

# 2018-2020 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK PLAN

## **MANHATTAN BEACH'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

Manhattan Beach has a long history of environmental leadership, policy, and stewardship, both as a community and as a city government. In 2007, the City developed an environmental report “Working toward a Greater, Greener Manhattan Beach.” Known as the “Green Report,” this plan documents the City's environmental practices and identifies other actions that the City can consider adopting to enhance our environmental programs and policies. Following the completion of this report, the City hired its first Environmental Programs Manager in 2008 to coordinate the City's sustainability policies, and created a community Environmental Task Force to analyze priority environmental issues and make recommendations to City Council. The vision for the sustainability movement in the City came from the original Environmental Task Force “to unite the community in a comprehensive effort to promote sustainable living in the City of Manhattan Beach.” To maintain the City's significant achievements in the environmental arena, and continue growing sustainably in the future, City Council adopted the 2012-2013 Environmental Action Plan. The Environmental Action Plan covered several programs including green business, energy/renewable energy, water conservation, and pollution prevention.

The City's 2015 Strategic Plan includes **Environmental Stewardship** as one of the main objectives considered essential to the continued success of the City and its community.

*The residents of Manhattan Beach place a high value on a healthy, outdoor, and recreational life style and are committed to protecting the environment of their beautiful coastal community. The City recognizes its leadership role in environmental stewardship and works to create a built environment that compliments the natural environment. Manhattan Beach is recognized for its progressive environmental stewardship and healthy community initiatives. A healthy and active lifestyle is accessible for residents because the City is safe, sustainable and resilient.*

The City's Environmental Stewardship Governance Activities include: 1. proactively reviewing changes in environmental stewardship best practices; and 2. identifying leadership opportunities for environmental stewardship.

### ***Environmental Accomplishments, Policy Implementation, & Ongoing Programs***

The City of Manhattan Beach has made significant achievements in environmental sustainability over the past 10 years, establishing our community as an environmental leader. Among other awards, the City maintained its Platinum Level status in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments' Energy Leader Program in 2016, as well as the Beacon Awards Program, where the City of Manhattan Beach achieved Spotlight Awards in Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions (9%) and Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions (9%), as well as recognition in the Sustainability Best Practices category. Distinguished throughout the U.S. as a plastic pollution reduction leader, the City has taken great strides to reduce the amount of single-use plastics entering our community through several policies- such as bans on expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) and rigid polystyrene, single-use plastic bags, and smoking. Education and outreach on these important policies continues. The City has also implemented various energy efficiency measures, adopting a Sustainable Building Ordinance, Green Code Amendments for Zoning and Public Rights-of-Way, a Green Purchasing Plan, a Climate Action Plan, and conducted a Level III energy audit to identify how best to make our buildings and facilities more energy efficient. Moving forward, in addition to continuing these policies and programs, the City can initiate efforts on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency. Some of the notable environmental climate commitments in the City has made include participation in the Compact of Mayors initiative and the Paris Climate Agreement, reinforcing the City's commitment to climate action. Climate actions associated with these commitments are included in the Work Plan.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL WORK PLAN LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING**

In August 2017, Dana Murray became Manhattan Beach's Environmental Programs Manager. Under her environmental leadership, we propose that the City put together an Environmental Sustainability Task Force composed of multi-departmental city staff, city council members, and community leaders. Meeting regularly throughout 2018-2020, this Task Force will assess and update the city's Environmental Sustainability Goals, including the development of a Sustainability Plan for the City. Incorporating lessons learned from the 2008 Green Report, 2012 Environmental Action Plan, and Climate Action Plans, the City's Environmental Task Force will identify and describe City environmental accomplishments, assess which sustainability goals are in progress, which goals were not achieved, and identify new environmental and sustainability goals and actions to pursue over the following five years, from 2020-2025.

### **MANHATTAN BEACH'S 2018-2020 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING GOALS**

- 1. Form an Environmental Task Force**
- 2. Assess and describe the City's last 10 years of Environmental Achievements**
- 3. Increase the City's Accountability by Utilizing a Sustainability Reporting Tool**
- 4. Develop the City's Environmental Sustainability Plan, for Adoption into the City's General Plan**
- 5. Create the City's Community and Municipal Climate Action Plan**
- 6. Identify Priority Areas for Environmental Action and Form Task Force Sub-committees**

In addition to the six long-term sustainability planning processes above, key topical areas of Manhattan Beach's 2018-2020 environmental work will include: building climate change resiliency in the City, performing a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, exploring the City's renewable energy purchasing through joining a Community Choice Aggregation, continuing to reduce plastic pollution, enhancing our City's water conservation and management, and mitigating climate change through actions identified in our Climate Action Plan and Council directives.

## 2018-2020 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK PLAN ONGOING & PRIORITY WORK AREAS

TOPIC	PRIORITY ACTIONS		
POLLUTION PREVENTION POLICY	<p><b>Explore new plastic pollution reduction initiatives:</b> Straws-upon-request policy, reducing use of plastic utensils, etc.</p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Outreach on existing City policies and programs</b></p>	<p><b>Conduct Business Outreach:</b> Green Business Program, SEED Awards, Business Associations</p>
CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY	<p><b>Consider Joining a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):</b> enable our city’s electrical customers to purchase electricity from a higher percentage of renewable energy sources</p>	<p><b>Implement Actions Associated with Climate Compact of Mayors &amp; Paris Climate Agreement</b></p>	<p><b>Consider a City Electric Vehicle Policy:</b> Policy to support EVs in the community; clarify City policy on charging for EV parking/electricity; signage; acquisition of EVs to the City fleet</p>
CLIMATE RESILIENCY	<p><b>Form a Sea Level Rise Planning Team &amp; Explore Financing:</b> Research planning methodologies, including state funding (LCP grants) and local partnerships to pursue coastal resiliency projects. Work with CA State Lands Commission and Coastal Commission staff, as well as local and regional partners</p>	<p><b>Complete a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment:</b> Use best available science and cutting-edge sea level rise models (such as CoSMoS) to assess the City’s physical, societal, economic, and ecosystem vulnerability to help assess and adapt to climate change</p>	<p><b>Update the City’s Local Coastal Plan:</b> Incorporate sea level rise planning and a vulnerability assessment into the City’s LCP. Establish regular coordination and work together with Coastal Commission staff in the steps of the LCP planning process</p>
SMART WATER MANAGEMENT	<p><b>Conduct Community Outreach &amp; Education:</b> focus on water conservation and drought-tolerant gardens</p>	<p><b>Explore City Stormwater Capture &amp; Recycled Water Use:</b> Pursue Future Smart Water Management actions including stormwater capture, recycled water, and increased infiltration in the City.</p>	<p><b>Consider Smart Water Policies:</b> Pursue policy updates on City low-impact ordinances, green building practices/building sustainability checklist</p>
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH	<p><b>Contribute to City’s Sustainability Digital Presence &amp; Outreach:</b> City’s Sustainability Webpages; Social Media Outreach; Environmental Awareness, Education, and Action Opportunities in the City and South Bay</p>	<p><b>Build relationships and information sharing through Community Engagement and Partnerships</b></p>	<p><b>Increase City Cross-Departmental Collaboration:</b> Identify Opportunities for City cross-departmental collaboration</p>
EMERGING ISSUES	<p><b>Remain nimble to incorporate and consider action on areas of emerging concern/opportunity</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities Coming Soon:</b> Roundhouse Aquarium Environmental Education Collaboration; Beach Dune Restoration in the City</p>	

## **1. POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAMS & POLICY**

**Pass policies and launch public education programs to prevent plastic pollution.** Single-use plastic convenience related to food and beverage consumption are surfacing in our neighborhoods, beaches, and ocean. It's now estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean by mass than fish. Plastic drink-related litter is one of the top items found at beach cleanups. In addition to aesthetic and pollution impacts, wildlife such as marine mammals, fish and birds often ingest plastic items, mistaking them for food. Manhattan Beach has taken great strides to reduce the amount of single-use plastics entering our community through several policies- such as bans on expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) and rigid polystyrene, single-use plastic bags, and smoking.

- **Explore new plastic pollution reduction initiatives:** Straws-upon-request policy or paper straws only, reducing use of plastic utensils, etc.
- **Education & Outreach on existing City policies and programs:** Continued outreach on plastic pollution to support the City's polystyrene and plastic bag ban; provide supporting materials to other communities seeking to follow the City's lead and ban plastic bags and polystyrene; monitor violations of ordinance and contact businesses to gain compliance; coordinate with inspectors to identify violations; provide community with reusable bags and materials at outreach events to support the ban. Provide information and signage to local businesses to promote the smoking ban; meet with community groups and makes presentations on the City's policies; provide marketing materials and place community notices to encourage awareness.
- **Conduct Business Outreach:**
  - o **Green Business Program:** Promote businesses that incorporate sustainability initiatives to reduce their energy and water consumption, and waste generation. Initiated in 2012, nearly 40 businesses are certified by the City and are recognized annually.
  - o **SEED Awards:** City support to the annual South Bay Business Environmental Coalition SEED awards; City Council attends this event; MB business or organizations are usually recognized; Staff time involved in managing the awards program and organizing the awards ceremony.
  - o **Business Association:** Provide regular updates and policy requirements to the Downtown and North MB BIDs through presentations at their meetings so the businesses are aware of pollution prevention policies (smoking, plastic bags, polystyrene).

## **2. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY**

**Advance the City's Climate Change Mitigation Actions and Renewable Energy Goals.** Climate change caused by emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from human activities is among the most significant problems facing the world today. Climate change impacts Manhattan Beach residents' health, well-being, and economic vitality. The City's 2010 Municipal Climate Action Plan and 2015 Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan identify specific strategies and actions designed to meet the City's climate goals to strengthen our community and economy by creating clean energy jobs, reducing utility bills, and bolstering innovation. The City has enacted policies and programs to reduce emissions from its transportation, building energy, and waste sectors.

- **Consider Joining a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):** In October 2017, City Council discussed options for CCA programs that Manhattan Beach could join, to enable our city's electrical customers to purchase electricity from a higher percentage of renewable energy sources. Council provided the following direction: initiate public outreach in partnership with Los Angeles County to provide information about the City's plan to join Los Angeles County Community Choice Energy (LACCE), and return to City Council on November 21, 2017 and December 5, 2017 to: 1. Adopt enabling ordinance and JPA agreement to join LACCE; 2. Designate Board Director and alternate(s); 3. Plan outreach to evaluate constituents' priorities for services and programs; and 4. Work with L.A. County on public outreach.
- **Implement Actions Associated with Climate Compact of Mayors & Paris Climate Agreement:** City Council approved participation in the Compact of Mayors program on November, 3, 2015; as part of this Compact, the City needs to update greenhouse gas emissions inventory and create a community wide climate action plan to meet emissions reductions goals, and publicly report the results through the Compact program. Efforts related to the City's support for the Paris Climate Agreement in June

2017 include considering participation in “We Are Still In Day of Action” (Nov. 14), and other possible climate events.

- **Consider a City EV Policy:** Possibly pursue EV Policy in the City to support EVs in the community and make a statement from the city; clarify City policy on charging for EV parking/electricity; signage; acquisition of EVs to the City fleet.
- **Continue Participation in the South Bay COG Energy Leader Program:** Manage participation in the Energy Leader program (partnership with utilities and South Bay COG).
- **Report Metrics and Participate in the Beacon Awards:** Annual participation in the Institute for Local Government’s Beacon Award Program. The program honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies that promote sustainability. Staff updates reporting in 10 categories to achieve annual sustainability recognition.
- **Contribute Environmental Expertise to the City LED Retrofitting Project & SCE Streetlight Purchase:** Assist Public Works and Parks & Recreation with LED light conversions including SCE incentive programs; follow Public Works’ SCE streetlight acquisition to convert to LEDs; provide support to consultant team conducting inventory of city lighting.
- **Complete an Energy Efficiency Action Plan:** Work with South Bay COG to complete the energy efficiency climate action plan (EECAP) that will be incorporated into the City’s Climate Action Plan; Need to review measures and indicate completion of projects.
- **Pursue Training Opportunities:** Climate Leaders training; Carbon Reduction Manager training; Green Cities CA workshops; Urban Sustainability Directors Network; and others to be identified.

### **3. CLIMATE RESILIENCY & SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLANNING**

**Build the City’s Climate Resiliency capacity, including Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning. Note: Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Planning mandated by State Agencies.**

Climate Resilient Cities are those that are able to continue functioning in the face of impacts due to climate change, and recover quickly from disruptions. Ultimately, the city should create a comprehensive plan for making Manhattan Beach a climate resilient city, based on the best available science. These plans should include adaptive management plans based on iterative, flexible planning, with clearly defined, pre-set triggers in place, to signal which protocols should be enacted when various benchmarks are reached. While uncertainty exists as to how climate change will play out in Manhattan Beach in detail, we know enough to begin to take action. Planning for climate change is fundamentally a risk management strategy against an uncertain future. Cities can become more climate change resilient through on-going awareness and monitoring of their environment, and planning for the expected impacts as the probability of those impacts increase. An assessment of our coastline is the best place to start climate resiliency planning. By identifying what is vulnerable, we can gain a clearer sense of what can be done in order to reduce possible future impacts of inundation from sea level rise and flooding from coastal storms.

*\* State Mandates & Guidance: The California State Lands Commission has sent notices (Attachment 3) to the City highlighting the City’s responsibility to complete a sea level rise assessment by January 1, 2019. In addition, the California Coastal Commission unanimously adopted the State’s Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance in 2015, which outlines the need for planning, the resources available, and the steps for cities to update their Local Coastal Plans (LCPs) in incorporate sea level rise assessments and adaptation planning (Attachment 4).*

- **Form a Sea Level Rise Planning Team:** Form a team that includes representatives of local government (economic development; emergency response; parks, recreation; environmental/marine; planning and zoning; etc.); along with key stakeholders and scientists including AdaptLA, USC Sea Grant, California Coastal Commission, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors, USGS, California State Lands Commission, Beach Ecology Coalition, and other local groups.
- **Explore financing:** Research financing and economics of planning methodologies, including state funding (LCP grants) and local partnerships to pursue coastal resiliency projects.
- **Complete a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** Using best available science and cutting-edge sea level rise models (such as CoSMoS) to assess the City’s societal vulnerability, economic vulnerability,

and ecosystem vulnerability will help assess and adapt to climate change. This assessment would evaluate the consequences of hazards or processes occurring, assess adaptive capacity, develop adaptation strategies, and communicate these strategies with government departments and community.

- **Work with Community Development's Planning Division and the CA Coastal Commission to Update the City's Local Coastal Plan:** Incorporate sea level rise planning and a vulnerability assessment into the City's LCP. Staff will establish regular coordination and work together with Coastal Commission staff in the steps of the LCP planning process. The main steps of this process include:
  - o Step 1. Determine a range of sea level rise projections relevant to LCP planning area/segment using best-available science, which is currently the 2012 NRC Report, and AdaptLA CoSMoS reports for Los Angeles County.
  - o Step 2. Identify potential physical sea level rise impacts in the LCP planning area/segment, including inundation, storm flooding, wave impacts, erosion, and/or saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources.
  - o Step 3. Assess potential risks from sea level rise to coastal resources and development in the LCP planning area/segment, including those resources addressed in Chapter 3 of the CA Coastal Act. (Incorporate from the Vulnerability Assessment)
  - o Step 4. Identify adaptation measures and LCP policy options to include in the new or updated LCP, including both general policies and ordinances that apply to all development exposed to sea level rise, and more targeted policies and land use changes to address specific risks in particular portions of the planning area. This includes options that could work along Manhattan Beach's coast, especially as they relate to natural coastal resiliency (such as beach dune restoration). All adaptation options for each projected hazard are identified, the criteria for assessing each option is specified; all options are evaluated, recommendations are developed, a plan is drafted and internal review of this draft is completed, and last the adaptation options are communicated with government departments and the community.
  - o Step 5. Draft updated or new LCP for certification with California Coastal Commission, including the Land Use Plan and Implementing Ordinances.
  - o Step 6. Implement the LCP and monitor and re-evaluate strategies as needed to address new circumstances relevant to the area.

#### **4. WATER CONSERVATION, SMART WATER MANAGEMENT, & SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING**

**Promote and enhance Water Conservation and Smart Water Management.** Importing over 80% of our water supply in the greater L.A. area is no longer a sustainable model, especially in the face of climate change. Conserving more water while utilizing local water resources- such as from wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, infrastructure repair, and low-impact development- is needed. To make these solutions a reality, financial investment and therefore a supportive and informed public is vital. In accordance with best-available science, Manhattan Beach's City Council is opposed to local open ocean desalination, maintaining that ocean desalination must be our last resort as it remains the most expensive, most energy intensive, and most environmentally impactful alternative. Since the rate of wastewater recycling locally is very low, as are our efforts to retain the rainfall that we do receive, these smart water efforts should be pursued in order for Manhattan Beach to become more sustainable.

- **Conduct Community Outreach & Education:** participation in Green Cities CA: focus on water conservation; Botanical Garden & Landscape Classes; West Basin Classes & rebate information; Mulch program; Demonstration Gardens & grants; provide water conservation information at outreach events.
- **Identify areas for Future Action:** Water issues are important to the community, and will continue to gain importance due to drought conditions and climate change. Options the City could consider include working with Public Works on enhancing the City's use of recycled water and stormwater capture, as well as with the City's Community Development Department on Low-Impact Development and Sustainable Building Ordinances.

## **5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL COALITIONS, & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

- **Contribute to City's Digital Presence & Outreach:**
  - o Update, Streamline, and Maintain City's Sustainability Webpages
  - o Coordinate with City Manager's Office and Parks & Rec on Social Media Outreach
  - o Highlight and Collaborate on Environmental Awareness, Education, and Action Opportunities in the City and South Bay to celebrate Earth Month in April
- **Build relationships through Community Engagement and Partnerships:** MBUSD Green Committee; Climate Compact of Mayors; MB LEAD; Santa Monica Bay Pier Stakeholders Group; South Bay CCOG (Renewable South Bay Working Group; Energy Management Working Group); Southern CA Beach Ecology Coalition; SEED Awards; Green Cities CA; MB Farmer's Market; AdaptLA; Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; Los Angeles Marine Protected Area Collaborative; Coastal Cleanup Day; Urban Sustainability Directors Network; Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden; Surfrider Foundation - South Bay Chapter; Roundhouse Aquarium; Heal the Bay; South Bay Clean Power; Downtown MB Business association; L.A. County Beaches & Harbors; USC Sea Grant; Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce; National Charity League – South Bay; Grades of Green; Amigos Unidos; City and County Sustainability/Environmental jurisdictions; and others to emerge.
- **Increase City Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** Identify Opportunities for City cross-departmental collaboration for public education. Some ideas included below:
  - o Community Development
    - Planning Division: LCP update, environmental and coastal impact assessments
    - Building Division: Low-Impact Development Ordinance updates, LEED certification, etc.
    - Traffic Engineering: Promote alternative transportation to reduce GHGs
  - o Parks & Recreation - public programming opportunities, environmental education
  - o Public Works – energy efficiency, renewable energy projects, smart water management, waste management, food waste prevention and food recovery, Roundhouse Aquarium
  - o Fire & Police Departments – emergency planning, including coastal hazards
  - o Management Services – Climate Compact of Mayors and other Council Engagement

## **6. OTHER TOPICS, EMERGING ISSUES, & OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER**

**Goal is to remain nimble to incorporate and consider action on areas of emerging concern/opportunity.**

Listed below are a handful of examples of topics that have already emerged for consideration in the City's environmental sustainability work. These items would be considered on a case-by-case basis for staff analysis and/or City Council action.

- Roundhouse Aquarium Environmental Education Collaboration
- Beach Dune Restoration in the City
- Ballona Wetlands Restoration
- Re-assess City's potential for solar panel installation
- Assess Mechanical Blower Ban (per August 2017 Council meeting)
- Assess Fireplace Use (per Montgomery)