



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

September 28, 2021  
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***This report covers San Francisco Department of the Environment updates for the period of July 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021. Glossary of acronyms at bottom of report.***

**Residential Programs**

- OUTREACH/ENERGY: The BayREN Home+ program launched a bilingual summer through winter campaign in English and Cantonese on August 15. The program offers rebates and the support needed to help homeowners make their homes healthier, more comfortable, and more energy efficient. Messaging and imagery leverage home comfort, which has performed well previously, with the addition of promoting heat pumps as an energy-saving alternative to air conditioning. New messaging was also added this year around energy bill cost savings, after a survey revealed that lowering energy bills is a high priority for homeowners. Ads ran on World Journal (Cantonese), Facebook, and Google, generating 3,274 clicks and 170,331 impressions in the first 16 days of the campaign.
- OUTREACH (Environment Now)/Zero Waste: The Environment Now team continues to provide Virtual ZW presentations to help educate SF residents on how to properly participate in SF Recycling and Composting programs. During this period the team worked with CBO's such as CYC, San Francisco Village, Cameron House NICO's Chinese Health Coalition, Chinatown Public Health Center and Homeless Prenatal engaging a total of 190 participants.
- OUTREACH (Environment Now): In collaboration with the Safe Routes to School partnership the Environment Now team conducted outreach at two "Park & Walk" events in the Excelsior to celebrate a return to in-person learning and encourage families to walk to school. The team engaged with a total of 155 Participants (in Cantonese, Spanish, and English) between both events at Crocker Amazon and Excelsior Parks and was also joined by Senator Scott Weiner.
- OUTREACH/ZERO WASTE: In mid-June, the Zero Waste and Outreach teams conducted a market research survey targeting 800 San Francisco adults in Spanish, English and Chinese to learn more about residents' attitudes and behaviors about food waste. Three-quarters of respondents indicated they were willing to take additional steps to reduce food waste and over half of respondents indicated they were concerned about the amount of food they "throw-away." Following the survey, six focus groups were conducted in Spanish, English and Chinese to dive more deeply into residents' willingness to change their behaviors to curb food waste in their homes. Residents were asked about the types of food regularly wasted in their households and were presented with food waste reduction strategies, such as improving storage techniques for freshness, to assess their willingness to try them at home. Survey and

focus group respondents provided insightful feedback which will be used to inform communications strategy and messaging for an upcoming residential food waste reduction campaign in support of our City's zero waste target of reducing generation 15% by 2030.

- ZERO WASTE: Hosted 9 zero waste event trainings. Created Zero Waste Event Plan, a worksheet outlining a corrective course of action for event host with failed refuse audits. Finalized removal of recovery discount and issuance of contamination charges on a tiered strike system and created a customer service representative email introduction for non-compliance. Responded to 21 public inquiries. Conducted 3 composting bin removal video assessments. Met with 9 Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance (RSO) properties on implications of failed audits, approved 6 RSO plans, and sent 4 notices of violation and 3 good job letters. Selected for Garden for the Environment Get Up! Compost educator program. Rolled out recycling and composting service, conducted door to door outreach and distributed recycling caddies and kitchen composting pails with support from Environment Now to residents at Jackie Robinson with a 50% rate for reaching residents. Met with 4 reusable cup vendors. Toured Presidio salvage transfer station and composting facility, conducted zero waste presentation to Presidio maintenance staff, and provided technical assistance to the Zero Waste Coordinator at the Presidio Trust. Finalized CalRecycle food waste reduction grant equipment purchases for Episcopal Community Services, Farming Hope and San Francisco-Marin Food Bank. Met with new zero waste grantee SF New Deal, Careit and Food Connect regarding food rescue solutions, Warriors Chase Arena Senior Director of Food, Beverage & Hospitality to discuss reusable cups, and Regent and Statewide Textile Advisory Committee to investigate recycled content requirements in city uniform contracts.
- ENERGY: The Energy Team, in partnership with Outreach, continued to ramp-up activities for EnergyAccess SF, the local government partnership with PG&E. EnergyAccess SF provides residents and small businesses in San Francisco's disadvantage and low-income communities with access to energy service and rebate programs. Activities completed during the reporting period include: 1) made calls to follow-up with the mailers; 2) updated tracking database; 3) conducted virtual and in-person assessments in businesses; 4) presented update to PG&E's Quarterly Briefing Review.
- ENERGY: The BayREN Multifamily program is on track to meet its 1,216-units served goal. Activities during this reporting period include program administration and implementation.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Offered SFUSD Teacher Training for 25 teachers at the Environmental Solutionary Teacher Fellowship (ESTF)

### **Commercial Programs**

- ZERO WASTE: Conducted outreach in Hayes Valley to 10 businesses about mandatory recycling and composting due to local association complaints. Worked with San Mateo County, City of Berkeley, and 3<sup>rd</sup> party delivery companies (DoorDash, Uber Eats and GrubHub) to comply with foodware accessories on request. Created webpage outline and drafted formal letter on food donation requirements for SB1383. Reviewed 17 commercial RSO audits (11 passed, sent notices of noncompliance to 6). Met with 3 large refuse generators and approved their RSO compliance plans. Worked with Environment Now to improve source separation at 45 small commercial accounts. Toured 333 Bush to review TRUE zero waste

certification and provided additional input. Submitted Electronic Annual Report for 2020 to CalRecycle on compliance with state requirements, US Plastics Pact 2021 report on efforts to reduce and recycle plastics, and C40 Advancing Towards Zero Waste Declaration progress report. Presented to Municipal Green Building Task Force (20 attendees) on “A Regional Infrastructure for Material Reuse”, U.S. EPA Region 9 Resiliency and Natural Disaster Debris Workshop Series (40 attendees) on “Disaster Debris Planning: Material Recovery & Reuse Considerations”, and American Institute of Architects (80 attendees, primarily federal agency reps., plus state, local, NGO, academic executives and disaster debris experts) on “The Climate of Public Architecture- Navigating San Francisco's Debris Recovery Requirements- Municipal Green Halo Systems”. Trained 30 project managers/city representatives from Rec. & Park, SFPUC, SFPW, and SFO, responsible for using Green Halo to review/approve Material Reduction and Recovery Plans (MMRP) assigned to municipal C&D projects. Kicked off work to design and implement a regional online materials exchange with funding provided by CNCA through the Gamechanger Fund Award. Approved 171 MMRP (106 initial plans and 69 final summary reports) with 4,512 tons recovered at 72%. Visited 31 addresses issued DBI permits, resulting in 3 weight ticket requests, 4 transporter registration inquiries and 3 referrals to SFPW for permitting follow-up. Sent registration renewal reminders to transporters with expired registrations, resulting in 55 renewing.

- OUTREACH (TDM/Environment Now): The Outreach team advanced a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) project in partnership with the SFMTA aimed at supporting San Francisco-based employers with resources and information for their return-to-office planning. Environment Now called HR managers at large businesses about their plans to bring employees back in person to offices in San Francisco. Environment Now administered a 10-question survey about numbers and percentages of employees returning to the office and their commuting habits. MTA resources for employers to help their employees commute were then strategically offered after discussing employers' needs. These resources include information about transit safety and discounted pricing on public transit. Environment Now has called 125 businesses so far, with a response rate of 20%.
- ENERGY: The collaboration between CleanPowerSF and SFE moved into a new phase. During this reporting period, CleanPowerSF and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission filed an application to the California Public Utilities Commission for ratepayer funds to support an energy efficiency program. The program will serve San Francisco's food-service sector, providing energy efficiency and electrification equipment.
- ENERGY: BayREN Business activities completed in this reporting period include program administration, marketing, and implementation. Also, SFE starting planning for 2022 BayREN programming.

### **City Department Programs**

- ZERO WASTE: Presented on zero waste to 80 city employees. Reviewed RSO audits: SFGH passed and requested 1 reaudit. Granted exemption for Bottled and Packaged Water Ordinance to SF Marathon. Attended Shine On SF launch.

- ENERGY: The EV Team continued to collaborate with the SFMTA to expand EV charging infrastructure in municipally-owned parking lots and garages.
- ENERGY: The EV Team continued to work with the Planning Department to advance adding EV charging as a primary use (instead of a conditional use) to the Planning Code. The EV team also continued to work with the SF Police Department to finish the rules and regulations for EV Charging in Commercial Parking Garage and Lots Ordinance. The team also continued to work with the Department of Technologies to automate the compliance process – currently in Phase 4.
- ENERGY: The Energy Team continues to work with the Department of Public Health and the Office of Economic Workforce and Development to design the Fix Lead SF program. During the reporting period, the team prepared a Request for Proposal to solicit a third-party program administrator.

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

- ZERO WASTE: Collaborated with Environmental Justice team to set goals, strategies, and actions for affordable housing properties for FY 22. Created draft educational flyer and finalized draft capacity analysis survey for SB 1383 food businesses and food recovery organizations. Completed Racial Equity Scan for ReThink Disposable citywide technical assistance project.
- OUTREACH (TDM): The Essential Worker Ride Home program continues to provide reliable and safe taxi rides home from work for essential employees. In July, SFE fully deployed a new debit card system, replacing the manual reimbursement system for eligible users(those taking rides within San Francisco). Due to increased efficiencies, SFE has added an additional 58 users to the program. To date, SFE has received 921 total applications, 362 of which have been approved, and has provided more than 3,630 taxi rides home to essential workers.

### **New/Revised Legislation and/or City Hall activity**

- ZERO WASTE: Presented to Board of Supervisors Land Use & Transportation Committee on new construction and demolition debris recovery ordinance to create a transporter permit system that was approved and forwarded to full board.

### **Press and Media Highlights**

- ZERO WASTE: Interviewed by Insider on history of SF's composting program.

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

- ENERGY – The EV Team received a provisional award of \$2.4M from the California Energy Commission to implement Phase 2 of San Francisco's "EV Ready Community Blueprint". In Phase 1, the CEC awarded SFE \$200,00 to develop an EV Blueprint, an implementation plan that came out of its EV Roadmap. For Phase 2, SFE collaborated with other city agencies, departments and stakeholders to select four actions from the Phase 1 EV Blueprint for implementation—1) install a DC-fast charging hub in Bayview, 2) provide electric-bicycles for

last-mile food deliveries, 3) complete customizations of an online EV module with a major technology company, and 4) create an EV-ombudsperson position at SFE.

- ENERGY – On 8/30, the Energy Efficiency team, acting through its partners, responded to 7/30 CPUC ruling requesting concepts for specific Commission actions that would result in energy efficiency and energy storage projects installed and delivering benefits by June 1, 2022 and/or June 1, 2023. The Energy Efficiency team submitted the Virtual Power Plant concept to pair energy efficiency with storage to serve up to six (6) affordable multifamily buildings and use the energy savings to create ongoing funding for decarbonization projects.

### **Requests for Proposals issued, contracts and grants awarded FROM the Department**

- ZERO WASTE: Certified grant agreements and opened purchase orders for Charity Cultural Services Center, Race to Zero Waste, SF Market, SF New Deal, SF Parks Alliance (Garden for the Environment), and UCSF. Amended Story of Stuff, Catalog Choice, zero waste grant.

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

- ZERO WASTE: Met with the incoming Director for the Climate Emergency Department of the City of Tonalá, Jalisco, Mexico. Toured Recology Tunnel Avenue facility and Garden for the Environment, providing tools that could be replicated in Mexico. Met with a representative from County of Montgomery, Maryland and provided guidance on San Francisco's zero waste program. Provided Quebec consulting firm residential data for French case study. Presented on foodware reduction and reuse efforts at C40 food and beverage packaging workshop. Moderated session on Policy Measures to Usher in a New Era of Reuse and Refill, presented on RSO and Recovering Resources from C&D Discards: Strategies and Tactics from the SF Bay Area (155 attendees), virtually toured Aquafil (nylon recycling facility) and attended California Resource Recovery Association conference.
- ZERO WASTE / COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Presented to the city family and other stakeholders on the USDN-funded process guide that helps municipalities to assess the carbon impact of land-application of its organics materials to inform local organics recovery processes and policies. The guide takes the municipality through various steps of identifying stakeholders, potential organics materials, existing land, etc. and using this information to populate a carbon calculation tool. The Process Guide and Tool has been folded into a larger system created by the Trust for Public Land and Urban Land Institute to assess the carbon sequestration capacity of other resources, which was also introduced.
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Virtual keynote speaker for the inaugural event of the SoapBox Activist Network, which engages early career BIPOC tech professionals in climate action.

### **New Staff and Staff Changes**

- ZERO WASTE: Daniella Menendez, City Government Zero Waste Assistant Coordinator, left the department. Selected and finalized agreement for FY 22 Climate Corps Fellow Nicole Inaba to start in September.

- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Jenifer Lomeli (9920), Rachael Jadot (9922), Tommy Wei (9922), Yeimy Cifuentes (9920) joined the Environmental Education team as Environmental Education Aides and Associates supporting outreach for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): The Outreach team hosted 7 high school interns for 6 weeks during the summer. Bianca Langlois, Jazmine Felix, Azalea Sanchez Orellano, Paulo Lepoutre joined the department as San Francisco Youth Works Interns and Annie Chen and Kelan Chen joined the department as Opportunities for All interns.
- OUTREACH: Michael Bybee joined the department as Data Coordinator.
- POLICY: Tiffany Holmes has joined the team for the fall semester through the University of SF McCarthy Fellows Program

## **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  
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 Department of the Environment  
SFECC: SF Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee  
SFEW: SF Energy Watch  
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