



Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force Report #2

OCTOBER 19, 2021

JOHN KOPCHIK, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT AND BRIAN BALBAS, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the work of the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force (Task Force) established by the Board of Supervisors in September 2020, via the Climate Emergency Resolution.¹ Since its first report in March 2020, the Task Force has been focused on establishing the Sustainability Fund and continuing to augment the new virtual services described in the first report, and developing strategies for engaging County departments in the best practices of the County's Green Business Program. There is significant overlap between these best practices and the ideas for further action by County departments identified by the Task Force in its first report.

History

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution (Resolution) on September 22nd, 2020 which declared a climate emergency in the County. This resolution outlined the threat to economic and social-well-being, health, safety, and security of the county, and stated that action is needed by all levels of government. The Resolution established an interdepartmental task force consisting of all Department heads, or their senior deputies, to coordinate their efforts focusing on the implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan. The Task Force was convened by the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) in partnership with the Department of Public Works (Public Works).

The Task Force raised several ideas to the Board in its first report in March 2021. The Board welcomed the report, and expressed support for continuing to provide County services and meetings online where possible after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, establishing a Sustainability Fund through annual investment (or structured as a revolving fund), as well as advocating with the State for online advisory body meetings to be permitted to continue even after shelter-in-place orders are lifted. The Board encouraged the Task Force to focus on establishing the Sustainability Fund and finding opportunities to achieve climate goals in County operations.

Sustainability Fund

Since the March report was presented, Public Works and DCD have collaborated to develop a report on how other jurisdictions have established and implemented similar funds and develop recommendations on how a Sustainability Fund could be implemented in Contra Costa County. Public Works presented these findings to the Sustainability Committee at its July 26, 2020, meeting. The Sustainability Committee agreed with staff recommendations on the Fund's structure, as well as governance. The Committee concurred that the Department of Public Works should manage the Fund, including the identification and implementation of projects, as well as tracking savings. This information should be reported annually. Additionally, the Committee agreed that the Task Force can serve as an advisory committee to the Fund. The Committee recommended that the amount requested be revised to \$2.5-\$5 million, with the initial focus on installing the first tranche of electric vehicle charging stations, an ongoing priority.

¹ Documents and presentations related to the Task Force can be found at this site: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8333/Interdepartmental-Climate-Action-Task-Fo>

Green Business Program Best Practices

Over the spring and summer, staff from Public Works, DCD, the County's Green Business Program (which is housed in the Health Services Department), and Human Resources identified areas where best practices from the Green Business Program overlapped with ideas the Task Force had generated in its first report. These best practices also align with the County's Climate Action Plan. Staff presented these opportunities to the Task Force on September 9, 2021.

The Green Business Program best practices can serve as a guide for County departments. Susan Psara from the Health Services Department outlined this in a presentation on what the Best Practices are and how departments can adopt them.² These practices include:

- Employee participation;
- Energy conservation;
- Waste reduction;
- Environmentally preferable purchasing;
- Pollution prevention;
- Reducing the use of toxics;
- Smart transportation;
- Water conservation; and
- E-waste recycling.

Public Works has developed a guide to services it provides, with contact information for staff who can help departments make improvements to their facilities.³ This is accessible for the Task Force members to use and implement within their respective departments.

At the September 9 meeting, the Task Force spent time brainstorming on additional things the County can do to address the changing climate and its impact on County employees and County residents.⁴ Task Force members discussed specific challenges their departments face in pursuing the Green Business Program best practices, as well as ideas on how to assess each department's status. Key themes that were raised included:

- Importance of reminders on how to properly participate in programs;
- Prioritizing public health issues in light of the pandemic;
- Logistical issues with green products such as recycled paper;
- Departmental resistance to change, and
- Funding.

Some ideas for moving forward included developing universal metrics and implementing them before the changes happens so that progress can more accurately be tracked, as well as increasing funding to support this transition. The Task Force members brought many perspectives to the table and made it obvious that the Green Business Program is not a one-size fits all model. There needs to be flexibility, assistance, and support across sectors in order for the overall effort to be successful.

² See Attachment 1 for presentation.

³ See Attachment 2 for Public Works services guide.

⁴ See Attachment 3 for brainstorming ideas.

Next Steps

The final question raised during the September 9 Task Force meeting was “should we hold ourselves to the Green Business Standards?” The consensus was overwhelmingly “yes.” Moving forward, the Task Force will look internally for how each department can adopt the Green Business Program Best Practices.⁵ Task force members agreed that each department will identify staff who are interested in serving as sustainability champions. Departments can receive assistance from Public Works for this implementation, and they are now aware of how to do so.

Over the next 12 to 18 months, the Task Force anticipates that it will focus on helping department adopt best practices from the Green Business Program and establishing and implementing the Sustainability Fund. Health Services will work to increasingly shed a light on the human and population level health impacts of climate change and to do so with a lens towards equity. These activities will be the basis of the Task Force’s semiannual reports to the Board.

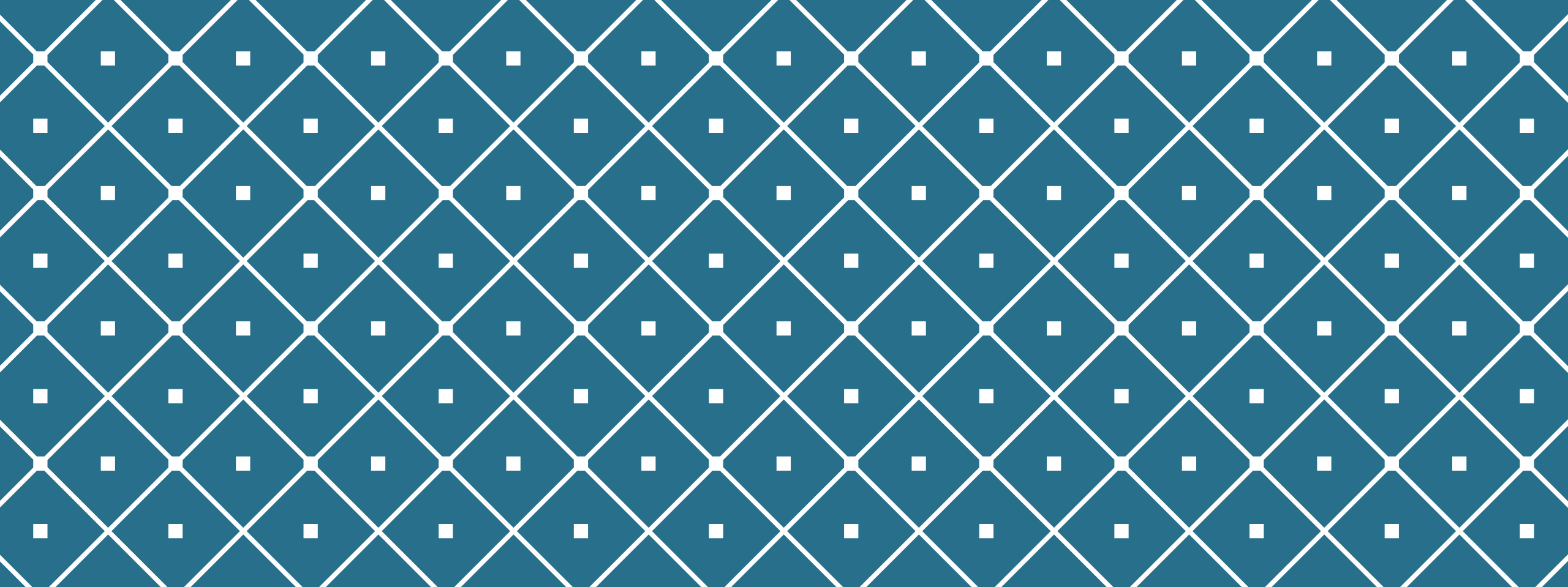
Attachments

Attachment 1: Green Business Program Best Practices Presentation

Attachment 2: Public Works Sustainability Best Practices fact sheet

Attachment 3: Task Force Brainstorming Ideas from September 9, 2021 meeting

⁵ The Task Force is recommending that departments adopt the Green Business Program best practices, not that departments be certified by the Green Business Program. Certification requires a level of detail and resources not available at this time. Additionally, the County funds the Green Business Program using fees collected through the hazardous mitigation program; these fees are intended to support business programs in the community, not necessarily government services.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Best Practices & Alignment With
Interdepartmental Climate Action
Task Force Goals

COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS

Department of Conservation and Development

- Facilitate department participation

Public Works

- Assess current procedures and policies
- Identify implementation gatekeepers and barriers (authorization, budget)
- Implement measures once authorized
- Administer Sustainability Fund

Green Business Program

- Identify highest value climate impact actions
- Provide technical language from vetted program checklists
- Support in technical capacity

Department Participation

- Prioritize sustainability action within departments
- Identify sustainability leaders
- Identify implementation barriers within department
- Assess completed and outstanding actions

CONTRA COSTA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM: PROGRAM HISTORY

- Contra Costa Green Business Program was established in 1998 in the Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Materials Programs (CCHSHMP)
- Integrated into the Pollution Prevention Program for CCHSHMP's unified inspection and enforcement program (CA Health & Safety Code)
- Member of the [California Green Business Network](#) (non-profit, statewide network of 40+ Cities and Counties)
- Supported by 23 [Program Partners](#): municipalities, regulatory agencies and utility agencies
- Recertification required every 4 years



CAGBN Map



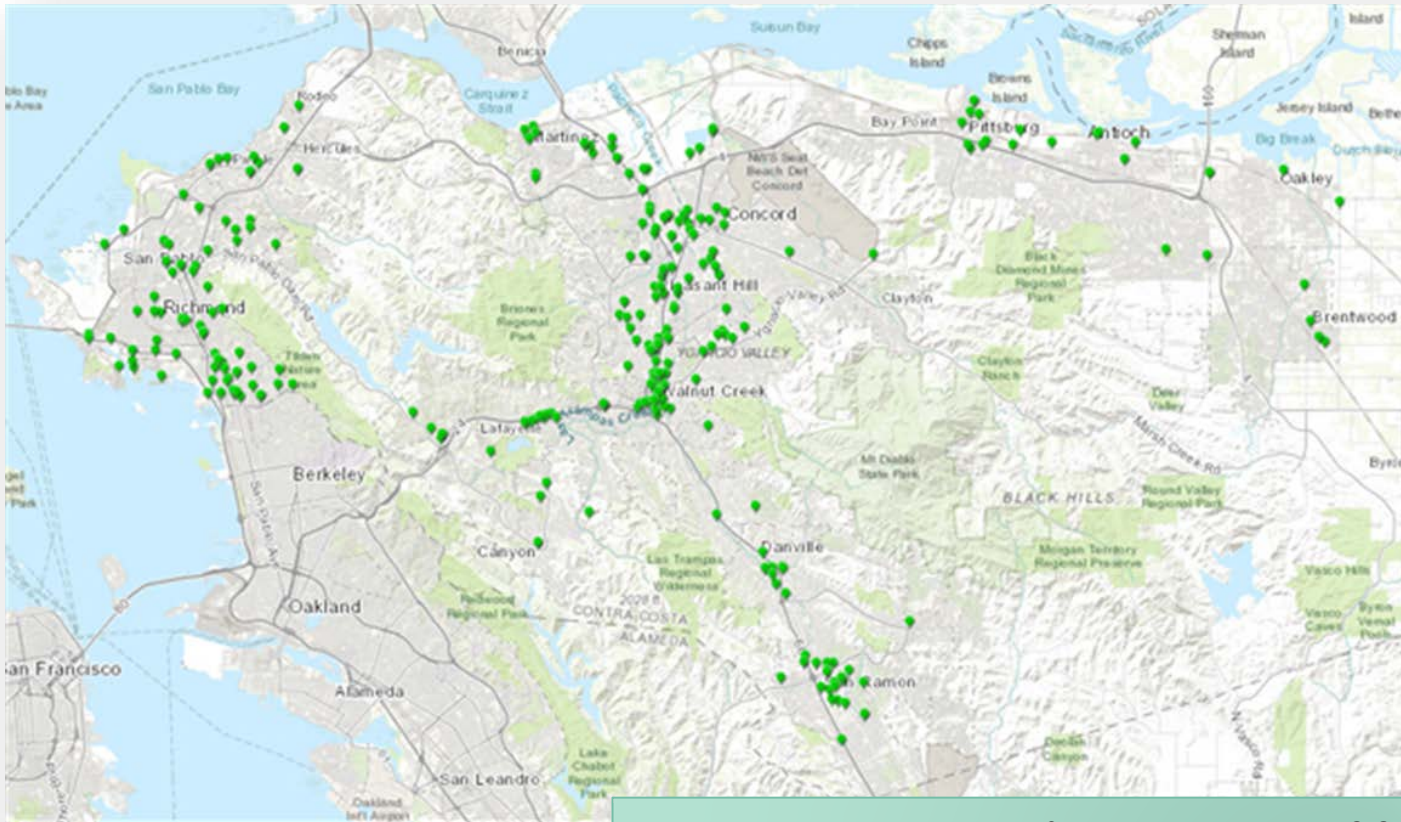
Original Logo



Current Logo

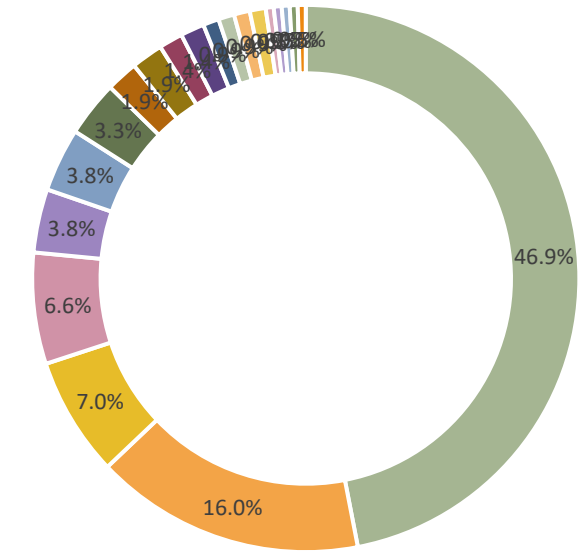


CONTRA COSTA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM: CERTIFIED BUSINESSES



Active Certified Businesses: 223
 Total Businesses Certified (all-time): 640

Active Green Businesses by Sector



- Office / Retail
- Auto Repair
- Small Manufacturer
- Construction / Remodel
- Landscape Services
- Restaurant
- Janitorial Services
- Garment Cleaning
- Printing Services
- Grocery
- Lodging
- Dental Services
- Efficiency
- Medical Services
- Schools
- Car Wash
- Food Manufacturer
- Municipal Operations
- Painting Services
- Winery

CONTRA COSTA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM: TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- Certification checklist comprised of required and elective sustainability measures
- Checklists standardized through CAGBN's Performance & Standard Committee
- 27 sector-specific full checklists
- Entry level 'Efficiency' checklist guidance for prioritizing County climate action goals



PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

13 Highest-Value Actions Recommended by the
Green Business Program

Ideas from the Climate Action Task Force's March
2021 Report



EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

Employee Engagement

Encourage employee participation in sustainability efforts by adopting at least 2 of the following practices:

- Incorporate sustainability best practices into employee onboarding processes, documents, training and development.
- Establish a "Green Team" that meets regularly to co-create and integrate sustainability practices across the organization.
- Measure and communicate progress on sustainability initiatives to keep visibility high and reinforce the idea that achievements in sustainability are meaningful for the company
- Reward sustainability champions with financial and/or non-monetary incentives



Task Force Ideas

- Set up a suggestion box on County intranet site
- Identify sustainability leaders in each departments
- Each department should create its own sustainability plan
- Interdepartmental sustainability competitions
- Employee survey regarding sustainability effort awareness

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Install Energy Efficient Lighting (LEDs)

Use energy-efficient lighting. Replace all halogen, incandescent, T-12, high-pressure sodium, and metal halide lighting with LEDs.



Public Works

- Advises departments on opportunities to change lights
- Currently updating County building standards

Task Force Ideas

- More efficient technology to heat and cool County buildings
- Install lighting and motion detection in all County buildings



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Computers on Sleep Setting

Set computer and laptop monitor settings to turn off after 10 minutes of inactivity and go into a sleep mode after 15 minutes of inactivity.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

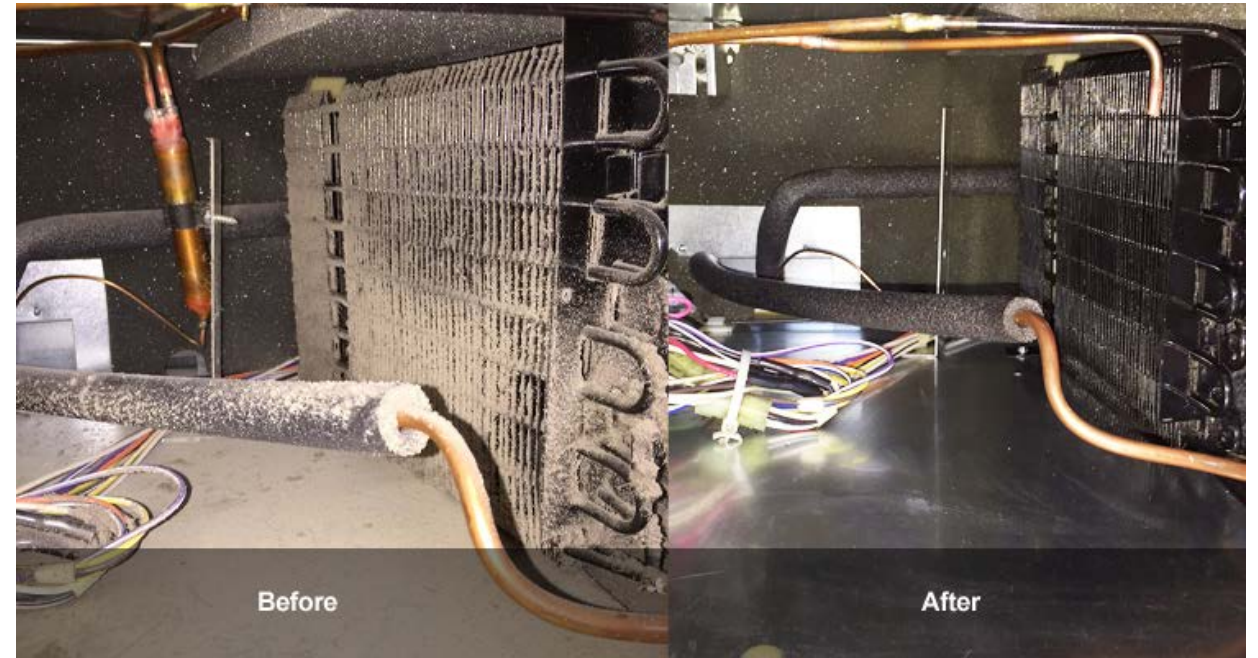
HVAC Maintenance

Complete regularly scheduled maintenance on your HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) and refrigeration systems at least twice a year. This includes: cleaning or replacing filters, inspecting damaged suction lines, addressing leaks, checking condenser and evaporator coils for proper airflow and ice build-up, and maintaining the proper function of economizers (found in AC/package units).



Public Works

- Follows manufacturers recommended maintenance schedule

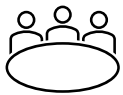


ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

Environmental Policy Statement

Have an environmental policy statement that outlines the organization's commitment to sustainability. Have the owner(s) or management sign and distribute the environmental policy to all employees.

The policy must address the following sections: waste reduction, toxins elimination, environmentally preferable purchasing, water/energy conservation, and education of employees.



Purchasing Division preparing to update County's EPP Policy.

Task Force Ideas

- Public Works should develop a menu of options that are available to departments
- Employee survey regarding sustainability effort awareness
- Educate County employees and community about County's ongoing sustainability efforts



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Universal Waste Management

Properly store and dispose of hazardous and "universal waste" as required by law. Label a storage area and notify employees.

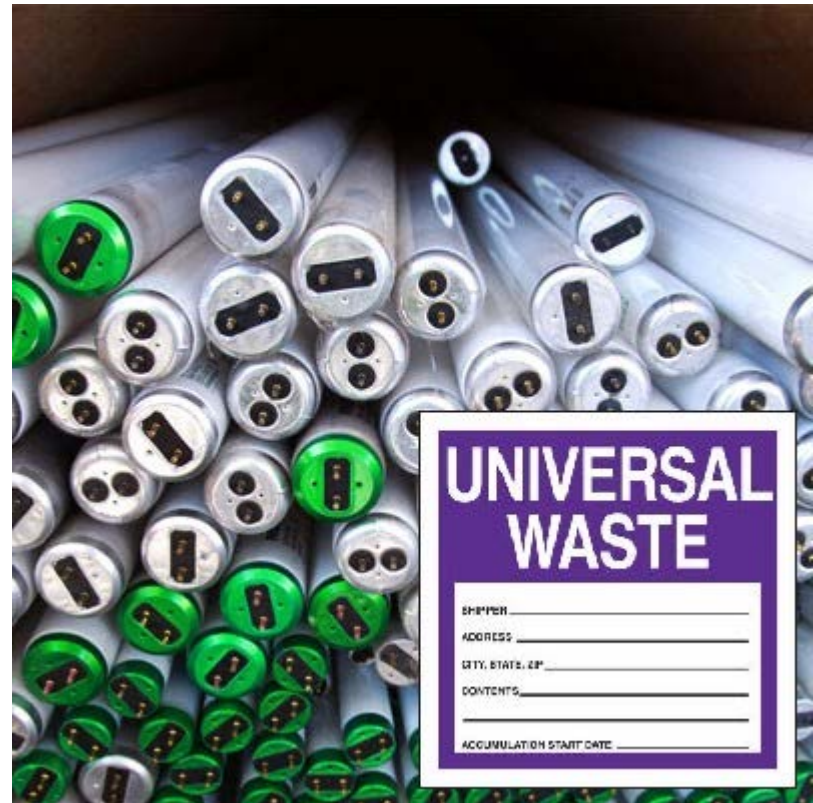
These types of waste include: fluorescent bulbs/tubes, aerosol cans, paint, electronic equipment (e-waste), and batteries. Ensure ink/laser toner cartridges are recycled.

Compliance Measure



Public Works

- Collects batteries and used toner cartridges
- Recycles computer equipment, e-waste & metals
- Fleet recycles used oil



TOXICS REDUCTION



Low-toxicity Janitorial Products

Use certified non-toxic laundry, cleaning and building maintenance products in non-aerosol containers such as Green Seal certified, Environmental Working Group, with an 'A' or 'B' rating, Safer Choice, SF Approved, EcoLogo.



Public Works

- County is a Green Cleaning Agency



WASTE REDUCTION

Recycling & Composting Container Labels

Set up easily accessible waste stations with landfill, compost, and recycle bins co-located. Add clearly marked educational signage.



Public Works

- Collects bottles and cans at some central County Offices
- Recycles and shreds office paper

Task Force Ideas

- Ensure departments are implementing existing programs such as composting and recycling.
- Modify default printing (margins, double-side)
- Refillable ink cartridges
- Paperless systems (cloud-based, DocuSign)



Photo: Contra Costa Water District, Concord

WASTE REDUCTION

Eliminate Styrofoam

Eliminate the use of polystyrene, such as Styrofoam in breakrooms, food/beverage to-go ware, packaging materials, and during any company events.

Compliance Measure

2019 County Styrofoam Ban



SMART TRANSPORTATION

Employee Commute

Offer employees (3+) commuting options:



Task Force Ideas

- Electric bus operation during peak work times
- Satellite offices in East and West County

- Offer a Commuter Benefits Program to enable employees to use pre-tax deduction under IRS code 132(f) for transit, vanpool or biking costs.
- Offer a guaranteed ride home program which provides a free or low-cost ride home in cases of emergency for employees that bike to work.
- **Offer telecommuting opportunities and/or flexible schedules so workers can avoid heavy traffic commutes.**
- Encourage bicycling to work by offering rebates on bicycles bought for commuting or provide employees a stipend or subsidy for bicycle maintenance.
- ☑ **Provide secure bicycle storage for staff and customers.**
 - Set aside carpool/vanpool/rideshare parking spaces.
 - **Offer a shuttle service to and from bus, train, and/or light rail stops.**
 - Have a bike kit for employees who may have bicycle emergencies.
 - Offer electric vehicle recharge ports for visitors and employees.
- ☑ Offer lockers and showers for staff who walk, jog or bike to work.
 - Provide one or more company bicycles for employee use.
 - Ensure that at least 20% of staff walk, bike, or carpool to get to work.
 - Subsidize a shared bike membership for employees.

SMART TRANSPORTATION

Electrify County Fleet

Convert company vehicles to low emission vehicles such as electric, hybrid, natural gas or alternative fuels.



Admin bulletins regarding fleet currently being updated to designate EVs as default new or replacement fleet vehicles.

Task Force Ideas

- Department Electric Vehicle Adoption
- Use County purchasing power to help employees buy EVs for personal use
- Install more public-facing EV charging stations
- Hybrid vehicle adoption for long routes or trips

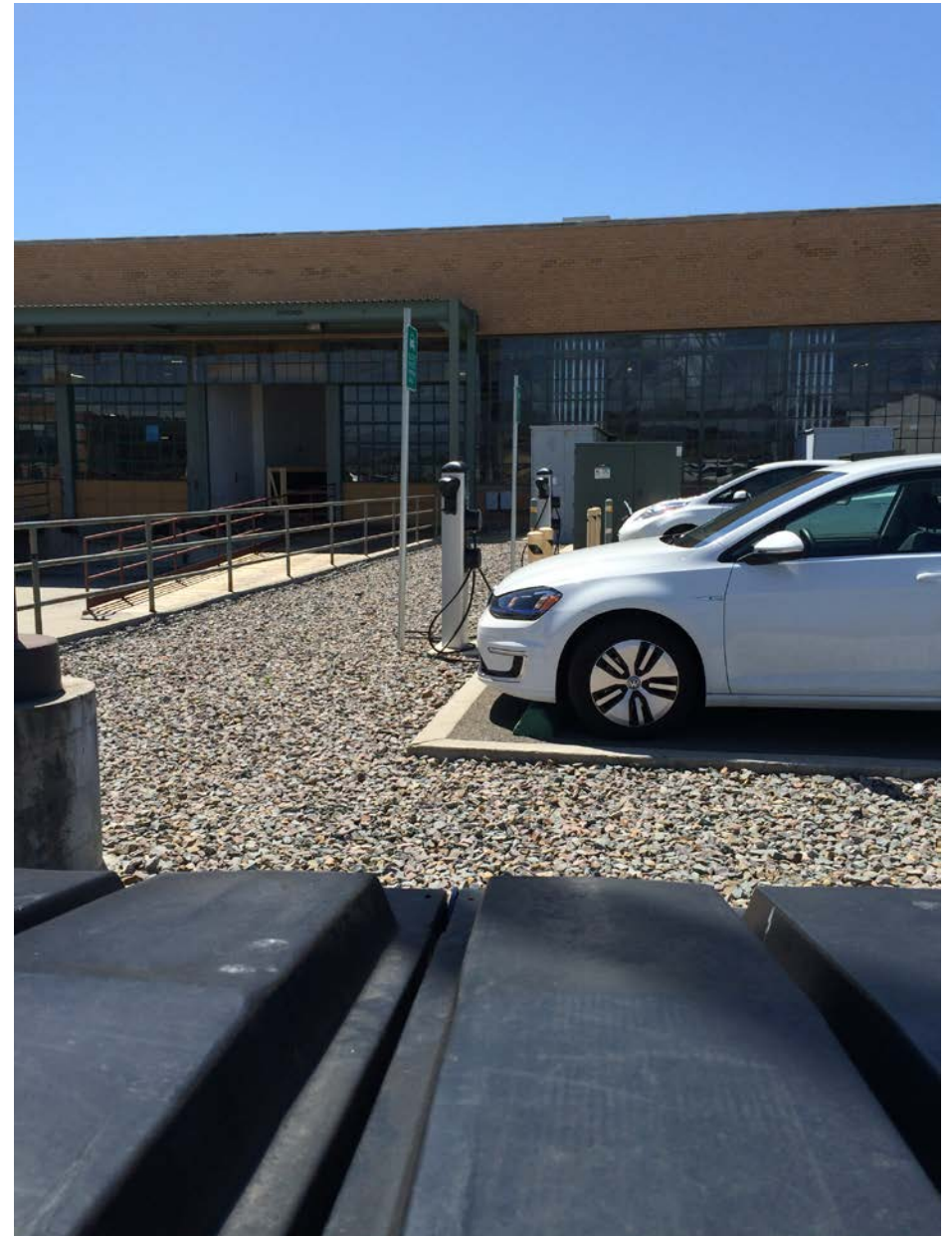


Photo: Sun Power, Richmond

WATER CONSERVATION

Drought Tolerant Landscaping

Use plant material that is California native or drought-tolerant for 75% of landscaping.



Public Works

- Drought tolerant landscaping installed at Pittsburg Health Center
- Recycled water is used when able to water landscaping by truck

Task Force Ideas

- Drought resistant landscaping
- Low-flow water fixtures in all County facilities



Photo: Walnut Creek Ford

WATER CONSERVATION

Efficient Indoor Water Fixtures

Replace all existing faucet aerators and showerheads with low flow fixtures.

- Bathroom aerators should not exceed 0.5 GPM
- Kitchen sinks should not exceed 1.5 GPM
- Showerheads with flow rates higher than 1.8 GPM should be replaced with high-efficiency showerheads with rates of 1.5 GPM or less.
- Retrofit toilets flushing at higher than 1.6 gallons

OR targeted overall water reduction

- ex. Reduce overall water consumption 20%



Public Works

- Water efficient fixtures installed as toilets and faucets are replaced



Susan Psara

Susan.Psara@cchealth.org

Hazardous Waste Reduction Manager

*Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous
Materials Programs*

Contra Costa Green Business Program

www.GreenBusinessCA.org/ContraCostaCounty

QUESTIONS?

Public Works Departmental Services

Your Partner on Sustainability Best Practices



Energy Efficiency

Need help with your building's energy efficiency? The County's Energy Manager can help you evaluate your energy use and discuss opportunities to reduce energy consumption and reduce your operating costs. Energy efficiency opportunities include renewable energy (solar), energy storage systems, LED lighting retrofits, heating and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment replacement, and building control system adjustments. Our Energy Manager also has knowledge of grant funding and rebates to help implementation.

For more information on energy efficiency improvements for your Department, **call the County's Energy Manager at (925) 957-2473.**

Recycling and Composting

BATTERY RECYCLING

In response to legislation banning the disposal of household batteries in landfills, the County has expanded the Office Recycling Program to collect batteries generated in the workplace. This program is exclusively for recycling of batteries used in County equipment. For more information on how to implement battery recycling in your Department, click on the link provided below.

<http://insidecontracosta.org/632/Battery-Recycling-Program>

If you have any specific questions about the Battery Recycling Program, please **call the County's Recycling Center at (925) 335-3665.** If you would like to receive additional battery

recycling posters for your office, you can either **print online or call the County's Recycle Center at (925) 335-3665.**

PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING

Public Works (PW) Recycle crews have regular routes in County buildings to pick up paper and cardboard only. Please **call County Recycling Center at (925) 335-3665** for additional stands, require a special pick up, or wish to make any changes to your recycling pick up.

BOTTLES, CANS, AND METALS RECYCLING

PW Recycle crews will also pick-up bottles, cans, and metals at some central county offices. Bottles and Cans recycling is funded through the Department of Conservation & Development. Please **call County Recycling Center at (925) 335-3665** for more information about Bottle & Can Recycling.

CONFIDENTIAL SHRED AND RECYCLING SHREDED MATERIALS

PW Recycling crews will pick up confidential documents at your office and take them to the Recycle Center to be shredded. All of the employees who shred documents go through a background check. We can furnish you with Certificates of Destruction as needed. Confidential shred needs to be placed in the green or orange-colored bags with tags that identify the org number; we can also provide you with carts for special jobs. Staples and paper clips are fine but there is an additional charge for removal of larger metal or plastic fasteners, such as binder clips.

If your unit shreds its own documents, place any strip-cut paper in a plastic bag inside the regular white recycling bag. For more information on confidential shreds and recycling shredded materials, **please call County Recycling Center at (925) 335-3665.**

SURPLUS FURNITURE/FURNITURE RE-USE

Moving crews will pick-up your surplus furniture; this will require a [Corrigo](#) work request. All items accepted by PW Surplus must be accompanied by a [Surplus Property form](#). This form is required by the Auditor/Controller. If you need a desk, printer, filing cabinet, or other furniture or supplies for your County office, stop by and see what is available at the **Recycle/Surplus Center at 4785 Blum Road**, Monday through Thursday from 8AM-2PM, closed 11:45AM-12:30PM. We will be happy to deliver any furniture that you select.

RECYCLING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Due to issues of security, the procedure for recycling computer equipment has been revised. According to [Administrative Bulletin 517.3](#), all information must be removed from any storage devices before sending to the County Recycling Center. In the case of hard drives, they must be physically destroyed or have been "scrubbed" with County approved software. (Check with DoIT for software)

In addition, a sticker should be placed in plain site on the device to visibly display that information removal has been performed.

Public Works Departmental Services

Your Partner on Sustainability Best Practices



Departments can print their own stickers, however they must be uniform in appearance. The label should be 1 inch by 2-5/8 inch in size (Avery label # 5160 or similar)

Labels should be white with black print and read: ***This device is certified to have all County information and/or proprietary software removed.***

COMPOSTING/RECYCLING ORGANIC WASTE

AB1383 requires that the County divert organic waste from the landfill. Special collection bins (green liner) have been placed in County buildings. Custodial Services collects the organic waste and disposes of it to an organic waste handler. For more information on composting and recycling organic waste, **please contact Department of Conservation & Development at (925) 655-2912 or Custodial Services at (925) 313-7096.**

Water Conservation

DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

With our current climate conditions of increasing warmth and less moisture, more County Departments may be interested in replacing high-maintenance lawns, which require a lot of water and fertilizers, with drought-tolerant plants. These can be anything from ground covers to a field of meadow flowers to stately oak trees – they all provide the benefits of lower water needs, reduced maintenance requirements, restored soil health, increased diversity that attracts birds and butterflies, as well as the aesthetic beauty of blending in with the natural landscapes.

If you are interested in doing a turf conversion project or other landscape conversion to drought-tolerant landscaping, **please contact Facilities Services/Grounds at (925) 313-7082.**

LOW-FLOW PLUMBING FIXTURES

Facilities Services replaces plumbing fixtures when broken and need replacing with low-flow plumbing fixtures. Any new buildings are fitted with low-flow plumbing fixtures to help conserve water and meet current building codes. If you are interested in changing plumbing fixtures to low-flow to do your part in water conservation, please **contact Facilities Services at (925) 313-7082.**

Electrifying the County Fleet

ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING STATIONS

Ready to switch your Department vehicle fleet to electric? Transportation accounts for the majority of greenhouse gas emitted by County operations. Let's work together to get your fleet electrified. **Contact our Fleet Services Division at (925) 313-7072.** We have many zero and low emission vehicle options with excellent range capacity.

If you need charging infrastructure to convert to electric vehicles, **contact our Energy Manager at (925) 957-2473.** We will work with you to provide the necessary infrastructure to electrify your fleet.

Procurement

PURCHASING

The County's Purchasing Division is updating its Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy. If

you need assistance in procuring or guidance on sustainable products or services, **contact the Purchasing Division at (925) 957-2499.**

Green Cleaning

TOXINS IN THE WORKPLACE

The County is considered a Green Cleaning Agency. Green Cleaning refers to using cleaning methods and products with environmentally friendly ingredients and procedures which are designed to preserve health and environment quality. Green Cleaning techniques and products avoid the use of products which contain toxic chemicals and other conditions. Green Cleaning can also describe the way industrial cleaning products are manufactured, packaged, and distributed. If the manufacturing process is environmentally friendly and the products are biodegradable, then the term "Green" or "Eco-Friendly" may apply.

If you have any questions regarding cleaning products used by Custodial Services, **please call (925) 313-7096.** Please do not purchase or bring your own cleaning products to the workplace. All chemicals brought into County buildings must be tracked and have a Safety Data Sheet.

No more Polystyrene

POLYSTYRENE FOOD WARE

Did you know that Contra Costa adopted policies that ban the use of polystyrene food ware at County facilities? If you need ideas on alternative food ware to polystyrene, **please contact the County's Watershed Group at (925) 313-2236.**

ATTACHMENT 3: IDEAS GENERATED AT SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting participants brainstormed using an online whiteboard regarding things the County can do to address climate change and its impacts on County employees and County residents. Meeting participants also broke into small groups to talk about potential implementation barriers and how to assess progress. These ideas are presented below.

Things The County Can Do to Address the Changing Climate and Its Impacts on COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Employee Commute

Support programs that help to support staff who use alternative commute options - incentives for car pooling, etc.

Continue to support "telecommuting" and remote meetings, both staff meetings and committee meetings. (*many people offered support for telecommuting.*)

County-supplied shuttles from BART to downtown Martinez to encourage carless commutes.

Employee Education

Have community recycling awareness week (bulbs, batteries, paints and aerosols).

For the web site include what the County is already doing. A graphical checklist for Contra Costa County the organization.

Continue to raise awareness with staff, the public and agencies we work with.

Electric Vehicles

Grants for employees to buy electric cars.

Increase charging stations.

Add charging stations to County building parking lots.

More prolific Charging Station distribution.

Install more car charging sites.

Open the charging stations at County facilities to public use.

Employee Retirement Fund

Ensure that CCCERA isn't invested in any fossil fuel companies, and they have a green investment strategy.

Employee Participation

Have drives by department to increase awareness for recycling bottles, batteries, etc.

Hold Department competitions annually on progress.

Create friendly competition with other counties about being more green. This would be similar to the County departmental competition for the holidays.

Visibly benchmark Contra Costa organization to other Bay Area Counties.

Dedicate Earth Day for County staff, on a volunteer basis, to go out and educate the community and importance of going green.

Reduce Solid Waste

Single-use plastic ban for County operations.

Incorporate County employee recycling/waste reduction best practices into onboarding training.

Include more types of paper in recycling program.

Continue to decrease paper use.

Let's go paperless! Eliminate paper driven workflows. Use electronic options.

Reduce storage space utilization to a greater degree.

Leadership

Support from senior management.

Fund the Sustainability Fund.

Communication

Use dept PIO's to be a group working on messaging, flyers, et.al.

Use the all-employee email system to send out green reminders (proper recycling, green purchasing, etc.).

County Facilities

Convert gas water heaters in County buildings to electric.

Increase solar panels/farms at other county locations ie parking lots etc when retrofitting buildings, install heat pumps to replace heating, air conditioning, and heating water.

Don't forget about strategies that help sequester carbon out of the atmosphere. We need to both decrease greenhouse gas emissions as well as enhance removal of those gases from the atmosphere. (The half-life of some of those gases in the atmosphere is over 100 years)

Things The County Can Do to Address the Changing Climate and Its Impacts On RESIDENTS

Land Use

Increase tree replacement and tree planting requirements in all residential development projects.

Keep open space growth at a minimum so it is not fueling fires.

Incentives to plant CA native and drought-tolerant plants for commercial and residential.

Education

Hold regular community fairs with lots of tables and displays from other residents with their innovative ideas in their homes.

Educate residents about existing programs.
Better messaging on the importance to conserve water and recycle waste.
infographic demonstrating the County's energy source breakdown and the average resident's energy source breakdown.
Solar panel testimonials from residents for residents.
Mandates to be more sustainable...otherwise people will think it is a choice.

County Services and Leadership

Be a model agency related to sustainability.
Add recycle receptacles throughout the County.
Consider green building projects as new facilities are built
Crack down on polluting companies and reward more sustainable ones.
Offer paperless systems for County Services.

Active Transportation

Add more bike lanes.
Start a public bike/scooter program,

Potential Barriers, Assessing Progress

The participants broke into small groups to discuss barriers that might prevent their own departments from moving to adopt the Best Practices from the Green Business Program, as well as ideas on how to assess progress. Key points are provided below.

- Waste Reduction (paper/plastic/electronic/electricity)
- Feasibility of implementation based on monetary constraints (just don't have the resources)
- Enthusiasm from staff within departments
- Concerns with practicality and effectiveness of "green" products (e.g. sanitation during COVID)
- Targeting electric vehicles, more charging as well as more electric fleet vehicles
- The challenge of "where to start?"
- Utilizing custodial staff, both for their knowledge, but also for implementation
- Identify metrics before the change happens; that way it can be accurately tracked
- Internal misalignments and lack of employee cooperation
- Require departmental report out
- Limited infrastructure (sprayer for sink to rinse containers, etc.)