



CITY OF LAFAYETTE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Originally adopted by the City Council on November 13, 2006

Amended and adopted by the City Council on March 28, 2011 – Resolution No. 2011-08

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Lafayette is committed to developing and implementing environmental policies and programs that will enable the City and its residents to meet their present needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City recognizes that achieving its commitment requires the effort of individual community members and that it has an important role in educating its citizens and acting as a model. In fulfilling its commitment, the City of Lafayette will be guided by the following principles:

- The importance of environmental sustainability will be considered in City policy and decisions
- The protection, preservation and restoration of the natural environment are high priorities for the City
- Broad community cooperation among the City government, businesses, residents, community organizations, and schools and other service providers is essential to effective community governance
- Community awareness, responsibility, participation, and education are key elements of an environmentally sustainable community
- Environmental quality, economic health, and social equity are related
- The City recognizes that it is part of a wider community and local government issues cannot be separated from their broader context

CITY GOALS

To ensure the environmental sustainability of the community, the City will establish and work towards achieving goals in the following areas:

- Resource conservation
- Environmental effects on public health and welfare
- Environmentally sensitive land use
- Community education and civic involvement

THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

“To be an environmental goal-setting and advisory group to the City”

The City’s Environmental Task Force will support existing City policies and programs, recommend goals, help coordinate and implement new actions and programs, and advise the City Council on participation in programs administered by agencies and organizations that promote environmental sustainability. The Task Force will be made up of community members who are passionate about environmental sustainability and have some relevant expertise or experience. Subcommittees of Task Force members and relevant representatives from the community, organizations, and agencies may be formed to work on specific actions and programs. The Task Force will meet monthly and report to the Council on a regular basis.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE TASK FORCE

Maintain overall environmental goals and indicators: Establish and update environmental metrics for Lafayette and report these annually to the City Council in the form of an Environmental Indicators Report. Examples of possible metrics are commercial, school and residential energy use, water use, waste and recycling, air quality, bike ways established, and solar energy units installed.

Identify and prioritize environmental issues: Based on environmental metrics and community input, identify specific areas and issues about which the City should be concerned.

Recommend City actions: Advise and recommend actions and policy which the City could implement to reduce environmental impact. Study and track actions taken by similar cities.

Understand local implications of regional and State laws and programs: Understand laws, such as AB32 and SB375, and advise the City on its role in implementation.

Encourage and facilitate action by community members and groups to meet City goals: Share the City's environmental sustainability goals with the community and encourage and facilitate community action in meeting these goals.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Task Force recognizes there are now many environmental groups and efforts in Lafayette and that it can depend on these to pursue their own missions. The Task Force can then focus its own efforts on tasks that are within the purview of the City. Specifically, the City can depend on:

- Sustainable Lafayette to pursue educational programs across the community, including success stories, tips in the local paper, workshops, film nights, lectures, and educational events
- The "Local Food Group" to pursue new ways to provide locally grown and organic food to Lafayette
- The Chamber of Commerce Green Committee to pursue ways to help local businesses adopt sustainable practices
- The School District Green Team to pursue ways to green its campuses and save money.
- The City's other commissions and committees to consider sustainability in their programs and recommendations

SPECIFIC GOALS (2011-2013)

The Task Force's goals will be reached through the coordination and implementation of the following actions and programs, while recognizing the City's limited staff and resources:

- 1. Prepare and present an annual Environmental Indicators Report to the City Council**
 - a. Determine the set of indicators to track and the process for obtaining data. (2011)
 - b. Complete a survey of existing solar and alternative energy installations in Lafayette. (2012)
 - c. Identify the top sustainability issues and opportunities. (Annually)

- 2. Prepare a Climate Action Plan for the community.**
 - a. Establish community and municipal operations baselines at 2005 levels for water consumption, energy use, solid waste disposal, and vehicle miles traveled following established protocols. (2011)
 - b. Establish 2020 targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, energy use, solid waste disposal, and vehicle miles traveled following established protocols. (2011)
 - c. Support staff to complete a draft Climate Action Plan. (2012)

- 3. Target a solid waste diversion rate of 75% for Lafayette (vs. 50%).**
 - a. Create a partnership with Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority and Sustainable Lafayette to pursue this goal. (2011)
 - b. Monitor packaging (such as plastic bags and Styrofoam) legislation at the State level and by other cities and report if there is a feasible approach for Lafayette. (2012)
 - c. Work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a proposal, including funding, for recycling containers in the downtown. (2012)

- 4. Work towards a program of leading edge green development policies.**
 - a. Support the adoption of the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for the City. (2011)
 - b. Support the development of a voluntary green building program to complement CalGreen, the State's new green building code. (2012)
 - c. Evaluate the success of the voluntary program and status of CalGreen, and advise the implementation of a mandatory green building program. (2013)

- 5. Pave the way for more energy efficient transportation.**
 - a. Investigate and advise on the development of a charging station infrastructure. (2012)
 - b. Investigate and advise on a local car-share program. (2013)
 - c. Support the purchase of fuel-efficient City vehicles as existing vehicles are replaced. (Ongoing)

- 6. Evaluate programs for energy-efficiency upgrades and renewable energy.**
 - a. Complete an analysis to advise the feasibility of a community solar farm. (2013)

- 7. Use City resources and leadership to promote and support sustainability.**
 - a. Co-sponsor the annual Green Awards recognizing environmental excellence. (Ongoing)
 - b. Co-sponsor the annual Earth Day event. (Ongoing)
 - c. Support the Farmers Market in the downtown. (Ongoing)
 - d. Support local foods groups in the development of a community garden and implementation of a gleaning and food sharing program. (Ongoing)
 - e. Request a section of the updated City website for resources, activities, and news about sustainability issues and ideas. (2011)

- 8. Explore and educate about potential sustainability strategies.**
 - a. Research and share innovations regarding sustainability. (Ongoing)
 - b. Use local media and updated City website for education. (Ongoing)