



**Date:** November 14, 2020  
**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Eric Figueroa, City Manager  
**Prepared by:** Michael Chandler, Deputy City Manager  
**Subject:** Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs Update

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### **Recommendation**

Receive report, hold discussion and provide input to staff regarding the City's Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs.

This report is provided for informational purposes. Staff will provide a brief presentation to accompany this report.

### **Background**

The City continued to make progress over the past year in support of its Climate Action Plan and Sustainability programs. The following list reflects recent key accomplishments or notable metrics.

- 1) Completed 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Martinez Unified School District Recycling Project
  - a. Program partners New Leaf Collaborative, Martinez Unified School District (MUSD), and Republic Services
  - b. Transition agreement for 6<sup>th</sup> year executed on July 1, 2020
    - i. Primary emphasis on MUSD K-5 students
    - ii. Number of students served in 2019-20 school year: 2,095 received two (2) Recycle lessons; 1,448 received one (1) Recycle lesson; 1,291 received one (1) Ecoliteracy lesson
    - iii. Core components: educational reinforcement in classrooms and cafeterias, "Green Team" engagement, teacher champions/liasons, custodial support
  - c. COVID impacts starting in March 2020 required shift to virtual programming
    - i. New Leaf created special Recycle videos for students to reinforce recycling concepts at home, which were distributed to all MUSD elementary schools and hosted on the City's Sustainability webpage;
      1. "[Making a Difference at Home](#)" – Recycle/Upcycle at home
      2. "[Landfills are Like Lasagna](#)" – Landfill overview
    - ii. New Leaf also hosted an online "2020 Upcycling Contest" for

students to show how they could transform items typically thrown away or recycled into items of greater value or use.

- 2) Supported New Leaf's Integrated Watershed Education Program  
Core components included implementing essential Clean Water Program element and promoting water conservation education and practices. The "[Exploring Our Watershed](#)" - Alhambra Creek Visual Tour video was distributed to all MUSD elementary schools and hosted on the City's Sustainability webpage.
- 3) Initiated Collaboration between New Leaf and Boys and Girls Clubs of Contra Costa  
Ongoing discussion to integrate STEM-based learning protocols of each organization and create virtual content for broad distribution, with focus on real-life exploration, community-based projects, and career focused pathways. Proposed programming areas for 2021 include Water Quality/Conservation Education, Gardening, and Earth Day.
- 4) Conducted 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Martinez "EcoAwards"  
Local schools and businesses recognized February 5, 2020; recipients included Martinez Early Childhood Center, Inc., Martinez Kiwanis, and Homage Restaurant.
- 5) Secured Staff Resources  
Hired 8<sup>th</sup> part-time Sustainability Programs Assistant since 2012; new recruitment opening Monday, November 16, 2020.
- 6) Secured Technical Assistance for City Hall Energy Efficiency Upgrades  
Continued utilization of no-cost technical assistance secured through the East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW); currently evaluating technical assistance proposal for validation of energy efficiency benefits of proposed City Hall HVAC system replacement.
- 7) Provided Compost Giveaway to Residents through Republic Services  
Approximately 93 residents participated this year at the August event; the March event cancelled due to COVID). Since the Compost Giveaway's inception in August 2016, 825 residents have taken advantage of this program. Next planned Compost Giveaway is in March 2021.
- 8) Coordinated Special Reuse and Recycling Events through Republic Services  
"Reuse Roundup" event (8<sup>th</sup> annual) held October 17<sup>th</sup> at Republic Services' Pacheco headquarters; special post-holiday plastic and Styrofoam pickups provided for third consecutive year in January 2020 at 2 locations.
- 9) Electric Vehicle Charging Station Upgrades  
Replaced outdated charging station at Main and Court Streets in July 2020. Currently undertaking project to install new dual port charging station at City Hall to complement existing single port station, resulting in 3 total ports available for both public and employee charging.