

# Sausalito Sustainability Commission

Greetings from the Sausalito Sustainability Commission. This is the first quarterly letter to let you know what we have been accomplishing, what our goals are for the future, and recycling news tidbits. Our mission is to support Sausalito in its goal to improve our environment and minimize our ecological footprint within the community. We are doing this by formulating projects and policies for consideration by the City Council. Some projects have included proposals for waste reduction, recycling, alternative energy sources, and minimizing pollution and hazardous wastes. For more details, visit our website at:

<http://www.ci.sausalito.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=82>

Here are a few of the year 2010 accomplishments of your Commission:

- We organized an electronic waste pick up day in January (and a second one in January of this year) and collected five tons of electronic products last year that were properly disposed of, avoiding more hazardous materials in landfills.
- We provided guidance to Art Festival food vendors to encourage them to buy sustainable supplies.
- We participated in the County of Marin BERST committee which developed a sustainable building code for commercial and residential construction in Marin.
- We helped acquire new solar powered refuse containers for two downtown locations which have improved recyclable material capability; they compact trash automatically to eliminate overflow.

We are now completing a report for the City Council regarding the inclusion of food scraps in our green waste pick up. This would require some changes including a small rate increase. Sausalito is the only Marin County city that does not have such a program. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT fruits and vegetables can already be added to your green waste.

Also be aware that you can recycle your milk cartons for curbside pick-up.

And it is a very good idea to begin using reusable shopping bags. The county of Marin has already approved a ban of plastic shopping bags for the unincorporated parts of Marin. San Rafael is presently doing a plastic bag ban study, and we are monitoring this action. Please try to recycle your clean plastic bags by bringing them to your grocery store. Do not place them in your curbside recycling.

The Commission needs your help. Every year we try to honor a business or agency that exemplifies Commission goals. That is, to reduce waste, increase recycling, use alternative energy, reduce pollution and hazardous waste, find ways to conserve water and energy, and minimize environmental degradation. Please tell us about a business or organization that should be honored this year. We will collect nominations from residents, businesses, and organizations in Sausalito. The honoree will be announced in September. Tell us about your nomination and it should be honored. And if you have a project you would like us to work on, please [contact](#) one of our Commissioners. They are: Sue Currier, Martha Di Sario, Jann Johnson, Bill Ring, Monica Towers, and Chairperson Ray Gergus.