



AGENDA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6:00 PM
Capitola City Hall, Community Room
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola CA 95010

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING
NO REMOTE ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair, Bryce Ebrahimian, Margaux Keiser, Meredith Keet, Jason Shepardson, Peter Wilk

ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair may announce and set time limits at the beginning of each agenda item. The Committee Members may not discuss Oral Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 18, 2022

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Funds for COE Activities
- B. Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide
- C. Green Business Program

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- A. Presentation: Capitola 2020 GHG Inventory – Amary Berteaud, Sustainability Program Manager, AMBAG

ADJOURNMENT to October 19, 2022

Notice: The Commission on the Environment meets monthly 6:00 PM.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: www.cityofcapitola.org/ on Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (831) 475-7300.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk's office at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law - Chair, Meredith Keet, Margaux Keiser, Peter Wilk
Commissioners Absent: Bryce Ebrahimian, Jason Shepardson
City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

Chairperson Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 20, 2022 (Wilk/Keiser)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2022 Work Plan Items

A. Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law will provide staff the draft copy of the brochure for further edits and return to the COE for approval.

B. Climate Action Plan Reduction Measures and Implementation

Meredith Keet inquired on the status of the CAP and implementation plan. Steve Jesberg stated some implementation items have been completed since the adoption of the CAP. However, further GHG reduction measures will need prioritization and resource identification to track the City's progress through implementation.

Meredith Keet suggested reviewing alternative transportation such as the city's bike plans. She commented there is a lack of bike racks in the Village and 41st Avenue; and the lack of bike lanes or share the road signage in the Village.

Steve Jesberg provided an update on various bike planning efforts: The city will be participating in the regional bike share program that is planned for fall 2022; the Clares Street Traffic Calming Improvement project incorporates bike lanes and pedestrian improvements. He suggested the COE identify both possible locations for bike racks and problem areas for biking in the city for further discussion.

Peter Wilk commented Dark Sky and Lights Out projects may be concepts to pursue for Capitola. Green Building has been addressed through State regulations and implemented by the Building Department.

Meredith Keet supported encouraging more Capitola businesses to become certified green businesses and provide promotion of green business. She inquired about the status of plastic bag use for restaurant take-out.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law inquired about a community garden. Steve Jesberg commented there used to be a community garden at Jade Street Park but was removed when the school was built. There is a native plant garden on private property along Capitola Road at Wharf Road.

Michelle suggested the advocating implementation actions of the CAP through speaker forums, community programs, educational efforts with UCSC and Cabrillo College.

Peter Wilk suggested showing an educational environmental clip before the movie at the beach. Peter inquired on the source of the Arts Commission funding.

Steve Jesberg stated an approved ordinance specifies a development fee designated for the Arts Commission. Changes would require a code amendment process.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested speaking at oral communications at an Arts Commission meeting to request a discussion for collaborating with the COE on environmental project, e.g., signage for Rispin or Soquel Creek.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested considering charging an environmental fee for special events along with setting environmental standards for events. Michelle stated the Wharf-to-Wharf organization received a green certification for the event.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Bike Plan and other bike plan resources

Capitola Green Economy Report Job Creation & Sustainable Future report

CAP implementation discussion

ADJOURNMENT to July 20, 2022

Minutes Approved at the meeting of September 21, 2022

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Agenda Item: A

Subject: Funds for COE Activities

There are funds available in the Green Building fund for materials and supplies to promote water conservation, storm water pollution prevention, and climate action planning activities. Maintaining compliance with the funding guidelines will require any project, program or plan promote natural resources in the city.

Possible projects:

1. Redesign the environmental signage along Soquel Creek in Peery Park and at the park area at on the north base of Stockton Bridge
2. Redesign and distribute the creek booklet Living Along Soquel Creek
3. Reprint Monterey Bay stormwater brochure

Help prevent pollution of Monterey Bay waters



Monterey Bay Begins on Your Street

Even though you may live miles from Monterey Bay, you may be polluting bay waters without knowing it.



Before you pour anything on the ground or street, down a gutter or storm drain, stop and think!

URBAN RUNOFF (storm drain pollution) is caused by motor oil, antifreeze, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, and household chemicals that are poured or washed down neighborhood storm drains. Everything that goes down the storm drain flows directly into creeks, waterways and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Unlike the water that goes down the drains in kitchens and bathrooms, storm drain water is NOT cleansed by sewage treatment plants.

On a rainy day have you ever wondered what happens to...

- ◆ motor oil on roads, highways, parking lots, driveways, and in storm drains?
- ◆ old antifreeze discarded in storm gutters?
- ◆ detergent from washing cars?
- ◆ trash and grime from parking lots, sidewalks and streets?
- ◆ fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens?
- ◆ bare soil on hillsides?
- ◆ pet waste from lawns, streets, and sidewalks?

Storm drains flow directly into creeks...



...and through the sloughs and waterways to Monterey Bay.

INFORMATION SOURCES

For local motor oil collection centers, household hazardous waste disposal locations, or recycling center nearest you or throughout California, call the free California Environmental Hotline at: www.Earth911.com (800) CLEAN-UP or visit www.Earth911.com

Please do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, transmission fluid, gasoline, or other contaminants.

OTHER HELPFUL CONTACTS:

- City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (831) 620-2000
- City of Del Rey Oaks (831) 394-8511
- City of Marina (831) 884-1212
- City of Monterey (831) 646-3921
- City of Pacific Grove (831) 648-5722
- City of Salinas (831) 424-5520
- City of Sand City (831) 394-3054
- City of Santa Cruz (831) 420-5160
- City of Seaside (831) 899-6825
- City of Watsonville (831) 768-3133
- Marin County (415) 485-6806
- Monterey County (Marina Landfill) (831) 384-5313
- San Benito County (831) 636-4110
- San Luis Obispo County (805) 782-8530
- San Mateo County (650) 363-4718
- Santa Cruz County (831) 454-2606
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (831) 647-4201
- Pebble Beach Company (831) 625-8402
- Volunteer and monitor the local waters flowing into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. www.montereybay.noaa.gov (831) 647-4201

For FREE school programs about stormwater, marine mammals, around the Monterey Bay contact the Stormwater & Education Alliance (SEA) www.montereysea.org & www.SaveTheWhales.org (831) 899-9957

Special thanks to editor Maris Sidensteker, the City of Arcata Environmental Services Department, City of Eureka Utilities Department, Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, and artist Gary Bloomfield.

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink

MONTEREY BAY



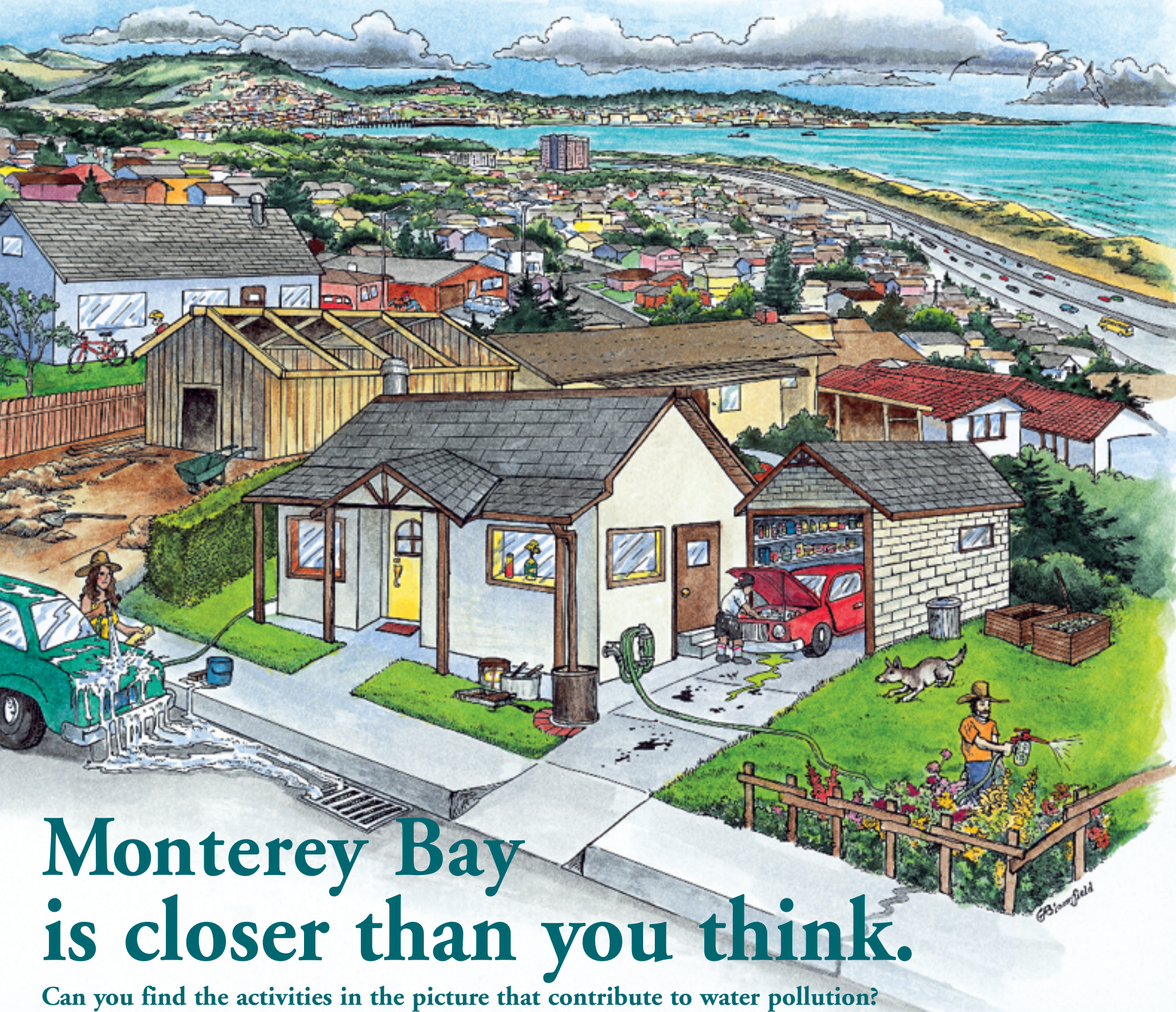
More than half of California pesticide use is in urban areas. Go to www.ourwaterworld.org for non-toxic solutions to get rid of pests and protect children, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

Native plant gardens attract butterflies, and birds, use less water and eliminate pesticide use.

Storm drains are not connected to household sewer systems. Storm drain pollutants (urban runoff) flow directly into waterways and oceans without treatment.

Who is responsible for Urban Runoff?
Answer: **U R!**

Did you know that dumping one quart of motor oil down a storm drain can pollute 250,000 gallons of water?



Monterey Bay is closer than you think.

Can you find the activities in the picture that contribute to water pollution?
How do these every day activities result in pollutants entering the storm drains?

You can help prevent storm drain pollution and protect creeks, wetlands, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary by following the suggestions below.

Automotive



RECYCLE used motor oil (for free) by taking it to an auto parts store, hazardous waste collection site or using curbside recycling pickup. When changing your car's oil, prevent spills by placing cardboard under the oil pan. Use absorbent material such as kitty litter to clean up spills. Never pour used motor oil down storm drains, on the ground, or driveways. Call recycling numbers on back.



RECYCLE your car's antifreeze. Call the recycling numbers listed on back. Never drain antifreeze directly onto the ground or street. It is poisonous to pets and wildlife which are attracted to its sweet smell and taste.



WASH cars on unpaved surfaces, or at a commercial car wash. Leftover soapy water should be poured down a household sink or toilet (to be treated by a sewage plant), not the driveway, gutter, street, or storm drain which lead directly to the bay without treatment.



INSPECT and maintain your car regularly to prevent leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other toxic fluids. Use a drip tray to catch leaks where your car is parked.



REDUCE automobile pollution by carpooling, walking, riding your bike, or using public transportation.

Household & Home Maintenance



KEEP as much of your property landscaped as possible. Planted areas absorb more rainwater and help water percolate into the ground. Bare soil promotes water runoff. As an alternative to concrete driveways, use permeable pavers, which help reduce runoff.



TAKE unwanted chemicals like paint and pesticides to your local hazardous waste collection site. Use non-toxic household products, if possible. When using toxic products follow directions carefully and use sparingly. Properly store toxic products away from children. Never dump chemicals down storm drains, ditches, gutters, or waterways. Call the recycling numbers listed on the back.



RINSE paint brushes in the sink when using water-based latex paint. Avoid using oil-based paint. Recycle paint thinner by pouring a small amount into a sealable glass jar, cleaning brushes, and allowing paint solids to settle. Then pour clean paint thinner back into its original container. Dispose of unused paint, varnishes and solvents at the household hazardous waste collection site. Call recycling numbers on back.



CONTROL erosion at construction sites, by preventing dirt and debris from entering gutters and storm drains. Use wattles or a silt fence to prevent runoff. When pouring concrete, keep runoff away from storm drains and waterways as it is toxic to fish.

Lawn & Garden



USE non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and organic gardening techniques when possible. Plant native California species which need less water than imported varieties. Use herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Follow label instructions carefully. Do not apply products if rain is forecast. Never dump chemicals in ditches, gutters, storm drains, or waterways. Never use motor oil to kill weeds along fences and in yards. Motor oil poured in soil contaminates water. Take unwanted toxic products to local hazardous waste collection sites. Call the recycling numbers on back.



SWEEP driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them down into the gutters and storm drains. Put lawn clippings and leaves in a compost pile or garbage can.



WATER only your garden and lawn, not your driveways and sidewalks. Divert garden hoses and rain spouts away from paved surfaces to reduce water runoff from entering storm drains. Consider using a rain barrel to collect water for flower bed and lawn watering.



PICK up all pet waste regularly and dispose of in the trash can, not down the storm drain. Cat waste disposed of in the toilet can harm endangered sea otters.

If you see paint, cement, motor oil, antifreeze or other hazardous materials flowing into or being dumped into a storm drain, immediately call 911 to report it.

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Agenda Item: B

Subject: Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide

Staff proposes mailing out the existing city flyer to food service businesses as an ongoing reminder of the ordinance requirements. Mailing will be complete by the end of the month. The existing city flyer is attached.



Rules for Restaurants in Capitola

To protect the environment, reduce plastics and to encourage the recycling and composting of food service waste, all disposable service ware provided to customers in the City of Capitola must be compostable or biodegradable.

This includes:



- No plastic straws (paper is acceptable)
- No plastic stir sticks (wood is fine)
- All cups (hot or cold) must be compostable.
- All disposable cutlery must be compostable.
- No Styrofoam
- No #6 polystyrene products (including hot cup lids).
- All disposable containers must be compostable



These rules apply to restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks, special events, and any other business or event where food is sold.

Talk to your food service supplier about available products. Many suitable products are available from major distributors. To be sure a product meets the requirements, check the web site of the Biodegradable Products Institute, www.bpiworld.org.

For more information, contact the City of Capitola at (831) 475-7300 or go to the City web site at www.cityofcapitola.org.



**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Agenda Item: C

Subject: Green Business Program

The California Green Business Program is a free network of local programs operated by counties and cities throughout California. Capitola businesses are certified through the Santa Cruz County program and included in the statewide network of green businesses.

Staff worked with the Green Business coordinators who developed a promotional flyer to be distributed with all business license applications and included in the annual business license renewal mailing at the end of the calendar year. The flyer will also be posted on the city's website on the Sustainable Living in Capitola page, created by the COE.



CAPITOLA BUSINESS OWNERS, WELCOME!!

Join your fellow business owners doing their part for the planet by getting Certified Green! Join our growing community of Capitola businesses to network, learn, and receive **free** resources such as:



Resources and consulting to learn how you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and costs.



Water saving devices and education.



Resources to save money, get a marketing edge and even get paid (through rebates) to make sustainable purchasing your business's M.O. (and boast about it to your customers!).



Expert knowledge and funds to help your business comply with city, county, and state environmental laws.



Technical assistance and support to help you open a business that is clean, green, and recognized by the **City of Capitola** and the **County of Santa Cruz** at networking events, and online.

Join today and reap the benefits! **CALL NOW** to find out how your business can gain access to these free resources, learn more about current rebates, and be featured at the next Green Business Mixer.

Visit greenbusinessca.org or contact local staff to learn more.



831-288-1415



jcastorena@environmentalin.com





YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY

Meet some of the members of Capitola's Green Business Community



Bronwyn
Willow & Wolfe Hair



Aaron
Bicycle Trip - Capitola



Josh
Capitola Self Storage



Ann Marie
Capitola Wine Bar &
Merchants



Melissa
Caruso's



Meredith
Ethos Santa Cruz

Want to get started with your FREE certification today?
Register online at www.greenbusinessca.org.

