

CONTRA COSTA SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

JULY 27, 2017

NOTES

The Contra Costa Sustainability Exchange is a venue where local government staff in Contra Costa County who work on sustainability issues come together to network and learn from one another. Anyone in Contra Costa County who works for a city, county, special district, or other organization with a governing board of elected officials is welcome. The Sustainability Exchange meets quarterly.

These notes summarize the July 27, 2017 meeting of the Sustainability Exchange, which was hosted by the City of Concord. At the back you will find a summary of the Exit Ticket comments, and information from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District about the Charge! electric vehicle grant.

INTRODUCTIONS

As people introduced themselves, they described a message, tool, event, website, etc. that has motivated them regarding sustainability issues.

PRESENTATION:

ONLINE TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Lisa Altieri, founder of Community Climate Solutions, provided an overview of the Community Climate Solutions online platform for helping individual households take action on climate and sustainability actions. Using the Fremont Green Challenge as an example, Altieri showed how the platform works. The platform can be branded to each jurisdiction with logo, local photos, and jurisdiction data. It includes information on specific actions including how-to guides, tips, and custom estimates on savings and local resources. Users can enter profile data on their household's usage and consumption patterns to get more accurate information on their contributions to reducing climate impacts. The platform includes a dashboard so individual households and larger segments, from neighborhood up to city, can measure progress. Users also can form teams and "compete" with one another to see which group can reduce their carbon footprint the most. Teams can be by neighborhood, community group, school, etc.

SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS: SMALL GROUP COLLABORATION

Meeting participants next broke into small groups to discuss and identify solutions for problems suggested prior to the meeting by participants. These included:

1. Facilitating walking and biking to school

2. Launching the Adapting to Rising Tides study in Eastern Contra Costa County
3. Expediting the permitting process for buildings that meet certain sustainability thresholds

Below are the reports from the small group discussions. The idea is the people who suggested the problems of practice will report out at the next Sustainability Exchange on how the advice worked, whether they've made progress, etc.

Adapting to Rising Tides in Eastern Contra Costa County

This group discussed strategies for engaging the community in an upcoming project: expanding the Adapting to Rising Tides study to Eastern Contra Costa County.

People to engage include elected officials; staff of cities, noting that most cities have small staff who have limited time and capacity; community-based organizations; special districts; marinas; Iron House Sanitation District; railroads; municipal advisory councils; groups and individuals that participated in the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative; East Bay Regional Parks District; Contra Costa Water District, PG&E; Discovery Bay waste water treatment agency.

Big Break Regional Park is a good meeting location.

Success will be signified by: framing the message correctly, having inundation maps and data; bringing key players to the table; developing a regional solution.

Challenges will include engaging the community and city staff, and implementing the findings from the study.

Strategies for overcoming challenges include early engagement of elected officials, public engagement, framing the message correctly. The data should be incorporated into the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Expedited Permitting

This group was discussing incentives Cities can offer to encourage Zero Net Energy/high levels of sustainability in development projects. One "problem" the group leader is encountering as she starts to explore this at the staff level is what it would take to implement an expedited permitting process as an incentive for buildings that meet a certain sustainability threshold (ZNE, LEED?). What would the process be? Potential issues? What's a good threshold? Does any jurisdiction do expedited permitting processes for other things (affordable housing, others)

where we could look at that process and duplicate/adapt? Are there other incentives besides expedited permitting?

Key players the group identified include developers, the public, state and local officials.

There will need to be a consideration for the California Environmental Quality Act. It also will be necessary to distinguish different categories of buildings: large commercial buildings, mom and pop, etc.

The primary challenge will be how to make changes at the local level.

Strategies for overcoming these challenges include incentives for transit-oriented development, parking requirements, revised code. It will help to have a big vision for this work, and to incorporate it into the General Plan. There must be political support.

Walking and Biking to School

This group focused on how we can get more children walking and biking to school, as opposed to being dropped off by parents.

The group started by talking about why this is important. There are co-benefits from increased active transportation that include a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, less car maintenance, less congestion on streets and road, increase quality of life, improved mental state, building social capital and empowering children, building a culture of independent mobility.

Key players are basically everyone: California Department of Education, school districts, cities, families, individual schools, law enforcement, CalTrans, transit providers, students, planners, engineers. Especially important are granting agencies, community leaders, and realtors.

Challenges include driver behavior, especially speeding; “stranger danger”; land use planning; infrastructure for walking and biking; State school siting guidelines versus city responsibilities.

Strategies for overcoming this include realtors and walk/bike scores; messaging; building out bike facilities; and exploring bike share programs and bike safety curriculum.

OPEN FORUM

- County electric vehicle readiness planning – recommendation going to Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee on July 31.

- Renewable Resource Potential Plan for County – should kick off this fall.
- Concord and Walnut Creek launched Starship Enterprises, a robot delivery service. Here are some clips about this:

<http://kron4.com/2017/07/06/tech-report-concord-could-allow-testing-of-robots-that-deliver-goods-to-your-home/>

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=205325e2-d723-4206-b071-5ca6f6f6adb2>

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=28b97eea-792f-44f5-8c06-fe8f8621804e>

- Concord City Council has directed staff to develop recommendations for a polystyrene ban.
- Contra Costa County will be updating its General Plan.
- Contra Costa County and the cities are updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Contra Costa County received the SolSmart certification from the U.S. Department of Energy, in recognition of its solar-friendly policies and permitting for residential solar installations.
- Online ARC GIS of the Contra Costa shoreline.
- El Cerrito has opted in to Deep Green (100% renewable) for all municipal electricity accounts.
- San Pablo has a Street Trees project underway. This includes developing an open tree map.
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District will be issuing \$4 million in grants, and has created a Technology Implementation Office.
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that the deadline to apply for the Charge! electric vehicle infrastructure grant has been extended to November 4. (see attachment)

NEXT STEPS AND EXIT TICKETS

A summary of the exit ticket feedback is attached. The next quarterly meeting in October will be hosted by the City of Walnut Creek. Date to be determined.

Exit Ticket: Sustainability Exchange

July 27, 2017

What was most significant about our work today....	What I personally enjoyed about today...	I have some concerns about or feel we did not fully address ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Break and group discussion. -Solving our problems, discussion facilitated, active engagement. -Collaboration w/other teams-cities, county. -Lisa's presentation. Excellent and something we'd be interested in. -Grant discussion exchange of ideas. -Helpful to be able to pick other peoples brains and get directed to upcoming opportunities. -Meeting other agency staff. Hearing about other activity throughout the County. -We increased awareness on the facets of sustainability and stressed its importance. -I liked the problem solving component. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Learning about "Fremont Green Challenge" and meeting new people/staff. -Share out more. -Meeting new people. -Enthusiastic participants. -Making new connections. -The coffee cake! -The small group discussions were very helpful to hear many different topics. -I enjoyed listening to the discussion surrounding East county. 	

At the next meeting, I'd like to see...	The way that I most want to contribute to the Sustainability Exchange moving forward...	Anything else...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Municipal Resiliency. -Discussion on upcoming projects to identify other staff members that may be resources. -Follow-up deeper delve dive. -Similar presentation, small group, open forum could work. -More about EV Infrastructure. -A list of former topics discussed in previous meetings, an active list of future topics of interest, more presentations on case studies. -Enjoyed having a speaker and collaborative components. -All of it!! -More of the same or a repeat of reports back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I'll help where needed. -Provide pertinent data from the County relevant to sustainability. -All of it!! -Information sharing and collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Invite leaders/council, executive team to these. -Great job! -These meetings are really coming together.
Feedback on facilitation and organization of the session: appreciations, suggestions going forward		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Well done! -Continuing rotating location, trying to fit too much into one session (time constraints). -Small groups had a lot of discussion. -Location is easy to access and I appreciate the diverse group of attendees. -Great job facilitating, especially with keeping timing on track. 		

From: [Luz Gomez](#)
To: wwahb@pw.cccounty.us; [Jody London](#)
Subject: Charge!
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:10:38 PM

Please share with Exchange.
Sign up for Grants list at bottom link!

Luz

Luz Gomez, MPH | Community Engagement Manager

Community Engagement Office

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Begin forwarded

To All Interested Parties:

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) would like to inform you that the application submittal deadline for the *Charge!* Program has been extended to **4:00 PM on November 3, 2017**. The program webpage is in the process of being updated to reflect the new deadlines.

As a reminder, applicants to the *Charge!* Program are required to attend a pre-application workshop prior to submitting an application. Workshops are held as online webinars; the next webinar is scheduled for:

- Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ([Register](#))
- Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 10 AM – 11 AM ([Register](#))
- Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 11 AM – 12 PM ([Register](#))

Additional workshops will be scheduled in the future and posted on the [Program webpage](#).

Charge! is an incentive program that offers grant funding to help offset a portion of the cost of purchasing and installing new publicly available charging stations at qualifying facilities within the [Air District's jurisdiction](#).

The goal of the *Charge!* Program is to rapidly expand access to electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in order to accelerate the Bay Area's adoption of EVs and ultimately achieve the region's EV deployment goals of 110,000 EVs by 2020, and 247,000 by 2025.

Both public and private entities are eligible to apply. For 2018, \$5 million is allocated to this program, and awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis. For a full list of eligibility requirements, please see the *Charge!* Program Application Guidance located at www.baaqmd.gov/charge.

Contact

For additional information about this program, contact Ken Mak, Acting Supervising Staff Specialist at kmak@baaqmd.gov or (415) 749-8660.

TFCA Mailing List

You are receiving this e-mail because you have previously indicated interest in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Grant Programs. If you wish to be removed from our contact list, fill out the form at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6MRPHLD>, and select 'None of the above. Please remove me from the mailing list' under Question #4.