



CITY OF SAN CARLOS

AGENDA CATEGORY:	
BUSINESS SESSION:	_____
CONSENT CALENDAR:	_____
PUBLIC HEARING:	_____
STUDY SESSION:	_____
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COUNCIL/RDA MEETING DATE: July 11, 2011

ITEM TITLE: Report to Council – Annual Report on Green Programs and Climate Protection

Background

For many years, the City of San Carlos was active in green programs including recycling (at City Hall and in the community) and in one of the early solar projects in the County at the City Corporation Yard.

In May 2007, the City Council discussed and approved an expansion of activities in the Green Programs and Climate Protection arenas.

Since that time, Staff has prepared annual updates for the City Council on these activities. It is now time to review some of the highlights of our work in this area during the past year.

Multi-Tiered Approach – Results at Low Cost

Due to the scope of the challenges in this area, the City’s work to keep General Fund expenses down and our work in sharing resources with other agencies, our approach in this area has involved both work at City Hall as well as partnering with other groups:

- City (Chamber of Commerce, Local Businesses, San Carlos Green and San Carlos Together)
- County (Rethink Waste/SBWMA, Recycle Works, Green Business Program, San Mateo County, San Mateo County Energy Watch, C/CAG and Local Utilities)
- Silicon Valley (Joint Venture: Silicon Valley)
- Bay Area (ABAG, Bay Area Regional Air Quality Board)
- Other Resources (ICLEI).

Staff continues to pursue this approach in working on Green Programs and Climate Protection. It has proven a bit more challenging in the last year as many agencies are having to cut back their staffing and support of these activities due to budget challenges.

The result of this approach continues to be a very low cost program that has produced a number of successes. It has also resulted in San Carlos becoming widely recognized at the local, regional, state and national levels as a leader in the Green Programs and Climate Change field.

Highlights from the City’s Green Programs & Climate Protection Projects

While this is not a complete list, here are some of the highlights of our work in the Green Programs and Climate Protection area over the past year:

City of San Carlos Programs

During the past year, the City continued its work in the area of Green Programs and Climate Protection. Many accomplishments occurred in the past year including:

- Information to the community through the Green Section of City Web Site
- Received approval for a “Small Cities” American Recovery & Rehabilitation Act (ARRA) Energy Efficiency Block Grant for San Carlos (\$147,000)
- Completed work on a local Energy Efficiency scope of work and proposal with San Mateo County Energy Watch
- Continued success in implementing the City’s new Construction & Demolition (C&D) Recycling Ordinance
- Continued to meet and exceed the State recycling requirements under AB 939 and SB 1018
- Approval of a Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance for San Carlos
- Work in rolling out new Solid Waste collection and recycling services
- Initial work on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) pursuant to SB 375 requirements with ABAG, MTC and C/CAG
- Creek Cleanup & Material Pick Up Days (September 2010)
- Began implementation work on the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) that is linked to the General Plan 2030
- San Carlos participated in a Second Statewide Webinar with Cal Recycle on Mandatory Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Ordinances with over 100 participants in cities from California in attendance. (This was a follow-up to an earlier statewide webinar that also featured materials and lessons learned from San Carlos).
- The City’s Green Building Ordinance that was coordinated with the State “CalGreen” Ordinance went in to effect on January 1st. The San Carlos Green Building Ordinance has been used as a model by other area cities.
- Exploration of a EOW (Every Other Week) Garbage Collection Pilot in San Carlos
- Monthly Composting Workshops with Recycle Works & San Carlos Green Continue
- Work with Countywide, Regional and Local Programs

San Carlos Climate Action Plan

Last year, the City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for San Carlos that was integrated into the General Plan. It identifies and analyzes 23 measures that will enable San Carlos to attain its reduction goal in the areas of energy use, transportation and land use, and solid waste reduction between now and 2030.

- These measures will enable San Carlos to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of a 15% reduction by 2020 and a 35% reduction by 2035, compared to 2005 levels.
- High interest in the San Carlos CAP as a model has led to inquiries and information on the plan being presented to groups including city and county officials around the Bay Area and the State.
- State Officials have cited the City of San Carlos CAP as a model for how such plans “should be done”
- This year, work continues on measures and programs mentioned in the CAP including the implementation of the San Carlos Green Building Code and increases in recycling through the new Single Stream Recycling services from Recology San Mateo County and South Bay Recycling
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Updates – Staff is working with the Silicon Valley Climate Protection Task Force and Recycle Works on methodology for the GHG inventory updates as part of our work on the City’s Climate Action Plan.

Rethink Waste

The City works on Solid Waste (Garbage and Recycling) programs as well as operation of the Shoreway Transfer Station and Recyclery in San Carlos with Rethink Waste and the two franchised service providers – Recology San Mateo County (Solid Waste Collection) and South Bay Recycling (Operation of Transfer Station & Recyclery). Accomplishments:

- Launch of new Single Stream Recycling and Weekly Recycling services on Jan 3rd
- New services have resulted in significant increases in recycling and reductions in garbage. Rethink Waste wide numbers are twice the expected level of improvement
- New operator at Shoreway Transfer Station and Recyclery has shown reduced costs compared to previous operator
- New Single Stream Facility went on-line in April (test mode) and is now in full operation
- Green Team Block Leaders program – 24 resident volunteers in San Carlos helped spread the word about the new services
- Continued success of Cell Phone & Battery Recycling Started in San Carlos
- Weekly Food Scraps & Yard Clippings Program (Feed the Pail, Feed the Planet) in San Carlos continues to show increases in materials collected.
- One of 4 Rethink Waste agencies to pilot Door-to-Door Household Hazardous Waste, Universal Waste and eScrap Program for Single Family and Multi-Family Residential.
- Mandatory Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Program started last summer in San Carlos to Sync with Recycling Blitz and New Solid Waste Services Rollout. Have seen impressive results from some San Carlos businesses.
- Recology San Mateo's "Recycling Blitz" for Commercial & Multi-Family Residential Accounts in San Carlos helped local businesses improve their recycling
- Green Design Features in New Shoreway Center – exploring LEED Silver Certification

Countywide Programs - Energy Watch, Recycle Works & C/CAG

San Carlos continues to work with and benefit from several countywide programs. This includes work in the green programs area by San Mateo County Energy Watch, Recycle Works and C/CAG. Some key projects in this area include:

- Completion of a proposal to perform energy efficiency work at City Building as part of the City's EECEBG Energy Grant under the ARRA program (Energy Watch)
- Referral of several Bay Area Green Business Program applicants in San Carlos to energy efficiency firms to help with efforts to modernize, save energy and cut operating costs and meet the program requirements (Energy Watch)
- Developing the Energy Upgrade California program and other energy efficiency programs for residents in San Carlos and the balance of the County. Energy Upgrade California will provide energy efficiency loans up to \$4,000 per household to encourage energy saving work in residential home (San Mateo County)
- Work on a strategy for the upcoming Greenhouse Gas Inventory Updates for the year 2010 energy usage for city operations and community wide (Recycle Works and C/CAG)
- Continued successful partnership on the Green Business Program (Recycle Works)
- Plans to provide a countywide approach to tracking and reporting vehicle miles traveled and transportation impacts for city Climate Action Plans (C/CAG)
- Monthly compost workshops for residents in San Carlos (Recycle Works)
- Green Corps intern assistance available to cities to enhance local programs (Recycle Works)
- Exploring technical assistance and joint studies on potential plastic bag plans (C/CAG)

San Mateo County Green Business Program (San Carlos Businesses)

County Assessor, Clerk & Registrar of Voters Mark Church and San Mateo County Recycle Works brought the Bay Area Green Business Program to San Carlos in the summer of 2007. The program requires local businesses to go through a rigorous 11 page self-assessment process. It insures that the business is using Green Practices and conserving water and electricity and is performing business recycling. Since the start of the program:

- 31 San Carlos firms have earned Bay Area Green Business status. San Carlos has more Bay Area Green Businesses than any City in the County
- Many more San Carlos firms have applied for Bay Area Green Business certification
- The program has also enabled local firms to reduce their energy, water and solid waste bills thereby improving their profitability
- Under development is a way to calculate the Carbon Footprint reduction the program is having by business and by City. This will complement the need for such measures in each City's Climate Action Plan.
- In the last year, the cost to operate the program was reduced by using a Green Corps intern.
- The program may not continue forward in the new fiscal year. Staff is working with the County, C/CAG and other groups to explore options for program operation in the new fiscal year.

Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Climate Protection Initiative

Joint Venture: Silicon Valley's Climate Protection Initiative for all 42 cities and counties in Silicon Valley continues to be a valuable resource. The Assistant City Manager is a member of the program's Executive Committee. Accomplishments:

- Exploring Countywide Climate Protection Initiatives including an upcoming partnership with C/CAG and Recycle Works in San Mateo County
- Completed a Model Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) for City and County Buildings. This program is being explored for City buildings in San Carlos.
- Exploring development of a model procurement for Solar with one or more Energy Services Companies. An alternative to the PPA model for Solar.
- Developing options for Greenhouse Gas Inventory updates in cooperation with C/CAG and Recycle Works
- Vehicles for Regional Collaborative Purchasing, including Public Environmentally Preferable Procurement System (SV-PEPPS), PG&E and other programs
- Additional tutorials and workshops on Energy Efficiency, Solar Power, Clean Technologies & Green Building Codes
- Exploring region wide outreach to businesses and residents in the Climate Protection area with local and state agencies
- Updates on Climate Change legislation and regulations affecting cities including AB 32 and SB 375 implementation with support from the League of California Cities and CSAC

Chamber of Commerce & San Carlos Business Community

The Chamber of Commerce formed a Green Business Committee that has met regularly and continues to develop green programs for local businesses. Accomplishments:

- Monthly "Green Scene" column in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter providing Green news and tips to the San Carlos business community
- Spotighting San Carlos Businesses with Green Practices in the Chamber Newsletter

- Continued the Green Business of the Year Awards at the Annual Chamber Dinner
 - **Black Mountain Properties** – Chamber Green Business of the Year (large)
 - **Gina Vallee, State Farm Insurance Agent** – Chamber Green Business of the Year (small)
- Working with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and Local Businesses on a Voluntary Program to promote Reusable Bags at local businesses in San Carlos

San Carlos Green (Community Non-Profit Group - San Carlos Residents)

San Carlos Green is a community based non-profit group. They are leading a group of San Carlos resident volunteers focused on green activities in the community. Key Programs include:

- Continued to hold Community Work Days at Vista Park with Parks and Recreation Department & local residents
- Brought the Drive Less Challenge to San Carlos in April on Earth Day – a friendly competition for schools and residents from Burlingame to Cupertino to encourage alternatives to vehicle travel
- Working to promote the Energy Upgrade California program in San Carlos – this program will provide energy efficiency loans up to \$4,000 per household to encourage energy saving work in residential homes.
- Hosted Community booths and outreach on Green Programs and Climate Protection at local events including Hometown Days and Art & Wine Faire
- Continued the monthly Community Bike Buddies bike riding program

Planned for the New Fiscal Year

Many of the programs and items mentioned earlier are ongoing efforts that will be continuing in the year ahead. Here are some highlights of what's in store in the coming fiscal year:

- LED Street Light Replacement – using ARRA grant funds, this project is scheduled to start up in the next couple of months
- City Building Energy Efficiency – the balance of ARRA grant funds will be used for this project. It will reduce energy usage at key City buildings.
- Shoreway Environmental Center Dedication – the dedication event is scheduled for late September. The new center in San Carlos features a host of green features and an education component for schools, residents and businesses.
- Commercial Recycling – Staff is working with Recology on recognition of San Carlos firms that are doing strong work in this area as well as a focus on firms that need attention.
- Compost and eShred Events – Staff is working with Recology on holding compost give away and eShred events for San Carlos residents this fall.
- EOW (Every Other Week) Garbage Collection Pilot – Staff will continue to work with Rethink Waste, EPA and other agencies on the feasibility of a pilot to test this concept in San Carlos.
- Solar Energy at City Buildings – Staff plans to explore opportunities to use the Power Purchase Agreements and Energy Service Company options for solar energy with Joint Venture: Silicon Valley

Conclusion

San Carlos has accomplished quite a bit in the Green Programs and Climate Protection area in the last four years. The result has been significant progress towards the Council's direction and the community's desire that we pursue a greener future for San Carlos. Staff looks forward to working with residents, businesses and the partners mentioned in this report to continue to progress in this area.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for submission by:

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