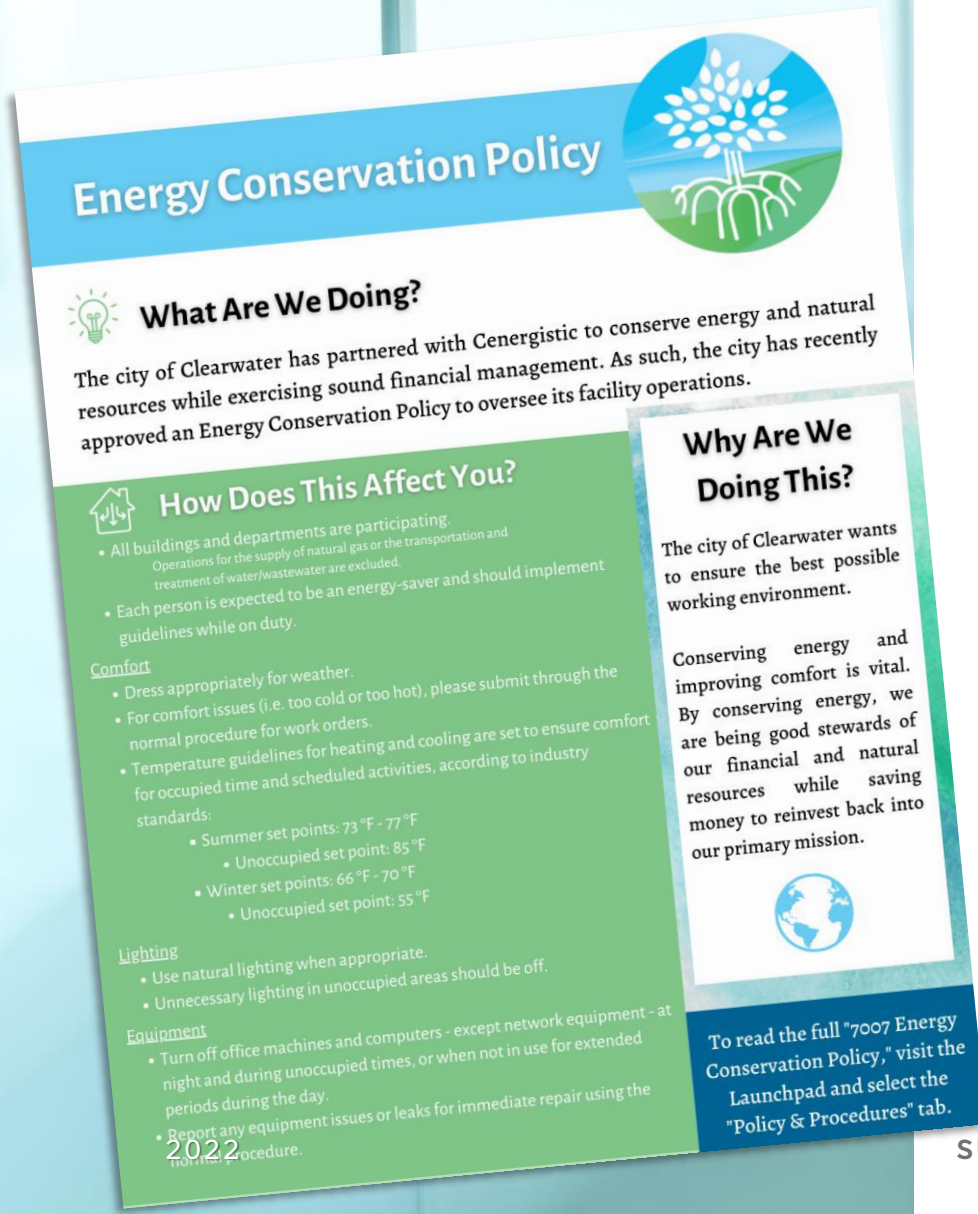
✓ OPERATIONAL HOURS SAVED

17 facilities currently impacted.
1770 run-time hours reduced per week.
Currently believed to only be affecting 25% of the actual savings opportunities in these facilities (room for more progress!)

✓ ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY APPROVED

An energy conservation policy was approved to set expectations about staff practices. Standards regarding lighting, temperature setpoints, and equipment practices have been established through this policy for all facilities.

✓ *Greenprint 2.0 Strategy: Municipal Energy Management Program & Policy*



EARTH MONTH 2022

Virtual Earth Day Event

We joined the cities of Dunedin, Largo, Oldsmar, St. Pete and Tarpon Springs in presenting our sustainability and resilience achievements and current programs to groups of stakeholders.

Hour of Darkness

Residents were encouraged to celebrate Earth Month by observing an “Hour of Darkness” on 4/15 to make them more aware of how their personal energy use can make a big impact.

Operation Shred

The Solid Waste/Recycling and Police Departments held another successful paper shredding and drug takeback event. 29,160lbs of shredded paper and 400lbs of cardboard were recycled.

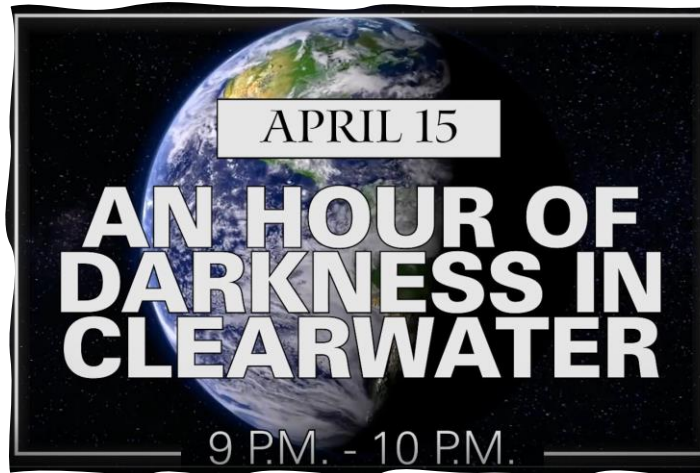
Parks and Recreation Events

The city hosted another successful tree giveaway, providing thousands of native, Florida-friendly, and edible trees to Clearwater residents

Moccasin Lake Nature Park held an Earth Day Celebration with multiple presentations, children’s activities, and vendors.

✓ *Greenprint 2.0 Strategies: Community Education, Urban Tree Program & Canopy Target, Environmental Conservation*

2022



CLEARWATER CELEBRATES EARTH MONTH



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL • BAY TO BEACH

June 7th – July 26th



GREEN GUARDIANS

This eight-week youth education series focuses on the eight different topics of Clearwater Greenprint 2.0. Each week includes speakers and activities that teach kids about the importance of living sustainability. Lessons include solar energy, bicycle/pedestrian safety, litter prevention, gardening, and more!

2022



WORLD OCEANS DAY

✓ *Greenprint 2.0 Strategy: Community Education, Community Outreach*



Beach Cleanup

In partnership with our Parks and Recreation department, 18 volunteers removed 160 lbs of litter in 2 hours. Each participant received reef-safe sunscreen and native wildflower seeds as a thank you.



Library Outreach

In partnership with our Library System, we spoke to 55 visitors at our Main Library about ways they can protect local waterways with lifestyle practices.



Ocean Allies Pledge

We created an [online platform](#) to host the Ocean Allies pledge and printed/posted flyers in each library, recreation center, marina, in addition to City Hall, Amplify's Visitor Center, and MSB.



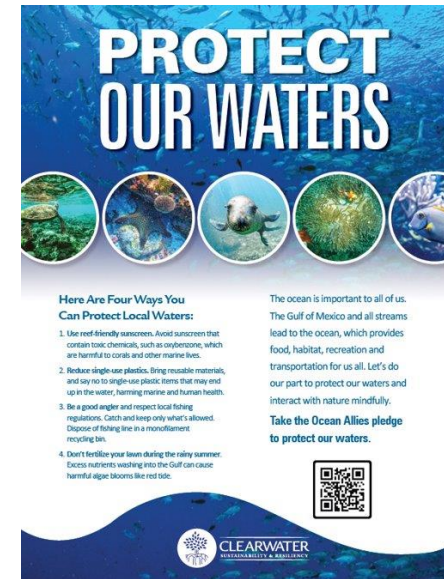
WORLD OCEANS DAY OUTREACH

External

- Press release
- City e-newsletter notifications
- City-wide social media platforms
- Social Media Channels
- Volunteer newsletters
- City Websites
- UN World Oceans Day event calendar

Internal

- Email blast to city hall occupants
- Flyer in office breakrooms



FOUR WAYS TO PROTECT OUR WATERS

We can help protect our waterways for future generations by interacting with nature responsibly. The Gulf of Mexico and all streams lead to the ocean, which provides food, habitat, recreation, and transportation for humans and wildlife.

Here are some ways you can protect local waters:

1. Use reef-friendly sunscreen. The sunscreen you apply may get washed off and enter the water. Toxic chemicals found in many commercial sunscreens harm corals and marine life.
2. Reduce single-use plastics by bringing reusable containers, straws and cutlery. Properly dispose of the trash you create.

3. Be a good angler and respect local fishing regulations. Catch and keep only what's allowed. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin to avoid harming birds.

4. Don't fertilize your lawn during the rainy summer to prevent excess nutrients washing into the Gulf of Mexico, lowering oxygen levels and killing fish. Fertilizers contribute to harmful algae blooms.

Take the Ocean Allies pledge. Scan the QR code or go to myclearwater.info/oceanallies. For more information on how you can help, visit OceanAllies.org.



MEDIA RECOGNITION

Fox 13 covered our “Four Ways You Can Protect Local Waters” on their 10am news segment.



SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH:

- *Greenprint 2.0 Strategy: Community Outreach*



STAFF EDUCATION

Test Drive an EV

In March, we partnered with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to enable city employees to test drive a Tesla Model X. 19 employees participated.

Earth Month Swag Bag

We incentivized employee participation in our Earth Month events by offering a raffle for a “sustainability swag bag” to employees who participated and shared one of our events on social media. Six employees received a swag bag. Staff also completed a survey to help us determine what type of engagement opportunities we should do in the future.

Lunch and Learn

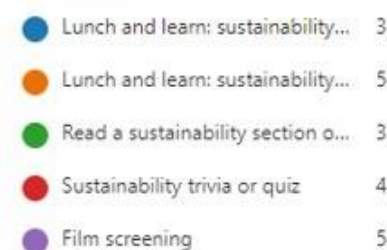
City Hall employees were given the opportunity to join a lunch time “Sustainability 101” presentation from Keep Pinellas Beautiful.

✓ *Greenprint 2.0 Strategy: Municipal Staff Education*

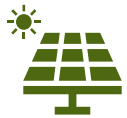


What are some programs you might be interested to attend in the future?

[More Details](#)



UPCOMING GOALS



SOLAR CO-OP

We are proud to be a funding partner for [Solar United Neighbors](#) this year. The co-op, which kicks off in August, enables residents to purchase photovoltaic systems at a discounted price due to bulk purchasing.



NEXT CENERGISTIC GOALS

Cenergistic will be programming all locally-controlled thermostats to meet required setpoints of the Energy Conservation Policy. They will also complete a Building Health Assessment for each facility. Cenergistic will be helping us apply for the Department of Energy's [Better Climate Challenge](#).



SOLAR FEASIBILITY REPORT

The study has taken a little longer than expected due to the firm's staff constraints. However, we are making progress and expect the study to be completed shortly. Once each building is evaluated and ranked, a report will be provided to Council.



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

We have been awarded a grant from the Office of Resilience to conduct a community-wide [vulnerability assessment](#)! Both the grant approval and project work order will be coming to Council in July.



We look forward to providing Council with quarterly reports on our sustainability programs and achievements moving forward.

Thank you!