

Manhattan Beach

Sustainability Youth Council 2018 - 2019

Purpose, Qualifications, & Composition

The City's Sustainability Youth Council (SYC) is comprised of a diverse group of students ranging in grades 5 – 12 representing the Manhattan Beach community, who share a passion for protecting the environment and supporting the City's environmental policies and goals. Members are selected by the City's Sustainability Task Force (STF) through a written application process. The Sustainability Youth Council will be managed by members of the Sustainability Task Force and will play a vital role in introducing environmental programs in the community.

The purpose of the SYC is to assist the City in implementing the Sustainability Goals set forth by the STF in fun, engaging and creative pathways. SYC members will contribute to the implementation of initiatives and policies related to a variety of topics including:

- climate action and energy
- green building
- waste reduction
- water conservation; and
- climate adaptation and resiliency

Terms, Duties, & Environmental Work Plan

Sustainability Youth Council student members will serve the City for a term of 12 months with the possibility to extend service at the end of one year. The full SYC will meet once a month to start, with an adaptive meeting schedule to evolve as initiatives are pursued. As needed, the SYC may hold additional meetings to focus on a specific environmental topic. In addition, sub-groups may form to focus on a specific project throughout the year. SYC members are volunteer positions and will serve without compensation.

Four leadership positions are available for High School students to apply for in addition to being a SYC member. Leadership positions include:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Public Relations Chairperson

Procedures & Decorum

Sustainability Youth Council members may speak during City Council meetings on topics that have or have not been addressed in the monthly meetings. For SYC monthly meetings, STF leaders Meredith Brandon and Allie Bussjaeger will prepare a basic agenda and will share any relevant documents with Sustainability Youth Council members and the City's Environmental Manager before meetings.

Everyone sees the world in a slightly different way, and individuals serving on the SYC are no different. Members will have their own opinions and views on certain issues; however, all members are expected to respect the opinions and views of others on the SYC, as well as pursue widely-accepted science-based recommendations and actions.

The City is honored to have SYC members as part of the City's Environmental Sustainability team! SYC members are valued for their volunteer service and commitment to the community, sustainability, and fellow citizens of the City of Manhattan Beach. Members of the SYC play a very important role in making Manhattan Beach a healthy, livable, and sustainable place to live and work.

Questions? Please email SustainabilityYC@citymb.info