

City of Lafayette Environmental Strategy

MISSION STATEMENT DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Lafayette is committed to developing and implementing environmental policies and programs that will enable the City and its residents to meet their present needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. *Adopted by the Lafayette City Council on September 12, 2005*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In fulfilling this commitment, the City of Lafayette will be guided by the following principles:

1. Broad community cooperation – among the City government, businesses, residents, and all community stakeholders – is necessary to achieve an environmentally sustainable community.

Comments?

2. The concept of environmental sustainability guides City policy.

The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a legacy of environmental sustainability.

Comments?

3. Protection, preservation and restoration of the natural environment are high priorities of the City.

Lafayette is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the environment.

Comments?

4. The City is committed to procurement decisions that minimize negative environmental impacts.

The procurement of products and services by the City and Lafayette residents, businesses and institutions results in environmental impacts both in this country and in other areas of the world. The City will develop and abide by an environmentally responsible procurement policy that emphasizes long-term values.

Comments?

5. Community awareness, responsibility, participation and education are key elements of an environmentally sustainable community.

All community members, including individual citizens, community-based groups, businesses, schools and other institutions must be aware of their impacts on the environmental and economic health of Lafayette, must take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts, and must take an active part in community efforts to address sustainability concerns. The City will therefore be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of educational opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation in cooperation with schools and other organizations in the community.

Comments?

6. Environmental quality, economic health and social equity are mutually dependent.

Environmental sustainability requires that our collective decisions as a city allow our economy and community members to continue to thrive while respecting the natural environment upon which we all depend. A healthy environment is integral to the city's long-term economic and societal interests. We must ensure that all sectors of the community bear their share of the responsibility for achieving a healthy environment and that the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community.

Comments?

7. Those environmental issues most important to the community will be addressed first, and the most cost-effective programs and policies will be selected.

The City recognizes that it has limited financial and human resources. Therefore, the City and the community will evaluate its priorities and its programs and policies periodically to ensure that the best possible investments in the future are being made. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness will be based on a complete analysis of the associated costs and benefits, including environmental benefits.

Comments?

8. Lafayette recognizes that it is part of a wider community.

Local environmental issues cannot be separated from their broader context. The City's efforts to achieve environmental sustainability must be evaluated in a broader regional context to assure a coordinated and united effort with others. The City's participation in programs to promote environmental sustainability administered by special districts and agencies, such as those for the provision of water, electricity, waste collection, transportation and open space preservation, provides direct feedback that should be considered in the formulation of City programs and policies.

Comments?

GOALS

1. Resource Conservation

- a. Significantly decrease overall community consumption, specifically the consumption of non-regional, non-renewable, non-recyclable and non-recycled materials, water, and energy and fuels. Within renewable limits, encourage the use of regional, non-polluting, renewable and recycled resources.

Examples of actions:

- On Earth Day – April 22, 2006 – the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and City will launch a citywide campaign (“Power Down for Life”) to reduce non-renewable energy consumption.
 - Launch to be held in the Plaza with presentations and exhibitors
 - Acalanes Environmental Science classes / Club to develop two lists of energy-saving measures – one for households and one for businesses
 - Lists of energy-saving measures to be posted on City's website and taken home by all students before April 22
 - Campaign to be publicized as part of the City's overall environmental program in the *Times* and *Sun*
 - Spring *Vistas* to cover the City's environmental program in general and the energy consumption campaign in particular
 - Elementary and middle school students to do posters promoting the campaign – Chamber of Commerce to arrange for posting in storefronts
 - Contest for high school students to design “Please Turn Off the Lights” tags for light switches
 - Seek out energy reduction suggestions and commitments from segments in the community, such as Chamber of Commerce, homeowner associations, schools, City

- Reduce overall water use in the community by 5% by 2010.

- Set targets for total number of LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) buildings in Lafayette as a percent of new construction.
- Organize and publicize internet linkages to programs, information, and other resources from agencies, districts, and organizations.

Additional examples?

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- _____
- _____

Comments?

- b. Where possible, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Examples?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Comments?

- c. The City will take a leadership role in encouraging environmentally sustainable procurement, and will explore innovative strategies toward becoming a zero-waste city.

Examples of actions:

- Develop a program for environmentally sustainable procurement by the City.
- Increase the amount of solid waste diverted from landfill to 60% of total solid waste generated by the community by 2010.

Additional examples?

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- _____

Comments?

2. Environmental and Public Health

a. Protect and enhance environmental and public health by minimizing:

- Use of hazardous or toxic materials by residents, businesses and City operations;
- Levels of pollutants entering the air, soil and water; and
- Other identified risks to human and ecological health.

Examples of actions:

- Educate community (through newspapers, Chamber of Commerce newsletter, *Vistas*, Earth Day activities, schools) about issues such as minimizing the use of toxins, the appropriate recycling of toxic waste and electronic equipment, the effects of burning fossil fuels on air quality and climate, and the effects of heavy metals, pesticides and persistent organic chemicals on health and the ecosystem.
- Use existing resources, such as Bay Area Air Quality Management District and East Bay Municipal Utility District, to monitor air quality and pollution levels in the creeks.
- Encourage the use of Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's toxic waste disposal program.
- Investigate establishing a community battery and e-waste recycling events or site.
- Investigate the establishment of a City award program for businesses, organizations and individuals that help reduce environmental pollutants.
- Encourage the use of non-polluting household and garden products.

Additional examples?

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- _____
- _____

Comments?

b. Promote public health and minimize resource consumption by increasing the availability of fresh, regionally produced, organic food products and educating the community about dietary health.

Examples of actions:

- Educate the community (through newspapers, Chamber of Commerce newsletter, *Vistas*, Earth Day activities, schools) about dietary choices.
- Investigate and promote opportunities for Lafayette consumers to purchase local and regional organic produce.

- Support school-wide efforts to promote local gardens and healthy nutrition among Lafayette children.
- Investigate establishing a reward system for restaurants that offer sustainable food.
- Institute a program in Lafayette restaurants where symbols are added to menu items that are made from locally- and regionally-grown ingredients.
- Promote the use of food labels or signs in Lafayette stores that provide information about where and how the food was grown and processed.

Additional examples?

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- _____
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Comments?

3. Transportation

- a. Facilitate a reduction in automobile usage in favor of affordable alternative and sustainable modes of travel.

Examples?

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- _____
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Comments?

- b. Encourage walking, bicycling, carpooling, ride-sharing, and the use of existing and future public transit systems and opportunities.

Examples?

Comments?

4. Economic Development

- a. Encourage businesses and organizations within Lafayette to continue to increase the efficiency of their use of resources through the adoption of environmentally sustainable businesses practices.

Examples?

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Comments?

5. Land Use and Open Space

- a. Protect and enhance the local ecosystem and watershed, recognizing that we share them with other living things that warrant respect and responsible stewardship.

Examples?

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- _____
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Comments?

- b. Develop and maintain a sufficient open space system so that it is diverse in uses and opportunities and includes natural function/wildlife habitat as well as passive and active recreation with an equitable distribution of parks, trails and recreation opportunities throughout the community.

Examples?

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- _____
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Comments?

6. Community Education

- a. Have community members of all ages understand the basic principles of environmental sustainability and use the principles to guide their decisions and actions – both personally and collectively.

Examples?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Comments?

Thank you for your comments!

Name: _____

Email: _____