



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
July 21, 2010**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Climate Change Subcommittee (Vice Mayor DeLaney and Councilmember Ross)

PREPARED BY: Michael Chandler, Sr. Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs Update

DATE: July 13, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for informational purposes.

BACKGROUND

The City has made significant progress over the past year in support of its Climate Action Plan and sustainability programs. The following list reflects the key accomplishments during the prior 12 month period:

- 1) City Hall/Police Department Green Business Designation – The City received a “Green Business” certification from the County’s Green Business Program for implementing eco-friendly practices in the areas of solid waste reduction and recycling; energy conservation; water conservation; and pollution prevention at the City Hall and Police Department offices. One key component of this process included replacing all harsh cleaning chemicals and solvents with green/biodegradable alternatives.
- 2) Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – The City, in partnership with 511 Contra Costa, received and installed three electric vehicle charging stations in downtown Martinez. These stations will be upgraded from 110V to 240V capacity this summer, which will accommodate the newer electric vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf and Chevy Volt, suitable for highway and interstate transportation. The City also expanded its fleet of electric gem cars and now has four in service.
- 3) Compost Workshops for Residents – The City conducted two compost workshops in the past year, including a class in June that had 41 attendees, the highest participation realized in Martinez since the City began providing these free workshops over a decade ago.

- 4) Adopted Resolution Joining Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program – The City adopted a resolution to participate with the County and numerous other cities in Contra Costa in a program designed to enable property owners to finance the up-front costs of major energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through their property tax bills. The program is still under federal review to ensure compliance with various loan regulations, but will hopefully be available to residents in early 2011.
- 5) Hosted Earth Day Booth – For the second consecutive year, the City hosted a booth with information on the City’s sustainability programs and efforts during the Earth Day celebration on the grounds of the John Muir Historic Site. The City distributed almost 300 recycled, reusable plastic shopping bags at the event.
- 6) Established City “Green Team” – The City established an internal Green Team, comprised of a staff representative from each department or division, and charged with promoting sustainability efforts and making recommendations on which Climate Action Plan strategies the City should focus.
- 7) Redesigned Website – The City’s website was enhanced with new sections on Refuse and Recycling and the Climate Action Plan, easily accessible from the City’s homepage www.cityofmartinez.org via the “Services” drop down menu. These sections provide valuable links, updates, and information on a variety of sustainability resources and programs availability to our residents and businesses.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None fiscal impact.

ACTION:

Receive and file the report.