



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

December 7, 2021

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

Residential Programs

- ZERO WASTE: Developed flyers for Fix-it Clinic, secured space at Bayview Opera House (Spring 2022) and recruited textile repair coaches. Presented on reuse at BC3 (Business Council on Climate Change). Shifted Zero Waste Event Trainings from weekly to monthly, presented two Zero Waste Events Trainings, and created Eventbrite page for monthly event trainings. Responded to 17 public inquiries. Conducted 1 compost bin removal assessment. Coordinated meetings between La Cocina, Replate, and Copia for KZSF. Met with Midway event producers to discuss ZW events requirements, revised and approved Zero Waste Event Plans for (3) Midway Permitted Events. Declined 2 residential compost bin removal requests and provided resources for resident participation. Assisted EJ and Environment Now to conduct outreach at 2 new Mission Housing sites. Established new and improved contamination charge removal process for passing RSO audits.
- OUTREACH/ENERGY: The BayREN Home+ program continued a bilingual summer through winter campaign in English and Cantonese. The program offers rebates and the support needed to help homeowners make their homes healthier, more comfortable, and more energy efficient. Messaging and imagery leveraged 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), Sing Tao (Cantonese), Facebook, Google, and SF Gate generating 8,028 clicks and 644,220 impressions September 1 – October 31 2021. Emails were sent to approximately 152,000 SF homeowners in zip codes with a high percentage of single-family detached homes, resulting in 75,578 opens and 6,775 clicks.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Delivered 27 classroom presentations for grades K-8 Zero Waste and SFPUC Water programs. Delivered 8 assemblies within the Our Common Future: Zero Waste Future for All program for grades 6-12. Reached a total of 30 teachers and 1081 students throughout Districts 2, 3, 5, 8, and 11.
- OUTREACH (Environment Now): In collaboration with the Safe Routes to School partnership, the Environment Now team conducted outreach at seven tabling events throughout San

Francisco. Most notably, the Phil Ting Bike Fair event marked a celebration of San Francisco reopening with free bikes for families to practice their transportation routes. The team engaged with a total of 202 Participants (in Cantonese, Spanish, and English) for all seven events combined.

Commercial Programs

- ZERO WASTE: Emailed capacity analysis surveys for SB1383 to 557 businesses and 320 food recovery organizations. Finalized, translated, and mailed out SB 1383 official notice letters and educational flyers to 1025 businesses and 390 food recovery organizations. Launched ReThink Disposable citywide technical assistance project and got Environment Now staff trained and out in the field working with food service businesses. Hosted Reusables Win in SF Livestream event. Presented on Reusables Win in SF and ReThink Disposable citywide technical assistance campaign to Commission on Environment Policy Committee. Conducted outreach to 5 businesses about KZSF grants. Reviewed 12 commercial RSO audits (9 passed, sent notices of noncompliance to 8). Met with 4 large refuse generators and approved their RSO compliance plans. Worked with Environment Now to improve source separation at 29 small commercial accounts. Finalized Sony PlayStation Decommission furniture reuse and moveout plan. Approved 158 MMRP (96 initial plans and 82 final summary reports) with 4,862 tons recovered at 74%. Sent registration renewal reminders to C&D transporters with expired registrations, resulting in 81 renewing. Registered 5 new transporters. Spoke to contractors for 92 Green Halo projects that failed to fulfill MRRP requirements, resulting in 10 projects migrating to compliant status. Onboarded and trained the newest Climate Corps Fellow, Nicole Inaba, the third Fellow hosted by the C&D Debris Recovery Team.
- ZERO WASTE/OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENT NOW): Environment Now worked with 27 small businesses to assess their waste streams as part of a Compliance Verification project.
- ZERO WASTE/OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENT NOW): The Environment Now team began outreach on a new project called Rethink Disposables, which targets food businesses (restaurants) to help them switch their single-use food ware items to reusables. The team is conducting door to door outreach to businesses and offering funding and technical assistance to help businesses make the switch. Since beginning outreach in early October, the team has visited over 230 businesses, resulting in 5 businesses successfully transitioning their food ware from disposables to reusables. Outreach is currently taking place in multiple languages in districts 9 and 3 and is planned to continue over the next 9 months.
- 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 called 252 businesses with a response rate of 18%.

City Department Programs

- ZERO WASTE: Set up centralized collection stations for an SFDPH facility in collaboration with Environment Now. Presented on zero waste to 157 city employees. Reviewed RSO audits: SFPUC failed due to contamination in the trash exceeding the allowable threshold. Attended the first Public Refuse Bin Implementation Strategy Summit Meeting.

Citywide/Cross-Sector Programs or Initiatives

- ZERO WASTE: Launched the SFE SB1383 webpage. Represented ZW team in Outreach workshop facilitated by Persona to inform the design and development of a new department website.
- 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 81 users to the program. To date, SFE has received 955 total applications, 381 of which have been approved, and has provided 4,364 taxi rides to essential workers.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Offered outreach programs to support San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)'s Zero Waste Teacher Initiative in partnership with SFUSD's Sustainability Office and Recology.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): The Department's Environmental Education team, as a partner within the SF Children & Nature collaborative, worked with The Port of San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, and KABOOM!, as well as with support given by the Mayor, State Senator Scott Wiener, and District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton to build San Francisco's first Nature Exploration Area in District 10 at Heron's Head Park.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENT NOW)/ ENERGY: Environment Now continued to partner with the Energy team on the Energy Access SF project aimed at assisting businesses and residents in taking advantage of energy-saving programs and incentives. Current target audiences are businesses and residents in the Bayview neighborhood, where the team is conducting door-to-door outreach in the business corridors and phone outreach to residents. Direct mailers were sent to both audiences and Environment Now is conducting presentations to CBOs to extend the reach of the program.

New/Revised Legislation and/or City Hall activity

- ZERO WASTE: Board of Supervisors passed and the Mayor signed the C&D Debris Recovery Ordinance amending Chapter 14 with a new C&D transporter permit program.

Press and Media Highlights

- ZERO WASTE: Provided guidance to press team for the 25 Years of Composting Mayor's press release and conducted interviews with media outlets for Business Insider, Bloomberg City Lab and KQED.

Proposals submitted and grants and contracts awarded TO the Department

- ZERO WASTE: Attained extension for Cal Recycle grant for the KZSF program until April 1, 2022.

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

- ZERO WASTE: Produced and hosted the 9th Annual Zero Waste Youth Convergence, participated as a panelist at UC Berkeley's Energy and Resources 101 Conference. Presented at the Compost Council of Canada on SF's composting program, presented at the Policy Committee meeting on KZSF (Kitchen Zero SF) and SB 1383 surveys and outreach, at the BOMA Codes workshop on the Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance, at BC3 Zero Waste Roundtable on SF's back to work with Zero Waste action and at the Zero Waste Champions quarterly workshop. Attended the COE Operations Committee meeting regarding the future household food waste prevention campaign and toured Oakland's OMRF. Interviewed by Zero Waste Oregon on SF's multifamily composting program.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Esther Tang, SF Environment's Environmental Education Coordinator, spoke as a panelist during the Empowering and Education the Next Generation: Zero Waste Schools session at the 9th Annual Zero Waste Youth Convergence.
- OUTREACH (ENVIRONMENTAL ED): Yeimy Cifuentes, SF Environment's Environmental Education Aide, represented the Department during her talk about spiders and their ecological importance at the Latino Outdoors webinar series.
- OUTREACH (Environment Now): Miguel Guerrero, SF Environment's Engagement Coordinator, represented the Department during a presentation entitled "Reaching Diverse Communities / Hearing Diverse Voices" for the National Recycling Congress conference on November 4th, 2021.

New Staff and Staff Changes

- SFE's Web Coordinator, Zoey (Jennifer) Kroll's last day with the Department was September 15, 2021.
- OUTREACH (Environment Now) Phuong Tran, Environmental Outreach Aide, left the Department to work as a Health Worker II at SFDPH. Si Ying (Winnie) Liu, Environmental Outreach Aide, left the Department to work as an Environmental Health Worker I at SFDPH. Lorenna Varkonyi, Environmental Outreach Associate, is leaving the Department to work at an Analyst at SFPUC. Miguel Guerrero, Engagement Coordinator, left the Department and is now living in Portland, OR.

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