

Contra Costa Sustainability Exchange: Engaging Your Community

Bay Area SunShares and the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

June 5, 2019

Agenda

10:00 – 10:20	Introductions & Open Forum	Jody London, Contra Costa County
10:20 – 10:45	Presentation: Bay Area SunShares	Cara Bautista-Rao, City of Walnut Creek
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation: Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge	Sarah Kolarik, City of San Pablo Siu Sahn Foo, Contra Costa County (CivicSpark) Suzanne Hartman, City of San Pablo (CivicSpark) Tinuviel Carlson, City of Antioch (CivicSpark) Jacenda Davis, Sustainable Contra Costa (SCOCO)
11:15 – 11:45	Small Group Breakout Activity	<i>West County:</i> Sarah Kolarik, City of San Pablo <i>Central County:</i> Cara Bautista-Rao, City of Walnut Creek <i>East County:</i> Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, City of Antioch <i>Non-Municipal:</i> Jacenda Davis, SCOCO
11:45 – 11:55	Next Steps & Exit Tickets	Jody London, Contra Costa County
11:55 – Noon	Next Sustainability Exchange	Michael Cass, City of Concord

Introductions and Open Forum

Participants introduced themselves and provided an update on current projects.

- Contra Costa County: Working with Contra Costa Transportation Authority on Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan for entire County. In process of updating County's Climate Action Plan. Coordinating better integration of energy efficiency outreach with County work with medically vulnerable and low-income residents.
- City of San Pablo: Recently finished Green Infrastructure plan. Starting research into EV charging stations reach codes from other cities. Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.
- Jacenda Davis, Sustainable Contra Costa: Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge outreach across the county
- Orinda: EV chargers
- Walnut Creek: Will be updating climate action plan; RFP is out
- El Cerrito: Tree damage; Hoping to move forward with a food ware ordinance to remove polystyrene and switch to compostable products. CAP implementation plan
- West County Recycling: Outreach and waste management
- Contra Costa Community College District: Completing Prop 39 energy projects
- EBMUD: Commercial and industrial water efficiency upgrades.
- City of Antioch: Works on all things sustainability. Doing waste management training with the Senior Center.
- Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing and Homeless Services: Incorporating electric vehicles into the fleet; challenge of expanding use of EVs due to lack of charging stations.
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District: watershed and outreach work

- City of Concord: EV charging stations in downtown parking garages (grants from BAAQMD and MTC).

Presentation: Bay Area SunShares

Cara Bautista-Rao provided an overview of Bay Area SunShares, a group purchase program for residential solar systems and electric vehicles. Bay Area SunShares does the footwork of conducting bid processes and selecting vendors, as well as provides assistance with outreach. Walnut Creek has seen an increase in rooftop solar systems since participating in the program. Interested local governments can sign on to be outreach partners. This can be an easy for governments to offer discounts on rooftop solar and electric vehicles without having to organize a program. See the presentation deck, which is posted on the [Sustainability Exchange web page](#).

Presentation: Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

Jacenda Davis, Sarah Kolarik, Tinuviel Carlson, Suzanne Hartman, and Siu Sahn Foo provided an overview of the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, an online platform that helps County residents take action to help their community and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff are available to present on the Cleaner Contra Challenge to a range of audiences. In the fall there will be a big push to engage with high schools.

The project is funded through a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The initial two-year grant is allowing the partners to the project - Contra Costa County, Antioch, San Pablo, Walnut Creek, Sustainable Contra Costa, and 511 Contra Costa – to pilot outreach and engagement strategies. Cities that are not part of the initial pilot are encouraged to set up pages on www.CleanerContraCosta.org and engage their residents.

After a presentation, which can be found on the [Sustainability Exchange web page](#), people broke into groups and brainstormed on the following questions:

- How can I leverage the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to serve my jurisdiction’s or organization’s interests?
- What are the best ways to reach out to my community?
- What community groups might be interested in the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge?
Please write down a list of community groups to share with SCOCO. SCOCO may be able to promote the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to community groups within your jurisdiction.

The reports back from the breakout groups are provided below.

El Cerrito

- 4th of July is a big event – good opportunity for tabling Presentation to Environmental Quality Committee (and/or other City committees) => possible that Kaiya Levine would be willing to present to this committee before the end of her Climate Corps Fellowship in early July
- El Cerrito schools: El Cerrito High, Prospect Sierra, Madera, Harding, Korematsu, etc.
- El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
- Friends of Five Creeks

Unincorporated West County

- Verde Elementary
- Kensington Elementary
- Kensington Police and Safety Board
- Arlington Community Church

General Ideas

- The Watershed Project
- Earth Team
- Urban Tilth
- Central Sanitary => employees might be interested in competition
- Green Business Certification (use certification process as an opportunity to connect with “green”-minded businesses)

Central County

Reach out to swim teams, master gardeners, scouts.

Countywide

The group identified opportunities for presentations to the Watershed Forum and the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District. The group brainstormed opportunities with the community colleges and discussed how to leverage the related work and projects of other groups.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be an outdoor adventure in September. We are working on gaining access to a hard-to-get-into location. Stay tuned!