

## DRAFT Annual Report 2014

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### What We Do

The San Francisco Department of the Environment (SF Environment) creates visionary policies and innovative programs to improve, enhance, and preserve San Francisco's urban and natural environment and ensure our city's long-term sustainability. By developing cutting edge yet practical wide-ranging environmental programs, fostering ground-breaking legislation, working collaboratively with key partners and educating the public on comprehensive sustainability practices, SF Environment makes it easy for everyone in San Francisco to protect their environment.

SF Environment is a one-stop resource for people who want to learn about how they can access resources to protect the environment locally. Each year, SF Environment handles inquiries from elected officials, other city departments, businesses, and the public. SF Environment is responsible for providing expert information about environmental initiatives, programs, policies and incentives to the media, City agencies, the Board of Supervisors and the public.

SF Environment's EcoCenter and website—[www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org)—have the latest departmental and Environment Commission news and archives as well as easy-to-read fact sheets about a wealth of environmental topics, many of which are in multiple languages including Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Tagalog. The website serves as a portal to a range of environmental issues and contains links to other city agencies and environmental non-profit organizations.

Understanding that real change comes from face-to-face conversations and engagement, we work in every neighborhood in San Francisco going door to door and participating in street fairs, farmer's markets, concerts and other events, in an effort to get information on environmental protection out to the people who want and need it most.

## BIODIVERSITY

The Biodiversity program preserves and restores existing open space and natural areas, increases open space, and promotes corridors and green spaces in the urban environment for wildlife habitat. It also aims to advance eco-literacy by increasing participation of local ecological and natural areas stewardship groups and supports the citywide network of these organizations. The program develops model policies supporting ecological restoration, biodiversity, and integration of nature in the built environment, acting as a leader in urban biodiversity conservation efforts. SF Environment plays a key role in convening key city and regional stakeholders to further the goal of the biodiversity program.

### Key Accomplishment:

SF Environment convened the city's local ecological education leaders for a week long Biodiversity Summit to initiate an SF Biodiversity education collaboration to increase awareness of and connection to the city's natural environment. (photo)

## CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

The Clean Transportation Program envisions a San Francisco where car ownership is the exception rather than the rule, and where convenient, carbon-free mobility options are readily available and regularly used by residents, commuters and visitors. As a step toward that vision, the City has set a goal for 50% of all travel to be made by sustainable modes by 2017. This primarily means travel in modes other than in "drive-alone" personal vehicles.

Our programs work towards achieving this goal by promoting clean transportation systems and choices that reduce congestion, improve safety for all modes of mobility, enhance air quality and encourage healthy travel.

### Key Accomplishment

Launched SF's first Carpool 2 School Week as part of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Partnership (photo)

### Key Milestones

EV Charging Stations: More than 300 charging stations available to the public have been installed in San Francisco, at over 120 locations. Of these, 108 public stations have been installed by the City at 22 municipal properties. (graphic)

40% of businesses reported starting a commuter benefits program because of the Commuter Benefits Ordinance (graphic)

## CLIMATE

Climate change is the most pressing environmental issue of the 21st century. SF Environment is committed to developing and implementing policies and practices that protect our residents, businesses and visitors from the worst impacts of climate change. Since climate change is a complex issue, SF Environment works with experts and other City agencies to develop effective strategies to reduce emissions. Consistent with the scientific community's recommendations to reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 to stabilize our climate system, San Francisco has officially adopted ambitious emission reduction goals, including 20% reduction below 1990 levels for 2012, 25% by 2017, 40% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. 2012 inventories were finalized and are now awaiting third party verification.

### Key Accomplishment

Recognized by the White House and Department of Energy as a Climate Action Champion (graphic)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 1455 MARKET

In 2014, our new offices at 1455 Market Street were awarded the LEED Platinum Certification by the US Green Building Council. The space and SF Environment were further recognized as the department received two awards acknowledging the initiative taken in designing and building out our office.

2014 Business Environmental Award for Sustainable Built Environment

2014 Breathe California Clear Air Award for Smart Growth

### ECO-CENTER

SF Environment's EcoCenter at 1455 Market Street continues to be a thriving center for environmental resources. Since our move in early 2013, the EcoCenter has drawn more than 3500 visitors by hosting more than 20 national and international business and government delegations, two art openings, as many as 30 community groups and 8 brown bags.

#### Key Milestone

More than 5000 people participated in events at the EcoCenter in 2014 (graphic)

**Highlight:** Mayor's Office Youth Teach-In (photo)

### EDUCATION

SF Environment's Environmental Education program serves as catalyst for change in the community, by offering award-winning projects that serve more than 225 public and private schools in San Francisco, annually reaching 20,000 students and 1,000 teachers. Our environmental education staff promotes positive behavior change that increases composting and recycling at schools, promotes water conservation and protects our water from pollution, inspires sound environmental stewardship, and helps stop litter.

#### Key Accomplishment

In partnership with the SFPUC, SF Environment teaches students about water conservation, pollution prevention, and the Hetch Hetchy system. Due to the drought, we created a special assembly about water conservation. 5780 students received the water conservation message in 2014

In partnership with SF Public Works, we promoted the citywide Giant Sweep in schools across the city reaching 2,757 students in 2014.

### ENVIRONMENT NOW

The Environment Now green careers program prepares individuals for jobs in the green economy through a combination of classroom workshops and practical hands-on work experiences. Participants function as the department's grassroots outreach team, promoting behavior change in San Francisco's multicultural and multilingual neighborhoods. Through these grassroots efforts, Environment Now supports all SF Environment program areas, including energy conservation, zero waste, biodiversity, toxics reduction, clean transportation, and environmental justice.

#### Key Milestones

4,350 businesses were engaged; 8,063 residences were engaged

**Highlight:** Tina Addi Narrative

## **GRANT MAKING**

### **Key Accomplishments**

SF Environment works with a range of community-based organizations to help achieve San Francisco's ambitious sustainability goals. Over the past eleven years, we have provided approximately \$23 million in grant funding to local nonprofits throughout the city. Projects have a range of co-benefits including job creation, education, greening neighborhoods and getting valuable resources to those who need them the most.

### **Key Accomplishments**

Climate Resiliency, Bayview Mural and Mission Bike Training Grants

## **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS**

SF Environment's online media channels supports the goals and services of all programs by providing clear, concise, and objective information about policies and initiatives. SF Environment provides environmental educational resources and tools for action to a wide variety of San Francisco constituencies, and strives to reach the diverse communities of San Francisco in strategic and thoughtful ways.

### **Key Milestones:**

Twitter following hits 16,000 (graphic)

Re-launch of SFApproved (photo)

## **CARBON FUND**

The SF Carbon Fund provides the opportunity for conferences and conventions to mitigate the green house gas emissions generated by their events by investing in the San Francisco Carbon Fund. In keeping with its goal to serve as a model of environmental innovation, since July 2009, the City and County of San Francisco has levied an innovative carbon fee on municipal airline travel to support the [SF Carbon Fund](#).

This innovative program invests money from activities that produce greenhouse gas pollution into local projects that reduce emissions and deliver other environmental benefits within the City and County of San Francisco. The SF Carbon Fund differs dramatically from existing carbon-offset programs in that it supports local projects as opposed to projects implemented far away from where greenhouse gas pollution is created. All projects use widely accepted protocols to estimate carbon savings.

The SF Carbon Fund awards grants and contracts for local projects that mitigate carbon and ultimately improve San Francisco's natural infrastructure and enhance the quality of the living environment.

**Highlight:** Gateway High

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

**Highlight:** 2014 Coastal Cleanup Day

## **ENERGY PROGRAMS**

Since over 50% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings, SF Environment's Energy program targets energy use in private sector buildings; both commercial and residential. The primary goal is to reduce

energy use in these buildings through efficiency, and to install renewable resources, all in an effort to achieve as close to zero net energy buildings, or neighborhoods, as possible.

SF Environment has made great strides establishing a highly effective energy efficiency program. Energy Watch, is one of the largest city-run energy efficiency programs in California, funded by PG&E ratepayers, serving small business, multifamily, and commercial buildings. The program serves approximately 1000 customers annually. Bay Regional Energy Network, also ratepayer funded, serves multifamily and single family customers while also developing financing services and providing training and researching methods to improve compliance with energy codes.

### **Key Milestones**

Since 2006, \$20.8 M in incentives paid out through SFEW; and 6,374 projects have been installed (map)

Since 2001, \$38.4 million in incentives paid out through different commercial EE programs implemented by SFE; 15,061 projects installed (graphic)

Launched in 2014, the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancement Program has served over 8,500 units in the City. More than 25% of them have implemented energy efficiency measures, saving >10% in annual energy use. To date, the program has paid out \$1.4 million in rebates.

**Highlight:** Cliffhouse Energy Upgrades

## **GREEN BUILDING**

The overarching goal of the Green Building program is to ensure that all new and existing buildings in San Francisco are built and operated according to third-party verified standards such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) GreenPoint Rated, or EnergyStar. We serve as the technical resource for standards setting and project development, facilitate and stimulate ongoing training for a wide range of building professionals, educate and build support for green building policies with the public, tenants, and building owners, and administer the only mandatory energy benchmark & audit program in California.

### **Key Accomplishment**

SF Environment secured new 2-year grant to support a "Sustainable Chinatown" project with support from Urban Sustainable Directors' Network "Partners in Place" program. "Sustainable Chinatown" coordinated in partnership with Enterprise, San Francisco Foundation, and Chinatown Community Development Corporation

Helped launch the San Francisco 2030 District: San Francisco 2030 District has 22 properties covering more than 9 million square feet of commercial building space that are committed to energy efficiency, water conservation and reducing transportation emissions. (Graphic)

Build It Green recognized SF Environment as the "2014 Green Building Leader in the Public Sector"

### **Key Milestones**

Energy audits required by the Existing Commercial Buildings ordinance (Env Code Ch 20) identified more than \$200MNPV of cost effective energy efficiency opportunity across 600 commercial buildings (graphic)

Completed LEED certification for an additional 5 municipal construction projects bringing the total to 31 projects and 4.2 million sq ft of LEED certified municipal properties. (graphic)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

SF Environment's Environmental Justice program works to promote environmental sustainability and economic opportunities in the city's low-income neighborhoods. We provide grant assistance and technical support to nonprofit groups to help prepare workers for employment in the city's green economy. Since 2001, the Environmental Justice Program has granted more than \$11 million to community-based organizations and nonprofit groups dedicated to promoting renewable energy, energy conservation and efficiency, food security, air quality and environmental justice in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero neighborhoods.

**Highlight:** Conducted Integrated Pest Management training and treatment services for low-income families at public housing and affordable housing sites

## **TOXICS REDUCTION**

San Francisco was the first city in the country to adopt the Precautionary Principle as a foundation for its environmental and public health policies, requiring City government to seek out the safest alternatives when making choices ranging from products and services to building designs and landscape management. The Toxics Reduction Program implements the Precautionary Principle most directly through its programs in green purchasing, green business, and integrated pest management. Program staff are also actively involved in regional, national and international policy efforts to reduce toxic pollution and exposures in the San Francisco area.

The toxics program coordinates a wide-range of hazardous waste collection and recycling services for unwanted or expired hazardous household products. The toxics program also advocates producer responsibility, requiring manufacturers to become financially responsible for collection and recycling of their products, through supporting product stewardship legislation at the local, state and federal levels.

### **Key Milestone**

71 Green Businesses recognized in 2014 bringing the citywide total to 217 currently recognized (graphic)

### **Key Accomplishments**

Released Custodial Green Cleaning Curriculum and recognized 5 commercial custodial companies. The program aims to reduce workers' exposure to harmful chemicals typically used in cleaning operations by switching to greener cleaning products and methods. To date, 300 custodians have been trained under the Green Cleaning pilot program, eliminating the use of over 12,000 gallons of harmful cleaning chemicals each year. (graphic)

SF Environment, together with the Responsible Purchasing Network, completed a wide-ranging analysis of disinfectant products to help consumers make better choices, based on safety, germ-killing ability, compatibility with surfaces, and environmental impacts. This "alternatives analysis" also considered non-chemical options such as improved cleaning practices and the use of various tools, such as microfiber mops and electrolyzed water devices. (photo)

## **URBAN FORESTRY**

SF Environment's Urban Forest program promotes a healthier, sustainable urban forest in San Francisco by implementing the Urban Forestry Council Ordinance, providing education programs and information on tree management, and developing innovative funding strategies for the City's urban forest. Additionally, the program develops legislation and serves as an information hub to other agencies and the general public to improve the health of the urban forest and increase its benefits to urban residents.

### **Accomplishments**

Re-launch of Green Holiday Tree program with Friends of the Urban Forest (photo)

**Highlight:** Kaiser Urban Orchard

## **ZERO WASTE**

The Zero Waste program has instituted a wide array of policies and convenient services to achieve the City's goal of zero waste by 2020. The Zero Waste program encourages all sectors (municipal, commercial and residential) to comply with the City's zero waste policies and use services properly. The program's primary focus is securing citywide compliance with the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance. Financial incentives for generators and service providers are continually updated to enhance waste diversion opportunities. The program promotes waste prevention and environmentally preferable purchasing. Zero Waste Program staff also continue to advocate for local and state legislation increasing consumer and producer responsibility.

### **Milestones**

Achieved 99.5% service compliance at City department locations, audited 32 locations, improved participation at 30 and trained 1,040 employees on zero waste. (graphic)

Registered 199 construction & demolition debris transporters, maintained 12 registered facilities and approved 65 demolition debris recovery plans. (graphic)

Supported 1,981 small businesses with composting and recycling consulting to become service compliant, achieving 97% compliance, and improved participation at an additional 598 accounts. (graphic)

Brought composting collection to 89 and recycling to 36 apartment buildings, achieving 99% compliance, and improved participation at 885 buildings. (graphic)

**Highlight:** Chinatown Campaign

**Highlight:** Textile Recycling Press Event