

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY

- Single Stream Residential Recycling.
  - Free white paper, cardboard, and mixed recycling for Tracy businesses.
  - Additional cardboard and newspaper recycling hoppers are placed on Lowell Ave. and 3rd St. corp yard for all residents to use.
  - The City agreement with Tracy Delta Disposal offers curbside residential green waste collection.
  - Incorporated polystyrene (#6) into the curbside recycling.
  - Special events recycling containers for public use.
  - Community Education.
  - Special Events/Collections - Household Hazardous Waste Events, Electronic Waste Events, City-Wide Garage Sales, Leaf Pick-up, and Holiday Tree Removal.
  - Drop off locations for used oil.
  - Drop off locations for used household batteries.
  - Waste Reduction Awareness Grants for schools and non-profits.
  - Battery recycling located at various locations throughout the City including City buildings and selected fire stations.
  - Residents can call Tracy Disposal and have their T.V.s and monitors picked up outside of event dates.
- Rebate Programs -**
- Ultra Low Flush Toilet (ULFT). Up to \$125 per toilet rebated to single family residential (may replace up to 3 toilets) and multi-family residential (may replace up to 4 toilets per building unit) properties built prior to 1994 who replace their existing high water use toilet (3 gallons or more) with a new 1.6 gallon or less conserving toilet.
- Landscape Audit -**
- Residential and commercial property owners may request a free landscape water audit to determine if they are wasting water via irrigation.
  - Home and/or business owners may request an interior audit to determine ways to conserve water.

### EDUCATION

**Public Works Solid Waste and Recycling Division:**

- City partners with San Joaquin County and UC Davis Ag Extension, Master Gardener Program to offer free composting classes, xeriscaping (drought resistant plants), and gardening information to residents.
- Recycling presentations are given on a request basis to schools within the Tracy City limits.
- School Assistance.
- Business Assistance.
- Sustainability Strategy Team put together an informational/giveaway table at City Hall to celebrate Earth Day, Every Day the week of Earth Day for the community.

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### EDUCATION CONT.

- Waste Reduction Grants for non-profits and schools.
- Information websites.
- Educational displays for events - Concert in the Parks and Bean Festival.
- REXPO, Recycling trade show participation.
- Information through Green Team San Joaquin.
- Collaborative with County of San Joaquin Solid Waste Division.
- Media Relations
- *Recycling Presentations:*  
Senior awareness month recycling presentation, meeting with Jefferson School District and Tracy Unified School District to go over recycling programs and how the City can help, and presentations to schools by request.
- *School Assistance:*  
Staff offers a free waste audit to all schools interested in recycling. Assistance available has ranged from audits, presentations, promotional items to support through meeting presence.
- *Business Assistance:*  
Staff assists businesses with waste reduction strategies, billing inquiries and referrals to recycling organizations.
- *2009/2010 Waste Reduction Grant Program:*  
Solid Waste offers \$5000 in yearly grants to schools and non-profit organizations within the City limits. This grant allows recipients to implement a waste reduction program in their organization or expand on an existing one. Grants have been given to such organizations as:
  - Tracy High
  - Monte Vista Middle School
  - Jacobson Elementary
  - Tracy Babe Ruth
- *Information websites:*  
City website [www.ci.tracy.ca.us](http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us)  
Emerald Tracy website [www.emeraldtracy.org](http://www.emeraldtracy.org)  
Tracy Delta Solid Waste Management [www.tdswm.com](http://www.tdswm.com)  
San Joaquin County [www.sjc.org](http://www.sjc.org)  
Be Green San Joaquin [www.begreensanjoaquin.org](http://www.begreensanjoaquin.org)  
Earth911 [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)
- **Public Works Water Resources:**
  - Event Booths -
    1. City Sponsored Events
    2. Community Events (Juneteenth Festival, Dry Bean Festival, etc)
    3. National Days (Make America Beautiful, etc)

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### EDUCATION CONT.

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|  | 4. Private Organization (Farmers Market, etc)  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Multi-Media-               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Channel 26 – Government Outreach</li> <li>2. Theater Advertising                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 14 screens – 7 days a week – all movies</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Radio Advertising</li> <li>4. Newspaper Coverage – Press Releases</li> <li>5. Monthly blurbs or inserts with utility bills</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Presentations-               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Civic Groups</li> <li>2. Sports Organizations</li> <li>3. Local Business Associations</li> <li>4. Schools</li> <li>5. Church Groups</li> <li>6. Homeowner Associations</li> <li>7. Municipal Departments</li> <li>8. Environmental Groups</li> <li>9. Government Agencies</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |

### PUBLICITY VENUES

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| ● Channel 26                  |
| ● Chamber of Commerce         |
| ● Local Business Associations |
| ● Schools                     |
| ● Church Groups               |
| ● Homeowner Associations      |
| ● Municipal Departments       |
| ● Environmental Groups        |
| ● Government Agencies         |
| ● Event Booths                |
| ● Local Newspapers            |
| ● Website                     |
| ● Utility Billings            |

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### DEPARTMENTAL EFFORTS

- Employees in all departments are encouraged to copy/print double sided.
- City is currently purchasing 30% recycled paper.
- Computers, telephones and other electronic waste are discarded by Information Systems, as needed, utilizing On-Site Electronics, the County's designated electronics recycler.
- City is a paid registrant with the County as a small quantity generator for household hazardous waste. As such, we recycle all paints, chemicals, and other hazardous waste at the County's HHW facility.
- Public Works, Fleet Division recycles tires, scrap metal, waste oil, oil filters, antifreeze, and automotive batteries.
- Public Works, Fleet Division has replaced solvent based parts washer with a waterbase.
- Public Works, Fleet Division has removed lead (toxic to the environment) wheel weights from inventory which went to the landfill and now using steel wheel weights which will be recycled at end of life.
- Implemented diesel engine retrofit program.
- Purchased 3 hybrid automobiles. Reviewing other options.
- Parks Division uses mulching mowers to grass cycle, thus reducing green waste, water evaporation and the use of fertilizers.
- Turf study to evaluate the beneficial effects of various topdressing materials on park and sports turf with the focus on using green waste compost also evaluating irrigation efficiency at Veterans Park.
- LMD maintenance contractors use mulching mowers and take the cuttings to the Material Recovery Facility.
- Grass in the summer is cut to a 3" height to retain water moisture.
- City practices xeriscaping (drought resistant landscaping).
- Tree chips (must be clean and disease free) from the City's street tree pruning crews are used in landscape planter beds and tree basins to retain moisture.
- Tree trimmings from street trees are chipped and used in bare right-of-ways and channel ways to prevent soil erosion or taken to the Material Recovery Facility for composting or biomass.
- Traffic division recycles scrap aluminum through Zap Manufacturing.
- Traffic division utilizes rubberized wheel stops (made from recycled tires) for City parking lots.
- Pallets used for large City items are recycled through manufacturers or used for biomass.
- Public Works recycles asphalt grindings and uses it for road base material for repairs.
- Public Works also purchases or utilizes in house refurbished signs.
- Use LED lights for traffic signals.
- Eliminated electrically illuminated street signs and went to high reflectivity street signs.
- Water Division returns non-working meters to the manufacture for refurbishing. The finished product is re-purchased at a lower cost.
- PM10 compliant for street sweeping.
- Using recycled paint for graffiti abatement and for painting offices.
- Recycle all flourescent light bulbs from City buildings.
- Continuing to use green cleaning solutions for cleaning City buildings.
- Green waste/compost is purchased from various sources including the Tracy Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### DEPARTMENTAL EFFORTS CONT.

- City departments such as Parks & Community Services, Police, Public Works and DES purchase recycled office supplies when available.
- Finance and DES routinely purchase refurbished toner cartridges for office equipment.
- Parks & Community Services, Water Conservation, and Solid Waste purchase promotional items, brochures and other publications that use post consumer content and soy based inks.
- DES has used recycled asphalt composed of recycled tires for large Capital Improvement Projects.
- DES has received grants for rubberized chip seal projects for different parts of Tracy.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant is backwashing filters during off peak hours to reduce electrical demand.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant is reducing electricity usage to aerate basins during peak demand.
- Parks & Community Services continues to partner with Public Works in offering volunteer opportunities to community groups to clean up parks which includes recycling.
- City is going to be constructing first City of Tracy Community Garden and we'll host education sessions focused on sustainability.
- The existing Development Review process is used by City staff, who at every juncture is asking for the development community to “go green”. Without a mandatory standard, this has limited success. The Red Maple Village Center is our best example to date.
- CEQA can be effective through the Global Warming analyses that are being debated and discussed throughout the State. Some jurisdictions take the approach that is impossible to quantify or identify cumulatively considerable impacts. Mitigation, nonetheless, can be developed.
- The City's General Plan was updated February 1, 2011 incorporating many sustainability policies.
- The City adopted a Sustainability Action Plan on February 1, 2011.

### ENERGY

- City Hall is set on automated timers which assist with energy efficiency. The Maintenance Division worked with PG&E to complete the light retrofit and installation of occupancy sensor in various City buildings utilizing PG&E's rebate programs.
- WWTP is installing variable frequency drives for the Patterson Pass booster station.
- PG&E and WWTP is currently working on a methane capture project. Take the methane gas from the plant and use it to power the boilers on sight which will eliminate all natural gas from the boilers. This will also eliminate the need to flare the methane gases. This is also offered through PG&E's rebate program.
- WWTP has applied for two new construction applications with PG&E for premium efficient motors to run their pumps.
- Tracy Transit Station designed to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency requirements.
- Tracy Transit Station lights are set with automatic timers to assist with energy efficiency.

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### WATER

- Water conservation practices are observed. 90% of all automated irrigation systems are controlled by a computer driven central control system which operates using evapotranspiration rates derived from a local weather station located in the City's corporation yard. The other 10% are stand alone irrigation controllers.
- Tracy Municipal Code violation (leaking or broken irrigation, etc).
- Phased Water Usage.
- Water Patrol.
- Water is monitored by the central control system which automatically turns off the water line when flow rates are exceeded.
- Enforcement Processes.
- The City is administering, implenting and enforcing the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo). Collaboration with all City departments.
- Tracy Transit Station uses drought tolerant landscaping.

### AIR QUALITY

- Tracy buses run on CNG rather than diesel.
- The City has three diesel power vehicles retrofitted with Diesel particular filters and retiring older diesel power vehicles. Per California Air Resources Board regulations.

### CONSTRUCTION WASTE DIVERSION

- Construction recycling is in our diversion plan. Currently working a Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance.

### CHALLENGES

- Currently, no Green Purchasing Policy in the City. It is not "mandated" in our ordinance, instead its "preferred/desired" as a result purchasing staff tends to believe myth vs. fact.
- Behaviors and attitudes about recycled content product are very difficult to change. It is easier for purchasing staff to stay in current buying habits as opposed to educating oneself on the benefits of recycled products.

## City of Tracy Sustainability Efforts

### GOALS

- Using more recycled/environmentally friendly field and office materials.
- Explore why environmental preferred purchasing is not mandated and request from Finance and Council that it be taken into consideration.
- Outreach and make a presence known so that community members and City staff notify the Solid Waste Analysts of non-city sponsored events that occur in the City in regards to waste reduction and electronic collection.
- Follow the tasks outlined in the Enhanced Diversion Plan to be completed:
  1. C & D recycling program.
  2. Food Waste pilot with restaurants in the City (TDSWM has completed an engineers report on the feasibility of in-vessel composting, and is researching permit revision requirements).
  3. Multi-family recycling options.
- Please note that on the development side of the sustainability opportunities the City has 1) many options; 2) there are several models either existing or in development phases; 3) there is no set “right way” to do it; 4) any green ordinances would have to be carefully developed with input from the development community in order to be successful.

### FUTURE

- The Zoning Code Update has several opportunities. We’re discussing the idea of creating a “Traditional Neighborhood Design” zone that is modeled after the US Green Buildings Council’s LEED Neighborhood Design criteria (currently a nationwide pilot program). This would set standards for walkability, building orientation, etc. that effects up-front neighborhood design. It is anticipated that this zoning district could be used in new development areas. We’re currently just in the discussion phase.
- The Development Agreement process can be used to require in-roads into green building by requiring that certain standards be used as a minimum.
- RGA allocation process can be tweaked to strengthen the desirability of green projects as a priority.
- Looking into rain harvesting, rain gardens, Cash for Grass (rebates to replace existing lawn with water-efficient landscaping), stormwater reuse, smart irrigation system rebates and rain gutter disconnect ordinance.

### CITY DESIGNATIONS

- City of Tracy became a CRC (Comprehensive Recycling Community) in May of 2008.

### MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATIONS

- Green Team San Joaquin
- Planning Committee (County Jurisdictions)
- CRRA (California Resource Recovery Association)
- Master Gardener Committee

Updated 1/12/12