

**SUSTAINABILITY STAFF REPORT FOR
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
May 15, 2023**

Key activities since the Sustainability Committee's meeting on March 20, 2023, are listed below.

DCD Sustainability Staff

- Sustainability staff organized and hosted a bonus session of the Sustainability Exchange on March 23, 2023. This session focused on planning for Bike to Work Day, which is May 18. The Q2 Sustainability Exchange meeting on May 4, 2023, was a field trip to the Mangini Ranch Educational Preserve, a project of Save Mount Diablo. The meeting was attended by staff from several cities and County departments, as well as Recycle Smart. The Sustainability Exchange is a quarterly gathering for local government staff in Contra Costa County who work on sustainability issues to network and learn from one another. The Sustainability Exchange is open to anyone who reports to an elected Board or Council.
- Sustainability staff hosted an Energy Efficiency Collaborative meeting for Contra Costa County city and town staff on April 6, 2023. The meeting included a presentation from the Federal Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program requirements.
- Sustainability staff published a new webpage titled "Sustainability Resources." The webpage houses a list of local, state, and federal incentive programs available to Contra Costa County residents and businesses. Incentive topics include energy efficiency and all-electric buildings, solar panels, battery storage systems, water efficiency, and transportation. This resource is a topic on the agenda for today's meeting.
- Staff submitted a FY 2024 Community Project Funding request to the County's congressional delegation for submission to the federal Appropriations Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. This request seeks partial funding of the Contra Costa County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.
- Staff continued working on the All-Electric Roadmap, which is an agenda item at this meeting.
- Staff continues to work with a coalition of local governments and CivicWell to secure passage of [SB 511](#), a priority in the County's State legislative platform that would require the California Air Resources Board to prepare inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for use by cities and counties. Sustainability Coordinator Jody London testified at the bill's first hearing, before the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, on April 19. The bill was approved unanimously and is now at the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The County's Economic Development team organized a meeting on March 28 between several staff from the departments of Conservation and Development and Public Works with a number of researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, to identify areas of possible collaboration.
- Sustainability staff continue to monitor state and federal grant opportunities, and prepare to apply for projects that will support key climate goals around all-electric buildings, active transportation, sea level rise, climate resilience, and Just Transition.

- Sustainability staff are coordinating an interdepartmental working group that is planning an application for a planning grant for Bay Point from the Transformative Climate Communities program sponsored by the California Strategic Growth Council. The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution. The City of Richmond recently received a \$35 million implementation grant through this program. Staff will seek approval from the Board for a planning grant application for Bay Point prior to the August 1, 2023 deadline.
- The Sustainability Team is pleased to welcome Emily Groth as a Planner I. Emily was previously a Climate Corps Fellow. She will be splitting her time between sustainability and the County's Water Agency.
- Staff facilitated a workday for the Green Government Group (G3) Champions at the Martinez Waterfront, in partnership with the Friends of Alhambra Creek, on April 13.
- Staff published the quarterly [*Sustainability in Contra Costa County*](#) newsletter.
- Climate Emergency Resolution:
 - *Just Transition*. The County is in the process of accepting a \$750,000 Community Project Funding (CPF) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop a Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan, a long-term strategic planning process. The Sustainability Committee will hold a special meeting on this topic on June 29, 2023.
 - *Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force*. The Task Force reported to the Board of Supervisors on March 21.

Public Works

- Public Works continues implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan and the Active Transportation Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Public Works has submitted a number of grant applications for projects that meet goals of the County's Active Transportation and Vision Zero policies. Two Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant applications were awarded to install two-way cycle tracks (physically separated cycle tracks that allow bicycle movement in both directions on one side of the road) within Impacted Communities. The County received \$14.4M in ATP Cycle 6 funding. The first project is the San Pablo Avenue Complete Street/Bay Trail Gap Closure Project that is located between Rodeo and Crockett. The second project is the Pacifica Avenue Safe Routes to School Project, which runs from Port Chicago Highway to Driftwood Drive. Both projects are expected to be constructed around 2027. The County also received ATP Cycle 5 funds for the North Bailey Active Transportation Project, which will also install a two-way cycle track along Bailey Road between the SR4 westbound onramp and Willow Pass Road. This project is presently in Design and is expected to be constructed in 2026. Award of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant applications to further the Vision Zero Action Plan were announced on March 10. The County received \$4.7M in HSIP funding for the following projects:
 - Countywide Guardrail Upgrades – Phase 2,
 - Appian Way at Fran Way Pedestrian Crosswalk Enhancements,

- Walnut Boulevard Bike Safety Improvements,
- Byron Highway Safety Improvements,
- Vasco Road Safety Improvements, and
- Deer Valley Road Traffic Safety Improvements.
- Public Works is currently preparing a grant application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal grant program to construct five “Tier One” priority projects identified in the County’s Vision Zero Action Plan. “Tier One” corresponds to the top ten projects recommended in the Vision Zero Action Plan. The projects include a variety of safety improvements and complete streets features to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the County’s road network, with a focus on projects located within historically underserved communities. The application is due on July 10. If awarded, the projects would be constructed by 2028.
- Public Works is partnering with the cities of Pittsburg and Antioch to carry out the Delta De Anza Multimodal Trail Safety Improvements project, which was awarded \$4.4M in One Bay Area Grant 3 funds. This project will provide a series of safety and operational enhancements to the multi-use trail. Improvements within unincorporated Bay Point will include crossing enhancements such as rectangular rapid flashing beacons, which will alert drivers of pedestrians crossing the road. The City of Pittsburg is the lead application for this project. Construction for this project is set for 2025.
- Public Works has been continuing to pursue opportunities to install bikeways after surface treatment of roadways through reconfiguration of roadway striping. See attached photos of the revamped Blum Road in Martinez. The County plans to install bikeways as part of the 2023 Surface Treatment project along Kevin Drive in Bay Point and along Jones Road, Las Juntas Road, and Walden Road near the Contra Costa Centre.
- Public Works has completed the design phase of the first Measure X-funded EV Charger project at 30 Muir (26 charging ports). Once permits are issued, the project will be assigned to a Job Order Contractor for Construction. 20 additional sites have been evaluated for EV charger installation, 12 of which are priority sites that are estimated to begin construction this calendar year, representing an additional 75 charging ports.
- Public Works is seeking state and federal funding for Direct Current Fast Chargers at various county facilities, in partnership with Electric Vehicle Charging Solutions (EVCS). Funding opportunities include:
 - CEC – FAST program - \$6M (~10 sites, 8 ports per site) – Level 3
 - CEC – Chill 2 program - \$4M (~6 sites, up to 40 ports per site) – Level 2
 - Federal – CFI program - \$30M (~20 sites, we are exclusively targeting libraries) – Level 3

Note: No out-of-pocket costs required from County for project implementation.
- Public Works partnered with Urban Tilth and The Watershed Project for the North Richmond Watershed Connections Project (NRWC) with a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. The NRWC Project has 3 components:
 - The Fred Jackson Way 1st Mile/Last Mile Urban, a complete streets project including the planting of street trees completed by Transportation Engineering;
 - The construction of a rain garden (linear bioretention basin) by Urban Tilth; and

- The Clean and Green Adopt a Tree Program and Walkable Watersheds component being completed by The Watershed Project (TWP). TWP is planting trees in the neighborhood, and creating a route through the neighborhood that has wayfinding signs, art, interpretive elements and a storytelling element.

Health

- Both Dan Peddycord, Climate and Health Policy Officer, and Luz Gomez, Manager of the Community Wellness Program, retired at the end of March. The Health Department is in the process of filling their positions. Luckily, Ms. Gomez continues to work on climate and health policy issues as Chair of the Sustainability Commission.

Ongoing

- Staff participated in professional learning opportunities regarding environmental justice, carbon sequestration, climate resilience, communication and facilitation strategies, race and equity, and related.
- Staff participated in regional activities.

Attachments

Photo from Sustainability Exchange
Sustainability in Contra Costa County Newsletter



G3 CHAMPIONS 4/13/2023

[View this email in your browser](#)



Sustainability in Contra Costa County

Spring 2023 | Volume 9



Creek near Mount Diablo

Welcome! This quarterly newsletter focuses on the County's efforts to address climate change and create cleaner and healthier communities. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, subscribe [here](#).

What's in This Issue:

- Apply to Join the Habitat Conservancy Public Advisory Committee by April 5th!
- All-Electric Trucks Join Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Fleet
- Mark Your Calendars: Bike to Work Day Is May 18th
- Check Out the County's 2023-2024 Interim Climate Action Work Plan
- North Richmond Mobile Tool Library Celebrates Grand Opening
- Reflecting on 10 Years of BayREN

- Switch to a Sustainable Commute with 511 Contra Costa Incentives

Apply to Join the Habitat Conservancy Public Advisory Committee by April 5th!

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy is seeking four individuals or organization representatives to serve on the [Public Advisory Committee](#) (PAC) to provide input on the implementation of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan (the Plan) to the Conservancy's Governing Board. The current vacancies are for:

- 1 private permit seeker from the development community
- 1 representative from the conservation community
- 1 private landowner and/or agriculturalist (or their representatives)
- 1 suburban or rural resident from the Plan Area

The PAC usually meets the second Thursday of every third month. [Applications](#) are due by **April 5, 2023, at 5 p.m.**

Interested in helping to advance the Plan's conservation strategy? The Conservancy recently opened its 2023 cycle of the **Science and Research Grant Program!** The program generally funds research related to natural community enhancement/creation/restoration techniques, species and natural communities within the Preserve System, and management or monitoring strategies. More information and potential pilot research ideas are available [here](#). Proposals must be submitted by Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 5 p.m.



Mount Diablo from Kreiger Peak, courtesy of the ECCC Habitat Conservancy



All-Electric Trucks Join Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Fleet

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) has been exploring the capabilities of two new additions to its fleet, all-electric Rivian pickup trucks. In alignment with the County's movement towards a zero-emission fleet, CCCFPD purchased the trucks and has been testing them in support roles to determine for what applications they are appropriate within the Fire District.

Currently, the Rivians serve in the Training and Fire Prevention divisions and provide a variety of unique features suited to CCCFPD's needs. The trucks' range is over 300 miles on a charge, which is important given the size of the county. With the ability to raise the suspension six inches, the trucks will be able to provide support during wildfire incidents even in difficult terrain.

One notable feature is the amount of accessory power supply the trucks offer. CCCFPD has used this remote power supply to support drone operations in the field. While charging six drone batteries, an iPad, and a laptop and operating a large screen television for two hours, the vehicle only lost two percent of its battery supply. Looking forward, CCCFPD is working to equip the trucks with emergency lights and sirens before the summer, so staff can test the impact of these features on the batteries.



The Rivians mark the first all-electric vehicles in CCCFPD's fleet, enhancing CCCFPD's abilities and providing a valuable learning experience as the County looks to grow its number of electric fleet vehicles.

Mark Your Calendars: Bike to Work Day Is May 18th

The 29th annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day is right around the corner! Get into the spirit of National Bike Month by **riding your bike to work on Thursday, May 18**. [Pledge to Ride](#) for the chance to win prizes and keep an eye out for the latest information on [Energizer Stations](#) near you to receive snacks and a free tote bag. In preparation, check out some [tips for commuting by bike](#).

Looking for other ways to show your cycling spirit? Check out [Bike to Wherever Day events](#) happening across the Bay Area throughout the month of May.



Check Out the County's 2023-2024 Interim Climate Action Work Plan

As the County continues work updating its Climate Action Plan (CAP) in parallel with the County's General Plan, the County will be focusing its climate action work on a few key areas identified in the [Interim Climate Action Work Plan for 2023-2024](#). Some of County's goals include

- Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County
- Increase electrical grid resiliency
- Low-carbon building materials and strategies
- Increase percentage of electric vehicles in Contra Costa County fleet
- Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels
- County investments support climate equity

This work will build on accomplishments made through the 2021-2022 Interim Climate Action Work Plan. Accomplishments in 2022 included adopting an All-Electric Ordinance and an Active Transportation Plan, launching the Green Government Group (G3) Champions, and submitting materials to receive a \$750,000 grant from the U.S.



Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the development of a Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan. The County is looking forward to continuing to implement these initiatives and working on new projects this year.

North Richmond Mobile Tool Library Celebrates Grand Opening

The [North Richmond Mobile Tool Library](#) (MTL) celebrated its Grand Opening on January 21! As an extension of the [Richmond Tool Library](#), the MTL loans carpentry, gardening, power, and hand tools for free to North Richmond residents, as well as non-profits and public agencies serving North Richmond, to support beautification projects across the community. The project is jointly funded by the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County.

About 100 participants attended the event, including representatives from the Office of Mayor Martinez, Supervisor Gioia, and Assemblymember Wicks. Attendees enjoyed a bike repair workshop led by Rich City Rides, birdhouse building with Rebuilding Together East Bay-North, screen-printed t-shirts by MTL staff, and a variety of community resource tables.

The MTL is now open for residents on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church at 1401 Fred Jackson Way. It is also available to non-profits by reservation for community beautification events. [Learn more or become a member.](#)



Reflecting on 10 Years of BayREN

For the last ten years, the [Bay Area Regional Energy Network](#) (BayREN) has been providing rebates, funding, technical assistance, education, and more to support an equitable and more energy efficient Bay Area. BayREN's six programs offer services to residents, businesses, and local governments across the nine Bay Area counties to help cut energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Wondering how to take advantage of what BayREN offers? [Start here](#).

BayREN launched in 2013 as one of the first Regional Energy Networks (RENs) in California, a transformational idea that was years in the making. The RENs enable more communities to access energy efficiency programming; provide a comprehensive, region-specific approach; and facilitate collaboration among local jurisdictions. With four RENs across California, and another in the making, 27.5 million people have benefitted from energy programming designed with their communities in mind. Check out a reflection on [The Birth of Regional Energy Networks](#) by Contra Costa County's Sustainability Coordinator Jody London.



Switch to a Sustainable Commute with 511 Contra Costa Incentives

Thinking about carpooling, taking transit, biking, or walking to work? Now is the time to make the switch with [incentives](#) from 511 Contra Costa! Check out some of the available offers:

- [\\$150 - \\$500 cash rebates](#) for a new electric bicycle
- [\\$25 gift card](#) for switching one drive-alone commute trip a week to carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, bicycling, walking, or working from home
- [\\$25 Clipper card](#) for trying transit to/from work or campus

E[⚡]bike
Rebate Program



\$500 or **\$300** or **\$150**

If you're 18+ and live in Contra Costa, **You Qualify!**

Your income and zip code determine the amount. 511cc.org/rebate

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Sustainability in Contra Costa County Volume 9

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