



The Department of the Environment
City and County of San Francisco

Annual Report 2012



SF Environment
Our home. Our city. Our planet.
A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

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Message from the Director



The San Francisco Department of the Environment is pleased to present its 2012 annual report. This report highlights the accomplishments and programming that made 2012 another exciting and innovative year here at the department.

Thanks to leadership from Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors, and support from San Francisco businesses and residents, we continued to make great strides this year. In addition to being named the Cleantech Capital of North America and a top city for green jobs, San Francisco celebrated an 80 percent waste diversion rate, the highest of any city in North America. We continue to be a leader in the sustainability movement, having successfully banned single use plastic bags, published the nation's first *Pest Prevention by Design Guidelines*, while being recognized for the world's best green building policy. These achievements are made possible through partnerships with our fellow city agencies. The city's greenhouse gas emissions are 14.5% lower than 1990 levels; another key indicator that our work is having an impact.

And that's not the only indicator; sustainability is good for our economy. Our programs and policies continued to prove it in 2012. The EnergyWatch and Boiler Replacement programs helped drive the energy efficiency market, while our zero waste polices continue to spur emerging, waste reduction businesses. In total our department has supported 2198 jobs in San Francisco and this number will continue to grow as we create demand for new businesses and continue to help existing businesses become more energy efficient, reduce waste and generate renewable energy.

Together, we are creating a city that allows our residents to thrive while ensuring there will be a prosperous future. The Department of the Environment looks forward to working with our local elected leaders, businesses, and residents to continue creating the policies and programs that have earned us the title of Greenest City in North America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Nutter".

Melanie Nutter

Director, San Francisco Department of the Environment





Our Mission

The San Francisco Department of the Environment creates visionary policies and innovative programs that promote social equity and the green economy, protect human health, and lead the way toward a sustainable future. We put our mission into action by mobilizing communities and providing the resources needed to safeguard our homes, our city, and ultimately our planet.

What We Do

The San Francisco Department of the Environment (SF Environment) creates visionary policies and innovative programs to improve, enhance, and preserve San Francisco's urban and natural environment and ensure our city's long-term sustainability. By developing cutting edge yet practical wide-ranging environmental programs, fostering groundbreaking legislation, working collaboratively with key partners and educating the public on comprehensive sustainability practices, SF Environment makes it easy for everyone in San Francisco to protect their environment.

SF Environment is a one-stop resource for people who want to learn about how they can access resources to protect the environment locally. Each year, SF Environment handles inquiries from elected officials, other city departments, businesses, and the public. SF Environment is responsible for providing expert information about environmental initiatives, programs, policies and incentives to the media,

City agencies, the Board of Supervisors and the public.

SF Environment's EcoCenter and website—www.sfenvironment.org—have the latest departmental and Environment Commission news and archives as well as easy-to-read fact sheets about a wealth of environmental topics, many of which are in multiple languages including Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Tagalog. The website serves as a portal to a range of environmental issues and contains links to other city agencies and environmental non-profit organizations.

Understanding that real change comes from face-to-face conversations and engagement, we work in every neighborhood in San Francisco going door to door and participating in street fairs, farmer's markets, concerts and other events, in an effort to get information on environmental protection out to the people who want and need it most.





Clean Transportation

The Clean Transportation Program envisions a San Francisco where car ownership is the exception rather than the rule, and where convenient, carbon-free mobility options are readily available and highly used by residents, commuters and visitors. As a step toward that vision, the city has set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector in San Francisco to 20%

below 1990 levels. Additionally, we aim to enhance the City's livability by improving the environmental conditions and experience of all modes of mobility for every San Francisco resident and visitor. We achieve this by promoting clean transportation programs that reduce congestion, improve safety for all modes of mobility, enhance air quality and encourage healthy travel.

Accomplishments

- Worked with 3,000 businesses that have a commuter benefits program for employees, 40% of which implemented a program due to the Commuter Benefits Ordinance
- Assisted 3,600 City and County of San Francisco employees who are utilizing the Pre-Tax Commuter Benefits program monthly.
- Supported enrollment of 500 businesses in the Emergency Ride Home Program, representing 90,000 commuters.
- Registered over 350 San Francisco Unified School District families in SchoolPool to walk-, bike-, transit- and car-pool to school
- Installed 75 public electric vehicle charging stations in 20 city-owned garages and parking lots
- Assisted with the installation of 89 electric vehicle charging stations for residents at 36 multifamily buildings in San Francisco as a demonstration project with California Energy Commission
- Spearheaded effort, in collaboration with Charge Across Town, to host EV Week, a community event engaging consumers, local businesses and employers in an educational expo on electric vehicles in September 2012.
- Accepted the Most EV-Ready Community award on behalf of the City of San Francisco from the Bay Area Climate Collaborative.
- Received San Francisco's Clean Cities Coalition recognition for reducing petroleum consumption in the city's transportation sector.
 - Top Award for Per-Capita Petroleum Displacement
 - Top Award for Greatest Displacement of Petroleum Using Electricity



Climate Change

Climate change is the most pressing environmental issue of the 21st century. SF Environment is committed to developing and implementing policies and practices that protect our residents, businesses and visitors from the worst impacts of climate change. Since climate change is a complex issue, SF Environment works with experts and other city agencies to develop effective strategies to reduce emissions.

Consistent with the scientific community's recommendations to reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 to stabilize our climate system, San Francisco has officially adopted ambitious emission reduction goals, including 20% reduction below 1990 levels for 2012, 25% by 2017, 40% by 2025 and 80% by 2050.

Accomplishments

- Managed the Department Climate Action Plan process for all agencies and departments of the City and County of San Francisco. 54 agencies and departments reported their carbon footprint and sustainability metrics and will continue to on an annual basis. The city's operational carbon footprint was reduced by 12% in 2012 from the baseline year of 2005.
- Awarded \$30,000 through the San Francisco Carbon Fund to Friends of the Urban Forest for being a tree planting partner for the Urban Orchard Program. An additional \$70,000 will be granted for projects in 2013
- Produced an Energy Efficient Events Guide to promote carbon neutral events in partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Core Program and the 34th America's Cup.
- Convened five Community Climate Action Advisory Panels with key city stakeholders to gather feedback to support our citywide Climate Action Strategy Update. Panels included:
 - Gray to Green, Urban Greening and Climate Change
 - New Century Transportation, Moving the Future Forward
 - Energy Independence, Global Technologies and Local Solutions
 - The Business Council
 - Economic Prosperity, Jobs, & Environmental Justice
- Initiated citywide climate adaptation collaboration production to design a city plan.



Photo by Luminalt

Energy

Since over 50% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings, SF Environment's Energy program targets energy use in private sector buildings; both commercial and residential. The primary goal is to reduce energy use in these buildings through efficiency, and to install renewable resources, all in an effort to achieve as close to zero net energy buildings as possible.

SF Environment has made great strides establishing Energy Watch, one of the largest city-run energy efficiency programs in California, funded by PG&E ratepayers.

Zero Net Building

A zero net energy building will use energy from the local grid. But unlike typical homes, a zero net energy building will incorporate both passive and active building design principles (using currently available technology), be highly efficient, and draw enough power from onsite or near site renewable energy installations to cover all its energy needs, resulting in net zero annual energy use.

Accomplishments

- Published the Zero Net Energy Homes Report which lays out a pathway to maximize energy efficiency in San Francisco.
- Established the EnergySavvy web portal, which allows residents to assess their home inefficiencies and identify potential savings with upgrades.
- Cosponsored the report, "The Value of Green Labels in the CA Housing Market" which found that homes with green labels are worth 9% more than those without.
- Assisted 1,527 businesses and multifamily properties with through the EnergyWatch program resulting in over \$6 million in utility savings and over 15,000 tons of carbon dioxide reduction. \$6 million dollars of incentives were given out in 2012.
- Launched the San Francisco Home Improvement & Performance program I which has provided energy retrofits to 225 residential homes making them an average of 35% more energy efficient.

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Energy Accomplishments, continued

- Completed the Boiler Replacement program, providing \$1.7 million in incentives to replace outdated and inefficient boilers on 261 projects resulting in a savings of 240,000 therms a year and 1,200 tons of carbon dioxide annually.
- Supported the installation of nearly 3,500 solar projects with a capacity of over 21 Megawatts through our SF Energy Map
- Completed US Department of Energy “Solar America Cities” grant by implementing innovative financing mechanisms including solar group buys with local businesses (Solar@Work) and schools (Solar@School).
- Joined a regional consortium that was awarded a US Department of Energy “SunShot” grant to reduce the soft costs of solar installations through adoption of best practices for permitting, interconnection, and financing.
- Provided funding support for two solar water heating installations at Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation affordable housing properties.
- Worked with PG&E to help market the CSI-Thermal program to multi-family and commercial properties in San Francisco. As a result 56 solar water heating systems (26,305 sq ft of solar collectors) in San Francisco have been installed or began development since the California Solar Initiative (CSI) – Thermal incentive went into effect in 2010. These installations represent \$3.88 million in private investment in local renewable energy, including \$1.3 million in CSI-Thermal incentives, and will save 90,300 therms of natural gas every year, and 480 metric tons of CO2 emissions per year.
- Lead the Mayor’s Renewable Energy Taskforce to complete and finalize its recommendations report for how San Francisco can meet its 100% renewable energy goal.
- Participated in the launch of the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, of which San Francisco will receive a portion of a \$26 million grant approved by the California Public Utility Commission.
- Developed the What’s-Your-Watt program launched in January 2013 to allow residents the ability to check out a watt meter at the library and learn how to reduce their energy use at home. The program was funded by PG&E and Wells Fargo Bank and the implementation partner is the San Francisco Public Library.



Green Building

The over-arching goal of our Green Building program is to ensure that all new and existing buildings in San Francisco are built and operated according to third-party verified standards such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) GreenPoint Rated, or EnergyStar. Our role in this far-reaching goal is to serve as the technical resource for

standards setting and project development, to facilitate and stimulate on-going training for a wide range of building professionals, and to educate and build support for green building policies with the public, tenants, and building owners.

Accomplishments

- Issued bond financing for the first GreenFinanceSF project, the city's commercial PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program at historic Pier 1.
- Completed and tracked energy benchmarking for 611 private sector buildings, totaling 111 million sq ft (65% of affected stock) and 350 municipal buildings, through the Existing Commercial Buildings Energy Ordinance. Of which one outcome was that municipal buildings used 1.1% less energy in 2011 than in 2009 saving ratepayers \$1 million per year.
- Partnered with the Assessor-Recorder's office to launch the first program to record green labels in county property records
- Partnered with the US Green Building Council to host the International GreenBuild 2012 conference, attended by more than 35,000 green building stakeholders. SF Environment's staff were featured in 6 conference sessions, highlighting the city's leadership in green building codes, environmental policy, and sustainable facilities.





Environmental Justice

SF Environment's Environmental Justice program works to promote environmental sustainability and economic opportunities in the city's low-income neighborhoods. We provide grant assistance and technical support to non-profit groups to help prepare workers for employment in the city's green economy. Since 2001 the Environmental Justice Program has granted more than \$11 million to community-based organizations and non-profit groups dedicated to promoting renewable energy, energy conservation and efficiency, food security, air quality and environmental justice in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero neighborhoods.

Driving Demand in the Green Economy

SF Environment programs and policies support emerging green economies in San Francisco while providing new opportunities for San Francisco workers. This past year **Forbes Magazine** recognized San Francisco as the top city in the U.S for green jobs, and city policies and initiatives are leading the way. Workers in the residential energy efficiency upgrade sector took advantage of our Home Improvement and Performance Program as they saw an increase in projects and labor hours. Our zero waste policies continue to drive reuse and recycling

industries, as more businesses and special events need waste reduction services. The City's support of job growth in the sustainability sector continues to transform our local economy and helps meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets to provide healthier places to live and work. Workers across the City—from Bayview Hunters Point to the Financial District—benefit from new jobs that utilize a range of skill and education levels.

Accomplishments

- Launched the Healthy Homes Project working with over 400 residents in southeast San Francisco to assess and address health inequalities for families. This program is working with families to identify opportunities for integrated pest management and healthy cleaning supplies.
- Received a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support brownfield site assessments in Bayview Hunters Point with the goal of developing the Blue Greenway, a 13-mile waterfront corridor that will improve access to green space in this underserved community.



Toxics Reduction

San Francisco was the first city in the country to adopt the Precautionary Principle as a foundation for its environmental and public health policies, requiring city government to seek out the safest alternatives when making choices ranging from products and services to building designs and landscape management. The Toxics Reduction Program implements the Precautionary Principle most directly through its programs in green purchasing, green business, and integrated pest management. Program staff are also actively involved in regional, national and international policy efforts to reduce toxic pollution and exposures in the San Francisco area.

In addition, the program coordinates a wide-range of hazardous waste collection and

recycling services for unwanted or expired hazardous household products. The program advocates producer responsibility, requiring manufacturers to become financially responsible for collection and recycling of their products, through supporting product stewardship legislation at the local, state and federal level.

Precautionary Principle

The Precautionary Principle states that if an activity raises threats of harm, precautionary measures should be taken even if cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.

Accomplishments

- Launched and completed the “Don’t Take the Bait” program during which 87 of the 130 local San Francisco stores selling this type of product pledged to eliminate the sale of dangerous rodenticide pellets.
- Assisted in the tracking and collection of almost 3 million pounds of hazardous waste from residences since 2010.
- Conducted outreach to shade tree mechanics and facilitated the collection of nearly 110,000 gallons of used oil recycled since 2010.
- Assisted in the tracking and collection of over 315,000 pounds of hazardous waste from businesses since 2010.
- Launched the Healthy Nail Salon program by conducting outreach to all 223 salons in San Francisco. Nine salons have completed the program and 14 more on track to complete the program by the end of 2013.
- Produced and released the Janitorial Green Cleaning curriculum to support best greening practices for janitorial services in San Francisco. The curriculum was created with U.S Environmental Protection Agency funding and will be disseminated across by the agency to other jurisdictions
- Launched the first ever industry sponsored Safe Medicine Disposal program and collected over 10,000 pounds of medicine through 13 independent pharmacies and 5 police stations.
- Published the Pest Prevention by Design manual; the first of its kind in the country. The manual outlines opportunities for pest prevention in building design.



Urban Forestry

SF Environment's Urban Forest program promotes a healthier, sustainable urban forest in San Francisco by implementing the Urban Forestry Council Ordinance, providing education programs and information on tree management, and developing innovative funding strategies for the City's urban forest. Additionally, the program drives legislation and serves as an information hub to other agencies and the general public to improve the health of the urban forest and increase its benefits to urban residents.

The Urban Agriculture program facilitates and encourages increasing local food production and opportunities for urban gardening throughout San Francisco.

Accomplishments

Urban Forestry

- Provided data and information on existing policy to the Planning Department to support the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan.
- Assisted in the publication of the Annual Urban Forest report.
- Expanded the Urban Orchards program and developed a program partnership with Friends of the Urban Forest to plant 200 publicly accessible fruit trees as part of the SF Carbon Fund grant.

Urban Agriculture

- Led the development of the Alemany Farm Management Plan, which was adopted by the Parks & Recreation Department and creates a new management model for communal urban farms on public land.
- Participated in the City Administrator's office Urban Agriculture working group, which developed key policy area.





Zero Waste

The Zero Waste program has instituted a wide array of policies and convenient services to achieve the City's goal of achieving zero waste by 2020. The Zero Waste program encourages all sectors (municipal, commercial and residential) to comply with the city's waste policies and use services properly. The program's primary focus is securing city-wide compliance with the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance. Financial incentives for generators and service providers are continually updated to enhance waste diversion opportunities. The program promotes waste prevention and environmentally preferable purchasing. Zero Waste Program staff also continue to advocate for local and state legislation increasing consumer and producer responsibility.

Accomplishments

- Began implementation of the Checkout Bag Ordinance on October 1, 2012, an amendment to 2009's plastic bag ban, which affects all retailers with the exception of restaurants.
- Achieved compliance with State Assembly Bill 341, which requires multi-family buildings and businesses achieve a landfill diversion rate of 75% by 2020.
- Achieved the milestone diversion rate of 80%.
- Established composting in 1,500 and recycling in 1,000 apartment buildings in accordance with the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance.
- Registered 75 new debris transporters and 3 new facilities under Construction Demolition Recycling Ordinance.
- Provided technical assistance to 34th Annual America's Cup's to develop and implement a Zero Waste plan which achieved 98% waste diversion.

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Zero Waste Accomplishments, continued

Awarded Zero Waste community grants to:

- The Supportive Housing Employment Collaborative (\$25,000) will offer formerly homeless adults the opportunity to participate in a paid Recycling and Environmental Awareness Internship Program which will train interns in environmental, waste management and community outreach practices. This program will divert waste by implementing recycling and composting programs in supportive housing sites where the interns reside and from events within San Francisco. <http://www.chp-sf.org/>
- San Francisco Clean City Coalition (\$38,000) will continue to operate a wood furniture refurbishing and pallet repair program that will divert waste from landfill. This program will develop a free standing new green business that hires from populations with multiple barriers to employment. <http://www.sfcleancity.com/>
- Garden for the Environment (\$38,000) will offer free backyard composting and vermicomposting workshops for residents of San Francisco, conduct the Gardening Composting Educator Training Program and a school field trip program, while ensuring that San Francisco residents continue to divert organic material from landfill through backyard composting. <http://www.gardenfortheenvironment.org/>
- San Francisco Conservation Corp (\$24,000) will provide greening services for events in San Francisco to increase awareness of recycling and composting practices amongst attendees, producers and corps members, helping events in San Francisco get closer to zero waste and comply with the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance. <http://www.sfcc.org/>
- Scroungers for Reuseable Art Parts (\$15,000) will increase the diversion of materials suitable for arts and educational purposes while promoting creative reuse - through outreach to businesses and residents, providing free pick-ups, maintaining a materials depot for the public, and education to school children and adults at field trips, workshops and community events. <http://www.scrap-sf.org/>
- Loved Twice (\$10,000) will establish donation collection sites and clothing drives for baby clothes throughout San Francisco in order to both divert textiles from landfill and clothe newborns in need with quality recycled baby clothing for the first year of life. Loved Twice works with social workers to identify new mothers who are in need, particularly at risk mothers experiencing extreme challenges including homelessness, poverty, violence and teen pregnancy. Through this program Loved Twice intends to divert 5 tons of baby clothes from landfill. <http://lovedtwice.org/>



Outreach and Education

SF Environment's outreach and communications program supports the goals and services of all department programs by providing clear, concise, and objective information about policies and initiatives. SF Environment provides environmental educational resources to a wide variety of San Francisco constituencies, and strives to reach the diverse communities of San Francisco in strategic and thoughtful ways.

Cultural Competency and Multi-Lingual Communications

SF Environment engages all communities throughout the city to ensure that residents and businesses are receiving relevant information about our programs and the environment. At the core of this commitment is an effort to reduce the disparities gap in environmental awareness through multi-lingual education and an understanding of cultural and behavioral diversity in the city. To that end, SF Environment relies on a diverse communications team as well as tactics to reach as many people, in as many languages as possible. Further, we strive to partner with community organizations to increase the reach of our messaging while developing a better understanding of what matters to our audiences.

Some highlights from 2012:

- Translated all of our press releases, education and outreach handouts in multiple languages.
- Launched neighborhood specific outreach campaigns for zero waste and energy efficiency.
- Developed a multi-lingual and culturally relevant outreach campaign for the Checkout Bag Ordinance.
- Participated in over 100 community events throughout the city, all with multi-lingual speakers.
- Created all student factsheets in Spanish and Chinese for our school education program.
- Continued to hire multi-lingual SF residents from underserved neighborhoods for the Environment Now program.





Online

The SF Environment digital team launched a completely redesigned website featuring ten times more content than the previous website. This robust and scalable platform is also user friendly for staff, meaning we can update content rapidly as needed. The dynamic site allows SF Environment to leverage all of our social media platforms for cohesive communication that is both timely and responsive. Finally, the new site allows for multi-media as well as multi-language content.

RecycleWhere? a state of the art digital online tool, was launched to help all Bay Area residents learn how to safely dispose of their waste items, from old sneakers to dead batteries and chicken bones. The tool is set up to not only provide information to its users, but also to inform SF Environment about items people are trying to dispose. This tool will optimize our collection programs in 2013. In its first month the tool, has received 800 unique visitors, 50% of whom are here in San Francisco with another 50% from across the Bay Area and around the world.





EcoCenter

SF Environment's EcoCenter at 11 Grove is the City's one-stop shop for information on its environmental policies, programs and services. The EcoCenter is a community meeting space, an art gallery, movie house, environmental lecture hall and recently, even a performance venue.

Over the past 4 years the EcoCenter has presented more than 18 art installations including SCRAP's annual art show and work by artists from Recology's Artist-in-Residence program. Guest curators from UC Davis, Altered Barbie and the African American Cultural Center have produced a range of exhibits from photography to sculpture. Quarterly art openings have a dedicated following and include good food and great music. In 2011, SF Environment was proud to host Epiphany Productions Trolley Dances, which drew more than 1,200 people to 15 performances over the course of three days.

In addition to a range of art events, the EcoCenter hosts community groups as varied as the Women's Initiative for Self Employment, the Mongolian Cultural Club and the Alliance for Climate Education.

The Third Thursday film series and monthly brown bags are popular community events, and the annual celebration of Park(ing) Day has become a renowned neighborhood event over the years.

Education

SF Environment's Environmental Education program serves as catalyst for change in the community, by offering award-winning projects that serve over 225 public and private schools in San Francisco, annually reaching 20,000 students and 1,000 teachers. The Environmental Education staff promotes positive behavior change that increases composting and recycling at schools, protects our water from pollution, inspires sound environmental stewardship and helps stop litter.





Environment Now

Environment Now’s primary goal is to promote workforce readiness and eco-literacy through a combination of classroom workshops and practical, hands-on, project-focused work experiences. Participants work closely with SF Environment staff and engage in a variety of projects and outreach campaigns. Environment Now projects effectively support SF Environment’s programs to reach multicultural, multilingual neighborhoods in the City, and help to promote SF Environment’s programs in energy conservation, zero waste, urban forestry, toxics reduction, clean air transportation and environmental justice. In 2012 SF Environment’s first two-year cohort of eight participants graduated the program.

Events

Each year, SF Environment outreach and Environment Now staff, interns and volunteers engage residents, businesses and community organizations at events and in high traffic

areas such as parks and transit hubs. In 2012, our staff developed innovative and interactive strategies, such as transporting our materials for events on an electric cargo bike and using it to power press conferences and even harnessing the power of Karaoke to engage constituents.

Volunteers

The SF Environment volunteer team, now totaling 518 active members, participated in 75 community events in 2012 and supported several other special projects. Projects included supporting the International Green Building Conference, distributing canvass bags at several events as part of the “Ban Bag Campaign” as well as organizing outreach booths and giving presentations at the Mexican Consulate. In the upcoming year, the volunteer team will take part in expanding outreach efforts at additional Latin American consulates, work with the Department of Public Work’s Community Clean Team, and partner with Friends of the Urban Forest to plant over 200 fruit trees.





Moving Forward

Friends of Launch

Friends of SF Environment, a non-profit dedicated to promoting our work, was launched in 2012. Friends will conduct advocacy, education and fundraising efforts to support SF Environment's programs, policies and alliances and help ensure that San Francisco is the greenest city in the world.

Friends shares SF Environment's vision of a City where businesses, residents, and municipal departments work together to ensure a carbon neutral environment where all citizens have access to clean air, clean water, and green space.

1455 Market

Preparation and planning began in 2012 for our move from 11 Grove St. to the 12th floor of 1455 Market. With 24,000 ft² of office space, we will be able to showcase the latest materials and technologies in energy efficiency and green building, while creating more collaborative space for our staff and community. Our new location will provide new opportunities to engage policy makers, residents, businesses, and visiting delegations from around the world.

Biodiversity Program

Following the adoption of a biodiversity resolution by the Commission on the Environment, SF Environment updated portions of our website to include an expanded description of San Francisco's biodiversity heritage and habitats. We secured a limited amount of funding to hire a temporary biodiversity coordinator, with the goal of initiating a biodiversity program and developing a biodiversity plan for the City.





Commission on the Environment

The mission of the Commission on the Environment is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter. The Commission on the Environment sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and other City departments on environmental matters. Appointed by the Mayor, the seven-member commission develops policies and programs on a wide range of environmental topics including zero waste, toxics reduction, environmental justice, clean air, energy efficiency, green building, habitat restoration, commute alternatives, greenhouse gas reduction, green jobs, and the city's urban forest. The Commission's office is located at 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, California, 94102. In March 2013, the Commission's office will be located at 1455 Market Street, 12th Floor.

Commission Membership

Matt Tuchow, President; Ruth Gravanis, Vice President; Joshua Arce, Angelo King, Operations Committee Chair; Alan Mok, Heather Stephenson; Johanna Wald, Policy Committee Chair.

Commissioners Leaving Office in 2012

Special thanks to Commission President Emeritus Matt Tuchow who served on the Commission from January 15, 2008 to December 5, 2012 and on the Commission Operations Committee from January 22, 2008 to July 21, 2010 and to Commissioner Emeritus Rahul Prakash who served on the Commission from August 3, 2010 to January 3, 2012 and on the Commission Policy Committee from October 8, 2010 to January 3, 2012.



Meetings

All meetings of the Commission on the Environment and its committees are open to the public. The full Commission meets bimonthly on the fourth Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place, Room 416, in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

The Commission's Policy Committee meets monthly on the second Monday at 5:00 p.m. with the exception of the fourth Monday in October. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place, Room 421 in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

As of September 2012, The Commission's Operations Committee meets quarterly on the first Wednesday in November and the second Wednesday in February, May, and August at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are held at 1455 Market Street in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

Background on the Commission

In carrying out its mission, the Commission and its two committees engage in three general types of activities:

1. providing oversight of and strategic advice on the work of the Department of the Environment and its staff;
2. generating and reviewing new policies, practices and ideas relating to sustainability for consideration by the staff, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and by other city agencies as relevant; and
3. providing public outreach and education.

The Commission carries out its responsibilities principally by reviewing and commenting on oral and written presentations from the staff at both full Commission meetings and at committee meetings.

The Commission is directly responsible for a number of San Francisco's most well known environmental initiatives including its ban on City purchase of single-serve water bottles and its groundbreaking ordinance on check-out bags. Other major initiatives that the Commission has spearheaded include the Department's green jobs program, its Climate Action Plan, and the City's mandatory composting requirement. As the result of these initiatives, in 2012:

- 2198 jobs were supported by San Francisco Department of the Environment's policies and programs in areas such as zero waste, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 1.6 million tons of waste were diverted from landfill and San Francisco achieved an 80% landfill diversion, making it #1 in the country for a city our size and saving the equivalent of almost two Golden Gate Bridges worth of trash.
- Over 50 cities around the country have adopted plastic bag bans of their own.
- 267 San Francisco homeowners, including 194 low-income families as well as 6 businesses and non-profits were able to install solar panels thanks to the GoSolarSF program, providing 567 kilowatts of new solar capacity in the City.
- San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions are nearly 14.5% below 1990 levels. We are very close to meeting the City's goal of reducing emissions 20% below those levels by 2012 and have exceeded emission reduction goals set by both the United Nations and the State of California, even as our population has grown substantially.
- Providing suggestions and input to Department staff and to staff of the America's Cup Event Authority regarding the latter's efforts to make the America's Cup events of 2012 and 2013 models of environmental sustainability.



Major accomplishments of the Commission in 2012

In 2012, the Commission's major accomplishments included:

- Supporting the endangered Pacific Leatherback as the Official Marine Reptile of California. The California State Assembly voted unanimously to pass the Bill (AB 1776) to designate the endangered Pacific Leatherback as California's official state marine reptile and to declare October 15 every year as Leatherback Conservation Day.
- Adopting a Resolution urging Congress to permanently establish parity between the parking and mass transit/vanpool portions of the Employee Transportation Benefit.
- Adopting a Resolution commending the Port of San Francisco for passage of their Zero Waste Events and Activities Policy.
- Adopting a Resolution supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's use of the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon in our atmosphere. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution under the Clean Air Act.
- Adopting a Resolution supporting the proposed expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to the Golden Gate Bridge and into San Francisco Bay.
- Providing feedback to the America's Cup Event Authority, particularly on its Sustainability and Zero Waste Plans. Both the Policy Committee and the Commission provided this feedback, and in addition, provided opportunities for members of the public to provide comments on these plans and other actions that need to be taken to ensure that the America's Cup events held in San Francisco in 2012 and 2013 are

truly environmentally responsible.

- Adopting a Resolution in support of Board of Supervisors Resolution and Ordinance Approving the CleanPowerSF Program. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution under the Clean Air Act.
- Adopting a Resolution endorsing Department of the Environment grant funding recommendations for the Urban Orchards Program and San Francisco Carbon Fund program to plant trees.

Awards

Most Walkable City, WalkScore, November 7, 2012

Top City for Green Jobs, *Forbes Magazine*, May 7, 2012

VERGE 25 Award for Cities 2.0

"Best Role Model" in green building policy for the California Top-10 Award, U.S. Green Building Council.

Bay Area's "Most EV-Ready Community" (along with Sonoma County) for 2012, presented at Silicon Valley Leadership Group's annual conference on electric vehicles.

SF Clean Cities Coalition, coordinated by Department of the Environment, received two national awards from U.S. Department of Energy for top ranking among all Clean Cities Coalitions: Per Capita Petroleum Displacement and Greatest Displacement of Petroleum Using Electricity.



Oversight activities of the Commission in 2012 included:

- Approving the Department of the Environment's Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget on January 24, 2012.
- Adopting a Revised Reduced Risk Pesticides list for 2012. On January 24, 2012, the Commission approved this list as required by Environment Code Chapter 2, Section 203, Ordinance 115-05. In so doing, the Commission and the Department help the City protect residents, visitors, City staff and the City's biodiversity from the effects of unnecessary and avoidable pesticide use.

Reviewing and providing recommendations on the San Francisco Department of the Environment's Strategic Plan Assessment and new format.

Accomplishments of Environment Commission Committee

In addition to the accomplishments referenced above, 2012 activities of the Operations Committee included:

- Reviewing and making recommendations on the Department of the Environment's office move. Office move discussions were held on location, design, process, and Eco Center priorities.
- Reviewing and providing input into funding recommendations of the Department of the Environment's staff for 2012-13 Zero Waste grants that were provided to the Commission on the Environment.
- Reviewing and providing input into the Department of the Environment's Budget for 2012-13 and 2013-14.
- Reviewing strategies and structure for the Department of the Environment's Public Outreach and Education program area and making recommendations on outreach for San Francisco's Expanded Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance.

- Providing feedback on the importance of social media outreach and requesting ongoing updates on performance.

In addition to the accomplishments referenced above, 2012 activities of the Policy Committee included:

- Establishing Committee work priorities in the areas of the Sustainability Plan, Metrics, Climate/Renewable Energy, and Biodiversity.
- Adopting a Committee Resolution supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's use of the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon in our atmosphere and recommending that the Commission adopt such a Resolution.
- Recommending that the Commission adopt a Resolution to restore parity between the parking and mass transit/vanpool portions of the Employee Transportation Benefit.
- Recommending that the Commission adopt a Resolution supporting the proposed expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to the Golden Gate Bridge and into San Francisco Bay.
- Receiving updates and providing input to staff regarding the need for the City to increase its efforts to provide alternatives to single-use plastic bottles at events throughout San Francisco. The Committee also emphasized the need to restrict the sale of plastic water bottles at America's Cup events.

Other Work of the Commission in 2012

In 2012, the full Commission passed a resolution commending the service and contribution of former Commissioner Rahul Prakash.

