

Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force Report

Presentation to the Board of Supervisors
October 8, 2024

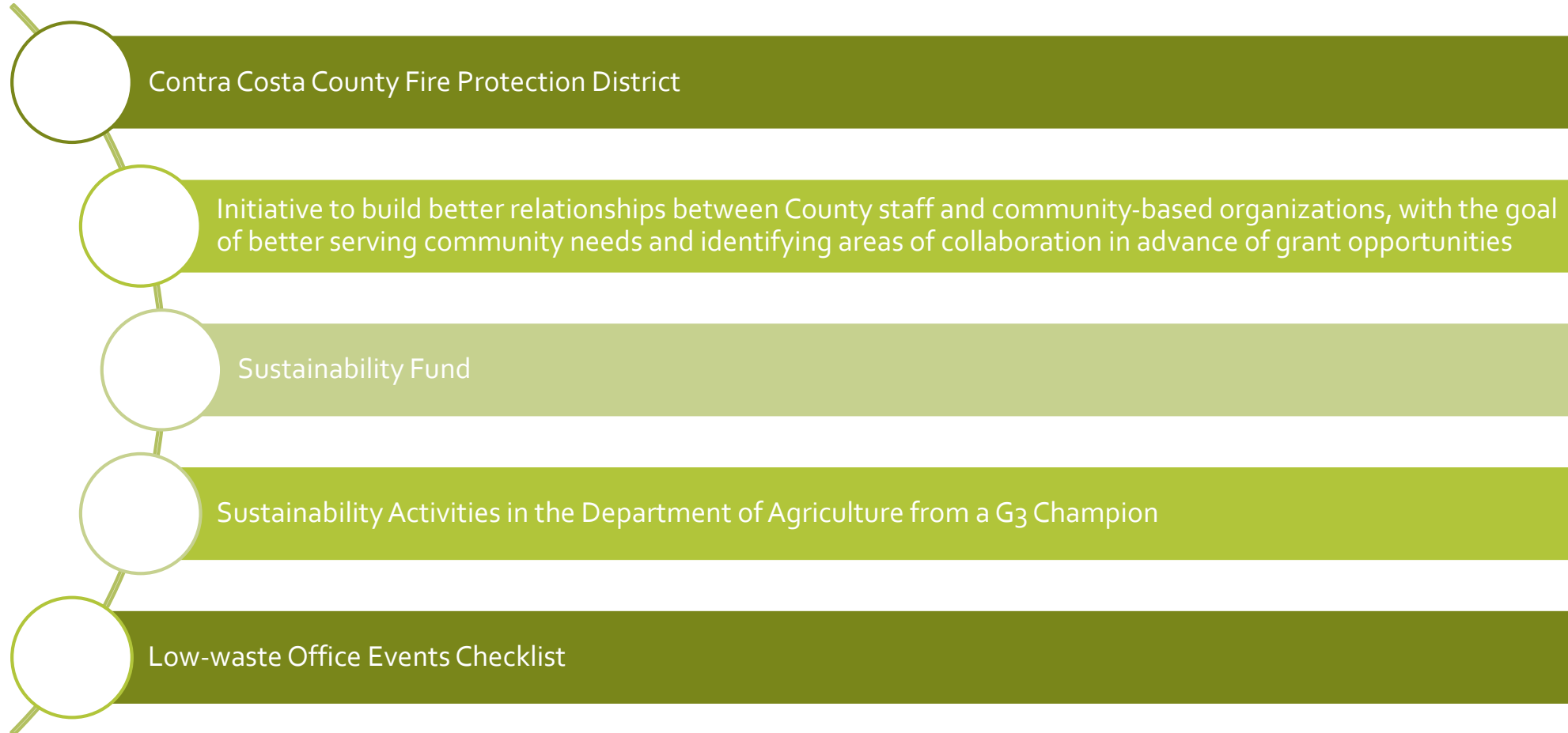
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Warren Lai, Director, Department of Public Works
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator

History

- **Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force** was directed by the Board in September 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution.
 - Focuses on actions County departments can take to urgently implement the County's Climate Action Plan.
 - Consists of department heads or designees.
- Recommended creation of **Sustainability Fund** to support projects in County facilities.
- Supports the **G3 Champions** (Green Government Group) volunteers across County departments who come together every other month to learn and develop strategies to help departments operate more sustainably.



Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force – August 14, 2024



October 8, 2024

Contra Costa Fire Protection District

- Presentation on fire trends in Contra Costa County, how the District is using data to inform its approach to risk reduction, and capabilities of the District's new electric pickup truck.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

Topics and Programs Covered Include:

- Exterior Fire Trends In Contra Costa County
- GIS Maps and Google Earth Tracking Data
- Wildfire Mitigation Program
- Grant Funded Projects
- Transition From Paper to Digital
- UAS - Operations and Education
- EV's, Charging Stations, Fleet Implementation



Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

Wildfire Mitigation Program



- Countywide program
- \$2 million annually
- Measure X funded
- Portal was created by GovQA

Community Chipping Day

Chipping crews are provided to chip vegetation in Firewise Communities or neighborhoods with at least 10 homes participating in fuel reduction.

Low Income Exterior Hazard Control Program

Reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for property owner expenses spent on exterior hazard control or weed abatement.

Evacuation Route/Fire Trail Clean Up

This program focuses on maintaining fire access routes and includes vegetation management.

Removal of Dead Trees

Requests must be located on common or open spaces and the trees must be endangering structures.

Firewise Strategic Plan Projects

Firewise is a national program helping neighbors work together with their local fire jurisdiction to protect communities from wildfire danger.

Shaded Fuel Break

The objective of a shaded fuel break is to reduce, modify, and manage fuels in order to enhance mitigation efforts in the event of a wildfire.

Home Hardening Outreach Program

Prepare your home to increase its likelihood of survival from a wildfire.

Vegetation Management and Fuel Reduction

This program focuses on treating, clearing, or reducing debris and other types of combustible fuels.

Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity

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Sustainability Activities in the Department of Agriculture

- Presented by Lindsay Neuner, G3 Champion in the Department of Agriculture.
- Annual agriculture plastic container recycling event.
- Presentations at staff meetings on zero-waste holiday giving, stormwater protection, and environmental justice.



Sustainability Fund

\$2.5 million/year from Measure X to support investments in County facilities that support climate action goals

EV Chargers

- 76 Level 2 chargers installed, with another 117 in permitting or construction.



\$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation Community Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program.

- “EV 4 All” program will install EV chargers at 15 County Library sites.
- 52 direct current fast chargers (~1 hour to full charge) and 60 level 2 chargers (overnight full charge).
- Five percent (5%) of the award for outreach and education activities to expand EV awareness and adoption in the county.

The next Sustainability Fund initiative will focus on **energy efficient outdoor lighting** at County facilities.



G3 Champions

April

- Bike to Work Day
- Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge
- Earth Day

May

- In-person Mixer

June

- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

August

- Office Hours

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

- June 12, 2024, G3 Champions meeting
- Purchasing Division in Public Works presented on the County's new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.
- The G3 Champions provided input on promotion and training for staff regarding the policy.

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EPP Policy Highlights – What's Different

- Promote **electronic distribution of documents** vs. printing or copying
- **Research** the use of **low carbon concrete** for construction projects, road/bridges and flood control structures
- **Incorporate or increase the recycled fiber content** in toilet papers (45%), paper towels (40%), facial tissue (10%), seat covers (20%), and food service ware (40%)
- Replace halogen or incandescent with **LED lighting**
- Setting computers to "**sleep mode**" after **10 minutes** of inactivity
- In "green building practices", meet the **highest level of LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), where technically and economically feasible
- Employ **water conservation** methods
- **Procuring compost/mulch** in compliance with [SB1383](#), began in 2022. What have we accomplished so far?
- Transition to **battery/electric powered landscaping equipment** by this year, 2024, or as soon as possible. Lawmakers approved \$30M in funds to be used for commercial rebates to go toward the purchase of electric equipment
- Contractors to use **certified non-toxic laundry, industrial and institutional cleaning products**
- Comply with SB1383 and buy **paper with 30% or more recycled content**
- **Prohibit** the use of **polystyrene** food service ware (aka Styrofoam). See [AB 543](#)
- Purchase products that **do not contain polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**. What is it on? Paper plates, water resistant fabrics, grease resistant paper and food packaging, nonstick cookware, personal care products/cosmetics, stain resistant carpets/upholstery, firefighting foam
- Replace County fleet with **zero emission vehicles**



Why is this Policy Important?

- An environmentally preferable purchasing policy in government procurement isn't just about going green, it is about embodying **responsible stewardship, fiscal prudence, and ethical leadership**.
- By prioritizing eco-friendly products and services, governments not only reduce their ecological footprint but also **set a powerful example** for businesses and citizens alike.
- This policy not only **safeguards natural resources and public health**, but also **fosters innovation**, spurring the development of sustainable technologies and markets. Ultimately, it's a commitment to our present well-being and a sustainable future for generations to come.

G3 Champions: Low-Waste Office Events



Low-Waste Office Events Checklist

Planning a holiday, retirement, or team celebration in your office? Save money and resources by incorporating low-waste principles into your event. Use this checklist to identify opportunities for savings during event planning, promotion, purchasing, and on the big day!

Planning

Set the Stage to Avoid Waste

- ☐ Hold your meeting virtually or on a day when staff are already in the office to avoid extra commute trips.
 - ☐ If the event will be in-person, host it at your office or encourage carpooling to a centralized office.
- ☐ If you're looking to spruce up your event space with decorations, have staff bring in reusable decor from home or invest in decor that can be used for years to come.
- ☐ When creating the event agenda, add some time to tell attendees about the event's low-waste accomplishments and how to sort their waste!



Promotion

Get Creative to Get the Word Out

- ☐ Promote the event without paper flyers - Send an email or calendar invite to your colleagues or post event information on a shared digital platform.
- ☐ If you do need to print promotional flyers or handouts:
 - ☐ Print materials on reused paper (e.g., print-outs with non-confidential information and one clean side) or 50-100% post-consumer recycled-content paper.
 - ☐ Print double-sided or multiple flyers on a page.
 - ☐ Bonus: Paper is Green Seal Certified or FSC Certified "Recycled" or "Mix".
 - ☐ Recycle the flyers after the event.
 - ☐ For reoccurring events, design key media to be reusable with no date-specific content. Laminate or post the flyer in a sheet protector to keep it looking nice!

Purchasing and Preparing Food

Provide Refreshments that are Delicious, Healthy, and Locally-Sourced

- ☐ Request RSVPs to provide an accurate amount of food.
- ☐ At least one main dish is a vegetarian option.
- ☐ Catering is provided by a certified Green Business.
- ☐ At least 30% of the total cost of food/beverages are produced locally within 200 miles, fair-trade certified, and/or organic.
- ☐ Make plans before the event to donate leftover food.



Serving Food in Style

Start Small to Set Your Office Up for a Low-Waste Event Future

- ☐ Reusables are key!
 - ☐ Serve food from reusable dishes and provide beverages in reusable pitchers or large dispensers.
 - ☐ Provide reusable plates, bowls, cups, and/or utensils, and encourage attendees to bring their own.
 - ☐ Start with using reusables in a few key areas and work up to a completely reusable event!
- ☐ Serve food buffet-style, rather than individually wrapped, and purchase or prepare food that doesn't require utensils.
- ☐ Serve condiments in bulk rather than single-serving packages.
- ☐ If you do need to purchase some single-use items:
 - ☐ Ensure single-use items can be recycled or composted.
 - ☐ No Styrofoam.
 - ☐ Focus on paper-based food serveware that can be composted.
 - ☐ Ensure paper-based food serveware is uncoated (not plastic-lined).
 - ☐ Use minimum 40% post-consumer recycled content for paper-based food serveware and napkins.
 - ☐ No plastic, including "compostable" plastic.
 - ☐ Bonus: Paper-based food serveware is unbleached or labeled Processed Chlorine Free (PCF).
- ☐ Look for items with the following certifications:



Green Seal



FSC Certified
"Recycled"



UL Ecologo



UL Ecologo

Simplify Sorting

Ensure Items End Up in the Correct Bin

- ☐ Provide compost and recycling bins in a convenient location.
- ☐ Label waste receptacles with pictures or descriptions of what items go into each bin.
- ☐ Have bin monitors help event attendees sort waste into the proper receptacles.



For more information, contact your department's G3 Champions:

Reducing Key Sources of Emissions from County Operations

- In August, the County Administrator's Office completed a survey of all County departments related to employee participation in the County's remote work policy.
- Based on the results, it is estimated that the total number of weekly commutes avoided because of employees working remotely is almost 4,000, which equates to almost 8,000 trips saved per week.



Collaboration and Innovation

New Portable Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger at 50 Douglas Dr.

- Department of Child Support Services employee Christopher Velazquez identified a need for EV charging at the site.
- With the support of his managers, Velazquez used his own time and initiative to work with the County's Energy Manager to find a short-term solution to EV charging until permanent chargers can be installed.
 - Detailed in a [recent video](#) from the Office of Communications and Media.
- The portable charger is available to the public 24/7.
- This is a great example of the County creating the right conditions and support for innovation that progresses towards the County's climate goals.



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Thank you!
