



**City and County of San Francisco**  
**[Commission on the Environment](#)**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**March 28, 2023**

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*This report covers San Francisco Environment Department updates for the period of January 1 through February 28, 2023. A glossary of acronyms is included at the end of the report.*

**Climate**

- **Climate Action:** The Climate team completed the 2020 community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. In 2020, San Francisco's GHG emissions totaled 4.1 million mtCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 48% below emissions levels in 1990 (the city's baseline year). Per capita emissions were less than half compared to 1990 levels. These reductions have come despite a 21% increase in population over the same period.
- **Environmental Justice:** The EJ team approved three Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance plans for the affordable housing sector and organized three zero waste presentations for four Chinatown Community Development Center affordable housing sites.
- **Environmental Justice:** The EJ team conducted three community engagement events with Booker T. Washington Community Services Center (BTWCSC) and Bayview Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology (BAYCAT). The EJ team also started video production on a project to collect feedback on the Department's racial and social equity assessment tool.
- **Outreach:** Environment Now tabled at the opening of the Central Subway Union Square Station to promote the 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP). Environment Now also tabled at CYC's Ocean Ave. Lunar New Year celebration and Wu Yee's Bayview New Beginnings Festival. The team reached 1,175 residents, including 349 in Cantonese, 20 in Mandarin, and 20 in Spanish. The team also distributed 1,090 reusable bags to residents.
- **Outreach:** The CAP marketing campaign began on February 6 with TV, video, and radio ads in English, Spanish, and Chinese, with videos airing on streaming TV channels like A&E, CNN, ESPN, NBC/Universal, the History Channel, and Food Network. Out-of-home ads ran on bus shelters, premiere outdoor panels, and Muni bus interior cards. Digital and social video and static ads ran on Nextdoor, Meta (Facebook and Instagram), and Google Performance Max. In February, digital and social ads received 9,343 clicks in English, 2,201 in Spanish, and 2,045 in Chinese. In addition, the CAP landing page had 20,553 views in English, 3,998 in Chinese, and 5,173 in Spanish.

**Clean Transportation**

- Electric Vehicles: Staff convened the Mayor’s Electric Vehicle (EV) Working Group for its semiannual meeting on January 31. The meeting included an overview of upcoming state and federal funding opportunities and progress reports from various City departments – including SFE, the Port, SFMTA, and SFPUC – with ongoing clean transportation programs.
- Electric Vehicles: Staff kicked off work with GRID Alternatives and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to implement an electric bicycle (e-bike) pilot to shift 30 app-delivery workers from cars to cargo e-bikes, as part of the \$2.4 million Electric Vehicle Ready Communities grant with the CEC.

## **Energy**

- BayREN: The BayREN Business program, which offers rebates for energy efficiency retrofits to small- and micro-sized Bay Area businesses, was paused due to oversubscription of incentives. During the pause, BayREN requested additional incentive funds and fine-tuned eligibility criteria to better target small and hard-to-reach businesses.
- BayREN: The Multifamily program launched the 2023 Program Year on February 9. The program offers rebates and technical assistance for energy efficiency retrofits and electrification projects.
- Fix Lead SF: The Energy team partnered with the Department of Public Health to implement lead hazard abatement in single- and multi-family residences. The pilot program completed inspections for two projects and is transitioning to a citywide rollout.

## **Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems**

- Municipal: The Toxics Reduction team held a public meeting series convening integrated pest management (IPM) practitioners in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and beyond. Attendees were offered continuing education units (CEUs) issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). A January meeting featured a presentation titled “IPM for Urban Landscapes,” and had 63 attendees, 34 of whom requested and earned CEUs. A February meeting featured presentations on IPM and California’s Weed Management Areas, and had 47 attendees, 29 of whom requested and earned CEUs.
- Residential: The Toxics Reduction team revised the Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance and the ordinance’s implementing regulations. Programs required under the ordinance have established 39 kiosk drop-off locations and 203 locations allowing residents to pick up free pre-addressed, pre-paid medicine mail back envelopes. In the past five years, the program has collected and destroyed a total of 111,287 lbs. (55.6 tons) of unwanted and expired medicines. Through its Extended Producer Responsibility model, all program costs are paid for by the pharmaceutical industry.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE and TIDA hosted the Treasure Island Life Learning Academy Public Charter School for two field trips to Yerba Buena Island natural areas.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE collaborated with the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) to host the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society to support habitat restoration on Yerba Buena Island.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE collaborated with TIDA and Rubicon Landscaping to install three new local native plant demonstration gardens on Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands and augment five existing Treasure Island sites with additional local native plants.

- Urban Forestry: SFE facilitated Urban Forestry Council Meetings, including two full Council meetings and one Planning and Funding Committee meeting. The Council discussed strategies to increase citywide tree planting numbers and urban forestry program funding.

## **Zero Waste**

- City Government: The CGZW team presented to 98 city employees at the Human Services Agency (HSA) and Laguna Honda Hospital and reviewed three RSO audits. War Memorial Veterans Building passed, while Davies Symphony Hall and the Hall of Justice failed due to trash contamination exceeding the allowable threshold.
- Commercial: The CZW team completed all SB 1383 Tier 1 inspections and is in the process of completing compliance documentation. The team also finalized and distributed the SB 1383 Annual Donations Reporting form to Food Recovery Organizations/Services.
- Construction & Demolition: The C&D team held the first meeting of the Deconstruction Technical Advisory Group (13 members) to discuss equity in deconstruction. The team approved 74 C&D permit applications accounting for 39 Debris Box permits, 21 Tier 1 vehicle permits, 75 Tier 2 vehicle permits, one Tier 3 vehicle permit, five Tier 4 vehicle permits, and one temporary Debris Box permit for a combined revenue of \$133,819. The team approved 129 initial plans and 111 final summary reports with 4,958 tons of debris recovered at an average diversion rate of 70%. The C&D team also received 13 annual reports for registered facilities, which processed a combined 109,000 tons of C&D generated in San Francisco in 2022.
- Residential: The RZW team collaborated with Bike Mobile to host fix-it clinics at the Main and Bayview SFPL branches, which helped repair 68 bikes. SFE also coordinated with volunteer clothing repair coaches, who repaired 51 clothing articles. RZW also finalized KZSF MOUs with SFO, Warriors, and Excelsior Strong, including a partnership with Replate to collect donated food.
- Environmental Justice: Environment Now conducted door-to-door outreach and presented on Zero Waste at five affordable housing sites. Staff engaged 160 residents, including 89 in Cantonese and seven in Spanish, and distributed compost pails and recycling totes.
- Commercial: Environment Now recruited five restaurants for the Commercial Reuse program and delivered reusable foodware to four businesses to promote a transition from single use foodware to reusables. Zero Waste and Environment Now also promoted the Commercial Reuse program by engaging the Office of Small Business. Environment Now's Tania Ramirez was interviewed by Telemundo 48 about the program, which led to an increase in interest and sign-ups among businesses.
- Commercial: Environment Now conducted waste assessments for 23 businesses as part of its ongoing Compliance Verification effort to assess businesses' potential to remove blue recycling and green compost service and promote proper sorting practices.

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

- Outreach: The Environmental Education team conducted 43 activities to promote Zero Waste and water conservation and pollution awareness among 1,912 students, including five in Cantonese and one in Spanish. Staff reached engaged students in nine out of 11 supervisorial districts. As part of this

initiative, staff conducted a Zero Waste Audit activity with elementary school students to encourage proper sorting habits and raise awareness.

- Outreach: The Environmental Education team and Environment Now tabled at a family event at the California Academy of Sciences. This event was the first of three Family Nights organized for students at 10 SFUSD elementary schools and their families. SFE engaged 2,000 students and family members, including 100 engagements in Chinese. The Environmental Education team focused on reuse and compost activities, while Environment Now promoted the CAP.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE attended the third meeting of the Reimagining SF initiative, spearheaded by the California Academy of Sciences. Peter Brastow joined the initiative's Planning Committee.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE convened a subcommittee of the Biodiversity Interagency Working Group, including Planning, Public Works, SFPUC, the Port, and SFMTA, to discuss challenges and opportunities with biodiverse greening in the built environment, with the goal of developing a joint statement of issues and needs.

### **State and Federal Collaboration**

- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE attended the first post-COP15 meeting of the California Global Biodiversity Working Group to identify opportunities to contribute to California's goal of implementing 30X30 as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework.

### **Press and Media Highlights**

- [Pacific Coast Collaborative Embodied Carbon Policy Case Studies](#)  
"These case studies showcase the region's policy leadership on low-carbon construction and provide insights to inform other jurisdictions pursuing legislation and other policies within the Pacific Coast region and beyond" (Carbon Leadership Forum).
- [2022 was a historic year for climate action](#)  
"San Francisco takes steps toward funding climate action: Funding for climate action has been a hard-won battle in San Francisco over the last 12 months" (SF Examiner).
- [California to spend nearly \\$3B to double available EV chargers](#)  
"The California Energy Commission on [December 11] announced a \$2.9 billion spending plan for electric transportation infrastructure, which would include the installation of an additional 90,000 chargers by 2026" (SF Examiner).
- [Storms bring death to some of S.F.'s oldest residents](#)  
"But when the soils are sapped of life and water, so too are tree roots, said Peter Brastow, senior biodiversity specialist at the San Francisco Department of the Environment. 'The roots are basically not as alive, and some are dead, so they can't actually take up the water. It's sort of that simple,' he said. 'Because of the drought, there's just less water holding capacity'" (SF Examiner).
- [Ex-Official Linked to SF Corruption Scandal May Face Ethics Case](#)  
"A confidential case at Friday's Ethics Commission seemed to focus on Debbie Raphael, who led the San Francisco Department of the Environment until she stepped down last year as part of a sprawling

pay-to-play scandal at City Hall” (SF Standard).

- [Free fix-it clinics at S.F. Public Library offer lessons in sustainability](#)  
“Freddy Coronado, SF Environment's zero waste specialist, said the focus on bikes largely pertains to accessibility. ‘It's easy to tell people start using a bike and get on a bike but if they're not able to fix it or know where to go, then the bike just sits in the garage,’ he said” (SF Examiner).
- [San Francisco Awards First-Ever Climate Action Plan Community Grants](#)  
“‘The climate grants establish community partnerships to advance equitable climate initiatives throughout San Francisco’s diverse communities,’ said Tyrone Jue, Acting Director for SF Environment. ‘Community climate action is an essential strategy required to unlock the positive and equitable economic and health outcomes that will be realized through the implementation of our bold climate goals’” (Mayor Breed News).
- [Will San Francisco embrace a ‘green bank’?](#)  
“But a green bank could exist without its public counterpart, noted Tyrone Jue, acting director of San Francisco’s Department of Environment. ‘Setting up a green bank, which might be thought of as a revolving loan, might not require the full public-bank kind of institution,’ said Jue” (SF Examiner).

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

- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE presented on COP15 at the Nature in the City webinar series with a presentation titled “Local Action for Climate and Biodiversity.” Staff also produced a 10-page report on the COP, which was presented to the Policy Committee.
- Toxics Reduction: The Green Business Program, in partnership with two CBO grantees (En2Action and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center), hosted two Green Business recruitment events. One event was held virtually and the other was held in person at the Bayview’s Southeast Community Center. Fifteen businesses attended the virtual event, which resulted in six Green Business registrations. Twelve businesses attended the in-person session, which resulted in seven registrations.
- Toxics Reduction: SFE coordinated with the California Green Business Network to deliver a bilingual presentation in English and Spanish for 15 small business owners.
- Toxics Reduction: Staff attended the 2023 Used Oil/HHW Training & Symposium in Sacramento and presented on the People in Life Transition outreach campaign.
- Zero Waste: Freddy Coronado and Anne Wong presented on SFE’s Racial Equity Scan Tool to 29 attendees at the Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA)’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webinar.
- Zero Waste: Christopher Lester conducted outreach to C&D stakeholders regarding proposed regulations governing the enforcement of Environment Code Chapter 14 by sending email notices to 1,300 C&D industry companies and partnering with the San Francisco Office of Small Business (OSB) to include information on the proposed regulations in OSB’s February newsletter.
- Outreach: Cara Gurney and David Gunnison-Wiseman presented on communications and outreach strategies to engage CBOs and communities to CivicSpark Climate Fellows.

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

- Climate: SFE collaborated with the California Academy of Sciences and the Council of Community Housing Organizations to submit a proposal to the Partners for Places foundation with the goal of developing a master plan to create native pollinator habitat gardens and other greening and outdoor quality of life improvements at several public housing sites.
- Clean Transportation: Staff submitted the annual application to the Department of Energy for the Clean Cities Coalition program.

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

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

- SFE released an RFP for the Climate Equity Hub (January 3, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for Community Climate Grants – Category 4: Zero Waste (January 5, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for Energy Program Consultation Services (January 17, 2023).
- SFE released an RFQ for a Subrecipient in an EPA Reusable Cup/Foodware Wash Hub Proposal (January 27, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for Management and Operations of a Building Products Reuse Center (February 21, 2023).

### **Awards Issued:**

- Cultura y Arte Nativa de las Americas was awarded a grant for Building Decarbonization for Environmental Justice Communities from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 12, 2023).
- Emerald Cities Collaborative was awarded a grant for Building Decarbonization for Environmental Justice Communities from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 12, 2023).
- PODER was awarded a grant for Building Decarbonization for Environmental Justice Communities from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 12, 2023).
- San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility was awarded a grant for Building Decarbonization for Environmental Justice Communities from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 12, 2023).
- Citizen Film was awarded a grant for Healthy Ecosystems from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 3, 2023).
- Friends of Alemany Farm was awarded a grant for Healthy Ecosystems from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 3, 2023).
- The Portola Neighborhood Association was awarded a grant for Healthy Ecosystems from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 3, 2023).

- Charity Cultural Services Center was awarded a grant for Youth Education from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 9, 2023).
- Enterprise for Youth was awarded a grant for Youth Education from an RFP issued in October 2022 (January 9, 2023).
- TURN Systems Corporation was the proposed subrecipient in a proposal for Reusable Cup/Foodware Wash Hub RFQ issued in January 2023 (February 10, 2023).
- Association for Energy Affordability was awarded a contract for Equitable Building Decarbonization Consulting from an RFP issued in December 2022 (February 13, 2023).
- Civic Edge Consulting was awarded a contract for Community Engagement Meetings Facilitator from an RFP issued in December 2022 (February 21, 2023).

### **Ethics**

- Pauli Ojea completed her Form 700 Assuming Office filing on time.

### **Staff Updates**

- The Clean Transportation team welcomed Nicole Appenzeller as its new Senior Clean Transportation Specialist.
- The Toxics team welcomed Pauli Ojea as its new Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager.
- The Zero Waste team welcomed Hilary Near as its new Commercial Zero Waste Senior Coordinator.
- The Outreach team welcomed Lavanya Deepak as its new Racial Equity Coordinator and Tiffany Nguyen as its new Assistant Coordinator for Marketing and Digital Content Strategy.
- The Administration team welcomed Claire Poon as its Senior Account Clerk and Edward Wang as its new Administrative Analyst.

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

- Toxics Reduction: The Toxics Reduction and Outreach teams received an award from CalRecycle for Best Public Education and Outreach Campaign for their People in Life Transition HHW campaign.
- Toxics Reduction: Chris Geiger, former Municipal Senior Coordinator for the Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems team, received a Lifetime Achievement in Integrated Pest Management Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulations for his work to promote innovative IPM strategies in an urban setting.

### **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  
CDPR: California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
CEC: California Energy Commission  
CEU: Continuing Education Units  
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