



AGENDA REPORT

Regular
13

Meeting Date
October 19, 2021

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 2021-2023 WORKPLAN

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Environmental Sustainability Committee that the City Council:

1. Approve the Environmental Sustainability Committee's proposed 2021-2023 Workplan.

Appropriation: _____ **Fund Name:** _____

Submitted By: Hannah Phillips for DS **Approved:** Shohreh Dupuis
David Shissler, Director of Water Quality Shohreh Dupuis, City Manager

SUMMARY OF THE MATTER

The Environmental Sustainability Committee is appointed to advise the City Council on environmental issues. The Committee requests that the City Council review and approve the proposed 2021-23 Work Plan. If approved, the Committee will research work plan items, and return to the City Council with project or policy recommendations.

The Committee's proposed Work Plan addresses climate change, protecting wildlife, reducing waste, improving ocean health, and public communications. The Environmental Sustainability Committee's Proposed 2021-2023 Workplan is included as Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The recommended action has no impact on the budget.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Environmental Sustainability Committee's 2021-2023 Proposed Work Plan (Pgs. 2-5)

Report Prepared By:

Coordinated With:

Michael Phillips, Environmental Specialist

DRAFT Environmental Sustainability Committee's 2021-2023 Work Plan

Consideration for Approval by the City Council on October 5, 2021

ESC Climate Change (CC) Subcommittee 2021 Workplan

Subcommittee Objective

Provide recommendations to the City Council on best practices, policies, and programs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation as outlined in the new [IPCC Assessment, just published on August 9, 2021](#), with a focus on reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions both at the municipal and community level.

The City's recently completed Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory provides a critical benchmark of the City's 2018 emissions from municipal facilities and operations, as well as for the community as a whole. The Inventory data will be used to determine sectors and sources of GHGs that can be reduced, and provides a baseline against which future emission reduction progress can be measured. Based on the Inventory, the CC Subcommittee plans to focus its efforts over the next two years on reducing and eliminating emissions from the City's transportation, electricity, and natural gas sectors. Accordingly, the two-year Workplan includes the following proposed projects:

Project	Details
Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP) Update	<p>The City's CPAP was adopted in 2009 and updated in 2012. The CPAP provided a plan and recommended measures for reducing local GHG emissions in the categories of: Buildings, Transportation and Land Use, Government Operations, Commercial Operations, Water Management, and Public Outreach.</p> <p>The CPAP update will include updates on state, national, and UN climate change policy; documentation of the City's GHG baseline; recommended reduction goals and metrics; documentation of successful actions since 2012 update; recommended actions for reducing community and municipal GHGs. It will also recommend a timeline and parameters for future GHG inventories and other mechanisms to track progress.</p>
Clean Energy Technology Bulk Buys	<p>Research and provide recommendations on energy bulk buy programs for Laguna Beach residents to purchase distributed energy resources, such as rooftop solar, electric vehicles, electric building appliances, energy efficiency, and storage. These programs can save on costs and allow more residents to participate in reducing the city's GHG impact.</p>
Alternative Transit Advocacy Programs	<p>Encourage and incentivize use of electric bikes, scooters, carts, bicycles and walking to reduce traffic and GHGs from ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles. Initiatives recommended may include bike lane development, bike share program, non-car day event(s), public education and outreach.</p>

Building Codes for New Builds/Renovations	Research and provide recommendations on updating building codes, standards, and ordinances for new construction and major remodels, such as net-zero energy requirements and solar requirements, to reduce the GHG impact of buildings.
Small-Scale Climate Change Mitigation Projects	Research and provide recommendations on small-scale climate change mitigation/resilience projects, such as: tree canopy promotion, white sidewalks, streetlights and other public lighting, green roof pilot, lightbulb exchange program, syncing traffic lights, plant-based and local food promotion, etc.
Resilience Evaluation and Improvement	Research opportunities to evaluate the City's vulnerability and resilience to climate-related threats (such as wildfires and sea level rise) and recommend adaptation measures as needed to improve resilience.

Wildlife Protection Subcommittee 2021-2023 Workplan

Workplan Summary

- Identify major threats to the health and lives of wildlife in Laguna Beach neighborhoods and wilderness areas.
- Promote public awareness of threats to wildlife, and actions that the community can take to protect wildlife.
- Identify opportunities for the City to protect wildlife through policies and programs and present these opportunities to the City Council. Near-term activities include expanding City efforts to prevent wildlife deaths from pesticides, providing community education on wildlife-friendly landscaping practices, and promoting the creation of habitat on public and private properties.

General Activities

- Research and make recommendations to the City Council on a local ban of pesticides and herbicides utilizing the Local Coastal Program.
- Develop and provide recommendations with a budget to the City Council on promoting the use of native plants on private properties through giveaway or incentive programs.
- Research and make recommendations on actions the City Council can take to ensure that landscaping companies doing business in Laguna are aware of wildlife-friendly practices.
- Research and make recommendations with a budget to expand and enhance wildlife habitat on public properties, with efforts such as establishing pollinator gardens and working with schools, city parks department, and water district to identify specific opportunities to create or enhance habitat.
- Research and make recommendations on wildlife collision issues in Laguna and solutions to reduce collisions.

Public Education Activities

- Discourage the sale or use of rodenticides in Laguna through education and outreach to businesses and residents, to assist in implementation of Resolution 20.035 which aims to

reduce use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and of AB 1788 which bans the use of specific anticoagulant rodenticides statewide.

- Develop educational resources for property owners on wildlife-friendly practices including creating habitat, using native plants, avoiding invasive plants, finding alternatives to pesticides, and allowing for wildlife connectivity.
- Develop educational material informing community members what to do if they encounter wildlife in danger, and integrate messaging into City website, social media, and events.
- Research and develop educational material to promote public awareness of threats to wildlife and actions that the community can take to protect wildlife, including the importance of regulations in wilderness parks and Marine Protected Areas.

ESC Public Communications Subcommittee 2021 Workplan

Subcommittee Objective

Increase public awareness and available information related to environmental and sustainability issues in Laguna Beach. Promote and facilitate actions by residents, businesses, and community groups to make Laguna Beach more environmentally friendly.

The Public Communications Subcommittee plans to focus its efforts over the next two years on several projects including: a social media campaign, public lecture series, and updates to the City's Environmental Sustainability web page. Accordingly, the two-year Workplan includes the following proposed projects:

Project	Details
Social Media Campaign	The City of Laguna Beach has a highly visible social media presence with nearly 10,000 followers on Facebook and 14,000 on Instagram. An opportunity exists to leverage these (and other) platforms to educate the public about the City's dedication to environmental sustainability and to inform residents on how to contribute to a more sustainable Laguna Beach. The campaign will include developing a social media content database (copy and graphics) focused on topics related to the ESC's four other subcommittees: Climate Change; Wildlife Protection; Waste; and Ocean Health. The subcommittee will work with City staff as required to provide content and support for regular posting by City staff (frequency to be determined, and as City resources are available).
Facilitate Public Communication from other Subcommittees	In an effort to align the messaging and balance of environmental/sustainability related public communication, the subcommittee will facilitate content development and conveying of information to the City for the other four subcommittees, as needed.
Lecture Series	Develop a public lecture series, with topics based on the four other subcommittees: Climate Change; Wildlife Protection; Waste; and Ocean Health. The Lecture Series will include one session per subcommittee,

	intended to create awareness around that issue and inform City residents how they can be part of the solution. Sessions will generally highlight what the City has already done; what we are currently doing; and where we are going next. Each session will bring in experts from the field, as applicable.
City Environmental Sustainability Website Update	Revive and refresh the City's Environmental Sustainability website. Tasks may include: reviewing/updating/removing existing links; adding new links and information, adding ESC meeting materials (notes, related content); and adding calendar of environmental-related events (City and regional). Updates can be made concurrent with upcoming City website updates. https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/resident/environmental_sustainability.htm

Ocean Health Subcommittee 2021-2023 Work Plan

The Ocean Health Subcommittee Work Plan Brief covers projects related to ocean health for beaches, all water and marine life as that is the priority of this subcommittee for the City of Laguna Beach.

Proposed Projects:

- **Marine Protected Areas:** Be available for The City of Laguna Beach staff related to the decadal review the California Marine Life Protection Act.
- **Partnering:** Continue partnership with all existing partners. Examples: (1) Evaluation of partners, and (2) Visit Laguna and others that arise from City Council or City staff recommendation.
- **As Needed:** The Ocean Health Subcommittee is committed to being an available resource for all Ocean Health related issues or needs that may arise from City Council.

Waste Subcommittee 2021-2023 Work Plan

Waste Subcommittee Work Plan Brief

Reduce, re-use and/or recycle as much land, sea and air waste for the City of Laguna Beach.

Proposed Projects:

- **Solid Waste Contract:** Provide comments to the consultant's criteria for the City's next solid waste collection services franchise agreement.
- **Education:** Develop educational materials to advance public's awareness on the proliferation of waste and trash.
- **Available Resource:** Available resource for all waste-related issues or needs that may arise from City Council.