

# ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



Ecologic will strive to keep readers up to date on Fremont's Climate Action Plan (CAP) which will be updated in the next month (or two) and available to the public.

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TIMELINE



## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Climate Action Plan Timeline
- Message from Healthcare Industry
- Climate Action Plan 1 and 2
- Letter to the City
- Bee Here Now
- Planting Pollinator Gardens
- Onions 101
- Newark Area 4
- TCEC Interview with Darwin
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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY!

BY KELLY JAKKUBEK

“With climate change negatively impacting the health in the U.S. and around the globe, the American Medical Association (AMA) today adopted policy during the Annual Meeting of its House of Delegates declaring climate change a public health crisis that threatens the health and well-being of all people. Building on existing efforts to address the climate crisis, the new policy specifically mobilizes the AMA to advocate for policies that limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions aimed at carbon neutrality by 2050, and support rapid implementation and incentivization of clean energy solutions and significant investments in climate resilience through a climate justice lens.

As part of the new policy, the AMA will develop a strategic plan for how to enact its climate change policies, including advocacy priorities and strategies to decarbonize physician practices and the health sector with a report back to the House of Delegates in the 2023 Annual Meeting.

“The scientific evidence is clear – our patients are already facing adverse health effects associated with climate change, from heat-related injuries, vector-borne diseases, and air pollution from wildfires, to worsening seasonal allergies and storm-related illness and injuries. Like the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis will disproportionately impact the health of historically marginalized communities,” said AMA Board Member Ilse R. Levin, D.O., M.P.H. “Taking action now won’t reverse all of the harm done, but it will help prevent further damage to our planet and our patients’ health and well-being.

The new policy also recognizes the health, safety, and climate risks of current methods of producing fossil fuel-derived hydrogen and the dangers of adding hydrogen to natural gas.”

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## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 1

The first CAP was adopted by our City Council in November of 2012. In the Executive Summary it was described as the “culmination of efforts which began in 2008 with work done by the Green Task Force.” The Green Task Force began after a meeting between myself and past Mayor Bob Wasserman, which in turn was inspired by Donna Olsen, the first editor of *Ecologic*, who urged a “Blue Ribbon” commission to work on environmental goals in the city. All things are possible when we work together.

Through federal government and municipal funds the first CAP gathered enough data to determine achievable actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 25% of 2005 levels by 2020. The city appointed a Sustainability manager and with the focused work of all departments the 2020 goal was very nearly achieved. The achievement signals that the next goal of reducing GHG to 45% is feasible

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2

So how do we get to 45% reduction of GHG by 2045? Here are the municipal guidelines -

### Key Strategies



- **Clean & Renewable Power:** Deploy and efficiently use clean, renewable, and locally-sourced electricity generated onsite or transmitted through the power grid.
- **Electrification & Fossil Fuel Phase-Out:** Upgrade and replace carbon-intensive, fossil fuel-based infrastructure and combustion power throughout the transportation and building sectors with clean electric power.

- *Carbon Sequestration: Drawdown carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through ecological and/or technological methods and capture and store in plants, soils, water systems, and other solid forms.*
- *Mobility & Connectivity: Develop and enhance safe, multimodal, accessible, equitable, intelligent, and clean motorized and non-motorized travel options, transit modes, transportation infrastructure, and community connectivity.*
- *Resource Conservation & Elimination of Waste: Conserve natural and manufactured resources by means of the responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials.*
- *Restorative Ecology & Green Infrastructure: Restore, rehabilitate, and repurpose degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and habitats through active interventions. Incorporate green infrastructure and ecosystem services into community design.*
- *Climate Adaptation & Resilience: Prepare for, limit, learn from, and adapt to the negative effects of climate change through proactive and holistic planning and response at infrastructural, cultural, and institutional levels.*

## **SOME GRASS ROOT EFFORTS**

*The UFF and TCEC to the City Council – Here again, is the letter from our Board of Directors to the City. As is often the case, there was no response.*

*Dear Mayor Mei and Fremont City Council Members,*

*Fremont has a history of being proud of its trees, of annually declaring it is a “Tree USA City” with a proclamation and small observance. But in about 2008, due to extreme economic pressure, Fremont changed street trees to property owners’ responsibility.*

As we do our community engagement work for our Urban Forest, we still encounter some of that resentment from citizens. But times have changed, and the vast majority of Fremont residents support an environmental and climate adaptive resiliency trees offer. This is demonstrated in the Climate Action, Park and Recreation, and Urban Forest survey results.

As our city neighborhoods age, our street trees are disappearing. Homeowners and businesses, for various reasons, much of the time, fail to replace them. Much of our city has ordinances that stipulate that street trees be replaced by the property owners. For many years the city has not chosen to budget for enforcement. Most people have no idea that they are not following ordinances. It is up to the city government to turn the situation around for the benefit of us all. We liken it to asking people to wear seat belts versus mandating seat belts and enforcing them.

Now, in 2022, we face temperature increases due to climate change and urban heat island effects through our ever-shrinking urban tree canopy. Shade trees preserve asphalt surfaces, lower AC and heating costs, improve street walkability, slow traffic, increase feelings of wellness, sequesters carbon dioxide, contribute to home and business values, and much, much more. That is why significantly increasing our city tree canopy is a major part of the City of Fremont's CAP 2.0

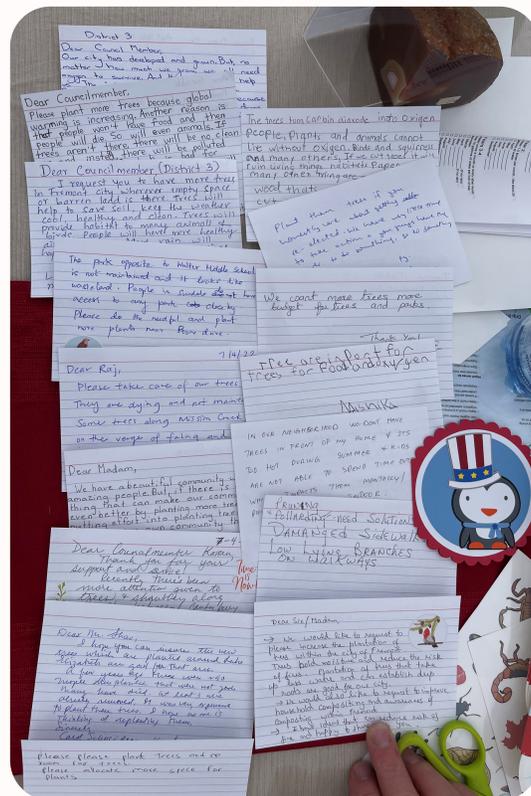
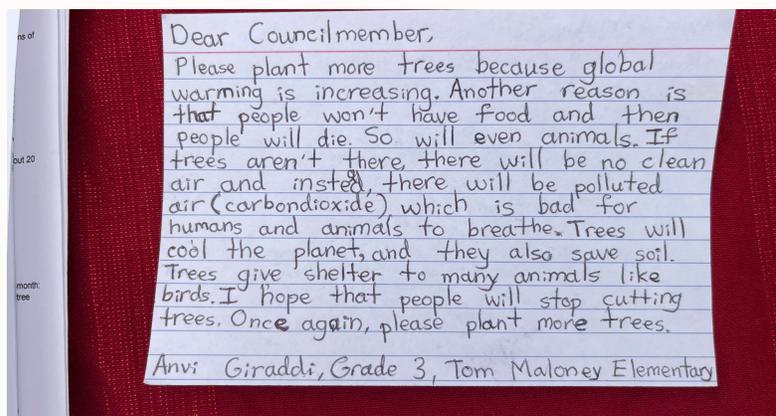
Reviewing the 2023 City budget, we appreciate that difficult decision are made as to funding many important initiatives and that most departments are operating below ideal staffing levels. Nonetheless, an important, cost-effective method of replacing street trees in neighborhoods, and maintaining their historic charm, is being overlooked.

We urge you to consider funding the Community Services department (tree division) with at least one staff code enforcement specialist and to correct permitting processes, as necessary, to ensure that when homes and properties interface with City permitting services, missing trees are planted by the property owner before the permit is completed. A community campaign of Urban Tree Climate Action could go a long way to ensuring citizen support for this new initiative.

Respectively submitted, Tri-City Ecology Center, Board of Directors

Council members must receive hundreds if not more letters and emails on a daily basis, and so it may be understandable that no response is forthcoming. The pandemic has also challenged citizen input since in person communications are not possible at City Council meetings. And yet ... and yet ...

When the City of Fremont government, with a proposed \$400 million dollar budget, cannot respond to reasonable communications, it inspires younger members of the community to request action. Here are some more recent requests for tree planting and maintenance – let's hope they are heard!



## BEE HERE NOW



Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA

2012-2022: Celebrating 10 Years of Connecting Communities and Pollinators!

Some citizens of the Tri-City area feel that we may be letting our youngest generation down by not doing more to tackle climate change. And yet there are things we can do on an individual level, making us more connected and part of the solution. Planting trees is one thing, but here are some other suggestions that give hope and practical results. One suggestion is to join “Bee City USA” as recommended by Girl Scout Ayelen Walther of Group 33952. Council member Jenny Kassin referred her.

### What's Bee City USA?

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides.

Bee City USA affiliates make commitments to conserve native pollinators, laid out in a resolution adopted by the local city council. City staff and community members work together to carry out these commitments and make their city a better place for pollinators. Incorporated cities, towns, counties, and communities across the United States are invited to make these commitments and become Bee City USA affiliates.

The City of Fremont is interested in this initiative and with a substantial number of garden clubs and Fremont Beeks could definitely work to make this happen. And here's a way any of us can participate ...

# PLANTING POLLINATOR GARDENS

BY GUY DURAN



There are soooo many choices and not difficult ways to start a pollinator garden in your backyard! And you will be rewarded by a range of visitors, including bumble bees, honeybees, native bees, and, best of all, hummingbirds – the miracles of the bird family. It's relatively inexpensive, an opportunity to explore dirt, and most plants are Waterwise. So, where to begin?

One easy way is to visit the Fremont Library, where a collection of books on this subject are located on the second floor. Worth exploring! The internet is full of options and links will follow at the end of this article. But here are some easy choices of plants to use in the Tri-City area.

Anise Hyssop, Giant Hyssop	Fireweed	Prairie Clover
Aster	Globe Gilia	Purple Coneflower
Beebalm	Goldenrod	Rattlesnake Master
Black-Eyed Susan	Gumweed	Rocky Mountain Bee Plant

Blanketflower	Ironweed	Salvia
Blazing Star	Joe-Pye Weed	Selfheal
Blue Curis	Lobelia	Sneezeweed
Blue Vervain	Lupine	Spiderwort
California Poppy	Meadowfoam	Sunflower
Clarkia	Milkweed	Waterleaf
Coreopsis	Mountainmint	Wild Geranium
Culver's Root	Native Thistle	Wild Indigo
Cup Plant	Penstemon	Wingstem
Fogwort	Phacelia	Wood Mint

## GARDENING BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY



These are only examples, and a visit to the Fremont Library or Google can offer more plants that will liven up your front or back yard. Here's the current display of books at the Library.

[HTTPS://WWW.ECOLANDSCAPING.ORG/11/LANDSCAPING-FOR-WILDLIFE/WILDLIFE-HABITATS/MORE-THAN-JUST-A-POLLINATOR-GARDEN/](https://www.ecolandscaping.org/11/landscaping-for-wildlife/wildlife-habitats/more-than-just-a-pollinator-garden/)  
[HTTPS://WWW.FS.FED.US/WILDFLOWERS/POLLINATORS/GARDENING.SHTML](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml)  
[HTTPS://WWW.FWS.GOV/STORY/HOW-BUILD-POLLINATOR-GARDEN](https://www.fws.gov/story/how-build-pollinator-garden)

Excerpt from - The Bee-Friendly Garden, by Kate Frey and Gretchen LeBuhn

“Imagine if we could ensure that every house, school, coffee shop, and the municipal building had three things: a portion of their plantings devoted to bee-friendly native plants, some bare ground for ground nesters, and some sites for cavity nests. We could build a chain of pollinator-friendly habitats across the United States that would support bees.”

# FROM THE GARDEN OF BLESSINGS (GOB) ONIONS 101

MASTER GARDNER GUY DURAN



Growing onions can be somewhat challenging if you don't know anything about their growing habits. For instance, did you know that there are three distinct varieties of onions? They are Short Day, Medium Day, and Long Day. For the Bay Area, we fall into the Medium Day category. Planting the wrong type of onion can lead to bolting and seed formation. If your onions have seed stalks that are very undesirable as the stalk runs through the entire onion and is kind of “woody”. Even when all correct growing instructions are followed it is not unusual for an onion to bolt as they can tend to be finicky. One tip that I've found is that in the early stage of an onion that is bolting, breaking the stalk will sometimes cause the onion to revert back to growing a bulb and the stalk will be “rejected”. This means the onion will push the stalk towards the end of the bulb as it's growing. This works sometimes but not always. In the pictures below on the left is a prize-winning onion. The middle picture shows a bulb that is bolting and the picture on the right shows a bulb with a rejected seed stalk. Notice how the stalk has moved completely out of the onion.

At the beginning of this article, I stated that growing onions can be challenging. To learn all about growing prize-winning onions check out the UCCE Master Gardener link below in which I give detailed instructions on how to grow onions in this area.

And good luck to you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgcvUQ03HEg&t=1185s>

## **NEWARK AREA 4 - IGNORE SEA LEVEL RISE - GRAB THE MONEY**

WILLIAM YRAGUI - MISSION PEAK CONSERVANCY



The City of Newark is focused on development of luxury homes on restorable wetlands next to Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge. They have a developer who is willing to build 469 homes on 100,000 truckloads of fill in Zone 4, an area that is anticipated to be inundated by sea level rise. The homes would be serviced by a single-entry road and multiple bridges connecting raised clusters of homes. In an emergency should bridges collapse or the road be closed, residents would be forced to exit using levees that surround the property. The developer and city support this outcome.

The 559-acre site is within a 100-year FEMA flood zone and represents a key opportunity for a nature-based alternative to sea level rise and as a space for critical habitat for endangered wildlife and flood protection. Sea level rise will impact coastal communities in the coming decades. Area 4 is a prime candidate for the negative impacts of sea level rise as the luxury homes will sit on top of 15' high islands surrounded by wetlands. These islands will be armored by boulders designed to hold back the impact of rising waters. However, sea level rise allows the inundation of groundwater behind the levees and under these raised islands. Given the extremely high probability of an earthquake soon, these islands could become susceptible to liquefaction making the homes and foundations unstable.

Agencies responsible for protecting the Bay, have not stepped in to protect Area 4. In fact, regional coordination between agencies is not occurring often enough or with the collaboration necessary to protect our coastal areas. As a result, communities like Newark are allowed to build on wetlands, in a bid to attract short-term revenues from development. The problem is that allowing development on wetlands has a disproportionate impact as the loss of wetlands increases the risk of flooding. We need a wide variety of agencies and stakeholders to collaborate on establishing regional agreements on the actions necessary to adapt better and faster to rising sea levels.

The shortsighted actions of Newark are not isolated but have occurred repeatedly during the last century. We need regional coordination to minimize the impacts of climate change on our communities. Building homes on wetlands in Zone 4 may be profitable for the city and developers in the short term but will become extremely expensive to mitigate as sea levels rise and these homes truly become islands in a storm.

By William Yragui – Mission Peak Conservancy

And please take time to review these links from Carin High and Lynn Miller

<https://www.facebook.com/109515407691106/posts/pfbid0vZ8JZd7H5mmfL5qoUjZbCPRyXPERv7v6ndBU9x5AStS8RRMQR67Qvc5cxAr1E1gKI/?d=n>

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic\\_article\\_popover.aspx?guid=c8d27dbc-f7bc-44b8-bf70-b71deac41da4&appcode=EAS596&eguid=e6ea70ac-3c7a-471b-9041-2ded15d95eb6&pnum=23#](https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?guid=c8d27dbc-f7bc-44b8-bf70-b71deac41da4&appcode=EAS596&eguid=e6ea70ac-3c7a-471b-9041-2ded15d95eb6&pnum=23#)

## TCEC INTERVIEW WITH DARWIN



Readers may recall Darwin as a miniature Beagle who had exploits and adventures on the Delta, sailing with the Editor into the waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. Each month we welcome interviews from our readers. Please consider submitting so we don't have to rely on Darwin!



Hello Darwin, it's been a while since you appeared in the newsletter.



So? I've been busy sniffing things out.



Well, we were wondering if you have any new biologic insights on animal life here in the Bay Area or California?



Sure. First of all, I hate bees. They stung me on my rear end and they are to be avoided at all times.



So sorry Darwin. Any other thoughts?



Well, Monarchs are ok, and they may be coming back to the Bay Area. So, Pollinator Gardens are ok to me. But the Delta – it's really sad. The Delta Smelt, a keystone species, is for all practical purposes extinct. They only found one Smelt in 2015! Of course, now they are introducing fishlings from a UC Davis Lab, but will it save the species? I am really skeptical!



Darwin, you sound pessimistic! What else can we do?



Frankly, we need to pay more attention to science and conservation. I'm working on it.



Really, what are you doing?



I'm seriously considering running for Governor of California. Will you support me?



GOOD LUCK, DARWIN!

# Special Price

## BIOCOMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

7 inch plate	\$ 3.12
10 inch plate	\$ 5.95
11.5 oz bowl	\$ 2.72
8 oz no tree hot cup	\$ 2.83
9 oz cold cup	\$ 3.02
10 oz cold cup	\$ 3.84
16 oz cold cup	\$ 5.15
Teaspoon, fork or knife	\$ 2.28
3 gal kitchen scrap bag	\$ 3.76
13 gal tall kitchen bag	\$ 3.41
100 count straws	\$ 1.46

All products are 50 count except tall kitchen bag(20 per roll)

\*All prices reflect our nonprofit discount and tax

- This is for *members only*, a benefit of being a TCEC member
- Please contact Dee by emailing her at [muskox44@hotmail.com](mailto:muskox44@hotmail.com) to order. Also 'cc' Caroline at [caroline.harris@earthlink.net](mailto:caroline.harris@earthlink.net)



Do you have news or events you would like to share with Tri City Ecology's members?

Do you have any ideas on what would make Eco-Logic an even better publication?

Let us know!

We would love your feedback and are always looking for Fresh faces and ideas!

Email us @ [richgodfrey77@gmail.com](mailto:richgodfrey77@gmail.com)

Please check out our website – [www.tricityecology.org](http://www.tricityecology.org) and [Face Book](#)

You can always call and leave a message at 510 793 6222

And if you haven't joined TCEC yet, here's how



# BECOME A MEMBER

## WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org>.

Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685.

If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

## TRI CITY ECOLOGY BOARD

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