

SAN FRANCISCO
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Annual Report 2019



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Prepared by SF Environment
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OUR MISSION

The mission of the San Francisco Commission on the Environment is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment while promoting San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter. The Commission sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and other City departments on environmental matters. Appointed by the Mayor, the seven-member Commission helps develop policies and programs on a wide range of environmental topics including: zero waste initiatives, toxics reduction, environmental justice, clean air, transportation, energy efficiency, green building, habitat restoration, biodiversity, urban forestry, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



(From L to R) Sarah Ching-Ting Wan, Eddie Ahn, Mike Sullivan, Elmy Bermejo (President), Heather Stephenson (Vice President), Johanna Wald, Tiffany Chu



LETTER FROM THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Mayor Breed, Members of the Board of Supervisors, Friends and Colleagues:

The Commission on the Environment is blessed to be surrounded by forward-thinking, like-minded environmentalists who live and work in our beautiful City by the Bay. We on the Commission are both privileged and inspired to serve in a City where environmental stewardship is the norm.

That's why, in April, the Commission on the Environment and our City joined other municipalities and organizations from around the world in officially declaring a climate emergency. This was truly a momentous occasion for the global climate movement.

Since then, all of us have been witness to an amazing global transformation. In September, millions of youth, including here in San Francisco, mobilized under the leadership of Greta Thunberg for the 2019 youth climate strikes. Never before has the environment captivated the hearts and minds of people living around the world as it did in 2019. Their message was loud and clear- we can no longer stand by as we watch the environment deteriorate around us.

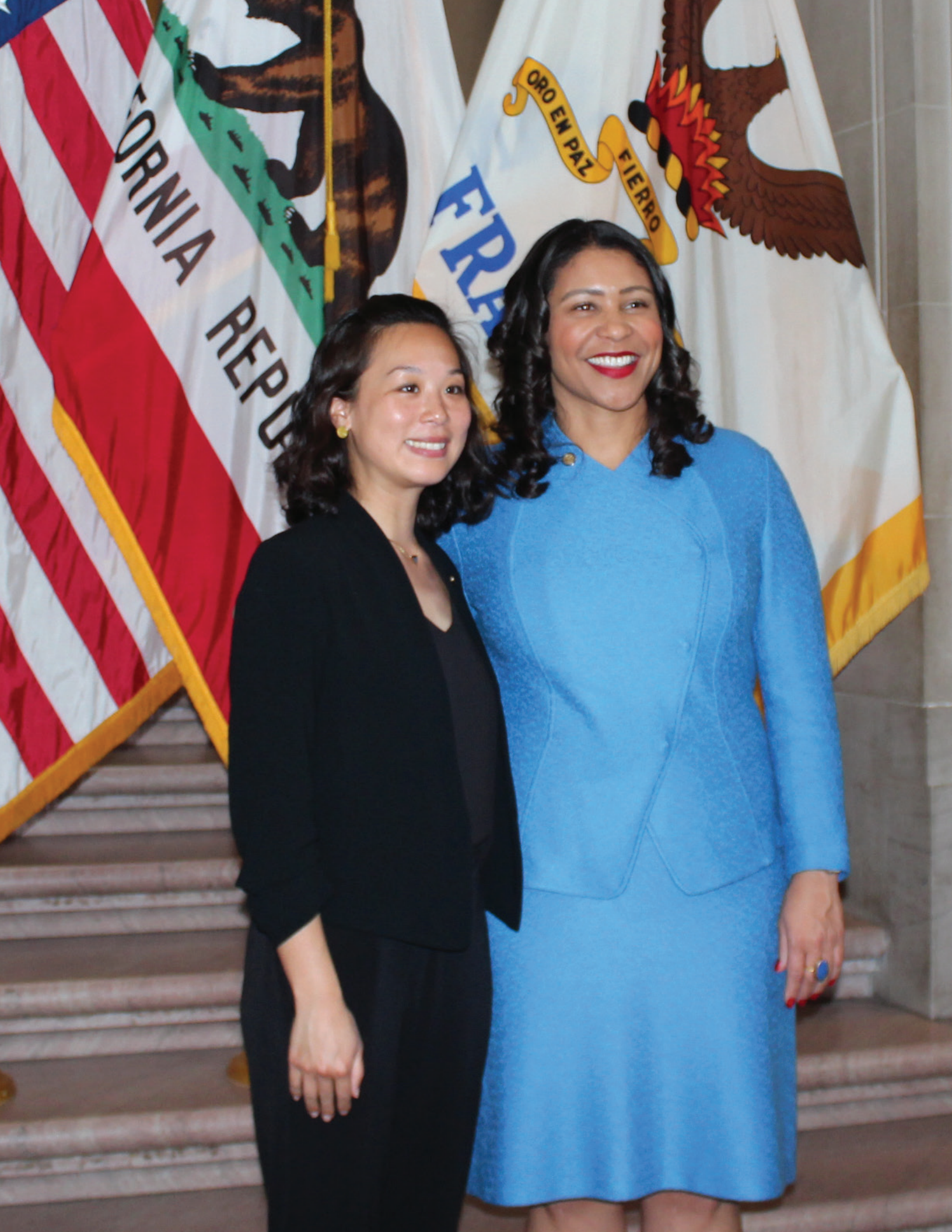
The Commission on the Environment, our City leaders, residents, and businesses are responding to this environmental wellspring with fierce determination. In 2019, our Mayor, London Breed, called for a month of Climate Action in April. She punctuated that call with new policies to increase renewable energy usage and electrify our transportation network. In August, we held our annual retreat at the Heron's Head EcoCenter in the Bayview and hosted a special public hearing on the environmental impacts of consumption.

Throughout the year, the Commission supported multiple legislative initiatives from both the Board of Supervisors and Mayor's Office. And perhaps most importantly, after years of helping to steer the Department towards building decarbonization, the Commission on the Environment was proud to stand with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors in support of the Department's building energy reach code and natural gas ban in new municipal construction ordinance.

It was truly a remarkable year for the San Francisco Commission on the Environment. I am always so impressed by the dedication, excellence, and roll-up-your-sleeve work ethic of the staff at the San Francisco Department of the Environment. And while the challenge of changing climate continues to manifest, the climate action taken by our Commission, our City, our State and the activists around the world, should give all of us hope.

Sincerely,

Elmy Bermejo, President
San Francisco Commission on the Environment



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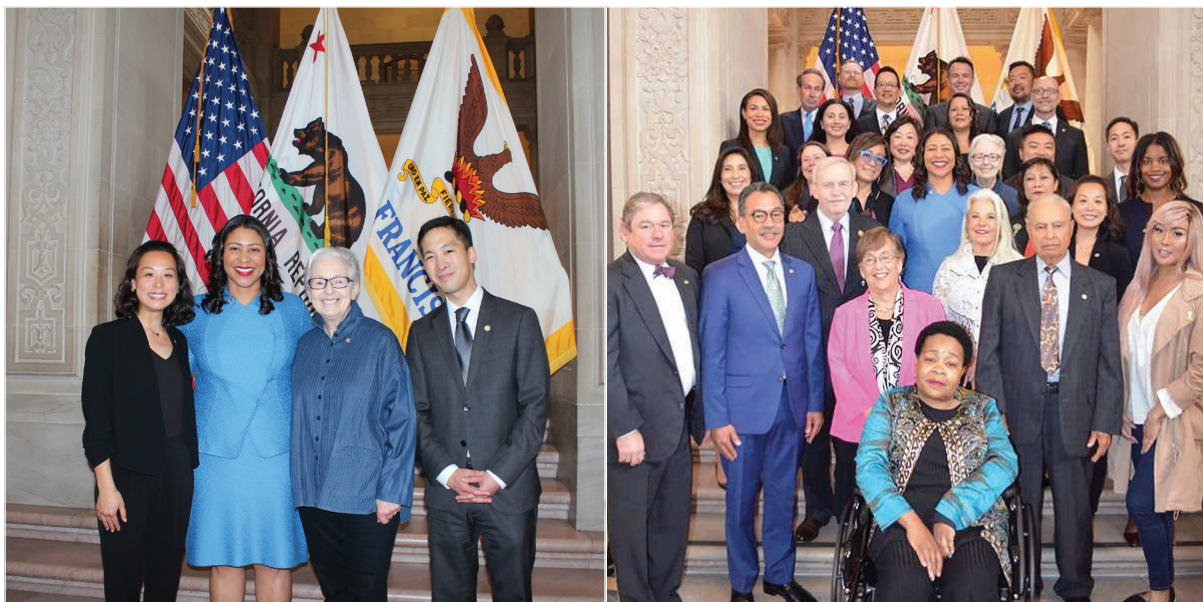
WELCOME COMMISSIONER TIFFANY CHU

On April 19th, 2019, Tiffany Chu was appointed by Mayor London Breed to the San Francisco Commission on the Environment. Tiffany brings extensive experience in the transportation sector to the Commission on the Environment.

Commissioner Chu is a designer, planner, and founder at Remix. Based in San Francisco and Amsterdam, she and her team are working with over 350+ cities to plan their transportation future with innovation and sustainability in mind. She's passionate about changing the built environment of our cities in favor of better designs for people and planet by creating impact through user-centered design and technology. She was named in Forbes' 30 Under 30, LinkedIn's Next Wave of Leaders Under 35 in Government, Curbed's Young Guns, and has spoken at SXSW, Helsinki Design Week, and the New York Times Cities for Tomorrow Conference.

Previously, Tiffany was a Fellow at Code for America, partnering with the City of Charlotte to launch their first open data initiative. Tiffany is an alum of Y Combinator. She was also the first user experience designer at Zipcar, wrote for Dwell, and studied architecture and urban planning at MIT. She is determined to avoid owning a car during her lifetime.

Commissioners Heather Stephenson, Eddie Ahn, and Johanna Wald were also reappointed and sworn-in this year.





MAYOR BREED'S MONTH OF CLIMATE ACTION

In the spirit of inspiring and promoting community action for the City and the planet, the Commission was active in the Mayor's first-ever "SF Month of Climate Action" in April. Responding to Mayor Breed's climate action commitment, San Franciscans from all over the City were involved in numerous community organizations through a wide range of volunteer efforts. All of these projects were undertaken with the goal of making San Francisco greener, cleaner, and more resilient.

The department curated over 100 environmental events planned in neighborhoods across the city, ranging from inspiring talks, workshops, and film screenings, to hands-on, interactive experiences like volunteer opportunities, street fairs, and classes. Commissioners participated in a variety of events. In particular, Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, and Wan worked collaboratively with food pantry staff and provided a helping hand to distribute food to over 950 residents at seven neighborhood food pantries.

In addition to bulk food items and prepared food, pantry visitors also received a reusable cloth tote bag to carry their food in plus helpful information on how to compost leftovers and recycle. Volunteering at a local food pantry gave the commissioners the opportunity to help Environment Now staff not only give back to the community but to demonstrate the connection between food recovery, zero waste, and equity.

Month of Climate Action Sponsors:

Kaiser Permanente

Recology

Blue Shield of California

Barbary Coast Dispensary

McDonalds

Levi Strauss & Co.

New Deal Advisers

Another Planet

ESA

Silverstrum Climate Associates





2019 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

SAN FRANCISCO DECLARES A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Support for Supervisor Mandelman’s Climate Emergency Resolution was strengthened by a resolution of support from the Commission in March. Department staff helped develop the Resolution with input from local activists, members of the Policy Committee, and the Commission. The unanimous passing of this resolution sets the stage for accelerated action to reduce the City’s emissions. The resolution also commissioned a technical report from city staff, *Focus 2030: A Pathway for Net Zero Emissions*. The report quantifies the potential emissions reductions of the City’s 0-80-100-Roots goals based on a technical analysis of where emissions come from and the speed at which strategic priority actions are taken. The findings of this report will serve as a starting point for San Francisco’s 2020 Climate Action Strategy update. The Commission on the Environment was joined by groups such as SF Tomorrow, Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, Mothers Out Front, Sierra Club SF Group, SF Labor Council, Jobs with Justice, and others.

CELEBRATE POWER, STRENGTH, AND RESILIENCE

A women’s summit, “be INVINCIBLE,” showcased San Francisco’s extraordinary women who serve to inspire other women to improve their health, advance their careers, and grow their professional networks. In June, the Moscone Center was bustling with engaging workshops. Commissioners Bermejo and Stephenson were energized by the countless women whose vision, values, and voices promote a future of equality and opportunity. The summit’s keynote speakers included Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and former Obama White House Senior Advisor Valerie B. Jarret. San Francisco Mayor London Breed and City Administrator Naomi M. Kelly hosted the summit to encourage community engagement, coalition-building, and leadership opportunities for all.



2019 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

A RECORD NUMBER OF BUSINESSES GO GREEN IN SAN FRANCISCO

From Allbirds to Rainbow Grocery, San Francisco now has over 350 businesses committed to carbon footprint reductions. In March, Commissioners Ahn, Stephenson, and Wan congratulated over 100 local businesses at the 13th Annual Green Business Awards for their commitment to sustainable business practices. The Green Business Program showcases how businesses can be prosperous and operational without an added expense to the environment. This year's honorees reflect a range of industries and retail citywide. They include Cole Hardware, Lucca's Food Deli & Wine Shop, the Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf, Chancellor Hotel, and many other leading businesses.

BATTLE FOR THE BAY

Armed with 5-gallon buckets and trash-picking gadgets, Commissioners Ahn and Sullivan joined Department staff and hundreds of other volunteers to clean up trash along the Indian Valley Basin facing Rec & Park's newest EcoCenter, Heron's Head. This annual cleanup day traditionally comes with a friendly competitive component among participating Bay Area cities too. This year, San Francisco placed first for the most number of volunteers (over 3,000 people) and placed second for the most trash collected (over 7,000 pounds). Battle for the Bay wrapped up with record turnout in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. The cities picked up more than 200,000 pounds of trash in merely one morning. This was a huge undertaking and tribute to the volunteers who participated in the California Coastal Cleanup Day hosted annually by the California Coastal Commission.



2019 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

FOOD WASTE SUMMIT ANNOUNCES EFFORTS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Following the Global Climate Action Summit, the Pacific Coast Collaborative announced the Wasted Food Reduction Project. The Project aims to accelerate food waste reduction initiatives all along the west coast from British Columbia to Los Angeles. At their event launch, the Pacific Coast Collaborative and its partners, invited Commissioner Heather Stephenson to announce the first two west coast businesses committed to reducing food waste by 50% by 2030.

The Project encompasses three key elements:

- A food waste reduction goal of 50% by 2030;
- The adoption of food waste prevention initiatives in cities all along the west coast; and,
- A voluntary, non-regulatory agreement with businesses known to generate food waste. Specifically, the agreement enlists food producers and retailers to the 50% wasted food reduction goal with frequent metric and progress reports. These public/private partnerships are critical to achieve zero waste. The first signatory to come on board, Kroger, owns two Foods Co. in San Francisco- one in the Bayview and the other in the Mission.



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Made in San Francisco

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Commission on the Environment’s Policy Subcommittee meets monthly to oversee long-term planning and policy development for the Department, including the assessment of environmental conditions and review of the City’s long-term environmental sustainability plans.

In 2019, the Committee heard presentations on the 2019 Reduced Risk Pesticide List, a carbon sequestration study of trees in San Francisco, initiatives to reduce and eliminate natural gas, the County Transportation Agency’s Emerging Mobility Report, the Plastic and Litter Reduction Ordinance, an update of the commitments made by San Francisco at the Global Climate Action Summit, the Net Zero Emissions Pathway Report, and the Municipal Progress Report on Climate and Sustainability.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Commission on the Environment’s Operations Subcommittee meets quarterly. The Committee oversees public education and community outreach on environmental issues. In 2019, the Operations Committee discussed the Department’s budget, the Department’s Racial Equity Initiative Action Plan, the zero-waste outreach to businesses implementing the Single-use Plastics, Litter and Toxics Reduction Ordinance, and the new roll out for the residential renewable energy campaign.

More information about commissions hearings and presentations can be found online at [SFEenvironment.org](https://www.sfeenvironment.org).





Awardee, Tamar Hurwitz



Awardee, San Francisco International Airport



Awardee, SF Giants





COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS

San Francisco’s Commission on the Environment strives to recognize individuals and organizations that help the Commission and Department fulfill its mission of conducting public education and outreach on environmental issues and supporting long-term sustainability in the City. Each year, the Commission on the Environment recognizes individuals and organizations that embody the City’s mission of long-term sustainability and environmental public education.

The 2019 recipients of the Commission on the Environment – Environmental Service Award include:

INDIVIDUALS

Tamar Hurwitz, School Education Program Manager

Kathleen Hennesey, Moscone Center Sustainability Analyst

In memory of Cal Broomhead

ORGANIZATIONS

SF Giants

Green Purchasing recipients

San Francisco International Airport

San Francisco Department of Human Resources

Annie Forman of Outside Lands

United States Department of Energy National Clean Cities Awards to the San Francisco Clean Coalition



COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190222, an ordinance declaring a climate emergency in San Francisco and requesting immediate and accelerated action to address the climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (Resolution File No. 007-19-COE).

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190417, an ordinance amending the Environment Code to raise the amount stores must charge for checkout bags from 10 cents to 25 cents per bag and to require that pre-checkout bags provided to customers before they reach the point of sale be recyclable paper or compostable (Resolution File No. 002-19-COE).

Approved Department of the Environment Funding Recommendations for San Francisco Zero Waste Grant Awards to Asian Pacific American Community Center (APACC), Garden for the Environment, Groceries for Seniors, Hunters Point Family, Replate, San Francisco Conservation Corps, SF State University, San Francisco Unified School District, SCRAP, The Story of Stuff Project, Tech Exchange, UCSF Recycling & Waste Reduction Facilities Services, Upstream, and Urban Strategies (Resolution File No. 003-19-COE).

Approved the 2018 Annual Buy Green Report.

Approved Reduced Risk Pesticide List for 2019.

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190793, an ordinance amending the Environment Code to require commercial parking lots and garages of a certain size to install Level 2 electric vehicle charging equipment in at least 10% of available parking spaces and amending the Police Code to add compliance with the new provisions of the Environment Code as a condition of the existing permit requirement for commercial parking lots and garages (Resolution File No. 005-19-COE).

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190708, an ordinance amending the Environment Code to require all nonresidential buildings of 50,000 square feet or more to provide all on-site electricity demands from 100% greenhouse gas-free or renewable sources (Resolution File No. 006-19-COE).

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190972, an ordinance amending the Environment Code to require new construction and major renovations of municipal buildings to exclude natural gas and include exclusively all-electric energy sources (Resolution File No. 2019-08-COE).

Urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt File No. 190974, an ordinance amending the Green Building Code to require newly constructed buildings in San Francisco to either use electricity as the source of energy for all building systems and exclude natural gas or to significantly improve energy performance if any systems utilize natural gas (Resolution File No. 2019-09-COE).





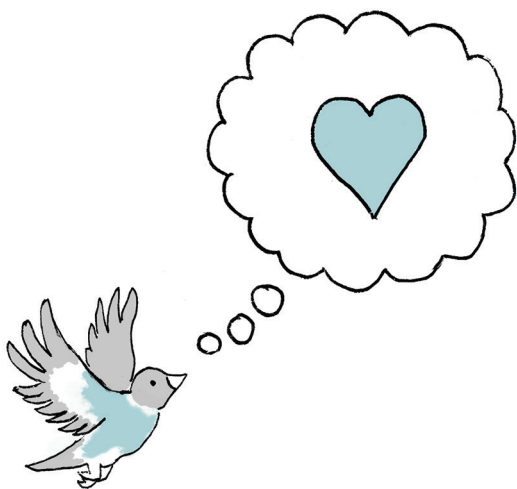
**2019 Annual Report
San Francisco Commission on the Environment**

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