

2020 Sustainability Committee Discussion Schedule
4th Monday in January, March, May, July, September, November
1:00 p.m.
(unless otherwise noted)
As of January 28, 2020

Meeting Date	Subject	Staff Contacts
February 3 12:00 – 1:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Building Electrification Reach Code ❖ Federal Green Act ❖ Adopt 2020 Committee Calendar and 2019 Progress Report ❖ Review Sustainability Staff 2020 Work Plan 	Demian Hardman Jody London Jody London Jody London
March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Climate Action Plan Update ❖ Environmental Justice, Sustainability, and Health in General Plan ❖ Climate Emergency Resolution Update 	Jody London Will Nelson Jody London
May 25*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Municipal Facilities Design Guidelines Update ❖ Green and Healthy Home Initiative ❖ Bay Area Regional Energy Network Update 	Demian Hardman, Frank DiMassa Demian Hardman Demian Hardman
July 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Interdepartmental Task Force on Climate and Sustainability ❖ Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge 	Jody London Jody London
September 28	Topics will be identified as the year progresses, based on disposition of above items	
November 23**	Topics will be identified as the year progresses, based on disposition of above items	

At every meeting:

- ❖ Sustainability Commission Update
- ❖ Sustainability Coordinator Update

* Memorial Day, will need to find new date

** Week of Thanksgiving – find new date?

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 2019 PROGRESS REPORT

The Sustainability Committee of the Board of Supervisors (Committee) oversees implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan and related issues, and appoints at-large members of the Sustainability Commission. The Committee meets every other month; in the alternate month the County's Sustainability Commission, an advisory body, meets. At every meeting, the Committee receives reports from the leadership of the Sustainability Commission and from the County's Sustainability Coordinator.

Following is a summary of the Sustainability Committee's work in 2019.

Electrifying the County Fleet. Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation are the largest source of emissions in Contra Costa County, after emissions from large industrial facilities (close to 45%). Transportation emissions are the largest source of emissions from County operations (over 40%). The Sustainability Committee spent significant time in 2019 on issues and options for introducing more electric vehicles (EVs) into the County fleet.

At the January 28, 2019 meeting, the Committee directed that County departments should continue to pay for vehicle purchases; departments should see lower life cycle costs due to the lower operating and maintenance costs of EVs. The Committee suggested that savings from EV operations should be invested into the costs of installing EV charging infrastructure. The Committee noted that Administrative Bulletins may need to be amended to reflect that departments should purchase electric vehicles as they become available on the market.

The Committee also at the January 28, 2019 meeting directed staff to develop a master plan for EV charging infrastructure. The Committee suggested that charger use policies should consider (1) County-owned vehicles used for County business, and (2) employee-owned vehicles and the public. The Committee agreed that employees should be able to charge personal vehicles at a cost if a charger is not needed to charge a County vehicle; the priority for charging at chargers in County parking areas designated for employees should be County vehicles. At all chargers, pricing policies should increase after a certain time period to ensure vehicles are moved and chargers are available to more cars. The Committee directed staff to work with owners of properties the County leases to encourage them to install EV chargers. This should include providing information to landlords about the benefits of EV charging and the interest from County employees who work in those facilities, which data staff has from the employee survey.

At the August 1, 2019 meeting, the Committee discussed proposed amendments to existing Administrative Bulletins that pertain to County fleet. Public Works staff reported that the main bottleneck to deploying more EVs in the County fleet is charging stations. The Committee directed staff to develop a detailed plan, including costs, for EV charger deployment. The plan should address the unincorporated areas of the County, as well. The Committee directed staff to

update the Administrative Bulletins to reflect discussion about commercially or publicly available charging stations and different types of chargers for different charging needs, and incorporating EVs at a more rapid pace.

At the September 23, 2019 meeting, staff reported that Public Works provided the County Administrator's Office (CAO) with an estimate on installing more electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities. Public Works has identified 18 County building sites for installation of 92 charging stations, with an equipment hookup cost estimate of \$1.2 million. That does not include panel upgrades, trenching, and conduit. The Committee asked staff to make final the changes to the Administrative Bulletins on fleet to reflect greater reliance on EVs, and report back at the next meeting. The Committee also inquired about the status of County adoption of streamlined EV charger permitting pursuant to AB 1236, and a Ride and Drive event with EVs for County employees. Public Works staff reported at the December 9, 2019 meeting that changes are being made to Administrative Bulletins that affect vehicles.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard. The Low Carbon Fuel Standard program, operated by the California Air Resources Board, allows entities that produce fuels with a carbon intensity higher than standard levels to provide funding to entities that produce fuels with a lower than standard carbon level. At its January 28, 2019 meeting, the Committee authorized the Public Works Director to enroll and participate in the program. This can be a revenue stream for the County, which can earn credit for EV charging at County facilities.

Appointments to At-Large Seats for the Sustainability Commission. On May 6, 2019, the Committee interviewed candidates for At-Large seats on the Sustainability Commission. The Committee recommended the following appointments:

- At-Large Environmental Justice - Doria Robinson (term expires March 31, 2023)
- At-Large, Business, Seat #1 - Russell Driver (term expires March 31, 2021)
- At-Large, Business, Seat #2 - Nick Snyder (term expires March 31, 2023)
- At-Large, Community Group, Seat #2 - Howdy Goudey (term expires March 31, 2023)

The Committee also recommended at the May 6 meeting that the Board of Supervisors create a second environmental justice seat for one member representing environmental justice issues and who lives in a community that bears a disproportionate burden of exposure to pollution and impacts of a changing climate, and helps the Commission reflect the geographic diversity of the County. The Committee interviewed applicants for this seat on September 23, 2019, and recommended the appointment of Sarah Foster, with a term that expires March 31, 2021.

Building Organizational Culture. At the August 1, 2019 meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Sustainability Manager for Alameda County on how Alameda County has built an organizational culture that embraces environmental sustainability. The Committee learned that leadership from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and County Administrator propelled the work. In 2006, with direction from the Board, the CAO established cross-departmental teams to bring broad thinking. The group met quarterly to report on progress

in meeting an initial goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from County operations by 15%. The group integrated sustainability into the County's vision and used creative strategies to engage County employees and make the work fun. Alameda County continues to innovate and be a leader on embedding environmental sustainability throughout County government.

County Purchasing Program. At its August 1, 2019 meeting, the Committee received a report on the County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, which was adopted in 2008. Areas of particular success include integrated pest management, solar energy, lighting, custodial supplies, and buildings that meet the LEED green building standards. In Contra Costa County, many decisions are left to individual departments, with guidance and collaboration from the Purchasing group. The Committee discussed options for increasing environmentally preferable purchases across County operations, including updating the County's policy, fostering more collaboration between departments, and senior leadership requiring departments to purchase responsibly. The Committee requested that staff report back with recommendations for increasing collaboration between departments and modifying the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

Climate Action Plan Update. At the September 23, 2019 meeting, the Committee received a report on the status of the Climate Action Plan update. Staff reviewed the draft goals for the Climate Action Plan that were recommended by the Sustainability Commission and were being presented in draft form at community meetings in September and October. The Committee directed staff to name equity and environmental justice as goals for the Climate Action Plan. The Committee discussed how to reflect economic benefits for Contra Costa County in an economy that relies less of carbon-based fuels.

Adapting to Rising Tides studies. At the September 23, 2019 meeting, the Committee received an overview of the report prepared by students from the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy on recommendations for governance and implementation of the Adapting to Rising Tides studies. Supervisor Gioia noted the question of governance and implementation can be discussed at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The Committee expressed interest in considering together the study for West County, which was completed in 2016, and the study for East County, which is ongoing. The Committee directed staff to bring this issue back when the study for East County is complete.

MCE Deep Green. At its December 9, 2019 meeting, the Committee received a report on options for enrolling County facilities in MCE's Deep Green (100% renewable) electricity product. The Committee clarified that additional electricity costs for Deep Green participation would be borne by the County department(s) that are in the participating buildings. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board that the County enroll in MCE's Deep Green program those facilities that do not have and will not be receiving solar panels. The Committee also voted to review this decision in one year.

Employee Commute Survey. At the December 9, 2019 meeting, the Committee received the results of the County Employee Commute Survey, which was prepared as part of the ongoing

update to the County's Climate Action Plan. The survey shows that most employees drive alone and are spending 40-45 minutes on average commuting each day. Primary factors that inform current commute choices are travel time, cost, and flexibility. Two-thirds of County employees would consider alternatives to their commute, particularly telecommuting and carpools. There is also significant interest in electric vehicles and the ability to charge at County facilities.

The Committee voted to forward the report to the Board for acceptance with a recommendation that the Board consider establishing a process to address how the County can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion from employee commutes, and other alternatives to help the County achieve its climate goals.

Environmental Justice Seat for Hazardous Materials Commission. At the December 9, 2019 meeting, the Committee discussed options for the Hazardous Materials Commission to use in defining eligibility for a new environmental justice seat. The Committee agreed the representative should be someone from an impacted community, who will be able to represent community interests. The person should not have to be an expert. The Committee forwarded to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation for the Hazardous Materials Commission to add an environmental justice seat, and that the seat be filled by a layperson from a community impacted by hazardous material facilities.

Climate Emergency Resolution. At the December 9, 2019 meeting, the Committee received a referral from the Board of Supervisors regarding a County resolution declaring a climate emergency. The Committee expressed interest in seeing the County take action on those issues where it can have the greatest impact. The Committee directed the Sustainability Coordinator to develop a draft climate emergency resolution that would be reviewed by the Sustainability Commission, and come back to the Committee.

California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP). The Committee received a presentation on the CALeVIP program, a State program that is providing tens of millions of dollars to regions across the state to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure. MCE, the County's community choice aggregator, is putting together a proposal to include the MCE member jurisdictions in the 2021 CALeVIP cohort. The Committee discussed its interest in participating and worked to understand the financial commitment that is being requested. The contribution requested for Contra Costa County - the County and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority combined - is \$2.8 million over four years. The total amount that would become available for electric vehicle infrastructure in the County would be \$11.5 million over the four year term of the program. The Committee voted to bring to the Board a resolution endorsing County participation with MCE in the CALeVIP application, acknowledging that a funding source is not immediately available.