



City and County of San Francisco
Commission on the Environment

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
February 5, 2024

This report covers San Francisco Environment Department updates for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2023. A glossary of acronyms is included at the end of the report.

Clean Transportation

- **Electric Vehicles:** Staff and implementation partner GRID Alternatives hosted two mid-cohort meetups for the second cohort of participants for the CEC-funded electric bicycle (e-bike) pilot for delivery workers. Staff and GRID shared lessons learned, administered mid-program surveys, and provided support to participants requiring additional assistance. Staff also received a full delivery data report for the first cohort of participants and began preliminary data analysis of delivery data and survey responses.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Staff facilitated the fifth Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to support development of a CEC-funded citywide Medium-and-Heavy-Duty (MD/HD) Zero Emission Vehicle Blueprint. The meeting included City fleet managers, electric vehicle industry representatives, and community-based organization members and focused on potential pilot projects for MD/HD zero emission vehicle charging station installations. Staff will continue to meet with TAC in 2024 as the Blueprint develops.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Staff worked with SFMTA to launch a consultant scope of work to complete a curbside feasibility study and pilot framework design. SFE will continue to lead stakeholder engagement and outreach. In addition, SFE will serve as a technical expert and reviewer alongside representatives from agency partners including SFPUC and DPW.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Staff initiated a survey of members of the Mayor's Electric Vehicle Working Group to support planning future working group meetings. In 2024, SFE staff will host new regular breakout meetings to discuss topics such as fleet regulations, EV policy, and challenge areas.
- **Transportation Demand Management:** The Emergency Ride Home Program completed a digital marketing campaign in English, Spanish, and Chinese to promote program awareness. During October 13 through November 16, the website received 105,541 impressions and 19,332 clicks with an average click-through rate of 14.4% across Meta Display, Google Display, and Google Search. The Chinese ads had the highest engagement on Google Display with a 2.86% click-through rate, while the Spanish ads also performed well on Google Display with a click-through rate of 1.92%.

Climate

- Building Decarbonization: The Building Operations Taskforce (BOTF) continued monthly meetings in November and December culminating in a final draft of the All-Electric Major Renovations Policy. The draft incorporates stakeholder feedback to ensure it does not inadvertently capture smaller projects where tenant relocation or project funding may slow project completion.
- Building Decarbonization: SFE convened an Affordable Housing Roundtable on November 28 to share progress on the All-Electric Major Renovations Ordinance with affordable housing organizations. The meeting provided an opportunity for housing developers that are not part of the BOTF to provide feedback on the proposed policy.
- Climate Action: Staff completed and submitted final annual/biannual reports for the following: C40 Leadership Standards and C40 Accelerators (Net Zero Emissions Buildings, Renewable Energy, and Clean Construction).
- Climate Action: Staff completed final preparations for the upcoming “CAP Implementation Reporting” (for calendar year 2023) from City departments. Staff collected updates regarding Key Indicators for CAP Strategies (also 2023), which will be added to the online reporting dashboard in April 2024.
- Environmental Justice: The Environmental Justice and Environment Now teams conducted door-to-door zero waste outreach at the Alexander Residence. The teams engaged 72 residents.
- Environmental Justice: The Environmental Justice and Environment Now teams tabled at Clementina Towers during its bi-weekly food pantry. The teams reached 63 residents.
- Green Building: San Francisco Building Inspection Commission approved an SFE/DBI proposal to streamline green building requirements for detached ADUs. Previously, freestanding ADUs were held to different requirements than ADUs built within existing buildings. Streamlining encourages needed housing and recognizes ADUs’ environmental benefits, including reduced need for construction material and energy and water savings.
- Green Building: SFE delivered the 2022 Municipal Energy Benchmark Report. SFE collaborates with SFPUC staff to prepare the SFPUC’s annual report summarizing trends in energy performance and carbon emissions from municipal buildings.
- Healthy Ecosystems: SFE’s USF McCarthy Fellow completed a Biodiversity Policy Recommendations research project. Recommendations include improvements to data on vegetated areas and native species in San Francisco; adoption of an ordinance regarding vegetation selection on private lands; and updates to the Bird-Safe Building ordinance and a policy on Dark Night skies.

Energy

- BayREN Business: In 2023, the Business program, which offers rebates for energy efficiency retrofits to small businesses in the Bay Area, completed 83 projects in eight Bay Area counties, including projects across seven small business sectors and five installation contractors.
- BayREN Single-family: SFE met with BayREN members and agreed on redesigns to the existing single-family BayREN Home Plus program to serve additional low-income families in the region by June 2024.

- BayREN Multi-family: The Multi-family program closed out 2023 with 969 residential units retrofitted. To prepare for 2024, program staff worked with the Outreach team to implement a campaign to recruit new buildings. Initial results from the campaign were encouraging and position the program for a successful year.
- BayREN Refrigerant Replacement: Staff met with BayREN County Members to determine which type of refrigerants – synthetic or natural – will be used in the program’s opening months. Staff met with industry experts and produced a report to inform this decision.
- Fix Lead SF: Staff continued to partner with the Department of Public Health to implement lead hazard abatement in single- and multi-family residences.
- Buildings Upgrade Prize: In October, the U.S. DOE awarded SFE a \$400,000 cash prize to develop a plan to install low-voltage heat pumps in 200 single-family homes, in 200 days, in disadvantaged communities. Staff began preparing grant agreements with the project team members: Poder, Rising Sun for Opportunity, and QuitCarbon (specializes in heat pump installations).

Toxics Reduction

- Green Business: The Green Business Program recognized 61 businesses during the first half of the fiscal year FY 2023-24, including 52 Certified businesses, four Efficiency (entry-level) businesses, and five Innovators. This represents a 103% increase from the same period last year. This success was largely due to a California Green Business Network campaign that doubled rebates to businesses that completed recognition during September through November 2023.
- Green Business: Staff attended a business mixer at Loving My Hair hosted by the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center on November 2. Businesses learned about the Green Business Program and several businesses registered, including the host Brandi Porter from Loving My Hair.
- Green Business: Staff attended the Bayview Uncorked event hosted by En2Action, an SFE grantee, on November 4. Staff attended the event to recruit new businesses and support the CBO partnership with En2Action.
- IPM: The Municipal Toxics Reduction team continued its virtual public meeting series convening integrated pest management (IPM) practitioners in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and beyond. Meeting attendees are offered continuing education (CE) credit issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). A meeting held on December 7 featured a presentation titled “Pest management using biological control targeting invasive weeds in wildlands in California,” and had 45 attendees, 17 of whom requested and earned CDPR CE credit.
- Toxics Reduction: Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC), an SFE grantee, released two short videos produced in partnership with the Toxics Reduction team. [One video](#) focuses on PFAS chemicals in cookware while [the other](#) addresses rechargeable batteries. Both videos are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog. SFE and BAVC distributed the videos through social media and SFE’s network of community-based organizations and partners.

Zero Waste

- City Government: The CGZW team presented to 84 city employees at Human Services Agency (HSA), Laguna Honda Hospital, SFMTA, and the Department of Emergency Management–Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative.
- Construction and Demolition: The CD team received, processed, and approved 182 applications for 2024 annual transporter permits, with a total of 682 permits and \$645,000 in fees. The team also approved 143 initial plans and 133 final summary reports with 5,363 tons of debris recovered at an average recovery rate of 67% and issued 34 Inspection Reports from field inspections and Green Halo monitoring, including 25 Notices of Violation (NOV), five Warnings, and five Requests for Documentation (RFD). This resulted in correction of 92% of all NOVs within defined cure period, while 82% of NOVs issued for Violation No. 2 led to a new permit application.
- Residential: The RZW team presented on Fix-It Clinic protocols to all 27 SFPL branch managers and tabled with Environment Now at Waterbend Apartments (District 10) to discuss zero waste programs with 18 residents.
- Commercial: Environment Now conducted waste assessments for five businesses as part of its ongoing Compliance Verification effort to assess businesses' capacity to remove blue recycling and green compost services and promote proper sorting practices.
- Commercial/Residential: Commercial Zero Waste and Environment Now conducted outreach at Alemany Farmers' Market and Heart of the City Farmers' Market to promote compliance with the Checkout Bag Ordinance's pre-checkout bag requirements. The team engaged 47 vendors, distributed 56 signs, and spoke with 590 residents, including 265 in Cantonese and 67 in Spanish. The team also distributed 500 reusable produce bags to promote reuse.
- Residential: Environment Now tabled or presented at six community events, including Booker T. Washington's Winterfest, and at the Parkside, Oceanview, and Ortega branch libraries. In total, staff engaged 366 residents, including 39 in Cantonese, 27 in Mandarin, and three in Spanish.
- Commercial: Environment Now recruited two restaurants for the Commercial Reuse program to promote a transition from single-use foodware to reusables.

Citywide/Cross-Sector Programs or Initiatives

- Climate Action: SFE participated in the Resilient Bayview Climate Summit and is in the process of creating a resident survey focused on building decarbonization. Insights from these interactions will inform upcoming climate policies, electrification incentive programs, and the Climate Equity Hub.
- Environmental Education: Environmental Education and Zero Waste staff conducted 35 programs to promote zero waste, water conservation, pollution reduction practices, reaching 2,044 K-12 students in 10 of 11 supervisorial districts. Staff conducted Zero Waste Audits for Recology field trip participants and provided in-class zero waste presentations. Staff also delivered Save Our Water and Protect Our Bay water programs.
- Policy: At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, staff curated seven climate technology company tours for APEC media members and delegates to showcase San Francisco's climate action innovation.

- Racial Equity: Staff participated in community engagement best practices training as part of the Department's preparations for the second phase of its Racial Equity Action Plan.
- Racial Equity: Staff participated in Booker T. Washington's Winter Festival, celebrating the holidays with food and gifts to seniors, families, and youth in the Western Addition neighborhood.
- Racial Equity: All new staff were engaged in a racial equity session to learn about the Department's history of environmental justice and ongoing racial equity work.
- Zero Waste: Staff presented on "Environment Code Chapter 7 Updates: Debris recovery requirements, Material Reduction and Recovery Plans (MRRP) and Green Halo" at the Municipal Green Building Task Force meeting on December 13. In addition, staff transitioned operations of 701 Amador from SF Community Recyclers (i.e., Building Resources) to Building Resources of San Francisco (i.e., The Reuse People).

Press and Media Highlights

- **[SF Hires Fast-Charger to Direct Environment Department](#)**
"A lot of the strategies [to realize the CAP] still need to be developed,' Jue says. With a two-decade track record of pursuing climate initiatives, Director Jue has earned a reputation as an effective climate leader with a deep appreciation for the multifarious ramifications climate policy has on disadvantaged communities" (Knee Deep Times).
- **[Mushrooms, faux fish and alt-chicken: Inside the 'Silicon Valley' of food tech](#)**
"San Francisco's Department of Environment featured MISTA this week in a series of tours highlighting innovative local companies in conjunction with the big multinational Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference downtown" (SF Examiner).
- **[S.F. hopes federal grant speeds up switch to e-bikes for food delivery services](#)**
"San Francisco is doubling down on efforts to get more food delivery services – such as Grubhub, Uber Eats and DoorDash – to use e-bikes instead of cars" (SF Chronicle).
- **[The City composted 48 cable cars worth of food this Thanksgiving](#)**
"San Francisco Department of Environment officials have outlined four tips for ensuring food doesn't go to waste in the coming weeks" (SF Examiner).
- **[Feds give The City's e-bike delivery program a \\$600K tuneup](#)**
"Now its expansion 'will provide valuable data to show how sustainable modes of transportation like e-bikes can make economic sense, while reducing emissions and traffic congestion in our cities,' said Joseph Piasecki, a policy and public relations coordinator at the San Francisco Environment Department" (SF Examiner).
- **[San Francisco accelerates e-bike food delivery scheme](#)**
"The expanded programme is a win-win for our city,' said Tyrone Jue, Director of the San Francisco Environment Department. 'It helps our delivery workers earn more income, reduces traffic and pollution, and supports our climate goals'" (Cities Today).
- **[San Francisco Accelerates E-Bike Delivery Program With \\$600K Federal Grant to Boost Sustainability](#)**
"Tyrone Jue, the director of the SFE, touted the program's benefits, 'The expanded program is a win-win

for our city. It helps our delivery workers earn more income, reduces traffic and pollution, and supports our climate goals.' His comments highlight the dual nature of the initiative: economic and environmental" (Hoodline).

- [**Brightline Defense Takes on San Francisco's Air Pollution and Environmental Justice Concerns: Q&A With Executive Director Eddie Ahn**](#)
"Eddie Ahn, executive director of Brightline Defense, an environmental justice nonprofit in San Francisco, is on the frontlines of this work. He serves on several city commissions, including as president of San Francisco's Commission on the Environment" (SF Public Press).
- [**Protecting Chinatown's Older Adults From Climate Disasters Requires More Funding, Nonprofits Say**](#)
"A funding analysis for the Climate Action Plan by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment, estimated that the overall cost of reducing emissions across sectors that the plan targets could reach \$22 billion. That analysis is used 'to make a case that much more funding will be needed in the future to fully implement the plan' said Richard Chien, senior environmental specialist at the San Francisco Department of the Environment" (SF Public Press).
- [**Here's when The City will pick up and recycle your Christmas tree**](#)
"San Franciscans care about the environment and our future,' said Tyrone Jue, director of the San Francisco Environment Department. 'Our residents continue the holiday spirit when they recycle Christmas trees. Recycling trees is a gift to Mother Nature that keeps on giving for years to come'" (SF Examiner).
- [**San Francisco Christmas-tree chipping event held for first time in 3 years**](#)
"Christmas tree-cycling helps keep the City green and clean by reducing material sent to landfill and preventing improper disposal and illegal dumping,' the Environment Department said in a press release" (CBS News).
- [**Recology gives SF residents' Christmas tree a second act**](#)
"Recycling trees is a gift to Mother Nature that keeps on giving for years to come,' said Tyrone Jue, Director of the San Francisco Environment Department. 'This is not only a festive tradition, but also a smart way to reduce waste, decrease emissions, and return trees to a natural environment where they can contribute to a vibrant ecosystem'" (KRON 4).
- [**Annual Chipping Of Christmas Trees Event Held For First Time After 3-Year Hiatus**](#)
"Following Christmas Day, several San Francisco city departments came together to hold their annual chipping tree event Tuesday morning in front of City Hall for the first time after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic" (SF Gate).
- [**Don't dump that Christmas tree, recycle it for free**](#)
"Charles Sheehan, spokesperson for the San Francisco Environment Department, said trees should be free of tinsel, ornaments and decorations. Trees over six feet tall should be cut in half. Residents should not place trees in plastic bags" (SF Bay CA).
- [**Back to the yearly grind: San Francisco holds first holiday tree recycling event since COVID**](#)
"Following Christmas Day, several San Francisco city departments came together to hold their annual chipping tree event Tuesday morning in front of City Hall for the first time after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic" (Local News Matters).
- [**An alternative to disposing Christmas trees in San Francisco**](#)

"If you are wondering what to do with your Christmas tree now that the holiday is over, San Francisco has an option for getting rid of it the right way. For 30 years, the city has been recycling trees and turning them into mulch for the gardens surrounding buildings and stores" (Univision).

- [San Francisco City will recycle Christmas trees from January 2 to 12](#)
"The San Francisco city government held a Christmas tree recycling event for the first time since the epidemic, cutting Christmas trees into sawdust and reminding citizens to place their Christmas trees next to the trash cans in January for the authorities to take away" (KTSF).
- [Say goodbye to the Christmas tree. Don't miss scheduled recycling and reuse](#)
"San Franciscans care about the environment and our future residents continue the holiday spirit when they recycle their Christmas trees. Recycling trees is a gift we give back to nature that has nurtured the trees for years,' said San Francisco Environment Director Tyrone Jue" (World Journal).

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

- Building Codes and Standards: The "BayREN Q4 Forum Residential Electrification in the Real World: Navigating Panels and Permits" event drew more than 150 participants ([link](#)).
- Building Codes and Standards: Staff presented on the LBNL/SFE study at the LGSEC webinar "Grid Modernization: Global Insights & Local Solutions" on November 29. The presentation highlighted how the electric grid supports electrification of commercial buildings in Fisherman's Wharf and the Design District (the two areas studied). The presentation also discussed how energy efficiency improvements can significantly reduce electricity use in small and medium commercial buildings ([link](#)).
- Building Decarbonization: Staff delivered a keynote address at an event organized by Vivre en Ville in Montreal, Canada, on December 12. Over 150 attendees joined the "Fall Forum: Building at the Heart of Climate Action!" event, which featured diverse panels on building decarbonization and adaptation to climate hazards. Following the forum, staff keynoted an additional event highlighting insights on building decarbonization from municipal stakeholders in Quebec and beyond.
- Clean Transportation: Staff participated in a CALSTART Electric Vehicle Interconnection and Energization Roundtable in Sacramento, CA, on December 14. Forty-six participants representing 29 organizations attended the event and discussed solutions to energization challenges related to technical barriers, permitting and policy, equipment, and funding.
- Climate Action: Staff convened the first-ever Climate Action Retreat with approximately 50 City department staff at the Southeast Community Center on November 2.
- Toxics Reduction: Staff presented on the IPM program at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health on December 18. The seminar was organized by Columbia's Environmental Health Sciences Department and attracted approximately 10 in-person and 15 remote attendees.
- Zero Waste: Staff lectured at the British Columbia Institute of Technology's Construction Material Flows course on "Reducing Waste and Recovering Resources from Construction and Demolition (C&D) Activities: An update from San Francisco." Staff also presented to the All for Reuse Bay Area Owners Alliance on "RPC.1 Updates: Policies, Programs, and Partnerships."
- Zero Waste: Staff joined a panel on reusable foodware and toxics as part of the BizNGO two-day hybrid conference in Oakland, CA, drawing more than 60 attendees.

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

- SFE submitted a proposal for a \$1.3 million local assistance grant for SB 1383 compliance to CalRecycle. A portion of this proposal was submitted in partnership with SFDPH and SFUSD.

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

Awards Issued:

- SFE executed a four-year contract with WageWorks, Inc. to administer the City's pre-tax commuter benefit program and portal and application-based ride-matching software (December 28).

Ethics

- All Commissioners required to complete Form 700 (assuming office) filings and Ethics and Sunshine Training did so by the respective deadlines. Filers included: Vince Yuen.
- Correction: The Director's Report dated December 4, 2023, reported that SFE received a gift of \$1,004 in travel costs from the Arbutus Foundation for staff to attend a composting panel discussion in New York, NY. The panel discussion was canceled and SFE did not accept the gift.

Staff Updates

- The Clean Transportation team welcomed Sebastien Garbe as its new Clean Transportation Assistant Coordinator and Arianna Lawrence as its new Clean Cities Intern.
- The Toxics Reduction team welcomed Brian Luu as its new Green Business Associate.
- The Zero Waste team welcomed Alejandra Robles as its new California Sustainability Service Corps Fellow.
- The Environmental Education team welcomed Stephanie Gonzalez and Spencer Lee as its new Environmental Education Associates and Maresha Bautista as its new San Francisco Youth Works Intern.
- The Administration team welcomed Sierra Barsten as its new Environmental Justice Assistant.

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
CBO: Community Based Organization
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
DTSC: California's Department of Toxics Substances Control
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: Greenhouse 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: San Francisco Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee
SFHSA: San Francisco Human Services Agency
SFO: SF International Airport
SFMTA: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
SFPL: San Francisco Public Library
SFPUC: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
SFPW: San Francisco 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