



SAN FRANCISCO
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Annual Report 2018



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Prepared by SF Environment
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HEART

RICHMOND MARKET

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BOOKSHOP

SHOP LOCAL!

CINEMA

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the San Francisco Commission on the Environment is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter. The Commission sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and other City departments on environmental matters. Appointed by the Mayor, the seven-member commission helps develop policies and programs on a wide range of environmental topics including zero waste, toxics reduction, environmental justice, green jobs, clean air, transportation, energy efficiency, green building, habitat restoration, biodiversity, urban forestry, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



(From L to R) Deborah Raphael (Director), Mike Sullivan, Lisa Hoyos, Elmy Bermejo (President), Johanna Wald (Vice President), Sarah Ching-Ting Wan, Heather Stephenson, Eddie Ahn



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SAN FRANCISCO CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action

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LETTER FROM THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Mayor Breed, Members of the Board of Supervisors, Friends and Colleagues:

It was a remarkable year for the San Francisco Commission on the Environment and the San Francisco Department of the Environment as our City hosted the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit. The Summit, conceived by California Governor Jerry Brown, brought 5,000 delegates from around the world to San Francisco to make bold commitments on everything from zero waste to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting equity.

While some federal governments, including our current administration, are standing down on their obligation to protect the environment, the summit demonstrated once again that cities and states from around the world will stand up, take action and be true leaders on climate action strategies that heal our planet.

Last year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Commission and it is important that we continue acknowledging the hard work and activism of our predecessors that led to San Francisco's global leadership. I also want to recognize the leaders of today, particularly our mayor who, at the summit, demonstrated what a world class City and Department can do when it comes to environmental stewardship.

This year, the Commission continued its quest towards equity, ensuring that a diversity of voices are represented in the environmental movement. We invited back the San Francisco residents who participated in the 2017 strategic plan community meetings to hear how their feedback directly influenced the Department's strategic plan. The Commission also passed a resolution encouraging and supporting the Department's Racial Equity Initiative and it held an inspiring joint meeting with the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. I was proud to join Department of the Environment Director Deborah Raphael in Mexico City for the C40 Women4Climate summit, where we acknowledged, among other things, that women, and particularly women of color, are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation.

I am always so impressed by the dedication and excellence of the employees of the San Francisco Department of the Environment. The caliber of our Department staff was on full display at the Global Climate Action Summit. They were instrumental in staging the summit and working with C40, the United Nations and the Governor's Office to develop the global commitments signed onto by so many cities and states. Thank you to every member of the Department for all that you do on behalf of the residents of the City and County of San Francisco.

While the ink may be dry on the global commitments, climate related natural disasters are manifesting with more frequency and ferocity. That's why the Commission will continue to stand firm and protect the long term environmental sustainability of our beautiful City by the bay.

Sincerely,

Elmy Bermejo, President
San Francisco Commission on the Environment



WELCOME COMMISSIONER EDDIE AHN

Eddie Ahn is the executive director of Brightline Defense, a public policy and legal nonprofit dedicated to empowering communities and sustainable environments. Brightline’s environmental justice work includes promoting renewable energy for low-income and mid-income households and creating good-paying jobs for local communities. Prior to being a nonprofit attorney, he was an AmeriCorps member, serving as an afterschool programmer in Oakland’s Chinatown. While working toward his law degree, he continued to teach art and public speaking workshops for youth and he worked on civil justice and environmental issues for the Assembly Judiciary Committee in Sacramento. His workforce development expertise and analysis of federal constitutional law has also assisted multiple municipalities in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

On October 4, 2017, Eddie was appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to the San Francisco Commission on the Environment. On April 25, 2018, he was appointed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon to the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and he also serves on its Environmental Justice Subcommittee. He continues to serve on the board of Mission Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit developer in San Francisco.

Eddie has received his J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of the Law and his B.A. from Brown University. He is also a member of the California State Bar.



WELCOME COMMISSIONER MIKE SULLIVAN

On May 10, 2018, Mike Sullivan was appointed by Mayor Mark Farrell to the San Francisco Commission on the Environment. He also serves on the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council and served on the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission from 2007-2010.

Mike has been involved with San Francisco's urban forest for many years. He is the author of *Trees of San Francisco*, published in a 2nd edition in 2013. He served for many years on the board of directors of Friends of the Urban Forest, including service as board president.

Mike received his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and his B.A. from Williams College. He is a partner at the Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe law firm, where his practice involves representation of startup companies in the technology and cleantech sectors. Mike lives in San Francisco's Cole Valley neighborhood with his husband Paul and son Joseph.



SAN FRANCISCO HOSTS THE 2018 GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

As leaders from around the world convened in San Francisco for the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, members of the Commission on the Environment spread out across town to represent the Department and the City at various environmental workshops and events.

Meeting with various organizations and delegations, Commissioners promoted San Francisco's 0-80-100 Roots Climate Action Plan i.e.,

- Zero waste,
- 80 percent of transportation by sustainable modes,
- 100 percent renewable energy
- Roots, which represents healing the planet through carbon sequestration efforts like our urban forestry initiatives.

Commissioners also discussed the multiple commitments and pledges San Francisco signed onto at the summit. The commitments focused on important, but familiar topics like zero waste, net zero carbon buildings, green bonds, 100 percent renewable energy and equity.

For zero waste, San Francisco committed to reducing generation by at least 15 percent by 2030 while reducing the amount of waste we dispose of as a City by 50 percent. For net zero carbon buildings, San Francisco committed to ensure that by 2030 any new building built, will be net zero carbon, and that, by 2050, all existing buildings will be net zero carbon. For green bonds, San Francisco committed to issuing more bonds that finance long-term infrastructure and capital projects that address and mitigate environmental impact and climate risk.

Finally, San Francisco is doubling down on its commitment to equity. We recognize that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and we have a responsibility to make sure any environmental programs address and work to remedy this. The San Francisco Department of the Environment is proud to have an Environmental Justice program that works to ensure that all our initiatives are developed with equity in mind. That’s why the Commission on the Environment passed a resolution last year supporting these efforts.





2018 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

JOINT MEETING WITH THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

October 24, 2018 marked the historic first joint meeting of the San Francisco Commission on the Environment and the Commission on the Status of Women. Held in the San Francisco Main Library Koret Auditorium, the meeting was a celebration and examination of the intersection of women and climate action. The meeting highlighted the work done by the Department on the Status of Women and the San Francisco Department of the Environment to protect the health and safety of women and their environment. The agenda included an Environmental Service Award for both Supervisor Katy Tang and the Mission Science Workshop as well as a presentation on a collaboration between the two departments to address the exposure of workers to toxics and human trafficking through the San Francisco Healthy Nail Salon Program. It also featured a presentation on a study sponsored by C40, the San Francisco Department of the Environment and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition on gender differences in urban spaces, climate policies and the usage San Francisco's bike lanes. The two commissions also passed a joint resolution regarding San Francisco's policies affecting women and the environment.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR REPORT BACK ON STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In September and October of 2017, members of the Commission on the Environment hosted a series of six community meetings focused on learning what is important to individual San Francisco residents, their communities, and the City as a whole. The Department used the significant amount of feedback gathered at the community meetings to make revisions to the Department of the Environment's Strategic plan.

At the February 2018 Commission on the Environment meeting, staff presented their findings from the community meetings after looking over hundreds of pages of notes that participants shared. In May 2018, the Commission on the Environment invited back the members of the public that participated in the community meetings for a presentation on the changes to the Department of the Environment strategic plan that were a direct result of their feedback.



CITY HALL

U.S. EPA:
Clean Power Plan
Save Our Kids!

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CLEAN
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WORLD

PROTECT OUR
COMMUNITIES

PROTECT PEOPLE,
NOT POLLUTERS!
PROTECT THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

FOR THE
HEALTHY
WORLD

2018 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

DEPARTMENT RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

The staff of the Department of the Environment formed a racial equity working group led by the Environmental Justice team to ensure that the Department's work is not only about protecting the environment but also about people. The Racial Equity Initiative has been working to address how the Department's programs, policies, and services may intentionally or unintentionally disproportionately benefit some and burden others.

Commissioners Wan and Ahn met with the racial equity team to advise their efforts and then introduced a resolution before the Commission that both endorsed and provided guidance for the Department's efforts to address individual, structural and institution inequities. The Commission resolution was used as a framework for the equity commitment developed for the Global Climate Action Summit, which was signed by cities and states around the world.

PROTECTING KEY FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

In March of 2017, President Trump signed an executive order calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to begin dismantling the federal Clean Power Plan. Repeal of the Clean Power Plan would limit the United States' ability to meet the emission reduction targets set forth in the Paris Climate Agreement and would further exacerbate the effects of climate change that are already visible through the world in the form of super storms, droughts, floods, fires and more.

The Commission on the Environment, and then the Board of Supervisors, passed a resolution in strong opposition to the repeal of the Clean Power Plan which was included as public comment for the official repeal proceedings. Commissioners also joined environmental activists in a public protest of the Trump Administration's rollback of environmental protections that was organized by Department staff. A broad coalition of individuals and organizations attended the rally including the Mayor, Assemblymember David Chiu, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission General Manager Harlan Kelly, Jr., San Francisco Public Utilities Commission President Francesca Vietor, and representatives from NextGen, Interfaith Power & Light, Mom's Clean Air Force, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Salesforce, SEIU Healthcare and Communities for a Better Environment.



POLICY COMMITTEE

The Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meets monthly to oversee long-term planning and policy development for the Department, including the assessment of environmental conditions and the development, updating, and review of plans for the long-term environmental sustainability of the City.

In 2018, the Policy Committee heard presentations on the 2018 Reduced Risk Pesticide List, a carbon sequestration study of trees in San Francisco, an initiative to reduce the usage of fluorinated chemicals, a study on the impacts of methane and natural gas, the County Transportation Agency's Emerging Mobility Report, the Plastic and Litter Reduction Ordinance, a recap of the commitments made by San Francisco at the Global Climate Action Summit, the Net Zero Emissions Pathway Report and the Municipal Progress Report on Climate and Sustainability.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Commission on the Environment Operations Committee meets quarterly to discuss the Department of the Environment's budget, financial planning, and operations. The Committee also oversees public education and community outreach on environmental issues.

In 2018, the Operations Committee discussed the Department's budget, the Department's Racial Equity Initiative, the school education team's zero waste programs, the Department's website and social media outreach, the battery recycling campaign and progress on the new zero waste program rollout.





COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARD

The San Francisco Commission on the Environment strives to recognize individuals and organizations that help the Commission and the Department fulfill its mission of conducting public education and outreach to the community on environmental issues and in supporting long-term sustainability in San Francisco.

The 2018 recipients of the Commission on the Environment – Environmental Service Award were:

INDIVIDUALS

Supervisor Katy Tang
Donnie Olivera, Outreach Program Manager
Gwynn Mackellen

ORGANIZATIONS

Grid Alternatives
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
Safe Passage
Mission Science Workshop



COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Urged the Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System to divest from publicly-traded fossil fuel companies (Resolution No. 001-18-COE)

Approved Department of the Environment Funding Recommendations for San Francisco Carbon Fund grant awards to Citizen Film, Friends of the Urban Forest, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Nature in the City and the Bernal Neighborhood Center (Resolution No. 002-18-COE)

Opposed the repeal of the Clean Power Plan and urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to continue implementing the Plan's critical policies that require states to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and generate cleaner energy (Resolution No. 003-18-COE)

Approved Department of the Environment Funding Recommendations for San Francisco Carbon Fund grant award to California Interfaith Power and Light (Resolution No. 004-18-COE)

Affirmed the Commission on the Environment's commitment to racial equity and directing the Department of the Environment to undertake a Racial Equity Initiative and develop a Racial Equity Action Plan with measurable outcomes (Resolution No. 005-18-COE)

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File Number 180519, an Ordinance amending the Environment Code to reduce plastic pollution, promote reusable foodware and eliminate certain toxic chemicals from foodware products (Resolution No. 006-18-COE)

Adopted a Reduced-Risk Pesticides List ("RRPL") For 2018 (Resolution No. 007-18-COE)

Approved the 2017 Annual Green Purchasing Report

Recognized that women, and particularly, women of color, are disproportionately impacted by the growing global climate crisis and calling on the City and County of San Francisco to meaningfully engage women to identify and implement climate action strategies to advance equity in San Francisco (Resolution No. 001-18- COSW COE)



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San Francisco Commission on the Environment

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