



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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**May 23, 2023**

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*This report covers San Francisco Environment Department updates for the period of March 1 through April 30, 2023. A glossary of acronyms is included at the end of the report.*

**Climate**

- Climate Action: Staff collected 2022 CAP implementation updates from all relevant departments. Results will be uploaded to the online reporting dashboard once it is finalized. Staff also engaged with multiple CAP departments, including SFPUC Power Enterprise, to finalize metrics, which will be reported annually (along with implementation status) on the CAP dashboard.
- Climate Action: The CAP marketing campaign, designed to increase general awareness of and support for the CAP, ran from February 9 through April 30. The campaign consisted of out-of-home marketing (e.g., billboards, bus shelter ads) as well as TV, radio, and social media pieces, and was supported by an accessible and engaging new [CAP website](#). To increase public engagement in underserved communities, the campaign included two in-person language events focused on San Francisco's Latinx and Chinese communities. The first Mission District event engaged 60 Spanish-speaking residents and featured Commissioner Bermejo, Acting Director Tyrone Jue, and District 9 representative Santiago Lerma. The next event will be held on May 20 in Chinatown.
- Climate Action: Staff completed participation in a Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) working group to develop a policy framework describing opportunities for local governments to address Scope 3, or consumption-based, emissions. The final report is available [here](#).
- Climate Action: Staff coordinated with the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment (CLEE) at UC Berkeley to present to the Board of Supervisors Budget and Appropriation committee on a CLEE [study](#) of the financial resources required to achieve San Francisco's climate goals. The presentation highlighted various funding mechanisms that could help the city finance its climate action goals and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic growth, equity, and social justice.
- Environmental Justice: The EJ team held a listening session with representatives from 19 community-based organizations to collect feedback on priorities and project ideas related to EJ and Climate Action Plan implementation. Feedback was included in a recent EPA grant proposal and will help inform future EJ grant cycles.
- Environmental Justice: Four Environmental Justice Building Decarbonization Grants were approved by the Commission. One agreement, with CANA, has been executed, and CANA has begun outreach to the Mission community on the health and climate benefits of induction stoves. CANA will also host an

induction stovetop give away at Carnaval San Francisco, a two-day festival celebrating the diverse Latin American, Caribbean, and African diasporic roots of the Mission District.

- Environmental Justice: The EJ team and Environment Now conducted two door-to-door zero waste outreach efforts. Staff served John Burton Housing and reached 53% of residents. The team also served 196 residents at Hayes Valley North and South.
- Green Building: Staff presented proposed legislation sponsored by Mayor London Breed updating Environment Code, Chapter 7, to the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee. Notable updates include electrification requirements for existing municipal buildings, solar-plus-storage requirements for newly constructed critical community institutions, and whole project life cycle assessments to reduce embodied carbon in municipal buildings. The legislation passed unanimously and was signed into law in late March. The new ordinance went into effect on April 24, 2023.
- Green Building: Nik Kaester replaced Eden Brukman as the new Municipal Green Building Task Force Chair. The first in-person taskforce meeting since the pandemic will take place in May in its new location at 49 South Van Ness. This building, which is home to 15 agencies, was certified as the City's newest LEED platinum building in March 2021.
- GHG Inventory: Staff completed communitywide and municipal greenhouse gas inventories in April 2023. Results were posted on the Environment Department website and DataSF. In addition, the summary "GHG Inventory At-a-Glance" report, which explains results and findings to the general public, was updated with new content and data.

### **Clean Transportation**

- Clean Cities: Staff submitted the 2022 Clean Cities Annual Report to the Department of Energy on April 14, 2023.
- Electric Vehicles: SFE filled the EV Ombudsperson position on March 11 and began establishing the role as a point of contact for electric vehicle charging service providers, as part of a \$2.4 million Electric Vehicle Ready Communities grant with the CEC.
- Electric Vehicles: Staff launched participant recruitment for the 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. English- and Spanish-language application forms were shared via the SFE website, social media, e-mail newsletters, and flyers, and distributed to Supervisor offices and community-based organizations. A total of 174 unique applications were submitted by the deadline on April 14. Implementation partner GRID Alternatives is currently selecting priority applicants for the first pilot cohort, which will be launched in June 2023.
- Electric Vehicles: Staff finalized a charging cost-benefit analysis on April 28 as part of a joint study with the SFMTA and the International Council on Clean Transportation.

### **Energy**

- BayREN: The BayREN Business program, which offers rebates for energy efficiency retrofits to small and micro-sized Bay Area businesses, has been paused since December 2022 due to oversubscription of incentives. The BayREN team positioned the program for reopening by evaluating the project

pipeline, secured additional incentive and implementation budgets, met with installation contractors to understand their perspectives, and updated the quality management plan.

- BayREN: Since January 2023, the BayREN Multifamily program has adopted a more aggressive incentive structure to advance electrification projects. To help property managers and owners confirm eligibility, the team began developing a public-facing eligibility tool, which will be available in May. The program is on track to retrofit nearly 900 units this calendar year.
- Fix Lead SF: Staff partnered with the Department of Public Health to implement lead-hazard abatements in single- and multi-unit residences. Staff finalized program documents and recruited contractors in anticipation of the rollout to priority ZIP codes in June.
- EnergyAccess SF: The local government partnership with PG&E completed its last phase of outreach in the Mission and Excelsior neighborhoods. Staff met with PG&E to discuss the ramp-down and closure plan by June 30.
- SFPUC: Staff affirmed plans with SFPUC to use approximately \$800,000 from an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to electrify SFPUC's affordable housing units. The partners plan to leverage the grant with other existing rebate programs (e.g., BayREN Multifamily, Self-Generation Incentive) as well as future funding opportunities from state and federal governments.

### **Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystems**

- Drug Disposal: Staff completed revisions to the 2015 Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance to address City Attorney concerns. The revision of regulations completed a public comment period and SFE is reviewing revised program plans received from both stewardship organizations.
- Green Business: The Green Business team held two office hour events to help businesses register for the Green Business Program and begin the certification process. The first event was held virtually on March 2 and the second was held in person at the Southeast Community Center in the Bayview on April 11. The office hours events were promoted by Green Business CBO partners En2Action and Renaissance and resulted in three new Green Business Program registrations.
- IPM: Staff offered annual IPM trainings to Rec & Parks staff on March 8-9, which had 195 attendees. The annual IPM training for SFPUC's Peninsula Watershed staff was held on April 5 and had 23 attendees. The annual IPM training for SFPUC's Alameda Watershed staff was held on April 12 and had 11 attendees.
- Municipal Toxics Reduction: Staff continued to hold virtual public meetings convening integrated pest management (IPM) practitioners. Meeting attendees are offered continuing education units (CEUs) issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). For meetings held in March and April, attendees were offered vector control CEUs issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The March 2 meeting featured a presentation titled "Sustainable Rat Management in San Francisco," and had 90 attendees, 22 of whom requested and earned CDPR CEUs, and 17 of whom requested and earned CDPH CEUs. The April 6 meeting featured a presentation titled "IPM Strategies Implemented by Alameda County Vector Control for Insects, Rodents, and Urban Wildlife," and had 76 attendees, 27 of whom requested and earned CDPR CEUs, and 18 of whom requested and earned CDPH CEUs.

## **Zero Waste**

- City Government: Staff presented to 242 city employees at the Human Services Agency (HSA), SF Public Library Parkside Branch, Laguna Honda Hospital, DHR's New Employee Orientation, and to 101 city employees at the annual Zero Waste Coordinator workshops. Staff notified the de Young Museum that it had passed the RSO audit. Staff reviewed the Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance Plan (RSCOP) for Davies Symphony Hall.
- Commercial: Staff finalized a Reusable Foodware Factsheet with translations and engaged the first round of high priority stakeholders on a Reusable Foodware Policy. The team also completed a draft on RSO enforcement and plans to host a public hearing to implement updated regulations.
- Commercial: Environment Now conducted waste assessments for 16 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.
- Commercial: Environment Now recruited 13 restaurants for the Commercial Reuse program and delivered reusable foodware to three 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 discussed the program during an interview with Telemundo 48, which led to an increase in interest and enrollments among businesses.
- Construction & Demolition: Staff launched a public-facing online secondary market for salvaged and surplus building products, the [Bay Area Circular Marketplace](#), hosted by Rheaply. Staff held the second Deconstruction Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting and processed and approved 38 C&D permit applications accounting for 18 Debris Box permits, 13 Tier 1 vehicle permits, 23 Tier 2 vehicle permits, two Tier 3 vehicle permits, one Tier 4 vehicle permit, and one temporary Debris Box permit for a combined revenue of \$39,485. Staff approved 159 initial plans and 118 final summary reports with 12,107 tons of debris recovered at an average diversion rate of 75%.
- Environmental Justice: Environment Now conducted door-to-door outreach related to Zero Waste at three affordable housing sites. Staff engaged 116 residents and distributed compost pails and recycling totes.
- Residential: Staff facilitated a Zero Waste Events Workshop, issued certificates to 26 attendees, approved four Refuse Separation Compliance Plans, and presented in CalRecycle's Multi-family Dwellings webinar, which attracted 300 attendees.

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

- Outreach: The Environmental Education team conducted 53 programs, including six Cantonese- and two Spanish-language programs, to promote Zero Waste and Water conservation and pollution, which reached 3,055 students in 10 of 11 supervisorial districts. Staff also conducted Zero Waste Audits and a new Egg Carton Activity for younger grades.
- Outreach: The Environmental Education team and Environment Now tabled at two family events at the California Academy of Sciences. These events were the final two "Family Night" events targeting students at 20 SFUSD elementary schools and their families. During the first event SFE staff engaged 2,400 students and family members, including 120 engagements in Chinese. During the final event SFE

staff engaged 2,250 students and family members, including 1,350 engagements in Spanish. The Environmental Education team focused on reuse and compost activities, while Environment Now promoted the CAP.

- Outreach: The Environmental Education team and Environment Now tabled at the STEM Frenzy event hosted by The Good Rural at the Chase Center. Staff engaged over 1,200 youth and their families, including 50 Spanish-language engagements. The Environmental Education team highlighted zero waste using a compost worm bin, while Environment Now promoted the CAP.
- Outreach: The Environmental Education team partnered with SFRPD and SFUSD to organize an Environmental Solutionary Fellows event at the Randall Museum, which recognized educators who have guided students on year-long projects intended to address environmental problems. The event was intended to honor the work of four fellows and their students and create a space for them to showcase their work. More than 200 SFUSD students and adults from seven schools participated. The event also attracted a significant number of visitors.
- Outreach: Environment Now tabled at three neighborhood events, including the Excelsior Action Group's Annual Pasta Party, to promote 0-80-100-Roots and Climate Action. Staff engaged approximately 300 residents.
- Healthy Ecosystems: Staff attended four meetings of the Planning Committee of the Reimagining SF initiative, spearheaded by the California Academy of Sciences. The committee developed a draft plan articulating a vision, goals, values, and project ideas, which will be presented to the larger assembly of local organizations and agencies.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFPUC presented on the Alameda Watershed Carbon Assessment and Report at the March Biodiversity Interagency Working Group meeting. The report marks the completion of CAP Action HE1-1 and will inform other HE CAP actions.
- Zero Waste: Staff presented at the Port Commission on a Building Material Reuse location at 701 Amador. Staff coordinated a meeting between the Controller's Office and San Mateo Rethink Waste focusing on refuse rate strategies and assisted in presentations for an upcoming public hearing and Refuse Rate Board meeting.
- Zero Waste: Environment Now and the Zero Waste team hosted a Compost Giveaway with Parks & Recreation for Climate Action Month. Staff distributed 38 yards of compost and 12 yards of mulch to 312 participants.
- Building Material Management: The Building Material Management team, in partnership with climate technology company Rheaply, soft launched the [Bay Area Circular Marketplace](#), an online exchange for reclaimed and surplus building materials.
- Policy and Public Affairs: Staff hosted a Coro Fellow, Becca Paskowitz, who provided policy and public relations support on the proposed Reusable Food Policy over a six-week period.

### **State and Federal Collaboration**

- Zero Waste: Staff submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#). Funded by a \$350 million allocation from the [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#), the

program will provide grants, technical assistance, and tools for communities to develop and implement programs to reduce embodied carbon in construction materials.

- Zero Waste: Staff provided feedback to CPSC, which is sponsoring SB 707, a bill that would require producers to establish a stewardship program to collect and recycle textile products.

### **Press and Media Highlights**

- [Want a job and an e-bike? Apply to this new SF delivery program](#)  
"The one-year program, first announced last summer by the San Francisco Department of the Environment, introduces e-bikes as a cost-effective method to lessen the food delivery industry's carbon footprint, while also helping alleviate traffic congestion by removing cars from The City's busy streets" (SF Examiner).
- [San Francisco's electrifying plan to update Mission Library is just the beginning](#)  
"We don't want to keep putting natural gas equipment into our buildings,' said Cyndy Comerford, program manager at the Department of Environment. 'We know that our future is electric and that we need to stop using natural gas'" (SF Examiner).
- [San Francisco: Businesses will receive up to \\$500 when exchanging their disposable products for reusable products](#)  
"We buy everything, and we deliver everything they need. And we have funds of up to \$500 dollars for each business,' explained Tania Ramírez, spokeswoman for the San Francisco Department of Environment" (Telemundo 48).

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

- Clean Transportation: Staff provided a transportation update at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce's Sustainability in Business Forum on April 26.
- Healthy Ecosystems: Staff collaborated with Nature in the City, the Exploratorium, and the Academy of Sciences to hold an event at the Bay Observatory celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Wild in the City map, which has inspired decades of local ecological stewardship in San Francisco. There were 150 attendees.
- Healthy Ecosystems: Staff led a field trip for the California Native Plant Society to Yerba Buena Island natural areas. There were 20 participants.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE staff collaborated with TIDA and the Academy of Sciences to host the [6<sup>th</sup> Annual Yerba Buena Island Bioblitz](#).
- Toxics Reduction: Staff presented on the People in Life Transition Household Hazardous Waste outreach campaign at the Northern California Recycling Association Recycling Update event on March 28.
- Toxics Reduction: Staff presented on the Healthy Nail Salon program at the California Green Business Network meeting in Santa Cruz.
- Zero Waste: Staff attended the Northern California Recycling Association Recycling Update event on March 28 and the Bioneers Conference in April.

- Zero Waste: Staff participated in a panel on food justice and climate action at San Francisco State University.

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

- The Department of Energy awarded SFE a \$110,000 grant to continue to host the Clean Cities Coalition program from April 2023 to March 2024.
- Staff applied to the San Francisco County Transportation Authority’s Transportation Fund for Clean Air. Staff also released a Call for Projects for the Emergency Ride Home program.

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

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

- SFE released an RFP for EV Community Outreach (March 2, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for co-applicants for the federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant program (April 14, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for Youth Education (April 17, 2023).
- SFE released an RFP for subrecipient(s) for an EPA grant program for Climate and Environmental Justice (March 15, 2023).

#### **Awards Issued:**

- Agricultural Institute of Marin was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Asian Pacific American Community Center was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Farming Hope was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Garden for the Environment was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Replate was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- San Francisco Market Corporation (The SF Market) was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- SCRAP was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).

- SF New Deal was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- UCSF Health was awarded a Zero Waste grant from an RFP issued in October 2022 (March 6, 2023).
- Frontier Energy was awarded a contract for Energy Program Consultation Services from an RFP issued in January 2023 (March 10, 2023).
- Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates was the proposed subrecipient for an EPA grant application addressing Climate and Environmental Justice issued in March 2023 (March 30, 2023).
- En2action was awarded a grant for EV Community Outreach from an RFP issued in March 2023 (April 20, 2023).
- The Reuse People of America was awarded a Management and Operations of a Building Products Reuse Center grant from an RFP issued in February 2023 (April 26, 2023).
- Association for Energy Affordability (AEA) was selected through an RFP process for Equitable Building Decarbonization Technical Assistance to support EJ grantees working on electrification projects.

## **Ethics**

- All Commissioners and Acting Director Tyrone Jue completed Form 700 (annual) filings and Ethics and Sunshine Training by the April 3 deadline.
- All Environment Department program managers completed Form 700 (annual) filings by the April 3 deadline. Filers included: Lowell Chu, Cyndy Comerford, Jack Macy, Joe Salem, and Charles Sheehan.
- All current Environment Department staff whose positions were added to the list of designated filer positions in the Conflict of Interest Code completed Form 700 (assuming office) filings by the April 11 deadline. Filers included: Nicole Appenzeller, Cara Bautista-Rao, Peter Brastow, Mark Brown, Richard Chien, Lavanya Deepak, Cara Gurney, Shoba Iyer, Maggie Johnson, David Kashani, Alexa Kielty, Bianca Llarena, Soko Made, Sraddha Mehta, Hilary Near, Bo Ming Ng, Ryan Ramos, Rebecca Raybin, Michael Sawyer, James Slattery, Esther Tang, Jennifer Tsang, and Edward Wang.
- All new Environment Department staff required to complete Form 700 (assuming office) filings did so by their respective deadlines. Filers included: Jen Jackson, Nik Kaestner, and Pauli Ojea.
- The Environment Department received a gift of 100 microfiber-catching laundry balls valued at \$4,200 from Green Can, LLC ("Cora Ball"). The laundry balls will be distributed to San Francisco residents at no cost to prevent microplastics from entering the environment.

## **Staff Updates**

- The Climate team welcomed Nik Kaestner as its new Senior Building Decarbonization Coordinator, Jen Jackson as its new Senior Environmental Specialist for Climate, and Benny Zank as its new Building Decarbonization Coordinator.
- The Zero Waste team welcomed Alina Bekkerman as its new CRV Zero Waste Coordinator.

- The Outreach team welcomed Erik Zepeda-Flores as its new Engagement Coordinator.

## **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