



SAN FRANCISCO  
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

# Annual Report 2016



**SF Environment**

**Our home. Our city. Our planet.**

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Prepared by SF Environment  
1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103  
SFEnvironment.org • (415) 355-3700

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.





Photo credit Peter Alexander



## OUR MISSION

The mission of the San Francisco Commission on the Environment is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter. The Commission on the Environment 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 develops policies and programs on a wide range of environmental topics including zero waste, toxics reduction, environmental justice, green jobs, clean air and transportation, energy efficiency, green building, habitat restoration, biodiversity, urban forestry, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



*(From L to R) Sarah Ching-Ting Wan, Lisa Hoyos, Jacquelyn Omotalade (President), Heather Stephenson, Elmy Bermejo (Vice President), Johanna Wald, Deborah Raphael (Director)*

### COMMISSIONERS LEAVING OFFICE IN 2016

Joshua Arce, *Past Commission President*





Photo credit Peter Alexander



# LETTER FROM THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT

January 2017

Mayor Lee, Members of the Board of Supervisors, Friends, and Colleagues,

I am pleased to share that the San Francisco Commission on the Environment had a very productive year helping to develop and support the innovative, collaborative and forward-thinking policies and programs of the San Francisco Department of the Environment. Whether it has been championing zero waste, supporting green businesses, or reducing exposure to toxic chemicals, the Commission has been proud to help guide the City's environmental goals and its incredible work.

During my tenure as Commission President, I have witnessed first-hand the dedication, leadership, and subject matter expertise Department staff have exhibited when presenting to the Board of Supervisors, before the Commission, or at community meetings. Most notably, staff have demonstrated pro-active and effective engagement with other City agencies and community partners in implementing the Mayor's Climate Action Plan.

In 2016, the Commission championed and encouraged the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to support important policy initiatives like the Better Roofs Ordinance and the polystyrene foam ban – both of which were passed unanimously by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and signed into law by Mayor Lee. We also pushed for a more comprehensive set of requirements to guide City departments in further reducing pesticide use, which will help protect not only the health of our residents and City staff, but also our native plants and pollinators.

It is our great honor and privilege as members of the Commission on the Environment to serve the diverse communities of San Francisco and to be a part of the City's continued environmental leadership. In the years ahead, as we face a new federal administration and begin to see more of the effects of climate change, we know that our work here in San Francisco will only become more necessary and urgent.

As a Commission, we stand ready to roll up our sleeves and work collaboratively in the days ahead to ensure that San Francisco remains at the forefront in the fight to protect our environment and the health and safety of all San Franciscans.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Omotalade, President

San Francisco Commission on the Environment





Photo credit Peter Alexander



SAN FRANCISCO  
CLIMATE ACTION

0 50 100 ROOTS



*At the Commission's May meeting, Nick Josefowitz, member of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Board of Directors and former member of the San Francisco Commission on the Environment, provides an update on efforts to modernize and achieve 100% renewable electricity powering the BART system.*



# BACKGROUND ON THE COMMISSION

In carrying out its mission, the Commission and its two committees engage in three general types of activities:

1. Providing oversight of and strategic advice on the work of the Department of the Environment and its staff;
2. Generating and reviewing new environmental policies, practices and ideas for consideration by Department staff, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and by other city agencies as relevant; and
3. Providing public outreach and education. The Commission carries out its responsibilities principally by reviewing and commenting on oral and written presentations from the staff at both full Commission meetings and at committee meetings.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2016

**0-50-100 Roots Themed Meetings.** The San Francisco Department of the Environment has been working to protect the health of our communities, our environment and our City through our shared goals of 1-50-100 Roots – meaning zero waste, 50 percent sustainable trips other than in a single occupancy vehicle, 100 percent renewable energy and sequestering carbon by enhancing and promoting San Francisco’s urban forest and biodiversity.

The Commission on the Environment has used its regular meetings as an opportunity to highlight the leadership of partners who are helping the City achieve its ambitious 0-50-100-Roots goals by dedicating a Commission meeting around each of the City’s climate action strategies.

In May 2016 for example, the Commission on the Environment meeting focused on the “50” transportation theme and heard presentations from the Bay Area Rapid Transit, Bay Area Bike Share, SF Moves Program and the San Francisco Planning Department.

In September 2016, the Commission held a meeting focused on the “Roots” theme with presentations from the Marin Carbon Project on how organic waste can help reverse climate change, San Francisco’s Urban Agriculture Program and San Francisco’s Pollinator Program.

The Commission will continue these in-depth focused meetings in 2017.





*At their September meeting in Golden Gate Park the Commission on the Environment receives a presentation from Department staff on San Francisco's Pollinator Program*



*Members of the Commission on the Environment Policy Committee observe operations at the Recology Hay Road Facilities in July*



## COMMUNITY MEETING

Each year the San Francisco Commission on the Environment holds at least one meeting outside of its regular meeting room in City Hall to bring the discussion about the City's environmental policies and programs out to San Francisco's various neighborhoods. Previous community meetings have been held in Chinatown, the Mission, Bayview Hunters Point, and the Portola neighborhood. The goal of community meetings are to learn from and engage community leaders around key environmental issues they are confronting and also to deepen the Department's reach and effectiveness in the community.

This year, the Commission held its community meeting in Golden Gate Park at the County Fair Building which sits adjacent to the San Francisco Botanical Garden and the Academy of Sciences. Neighbors from the Inner Sunset neighborhood, local appointed officials, and partnering organizations gathered to discuss the City's urban forest, biodiversity and carbon sequestration efforts.

## COMMISSION FIELD TRIP: VISIT TO THE RECOLOGY HAY ROAD FACILITIES

In an effort to learn more about where San Francisco's landfill and organic materials are sent, the Commission on the Environment's Policy Committee made a site visit to the Recology Hay Road facilities in July 2016. Commissioners experienced first-hand how over 650 tons per day of compostables are processed as well as how Recology helps the City divert material from landfill to achieve its Zero Waste goals. The City's three bin system, policies, financial incentives, and extensive outreach to residents and businesses, helped San Francisco divert about 30,000 tons per year and achieve the highest diversion rate of any major city in North America.





Photo credit Peter Alexander



Highlights from the Real Foodies Compost campaign



## POLICY COMMITTEE

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

In 2016, the Policy Committee heard presentations on the Department of Environment's collaborations with other City agencies and community stakeholders to promote long-term environmental sustainability. Among the presentations included discussions of reductions in the use of herbicides and insecticides through the Department's Integrated Pest Management Program, efforts to bring City agencies to LEED4 standards through San Francisco's Municipal Green Building program, interdepartmental collaboration on Climate Action Plans, the Department's work with the business community through the Business Council on Climate Change, and public and private partnerships to resolve illegal dumping in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood.

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Commission on the Environment Operations Committee meets quarterly to discuss the Department of Environment's budget, financial planning, and operations. The Committee also oversees public education and community outreach on environmental issues.

In 2016, the Operations Committee discussed the Department of Environment's structural financial challenges including the fact that the Department is fully grant funded and not supported by San Francisco's General Fund. The Department's Outreach program provided in-depth reports to the Committee on the development of the Department's new strategic plan, a comprehensive Zero Waste survey that was performed in San Francisco, the various successful 2016 citywide marketing and outreach campaigns such as the Real Foodies Compost campaign, the Step Up Power Down campaign to increase energy efficiency, and the SF Moves campaign to promote sustainable transportation options among San Francisco's new residents.



## COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARD

In 2016, the Commission on the Environment developed the San Francisco Environmental Service Award to recognize individuals or organizations that help the Commission on the Environment fulfill its mission of conducting public education and outreach to the community on environmental issues and in supporting long-term sustainability in San Francisco.

In 2016, the Commission bestowed the honor upon Alice Caruthers, Executive Director of the Alemany Farm and Thomas Owen, retiring Deputy City Attorney assigned to the Department of the Environment.



*Alice Caruthers*



*Thomas Owen*



# COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of a Revised Reduced-Risk Pesticides List for 2016 (Resolution 001-16-COE and Resolution 003-16-COE)

Commending and congratulating Monica Fish upon her retirement as Commission Secretary with the San Francisco Commission on the Environment (Resolution 002-16-COE)

Urging the Board of Supervisors and Mayor to support the Better Roofs Ordinance (Resolution 004-16-COE)

Commending the United States Postal Service San Francisco District for their collaboration with the San Francisco Department of the Environment's Zero Waste Program (Resolution 005-16-COE)

Urging the Board of Supervisors and Mayor to adopt an ordinance establishing a citywide Transportation Demand Management Program (Resolution 006-16-COE)

Urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the sale of products made from polystyrene foam or that are non-recyclable and non-compostable (Resolution 009-16-COE)

Approving a grant award for a Small Business Revolving Loan program to help San Francisco Small businesses participate in the San Francisco Energy Watch program (Resolution 010-16-COE)

Resolution commending and congratulating Thomas Owen upon his retirement as Deputy City Attorney with the Office of the San Francisco City Attorney (Resolution 012-16-COE)

***Updates. By the end of 2016, all ordinances supported by the San Francisco Commission on the Environment were approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor to become law. Following the Commission's approval of the Small Business Revolving Loan Program, the Department completed development of the program in 2016 having chosen the Mission Asset Fund as a partner and performed extensive outreach to potential loan recipients. The Department anticipates beginning to serve these clients in early 2017. Thanks to the Commission's interest and new restrictions, the Department's Integrated Pest Management Program reported an 81 percent overall reduction in the most hazardous herbicides used on City properties within City limits.***



# AWARDS AND ACCOLADES IN 2016

**TOXICS REDUCTION and ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** CalRecycle has selected the Department's "Don't Dump Oil" mural project as the winner of their **Best Used Oil and/or Household Hazardous Waste Education** award. The award was presented at the 2016 Used Oil/ Household Hazardous Waste Conference on Thursday, November 3rd, 2016.

**TOXICS REDUCTION:** California Healthy Nail Salon Program, a partnership between the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, Asian Health Services (AHS), and five city and county government departments, is the winner of the 2016 **Roy Family Award** for Environmental Partnership from Harvard University. The prestigious award is presented every two years to celebrate an outstanding public-private partnership project that enhances environmental quality through novel and creative approaches. Jen Jackson and Megan Kalisman participated in a safer products roundtable, Environmental Justice panel and the awards ceremony in Cambridge, MA on November 14, 2016.

**ZERO WASTE:** Director Debbie Raphael received the "**Recycling Champion of the Year**" award from Californians Against Waste, a statewide non-profit environmental research and advocacy organization. Each year, Californians Against Waste recognizes members of the Legislature and other distinguished leaders for their efforts to advance waste reduction and recycling in California.

**ZERO WASTE:** Julie Bryant received a **40 Under 40** award from Waste 360 for her accomplishments as a young professional in the Zero Waste Field.

**ZERO WASTE:** Mary Williams received the **Outstanding Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling Award** from the California Resource Recovery Association for her career achievements in developing and implementing San Francisco's C&D Debris Recovery Ordinance.

**ENERGY:** San Francisco was named **Greenest City in the US** in the 3rd Annual Green Building Adoption Index, a joint project of CBRE and Maastricht University. 73.7% of leasable commercial real estate in San Francisco has earned ENERGY STAR and/or LEED EBOM certification. (In prior years, San Francisco was #2.) <http://bit.ly/cbre2016greenrankings>. Please note, while "green" appears many times in the description, this is largely dependent on measured energy performance.

**ENERGY:** SF Environment's Energy Program was selected as a Finalist for a **2016 C40 Cities Awards** (international recognition), in the Building Energy Efficiency category. The Department's application highlighted the Energy Program's comprehensive approach to distributed energy resources with special focus on energy efficiency services provided throughout San Francisco.



**ENERGY:** At the 2016 US Department of Energy National Clean Cities Coordinator Training Workshop in Knoxville, SF Environment’s Energy Program (i.e. San Francisco Clean Cities Coalition) was recognized for having the greatest greenhouse gas emission reductions in 2015. This was partially due to use of renewable diesel in our municipal fleet and promotion of renewable diesel to other agencies.

**ENERGY:** The Department was invited to present its SF Solar + Storage for Resilience project at New Mexico Senator Heinrich’s Energy Storage Summit in Albuquerque, NM. The Senator is pushing for federal legislation to accelerate adoption of energy storage. The Department presented the opportunity for energy storage to aid in community disaster resilience.

**ENERGY:** After a competitive nomination process, Shawn Rosenmoss was one of 15 international women selected by the US Department of Energy to participate in the Clean Energy Ministerial’s STEM Educators training.



*Current and former members of the Commission on the Environment with Department staff celebrating the 2016 Mayor’s Earth Day Breakfast at San Francisco City Hall*





**2016 Annual Report**  
**San Francisco Commission on the Environment**

Prepared by:  
SF Environment  
1455 Market Street, Suite 1200  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deborah Raphael  
Director

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

**SFEnvironment.org**