



**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Commission on the Environment**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**February 7, 2023**

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*This report covers San Francisco Environment Department updates for the period of November 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. A glossary of acronyms is included at the end of the report.*

**Climate**

- **Climate Action:** Staff collaborated with the SFPUC Water Resources Division on an online public workshop regarding a new water supply sector chapter to the Climate Action Plan. The chapter will be added in early 2023.
- **Climate Action:** Staff submitted semiannual reporting on San Francisco's commitment to meet C40 Leadership Standards, which measure the progress of global cities in tackling the climate crisis.
- **Climate Action:** SFE engaged the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) at UC Berkeley School of Law to develop a report identifying strategies and tools for obtaining large-scale, long-term funding for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The report "Funding San Francisco Climate Action: Strategies for Revenue, Implementation, and Equity" was released in November.
- **Green Building:** Staff provided the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) with technical assistance and education to implement the 2022 Green Building Code, which incorporates new CALGreen provisions while maintaining stricter local requirements. Staff presented on the code updates to the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) and Public Works.
- **Green Building:** The Rules and Regulations for implementing the 100% Renewable Electricity for Large Commercial Buildings Ordinance (Environment Code Chapter 30) were adopted. The compliance phase started on December 31.
- **Green Building:** An update to the Environment Code Chapter 7 was introduced to the Board of Supervisors. The update concerns electrification of existing municipal buildings, solar plus battery storage, embodied carbon, and waste reduction requirements.
- **Environmental Justice:** Staff partnered with Booker T. Washington Community Service Center to collect input on SFE's Racial and Social Equity Assessment Tool. The feedback will be incorporated into a revised tool that will be used for future climate projects.

**Clean Transportation**

- Electric Vehicles: Staff began implementing the Electric Vehicle Ready Communities grant with the CEC and its grant partners. The Clean Transportation Team is partnering with community-based organizations, a charging provider, and a major technology company to increase awareness of EVs, install charging stations in the Bayview, and accelerate a transportation mode shift by transitioning 30 app-based food delivery workers from cars to electric bicycles.
- Electric Vehicles: Staff partnered with the SFMTA and the International Council on Clean Transportation to develop a cost-benefit analysis of public charging technologies. The report will inform next steps to support the expansion of public charging infrastructure, including a potential curbside pilot.

## **Energy**

- BayREN: The Business program soft launched in early November and reserved 10 projects by the end of December. The program offers rebates for energy efficiency retrofits to small- and micro-sized businesses in the Bay Area.
- BayREN: The Multifamily program completed retrofits at an 86-unit, affordable housing building. The program offers rebates and technical assistance for both energy efficiency retrofits and electrification projects.
- Fix Lead SF: The Energy Team partnered with the Department of Public Health on Fix Lead SF implements on lead hazard abatement in single- and multi-family San Francisco residences. The pilot program completed inspections for six projects and is transitioning to a citywide rollout.

## **Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems**

- Household Hazard Waste: Staff completed the People In Life Transition HHW outreach campaign to promote proper disposal of HHW to residents in periods of transition (e.g., moving, having a baby).
- Product Stewardship: Staff received revisions of Medicine Product Stewardship Plans from two Product Stewardship organizations (MED-Project and Inmar). The Department has 90 days to review the revisions following a public comment period.
- Toxics Reduction: Staff finalized an online form to collect data on flame retardant chemicals in the electronic components of furniture. This data will be submitted by furniture manufacturers and suppliers as part of a conditional waiver regarding compliance with the Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture and Juvenile Products Ordinance.
- Green Business: Staff worked with the California Green Business Network to create a sector checklist for nail salons based on Healthy Nail Salon Program criteria. This effort will help other California counties adopt safer nail salon practices and products in their communities.
- Green Business: The Green Business Program has recognized 29 businesses to date during FY 2022-23, including 24 Certified business, one Efficiency (entry level) business, and four Innovators.
- Toxics Reduction: The Municipal Team convened an IPM technical advisory committee meeting on December 1. Titled "Understanding the Fundamentals of Aquatic Ecology and Its Use in IPM," the meeting had 43 attendees.

- **Healthy Ecosystems:** Staff moderated a panel discussion on habitat restoration in San Francisco at the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Annual Symposium. This session had 485 participants.
- **Urban Forestry:** The Urban Forestry Council approved the Annual Urban Forestry Report and an accompanying letter urging the City's elected leadership to support urban forestry programs.

## **Zero Waste**

- **City Government:** The CGZW team presented on Zero Waste principles to 289 city employees at SF-311, War Memorial, Human Services Agency (HSA), Laguna Honda Hospital, and DHR's New Employee Orientation, and reviewed RSO audits for the Legion of Honor Museum and the Real Estate Division's 25 Van Ness Building. Both locations passed.
- **Commercial:** The CZW team approved two Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance Plans (RSCOPs) associated with commercial properties that failed an RSO audit. Staff completed farmer's market vendor outreach to 280 vendors at 15 markets on the pre-checkout bag ordinance, and facilitated a Zero Waste Facilitator (ZWF) training that had about 50 attendees.
- **Construction & Demolition:** The C&D team conducted outreach to C&D transporters regarding C&D Transporter Permit requirements and the need to obtain new permits for 2023. The C&D team partnered with the Office of Small Business (OSB) to include information on C&D Transporter Permit requirements in OSB's December newsletter, processed and approved 99 mixed C&D transporter permit applications accounting for 597 debris box permits, 14 Tier 1 permits, 119 Tier 2 permits, 12 Tier 3 permits, and eight Tier 4 permits, for combined project revenue of \$658,145. Staff also conducted over 100 field visits leading to at least six corrective notices sent to debris haulers, 45 informational sheets distributed in the field, and 19 unpermitted haulers documented.
- **Residential:** The RZW team approved three Refuse Separation Compliance Plans, coordinated and facilitated a Fix-It clinic at the Anza Public Library promoting bike and clothing repair, and established a commitment with SFO, Chase Center, Pacific Supermarket, and Excelsior Strong to conduct edible food recovery utilizing Kitchen Zero SF 2 (KZSF2) funding.
- **Environmental Justice:** Environment Now conducted outreach and presented on Zero Waste at three affordable housing sites. Staff spoke with 128 residents, including 16 in Cantonese and eight in Spanish, and distributed compost pails and recycling totes.
- **Commercial:** Environment Now delivered reusable foodware to 11 businesses to transition from single-use foodware to reusables.
- **Commercial:** Environment Now surveyed 32 businesses that signed up for Commercial Reuse, 78% of which reported consistently implementing reusables while 22% reported occasionally implementing reusables. Eighty percent of businesses surveyed reported support for a policy mandating reusables for on-site dining.
- **Commercial:** Environment Now conducted waste assessments for seven businesses as part of its ongoing Compliance Verification effort to assess businesses' potential to remove blue recycling and green compost service.
- **Outreach:** Staff completed the citywide, multilingual REUSE campaign to promote reusables. In addition to social, out-of-home, and digital media, the campaign featured four public activations to engage

residents in harder-to-reach neighborhoods, reaching nearly 3,000 residents. Roughly 40% of residents surveyed recalled campaign messaging.

### **Citywide/Cross-Sector Programs or Initiatives**

- Education: The Environmental Education Team conducted 19 programs for 2,208 K-12 students, with a focus on Zero Waste and water conservation. Staff demonstrated a Zero Waste audit activity to middle school students to promote awareness of sorting habits.
- Environmental Justice: Environmental Justice and Toxics Reduction & Healthy Ecosystems staff submitted a final report for a California Department of Pesticide Regulation research grant on “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Pest Preventive Design Elements Incorporated into 3,495 Affordable Housing Units in San Francisco.”
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE’s Acting Director and staff attended the second meeting of the Reimagining SF initiative, which the California Academy of Sciences organized as part of its Thriving California campaign. The initiative aims to promote restoration, stewardship and access to nature.
- Racial Equity: The Racial Equity Team conducted a training on racial equity tools. Staff were asked to incorporate equity goals into their Performance Plan and Appraisal Reviews (PPARs).
- Racial Equity: Senior staff began racial equity coaching sessions with SFE’s racial equity consultants.

### **State and Federal Collaboration**

- Climate: Staff worked with a team organized by the State Architect on the “CALGreen Carbon Reduction Collaborative,” which introduced language to be included in the state code regarding embodied carbon reductions.
- Energy: The Energy Team submitted responses to the EPA’s Request for Information on greenhouse gas reduction program design. This program is funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Zero Waste: Staff coordinated with CalRecycle as part of an effort with other Bay Area communities to consider alternative compliance pathways to achieve SB 1383 procurement goals.

### **Press and Media Highlights**

- [SF to Accept \\$2.3M State Grant to Kickstart Vehicle Electrification Effort](#)  
“The grant comes from the California Energy Commission’s alternative and renewable fuel and vehicle technology program, and it will help launch the city’s Electric Vehicle Ready Blueprint through 2024. The blueprint spells out how City staff, private partners and community members can expand vehicle electrification – noting public awareness campaigns, more charging stations and shifting delivery-app workers to e-bikes, among other efforts” (NBC Bay Area).
- [A New Climate Grant Means Free E-Bikes for San Francisco Delivery Workers](#)  
“‘There’s a lot coming just within the next year or two,’ said Tyrone Jue, the interim director of the San Francisco Environment Department. ‘This is perfect timing with the increased amount of incentives that are going to be coming from the federal government and trickling down to the state and to the local municipalities helping them pay for charging stations’” (SF Standard).

- [San Francisco's Climate Action Plan will cost billions. Here's how we'll pay for it](#)  
"Still, said Tyrone Jue, acting director of the Department of the Environment, it's important to note that The City would not be responsible for footing the bill alone. 'The \$22 billion isn't the city's tab,' said Jue. 'It's the cost of implementing all the different strategies in the Climate Action Plan,' something that also requires leveraging state and federal funding" (SF Examiner).
- [San Francisco makes progress on climate plan](#)  
"There's little incentive for residents of the neighborhood, which has 'historically been overburdened by air pollution,' to transition to EVs, Tyrone Jue, acting director of the SF Environment Department, told Axios. 'We're creating a signal and creating an opportunity to engage with that community to help them in that transformation to go to a fully electric transportation mode,' Jue said" (Axios).

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

- Climate: Staff attended the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo and presented to a combined audience of more than 750 people at three education sessions. Staff also presented at a "LEED Convene and Connect" event for San Francisco practitioners and interested parties to provide feedback on the next version of the rating system, including a closed session to incorporate findings into the USGBC's plans for program integration.
- Climate: The Acting Director and staff joined associates from Arup, a global sustainability firm, in presenting to a Singapore delegation of government officials and the Singapore Green Building Council leadership. The presentation was part of the US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership's Green Building Innovation Programme.
- Healthy Ecosystems: Staff attended the fifteenth Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), at which 196 countries approved the Global Biodiversity Framework. Staff presented at a C40 Urban Nature Accelerator workshop and were invited to speak at a California Biodiversity Roundtable organized by the California delegation, which was led by Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. Staff were presented with a certificate by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) marking San Francisco's admission into the CitiesWithNature platform.
- Zero Waste: Staff presented at the Students for Zero Waste Conference and moderated a session at the National Zero Waste Conference focusing on "Youth on the Frontline of Culture Change."
- Zero Waste: Staff presented to over 200 attendees and moderated a panel at Greenbuild International Conference + Expo on "Materials Reuse: It's a Change Management Challenge." Staff also presented to 20 attendees at the CRRRA's C&D Technical Council meeting on "C&D 101: An Ecosystem Perspective."
- Zero Waste: Staff presented to the Canadian Circular Cities Regional Initiative on "SF Actions for Climate and Circular Economy," and to a SFSU Geography of Garbage class on "SF Zero Waste Incentives and Policy."

### **Incoming – Proposals submitted and grants and contracts awarded TO the Department**

- Clean Transportation: Staff submitted a proposal to the US DOE requesting \$1.2 million to expand the CEC-funded pilot program to promote electric bicycles among app-based delivery workers.

- Toxics Reduction: Staff submitted a grant proposal to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to support Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts in affordable housing.

## **Outgoing – Requests for Proposals released, and grants and contracts awarded FROM the Department**

### **Solicitations/Requests for Proposals Released:**

- The Department released an RFP to the Green Building Consultants and Program Support qualified pool for two projects: SFO Zero Net Carbon Plan and SFO Zero Waste Plan 2024 (November 30).
- The Department released an RFP for Equitable Building Decarbonization Consulting (December 12).
- The Department released an RFP for a Community Engagement Meetings Facilitator (December 12).

### **Awards Issued:**

- Glumac was awarded a contract for SFO's Utilities Performance Reporting Dashboard from an RFQ issued in April 2021 (November 21).
- AECOM was awarded a contract for SFO Zero Net Carbon Plan from an RFP issued in November (December 22).
- STOK was awarded a contract for SFO Zero Waste Plan 2024 from an RFP issued in November (December 22).
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts was awarded a Grant for Zero Waste SB 1383 Compost Procurement from an RFP issued in October (December 22).
- Zero Footprint was awarded a grant for Zero Waste SB 1383 Compost Procurement from an RFP issued in October (December 22).
- UCSF Office of Sustainability was awarded a grant for Pollution Prevention from an RFP issued in October (December 15).

## **Ethics**

- Henna Trewn completed a Form 700 Assuming Office filing on time.
- The Department received a gift of \$730.00 in travel costs for staff to attend the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada.
- The Department reported travel gifts received during the fall of 2022 to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) on time.

## **Staff Updates**

- The Clean Transportation Team welcomed Henna Trewn as its new Clean Transportation Program Manager.

- The Administration Team welcomed Michael Sawyer as its new Grants Analyst and Claire Poon as its new Senior Account Clerk.

**Other Noteworthy Items (e.g., awards, milestones)**

- CalRecycle announced that the Toxics Reduction and Outreach Team was selected as a winner in the “Best Public Education and Outreach Campaign” category for their People In Life Transition campaign. SFE will receive the award at the 2023 HHW/Used Oil Symposium on February 6.

**GLOSSARY**

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

LBNL: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
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 Environment Department  
SFEECC: SF Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee  
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