



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/15/2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Chair Kabat called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Elkins, Hedley (Vice Chair), Kabat (Chair), Lin, London, Schmidt
Absent: Evans
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Public Comment

- Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) representative Cade Cannedy spoke on a paid study by Stanford University about air quality effects of living with climate change currently seeking participants living in the Belle Haven neighborhood and East Palo Alto.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the May 18, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (London/ Elkins), to approve the minutes, passed 6-0 (Evans absent).

D2. Informational presentation on Love the Earth Festival

The Commission received information about the We Love the Earth Festival and lessons learned about climate outreach.

Menlo Park Climate Team representative Cheryl Schaff made the presentation (Attachment).

- Diane Bailey spoke in support of the event and outreach collaboration.

D3. Discuss and confirm the number, purpose, and participants in the Environmental Quality Commission's subcommittees as it relates to the Commission's work plan (Attachment)

Chair Kabat presented the work plan and subcommittee table to the Commission. (Attachment)

The Commission discussed the current subcommittees and interests of individual Commissioners.

ACTION: Motion and second (London/ Hedley), to disband the Gas Powered Leaf Blower Subcommittee, amend the description of all subcommittees to include regional coordination, amend the climate action plan (CAP) Outreach Subcommittee to add a bullet for focus on schools/students/teachers and select Vice Chair

Hedley to the CAP Outreach and Trees and Sustainable Initiatives Subcommittees and Commissioner Schmidt to the Transportation Decarbonization, CAP Outreach, and Trees and Sustainable Initiatives Subcommittees, passed 6-0 (Evans absent).

The Commission reordered the agenda.

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and Announcements from staff and Commissioners

- Sustainability Manager Lucky provided an update from the June 14 City Council meeting on BlocPower, CAP budget, a resilience staff position, reach codes, and the gas-powered landscape equipment survey.
- Management Analyst Paz provided an update on CAP No. 5 progress.
- Commissioner Schmidt requested that staff place an update from California Environmental Literacy Initiative on a future meeting agenda.
- Commissioner London provided an update on gasoline users heat map.

D. Regular Business

D4. Discuss the Chair's quarterly report to the City Council

Chair Kabat made the presentation (Attachment).

- John McKenna spoke in support of the update urgency, possible incentives for electrification, and banning leaf blowers.
- Menlo Spark Executive Director Diane Bailey spoke in support of the reach codes and updates to the City Council.

ACTION: Motion and second (Elkins/ Schmidt), to modify the quarterly report presentation to the City Council to include mention of preliminary discussions underway between the Trees Subcommittee and Canopy regarding a possible urban tree canopy master plan, and include table of CAP actions with corresponding staff, passed 6-0 (Evans absent).

F. Adjournment

Chair Kabat adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ori Paz, Management Analyst II

Minutes approved at the June 15, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.



WE LOVE EARTH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APR 16, 2022, 10AM-2PM

Flood Park, 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA



LEARN. HAVE FUN. TAKE ACTION.

Wed, June 15, 2022

**Festival Report
for :**

**Menlo Park
Environmental
Quality
Commission**





The We Love Earth Festival attracted many young families, who understand our climate emergency and want to take action



25 environmental non-profits educated residents, invited ongoing participation







**EV makers showed
off fast and
functional models**

Reps gave
enthusiastic
demos of
clean,
manual
transport





Induction-cooking demos drew eager viewers, who had many questions for our pro chefs.



CA Sen. Josh Becker, Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash and Council Member Cecilia Taylor talked with residents

Kira Hooks, Singer/Songwriter entertained attendees



Dozens of local students created art for Festival displays, thanks to caring teachers

Artwork by
Encinal Elementary
Students
Threatened & Endangered
Species of California





Multi-generational art projects involved natural materials



Sequoia the Eagle wowed the crowd, courtesy of The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo







Kids touched parts of nature

Avoiding
Hate
Plastic
(& choosing alternatives
to plastic wherever possible)

Eating more
vegetarian
meals

Take care of the
earth, and it
will take care
of you.

Reusing bottles
& buying from
reusable companies

I will take care
of Planet Earth  by
 not wasting
things like plastic
and paper.

By promoting
vegetarianism
among my
friends

Buying local produce
& supporting local farms

Picking up trash
and not littering 

I will help the Earth by...



FESTIVAL GOAL:
**Outreach to and
education of residents
about our deepening
climate crisis and
solutions that exist now**

FESTIVAL NUMBERS:

725 people registered

490 attendees

51 exhibitors brought 100 staff

25 volunteers

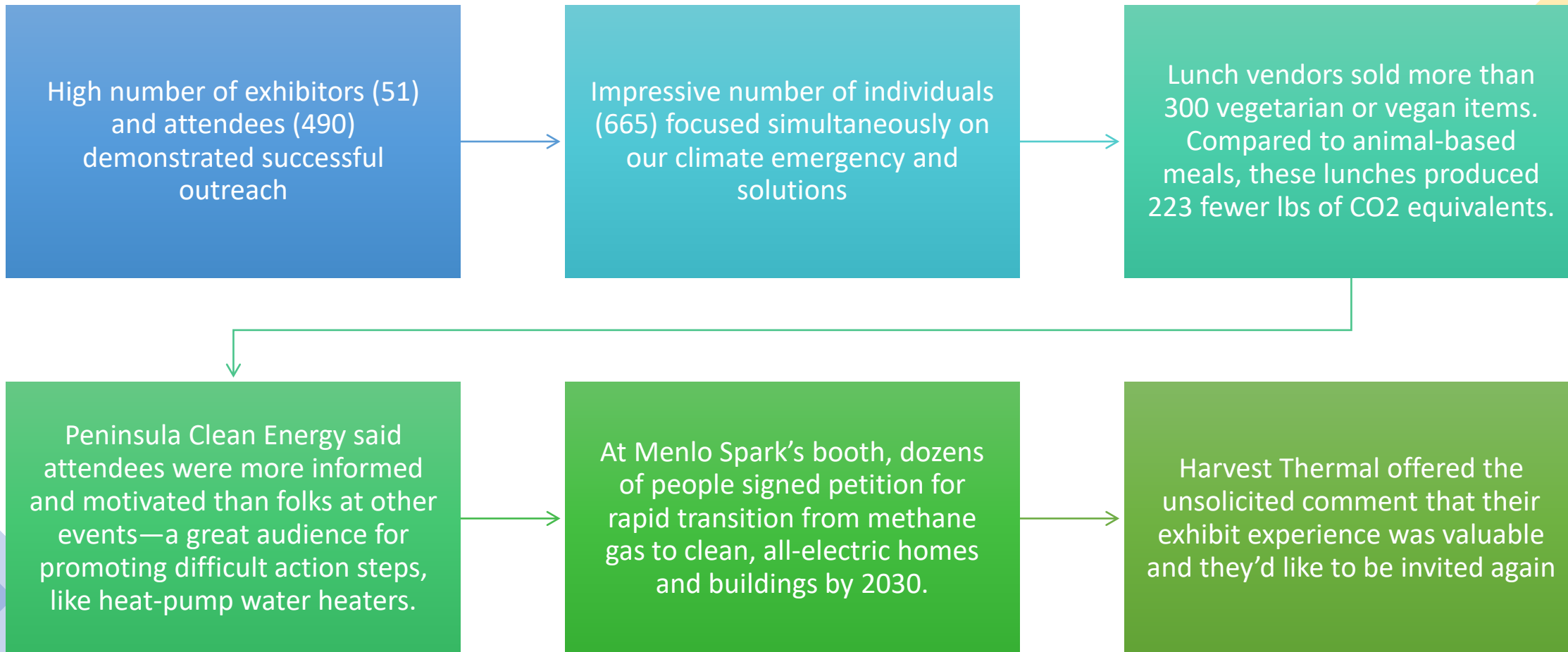
9 steering committee members

6 speakers

35 student artists

665 people involved in total

Key Performance Indicators



Impactful outreach is possible with focus, collaboration, people power and funds—more than what volunteers alone can give.

A broad and deep contingent of residents and businesses is **aware of and concerned** about our climate emergency.

They want City leaders to **communicate** about the severity of our climate crisis, urgent action needed to meet CAP goals and specific steps to take now.

Residents and businesses are looking for **reasons to hope** and strong local leadership in stoking hope.

They expect the **progressive leadership** in mitigating climate catastrophe that they saw when Council adopted the CAP.

What we learned

How can our Climate Team help you move City Council to designate significantly more staff, focus and funds to meet our CAP goals?

We don't feel that our team or city is set up to succeed.

Building Decarbonization	Transportation Decarbonization	Climate Adaptation	Climate Outreach	Trees & Sustainable Initiatives
<p>This subcommittee of 2-3 people will assist staff in developing policies and plans to convert 95% of Menlo Park's existing buildings to all-electric by 2030.</p> <p><u>Work will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching the technical and financial feasibility of converting the City's existing building stock to all-electric • Researching financing options available to assist community members with conversions • Researching policy and funding mechanisms to assist low-income households with conversions • Reviewing legal frameworks for key policies • Facilitating City collaboration with key regional agencies and nonprofits, such as Peninsula Clean Energy • Collaborating with City staff and contractors in drafting key policies • Preparing materials to help educate the public about building electrification • Assisting City staff in completing electrification of municipal buildings • Developing Council recommendations for 2021 CAP actions related to building decarbonization 	<p>This subcommittee of 3 people will assist staff in developing policies and plans to eliminate the use of fossil fuels in transportation in Menlo Park by 2030.</p> <p><u>Work will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching the technical and financial feasibility of policies and programs to increase access to EV charging, especially during the day and for residents of multi-family housing • Reviewing the offerings of service providers who may be able to assist the City and community members in building out its EV charging network • Reviewing legal frameworks for proposed policies • Serving as a liaison to the Complete Streets Commission in developing and achieving a City goal to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled by 25% through 1) rezoning to support increased housing density near transit and 2) the build out of a network of connected bike/ped paths throughout town • Tracking and promoting the City's goals of 1) making all new vehicles be electric by 2025 and 2) reducing gasoline sales each year by 10% • Assisting City staff in converting the municipal vehicle fleet to all-electric by identifying new electric vehicle offerings for staff and Council consideration • Developing Council recommendations for 2021 CAP actions related to transportation decarbonization • Facilitating City collaboration with key regional nonprofits and agencies 	<p>This subcommittee of 2 people will research and inform City staff and Council on strategies for preparing the City for the effects of climate change.</p> <p><u>Work will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending meetings of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Board and reporting back to EQC • Working with staff and Council members to engage community members who will be most affected by sea level rise to educate them and take their input on how best to address the issue • Tracking Menlo Park's plans for sea walls and/or levees to protect the community against sea level rise and keeping the EQC apprised of those plans • Making recommendations to City Council on proposed development in the City's future flood zones • Researching other potential effects of climate change on the City, including wildfire, drought and heat waves, and identifying plans to address those effects • Developing a proposal for capturing 10% of the City's 2005 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through direct carbon removal • Facilitating City collaboration with key regional nonprofits and agencies 	<p>This subcommittee of 3 people will devise strategies for educating members of the public about Menlo Park's climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2030.</p> <p><u>Work will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying opportunities for Staff and the EQC to educate the public about climate change and Menlo Park's climate action plan • Preparing educational materials and promoting them, either in conjunction with Staff or as private citizens with a focus on student/teacher/school outreach • Devising a plan, including proposed venues, for regularly presenting the public with information about ways to electrify buildings, decrease gasoline consumption, reduce vehicle miles traveled and prepare for climate-related emergencies • Relaying to EQC any public feedback on the CAP and related policy proposals • Supporting the City's formal outreach effort on climate policies, as directed by Staff • Facilitating City collaboration with key regional nonprofits and agencies 	<p>This subcommittee of 2 people will support Staff in addressing all sustainability matters not addressed by the Climate Action Plan. <u>Work will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing the City's Arbor Day Tree Planting event • Assessing the effectiveness of the City's new Heritage Tree Ordinance and making recommendations to EQC for any changes needed • Supporting Staff in development of an inventory and catalogue of the urban tree canopy • Receiving public concern related to non-climate sustainability concerns, including: habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction • Recommending appropriate responses or programs to address public concerns about non-climate sustainability matters • Facilitating City collaboration with key regional nonprofits and agencies
<p>This subcommittee supports CAP actions #1 & 5</p>	<p>This subcommittee supports CAP actions #2, 3, 4 and 5</p>	<p>This subcommittee supports CAP action #6</p>	<p>This subcommittee supports CAP action #1, 2, 3, 4 and 6</p>	<p>This subcommittee supports EQC goals for Urban Canopy Preservation and Green and Sustainable Initiatives not related to the Climate Action Plan</p>
<p>Current members: Evans and Kabat</p>	<p>Current members: Schmidt</p>	<p>Current members: Elkins</p>	<p>Current members: Kabat, Hedley and Schmidt</p>	<p>Current members: Elkins Hedley and Schmidt</p>



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Quarterly Update July 2022 from EQC Chair Tom Kabat





AGENDA

- Review EQC Activities
- Community Concerns
- Seeking Guidance from Council





ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MISSION

Advise City Council on matters involving environmental protection, improvement and sustainability.

Commissioners:

Angela Evans

Leah Elkins

Tom Kabat

Janelle London

Nancy Larocca Hedley (new)

Jeffery Lin (new)

Jeff Schmidt (new)

Thanks and farewell to:

Deborah Martin

James Payne

Josie Gaillard



CLIMATE SCIENCE UPDATE

- IPCC Scientists, and International Energy Agency agree: Current fossil fueled machinery's normal lifetime emissions push 2 degree C limit.
- There is no more climate space (below 2 degrees) for newly installed fossil fueled equipment.
- We have used up all the waiting time
- Now we are now deep into in the action time.





IMPLICATIONS FOR CITIES

- Society must pivot to electric alternatives at time of A) new construction, B) at time of additions and C) at replacement to hold at 2 degrees.
- We would need to replace before burnout to stay under 2 degrees.
- We also need other viable intervention points.
- Almost all CAPs and equivalent policies are not keeping up with the evolving science of climate change.

Examples are sequencing added steps into a plan ahead of taking action with any segment.





MENLO PARK

- Menlo Park's CAP closed the Ambition gap
 - (The goal is science based, in proportion with holding to 1.5 degree rise)
- Menlo Park still has
 - an Action gap and
 - an Achievement gap
 - (gaps in the policy actions and community achievements needed to stay on track to meet the science-based targets.)



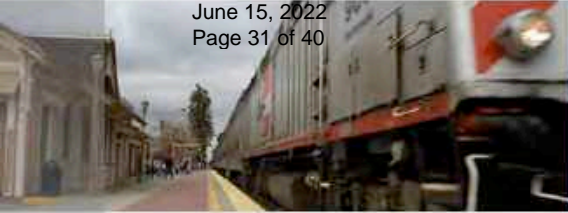


REVIEW EQC ACTIVITIES



REVIEW OF EQC ACTIVITIES

- Climate Action Goal Set
 - Net zero by 2030 (90% emission reduction, 10% sequestration)
- Climate Action Plan
 - First year FY 2020-2021 activities are ongoing, but more are needed.
 - City Council recommended public outreach ahead of additional actions on existing buildings. (CAP 1)
 - EQC members have been doing some outreach (electrification workshops, Earthday events, etc.)



CAP Action	Description	Lead (Division and position)
No. 1 - Convert 95% of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030	Draft reach codes and provide incentives	Sustainability- Sustainability Manager Building Division- Assistant Community Development Director
No. 2 - Increasing EV sales to 100% by 2025 and decreasing gasoline sales 10% each year	Defer implementation to the Beyond Gas Initiative (BGI)	BGI under Joint Venture Silicon Valley
No. 3 - Expand access to EV charging for MF and commercial	Promote state and regional charging incentives	Sustainability – Sustainability Manager
No. 4 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25% or amount set by CSC	Manage SB2 Housing Grant, complete TMA feasibility study and implement VMT guidelines	Planning and Transportation Divisions
No. 5 - Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations	Electrify City facilities, convert fleet, reduce employee commute emissions	Sustainability – Management Analyst II
No. 6 - Develop a climate adaption plan for sea level rise and flooding protection	Continue work with regional partners and City SAFER Bay grant application	Two proposed FY22-23 FTEs Sustainability (long-range planning and outreach) and Engineering for SLR protection (design)



REVIEW OF EQC ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- Commissioner Evans assisting developing with city's low income housing electrification project
- Commissioner London assisting with Beyond Gasoline Initiative
- California and other states are adopting building codes to encourage or require electrification like Menlo Park's 2019 Reach Code, but more local action is needed to demonstrate new and better methods of accelerating progress
- Commissioner Schmidt assisting with coordination of preliminary discussions about an urban tree canopy master plan



- Recommend that Menlo Park join ICLEI Race to Zero, while maintaining the 2030 carbon neutral goal and further recommend the City Council requests creating a subgroup of cities that have a 2030 carbon neutral goal. (ICLEI has now created the subgroup)



Recommend proposed new construction reach codes and existing building electrification measures with additional advice to:

- (1) consider returning to City Council for additional existing building electrification measures after the Bay Area Reach Codes Initiative releases existing building options and the City considers support services packages, such as available financial programs and/or a public private partnership with BlocPower and
- (2) the following specific measures are added to the proposed existing building measures:
 - (a) in-lieu fee added to any exceptions provided for both new and existing buildings,
 - (b) parking lot alterations require electric vehicle (EV) charging,
 - (c) require 100 percent EV charging equipment installed for new construction,
 - (d) streamline permit processes,
 - (e) consider hardship exemptions,
 - (f) alteration or addition larger than 200 square feet require full building electrification,
 - (g) consider a replace-at-end-of-life requirement with implementation occurring at a future date, e.g. 2 years after adoption)
 - h) consider a long lasting ordinance versus every three-year adoption cycle (e.g. health and safety ordinance)



IMPORTANT ACTION FOR 2022

- Adoption of Electrification Reach Codes to pursue CAP Action 1
 - (Electrification of 90% of buildings by 2030) Including existing

- New Construction Reach Codes are needed again
 - Without costly exemptions that create expensive retrofit situations
- Reach Codes are needed for remodels, additions etc.
- Reach Codes are needed to prevent costly installation of fossil fired replacement equipment and one-way air conditioners where electric alternatives are affordable.
- In lieu fees may assist applicants with difficult situations



COMMUNITY CONCERNS





PUBLIC COMMENTS VOICED TO EQC

- Climate change
 - High level of urgency
 - Concerns regarding climate equity, climate action equity and affordability
 - Accelerated progress on CAP is needed to meet science-based goals

- Inclusion of volunteers outside of commissioners to address climate action in Menlo Park
 - Desire of citizens to volunteer for assisting the city with climate preservation.
 - There is a Friends of the Library volunteer group, is it a model for other efforts?
 - Citizens organized the “We Love Earth Festival” on 4/16/22

- Concerns regarding gas powered leaf blowers

- Interest in dine-in establishments using reusable food-ware

- Heritage Trees and urban canopy



SEEKING GUIDANCE





SEEKING GUIDANCE FROM COUNCIL

- Urgency of Climate Change & Community Engagement
 - Role of the EQC and commissioners to further education and CAP goals
 - Should EQC work with staff to develop an update of CAP going beyond the six first year actions of 2020?
 - Consider EQC recommendations regarding CAP items 1, 2, 4, and 6 (next slide)



THANK YOU