



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of December 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Present: Richard Godfrey, Nate Ivy, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, Shreya Ramachandran, John Rennels, Shiva Swaminathan

Absent: Paul Kelley

Oral Communications: None

Approval of Minutes:

- Special meeting minutes of October 17, 2019. Motion to approve with correction by Commissioner Rennels; second by Commissioner Ivy. Minutes approved unanimously.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Staff Updates

- The Bay Area SunShares Program had high levels of participation this year. Unfortunately, Petersen Dean chose not to participate as a contractor, but Skytech Solar and Solar Technologies participated.
- The City's Climate Corps Fellow is working on a video project that will highlight Fremont residents who are working to go carbon neutral.
- Earth Day 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, with the Earth Day Network selecting the theme this year of Climate Action. The City and Washington Hospital are planning their annual Earth Day event for Saturday, April 18th, and LEAF will have its Earth Day event on Sunday, April 26th. The City plans to highlight other Earth Day activities happening in the community (such as cleanups, fairs, etc.) as it learns about them to show its support. StopWaste is also working with cities throughout the County to help come up with a larger Climate Action marketing and outreach strategy that may coincide with Earth Day.
- Lori Marra of Environmental Services reported that the new residential cart rollout is now complete. Not every apartment complex have yet received all bins; they are all required to by County law, but only about 60% currently do. For commercial facilities, any business producing more than (1) 4 yard dumpster of waste must also have a greenwaste receptacle.
- Community Development Director Dan Schoenholz recognized student

Commissioner Shreya Ramachandran for the recent coverage of her work on water conservation by ABC 7.

5.2 Commissioner Announcements

- Richard Godfrey
 - Chair Godfrey mentioned the continued interest from the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) in having the Commission support a national carbon fee and dividend. The request from CCL to the ESC had been for the ESC to recommend Council support the federal legislation. Commissioner Ivy commented that any time spent on national policies could take away from local implementation efforts. Commissioner Swaminathan commented that perhaps an endorsement of the concept rather than the specific piece of legislation would be best.

5.3 Economic Development Presentation on Fremont's Industrial Building Landscape

City of Fremont Economic Development Manager Donovan Lazaro presented an overview of Fremont's industrial building landscape and its importance in meeting the City's GHG reduction targets.

Fremont is the fourth largest City in the Bay Area with a current population of 237,807. Fremont also has the highest median income of the top 100 cities in California. In the past 4 years, Fremont has also added 15,000 new jobs, bringing the total number of jobs in Fremont to over 115,000.

Fremont's industrial manufacturing is much more technologically driven than the rest of the East Bay market in part due to its proximity to the Silicon Valley core as well as its newer building stock. In fact, Fremont is the city with the most manufacturing jobs in the state of California. Tesla's Fremont facility in particular consists of 5.3 million square feet of production space, making it the largest contiguous production facility in North America and one of the largest buildings in the world.

Fremont's manufacturing sector has been successful in part due to the City's flexibility from a zoning perspective; Fremont's industrial zoning allows for all types of manufacturing as well as research and development, not just distribution or heavy manufacturing. Fremont has over 50 million square feet flexible industrial space, more than any city in the Bay Area, making up 65% of the total flex industrial space in the entire East Bay. Manufacturing accounts for 1 in every 4 Fremont jobs.

Industrial facilities can also utilize huge amounts of energy: the top 10% of accounts under East Bay Community Energy account for 65% of total energy demand. In addition, less than 10% of industrial building stock currently is equipped with onsite solar. That said, there are also some interesting examples of innovation and sustainability in Fremont's industrial sector, including projects such as the Zero Net Energy retrofit of

Sonic Manufacturing, as well as the public-private partnership between the City and Fremont-based cleantech firm GridScape Solutions to install microgrids on Fremont Fire Stations.

Thoughts/questions from the Commission (and responses) included:

- What is the amount of energy used for the building shell is compared to that used for manufacturing processes?
- What are the triggers for the industrial sector to design more sustainability? (Permitting and zoning)
- Natural gas consumption in the industrial sector is large. Delta has a geothermal heat pump that cuts down its natural gas usage significantly.
- As the City gets built out, there is a loss of open space and natural places. How can the commercial/industrial sector include places for employees to connect outside?
- There are major issues with transportation and traffic congestion in Fremont. This includes both passenger as well as freight vehicles. How can the commercial/industrial sector better address this?
- Are there opportunities for the City to explore ferry service to aid with cross-bay commutes?

5.4 Climate Action Plan 2.0 Update

Sustainability staff highlighted CAP 2.0 update efforts to date, reviewing the projected timeline for both the technical analysis as well as community outreach and engagement. In particular, staff reviewed the value of community engagement and some potential approaches.

Core principles of community engagement include:

1. Careful planning and preparation
2. Inclusion and demographic diversity
3. Collaboration and shared purpose
4. Openness and learning
5. Transparency and trust
6. Impact and action
7. Sustained engagement and participatory culture

The value community engagement offers is to build trust and community resilience, gain valuable input and participation from residents, and secure buy-in and adoption of key behavior shifts for climate action. Potential engagement methods could include one-on-one interviews, small group discussions, targeted presentations to key stakeholder groups, community surveys, pop-up/tabling events, community town halls, visioning workshops and/or design charrettes, cultural or art events, and expert panels or technical advisory groups. Engagement efforts should also focus on generating feedback from both high GHG emitters (utilities, developers, public institutions, industry, big business, transit services, etc) as well as climate vulnerable populations (people who are low income, non-English speaking, youth, seniors, disabled, minorities/POC, etc.)

The Commission was asked which strategies they felt that staff should employ for its CAP 2.0 outreach efforts, and which audiences should be targeted for outreach. They were also asked what support they could offer individually and as a group for engagement efforts. Commissioners offered the following feedback:

- Outreach and engagement with FUSD is important. This could include getting on a joint City Council/School Board meeting agenda as well as looking at ways environmental literacy might be better integrated into school curriculum.
- For outreach events at schools, it is important to go where the people already are, such as sports events, Back to School night, etc.
- Outreach to the faith-based community is also important.
- Students are enthusiastic to engage in hands-on activities such as tree planting, gardening, recycling, art, and design challenges.
- Student groups such as FIERCE may be interested in running workshops or generating youth interest in them.
- The City could target outreach at community gathering events such as block parties (National Night Out) and the Niles district-wide street fair.
- Key questions to consider are: What are the goals of the outreach? What specifically can individuals do to help?
- City Council members could support outreach activities within their respective Districts.
- Specific community organizations/groups to conduct outreach to include: LEAF, Tri City Ecology Center, Tri City Urban Forestry Alliance, Lions Club, Rotary Clubs (there are 7 rotaries in Fremont), Kiwanis Club, E-Club, Humane Society, Senior Garden Club.
- Ohlone college students and staff may offer useful feedback
- EBCE has access to large energy using customers. They may be able to assist with targeted outreach.
- Homeowners and neighborhood associations can help provide outreach to residents. Nextdoor provides good access to different neighborhoods and HOAs.
- Offering defined volunteer opportunities could also support overall community engagement.
- Tapping into the City's CERT program could offer insight into community resiliency efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Manager