



DATE: June 9, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental public information forums

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission 2014/15 Work Plan, Goal 1, is to provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability in accordance with the Council goals to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos.

The Commission determines topics and opportunities for approved public forums related to sustainability. An example of public outreach activities were public forums held prior to the award of the waste disposal contract and a study to determine both Municipal and Community Green House Gas emissions for the City. Current outreach efforts include the design and analysis of a survey to the community to facilitate and gain public input for the Los Altos Climate Action Plan in coordination with the Climate Action Plan consultant firm and with the Community Development Department. An additional topic is single-use bags and issues involved with polystyrene products.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission held a public forum on recycling, diversion and composting on February 22, 2014. The Commission is continuing discussion regarding community education and outreach activities for the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

To that goal, a Commission subcommittee is exploring topic ideas and approaches on additional ways to engage the public via education and information forums, various outreach mechanisms. In addition, the Commission seeks to explore with the public via a survey which topics would be of interest and ones they would participate in to gather further information. The subcommittee will guide this discussion.

The subcommittee is currently composed of Environmental Commission members Zahra Ardehali, Vice Chair Chris Keller and Chair Gary Hedden. They will present an update to the public education and information outreach plan.

Attachment:

- A. City of Los Altos Environmental Commission Survey

City of Los Altos Environmental Commission Survey

The Environmental Commission studies and makes recommendations to the Los Altos City Council on issues that affect our local environment. Some of our current projects include assisting staff and provide public information on the City's Climate Action Plan, the upcoming Expanded Polystyrene Foam Food Ware Ordinance, water conservation, and waste management and recycling.

The Environmental Commission would like to know which environmental topics you would like to know more about and how you would like to learn about them, so we can share and update you on the topics.

1. What city do you live in? _____ What is your zip code? _____
2. Please check the appropriate box by each of the following topics:

	I would like to know more about this topic	I already know enough about this topic
Electric and alternative fuel powered vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle and pedestrian friendly routes and information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saving energy at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caring for our local creeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserving local birds and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eating sustainable food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growing organic food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Composting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Native plant landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling and waste reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing use of toxic chemicals in the home and yard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green business certification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental metrics and reports for our community (such as community greenhouse gas levels or energy usage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How would you like to learn about environmental and sustainability information (number in priority, 1 = highest)

<input type="checkbox"/> Web <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Los Altos Town Crier <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Twitter <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops and events <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ _____
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4. Are you interested in environmental programs for children and teenagers: _____ Yes ___ No
5. Would you like to volunteer or participate at Environmental Commission events: _____ Yes ___ No
 If so, please provide your name, email, and phone: _____
