

Sustainability Fair Focuses on Climate Action Plan

Dolores Davies | City of Del Mar's Sustainability Advisory Board

More than 60 Del Mar residents turned out on September 24 for the Sustainable Lifestyle Resource Fair and Climate Action Plan Open House, sponsored by the City of Del Mar's Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB).

The event, which was held at the Powerhouse Community Center, was an opportunity for residents to learn about resources to improve the environmental sustainability of their homes and provide feedback on the City's Climate Action Plan, on which the SAB has been laboring. The SAB advises the Del Mar City Council on initiatives to increase energy efficiency, reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase the use of alternative fuels, reduce water use, and encourage recycling and solid waste reduction. Organizations participating in the Resource Fair included: Waste Management, Center for Sustainable Energy, Climate Action Campaign, SDG&E, San Diego County Water Authority, and the San Diego Foundation.

Over the last few years, the committee's primary focus has been the development of a Climate Action Plan, which will include a variety of mitigation strategies to reduce greenhouse gases in the City. After public input has been received and the plan is finalized, it will be submitted to the City Council for consideration.

At the Sustainability Fair, residents heard presentations on the Climate Action Plan by Councilmember Don Mosier, a liaison to the SAB (along with Councilmember Dwight Worden), and Kristin Crane, the City's staff representative. In addition, Nicola Hedge of the San Diego Foundation, discussed the challenges to the region with 70 miles of coastline; a dry and warm climate; severe wildfire conditions; and our reliance on imported water. According to the Foundation's Climate Collaborative, the San Diego region stands to lose about \$2.5 trillion from the increased wildfires, drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events brought on by global warming.

After hearing about the Climate Action Plan, residents were asked to provide feedback on a variety of mitigation measures that had been identified by the SAB as possible greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Mitigation measures by category—including transportation, electricity, natural gas, water, solid waste, and wastewater—appeared on display boards and residents were given colored dots to indicate their approval or disapproval. While support was expressed for nearly all of the mitigation measures, especially strong support was registered for some measures, including partnering with neighboring communities to create a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA is a state policy that enables local governments to aggregate electricity demand within their jurisdictions to procure alternative supplies using existing providers, transmission and distribution services. Other mitigation measures included the construction of roundabouts at four-way stops, fast-track permitting for energy-efficient projects, and developing a "Zero Waste" plan.