

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
**12-YEAR REPORT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**





INTRODUCTION

The City of Manhattan Beach has been a leader in environmental efforts throughout its history, but especially within the last 12 years, when the City formed its first green team and created the first environmental staff position. The City has tackled numerous environmental issues that range from plastic pollution, to climate change, to urban sustainability. Many of the environmental laws the Manhattan Beach City Council passed have since been replicated by other cities, counties, and states. Manhattan Beach has also been able to further implementation of environmental sustainability programs and policies in the City by creating and supporting the position of the City's Environmental Manager, a member of staff specifically dedicated to addressing environmental issues within the City.

Environmental sustainability is a part of Manhattan Beach's core values, and the City will continue to strive for a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment, so that future generations can enjoy the same benefits and privileges as we do now in 2018.

The City's 2015 Strategic Plan includes Environmental Stewardship as one of the main objectives considered essential to the continued success of the City and its community:

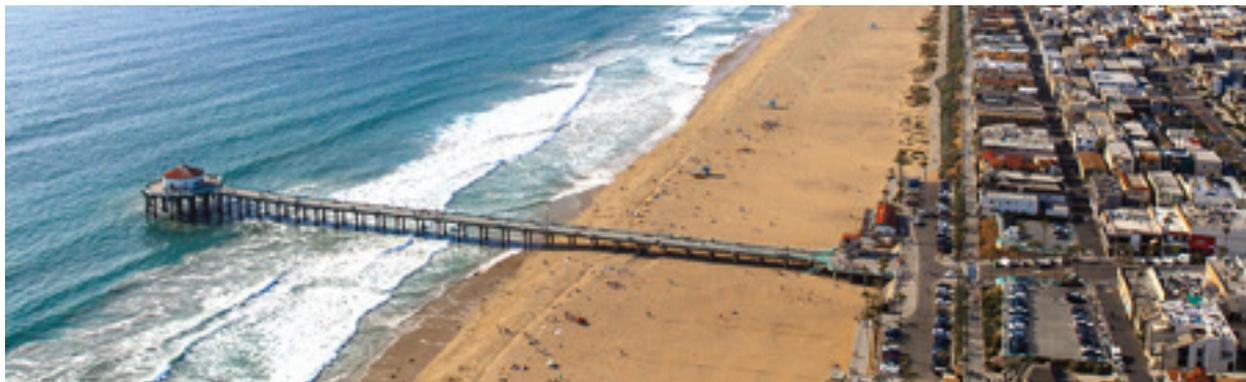
"The residents of Manhattan Beach place a high value on a healthy, outdoor, and recreational life style and are committed to protecting the environment of their beautiful coastal community. The City recognizes its leadership role in environmental stewardship and works to create a built environment that compliments the natural environment. Manhattan Beach is recognized for its progressive environmental stewardship and healthy community initiatives. A healthy and active lifestyle is accessible for residents because the City is safe, sustainable and resilient."

This 12-year report provides an overview of important environmental sustainability accomplishments Manhattan Beach has achieved since 2007. As a coastal city, Manhattan Beach has a responsibility to keep our beaches clean, take climate action, and promote green living. The City is proud of all of these successes, and we look forward to the next decade and beyond of being a champion in environmental sustainability.



25+ WAYS WE'RE HELPING TO PROTECT OUR PLANET IN MANHATTAN BEACH

- **Climate Action & Energy**
 - Municipal Climate Action Plan
 - Pledge to cut carbon emissions 15% (2005 levels) by 2020
 - Energy Efficiency Projects
 - Clean Power Alliance
 - Electric Vehicle charging stations
- **Sustainable Building & Green Businesses**
 - Green Construction Codes that include energy efficiency, water conservation, stormwater runoff capture, and Gold LEED requirements
 - PACE Financing programs available for residents for renewable energy projects, water conservation and energy efficiency upgrades
 - Green Business Certification Program to reduce waste, water, and energy (50+ businesses certified)
- **Reducing Plastic Pollution**
 - Plastic bag ban
 - Polystyrene ban
 - Plastic straw and utensil ban
- **Greening City Operations & Community Services**
 - Green purchasing requirements at City Hall
 - Energy efficient upgrades to City facilities
 - Green Events Policy for all large community and City events
 - Waste Reduction
 - Recycling trash in public spaces
 - Food Waste & Composting
 - Medication Drop Boxes
 - Battery Collection
- **Water Conservation**
 - Permeable concrete to capture runoff
 - Environmentally appropriate landscape upgrades
 - Stormwater capture and infiltration
 - Free community mulch
- **Reducing Air and Noise Pollution**
 - Smoking ban
 - Leaf-blower ban
 - Clean air taxi cabs



2007 - 2008

- The Green Team presents the “**Working Toward a Greater, Greener Manhattan Beach**” report during the November 20, 2007 Council meeting, which highlights the City’s environmentally friendly practices and identifies other best management practices that the City can consider adopting to enhance environmental stewardship.
- The City hires its first **Environmental Programs Manager** in 2008 to coordinate sustainability policies.
- The first **MB Environmental Task Force forms** “to unite the community in a comprehensive effort to promote sustainable living in the City of Manhattan Beach” with 19 members.
- City Council adopts **new construction codes** including mandatory requirements for the sustainability of new homes: water heater piping extended for future solar panels, Energy Star exhaust appliances, and environmentally-friendly caulking and insulation.
- The City replaces the Dial-A-Ride bus with a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus, an alternative fuel that emits less pollution and carbon dioxide than regular gasoline.
- The City initiates the replacement of existing surface parking lots with **permeable concrete surfaces** to capture surface runoff and replenish ground water.
- City Council votes to **ban carry-out plastic bags** from all retail establishments in July 2008. However, the ban was put on hold for a few years due to a lawsuit brought by “Save the Plastic Bag Coalition.” After lengthy litigation, the ordinance is upheld by the California Supreme Court in 2011. Implementation for both retail and restaurant establishments begins in June 2014.
- **Recycling in MB parks and athletic fields** is reinstated after several years of trash only service. New trash and recycling containers are installed in the North Manhattan Business District. The City is awarded a \$55,000 grant from the Department of Conservation to promote beverage container recycling in multi-family dwellings.
- A **medication drop off box** is installed in the Civic Center parking lot to keep drugs from going down the drain.
- The City initiates the conversion of conventional irrigation systems to **drip irrigation systems**.
- City Council approves a revised taxi cab ordinance in December 2008 to require a phase-in of **clean air vehicles for the taxi franchise** beginning no later than July 1, 2010, with 25% of the operators’ non-exempt fleet is required to be CNG or hybrid achieving 33 MPG in city driving or better. Each year thereafter, an additional 25% of the non-exempt fleet must meet the standard.



The plastic bag ban aims to protect marine life and keep our beaches clean.



2009 - 2010

- City Council approves an **energy audit** request for proposal (RFP) in January 2009 to cover energy efficiency at City facilities, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions.
- Residential **battery collection** begins in February 2009 at City Hall, Police/Fire Facility, and the Public Works Yard.
- Manhattan Beach hosts a Sustainability Summit in 2010 featuring a panel on environmental issues, a “work party” to teach the community how to plant a California friendly garden, and an Eco-Fair that highlights local green businesses and environmental organizations.
- In 2010, a **Municipal Climate Action Plan** is developed and adopted where the **City pledges to cut carbon emissions for City facilities to at least 15% below 2005 levels by 2020.**
- A **Green Purchasing Policy** is developed by Finance-General Services, which leads to green alternatives being incorporated in bid specifications, 60% of office supplies purchased consisting of green products, vegetable based ink on recycled paper standards in printing contracts, and a janitorial services contract that includes a green cleaning option.
- The **Community Mulch Program** is established, where residents can get free mulch from the City for their gardens.
- The **City reduces water waste** from over-sprinkling by residents, business, and City operations with the Council-approved Conservation Ordinance, which requires a 10% decrease in potable water use.
- **Building Code Amendments, including residential energy efficiency** recommendations are adopted by Council in November 2010. Community Development staff are trained in “Green Building,” as new environmental project requirements become effective. The Building Official and Principal Building Inspector obtain certification in “Green” building.



The Community Mulch Program promotes sustainable landscaping.

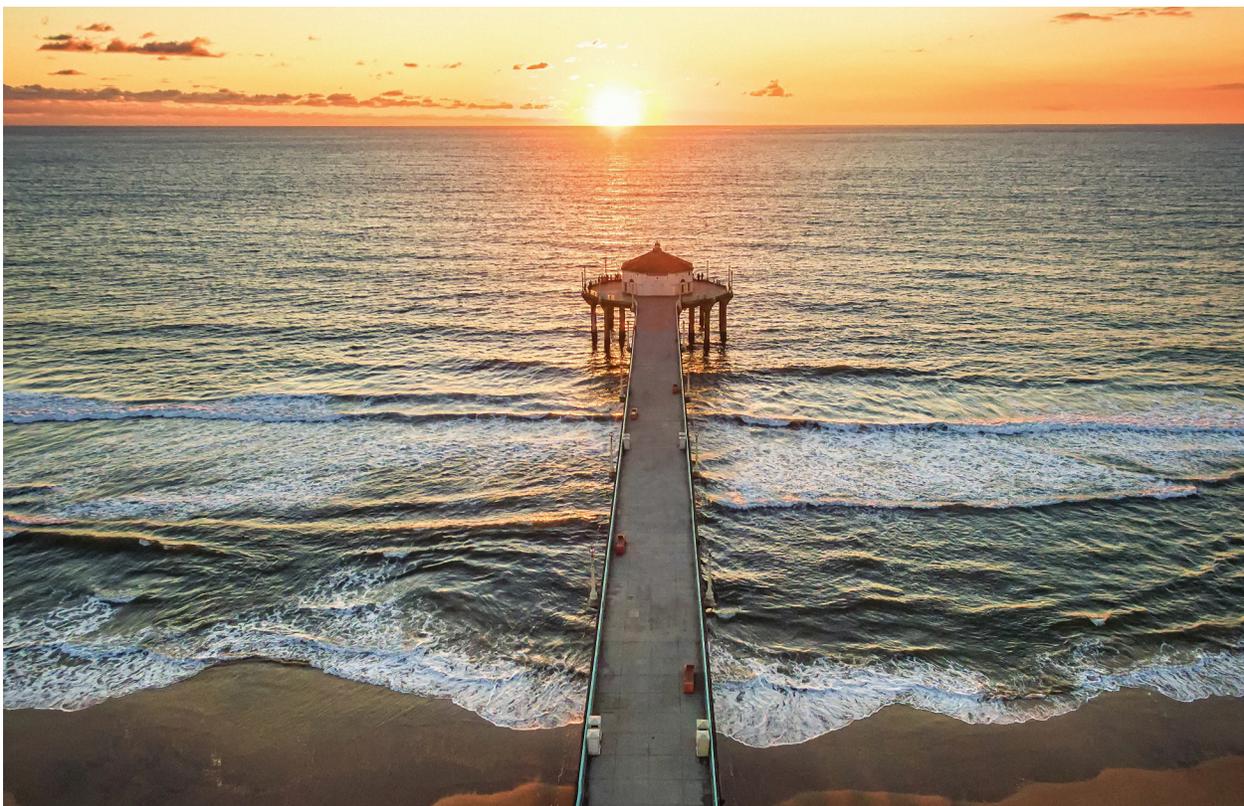


2011

- The City participates in the **International Day of Climate Action** hosted by the 350 Organization. City Council and community members come together to support climate action, and activities include forming a human tide line to highlight impending sea level rise.
- **The City implements select Level III Energy Audit measures** including replacing HVAC units at the Postal Annex and Manhattan Heights, and upgrading to occupancy sensors with routine maintenance of City facilities.
- A new **Environmental Task Force forms**, including 10 community members, to make recommendations to the City, **focusing on energy efficiency and water conservation**.
- An **Environmental Speaker Series** is held with qualified experts invited to the Environmental Task Force meetings to share their thoughts on a host of different topics.
- City Council passes an **ordinance promoting green building**, which includes allowing and encouraging EV chargers, stormwater capture systems, greywater structures, green roofs, and solar panels.



The 2011 Environmental Task Force





2012 - 2013

- The **Manhattan Beach Fire Department forms a “Green Team”** to join in the City’s “going green” movement and develops ideas to make the Fire Department more environmentally friendly.
- The Environmental Task Force recommends a **water conservation project to convert the landscape** surrounding the U.S. Post Office to native and drought-tolerant, and Leadership Manhattan Beach selects the proposal as their class project.
- Implementation of the **California Green Business Program begins**, where businesses in the program incorporate practices to **reduce waste, save water, and reduce energy consumption**. In the first two years of the program, 15 businesses are certified.
- The City adds several public electric vehicle charging stations throughout the City.
- The **sustainable building code is expanded** to state that municipal and large non-residential buildings must be Certified Gold by LEED.
- City Council adopts an ordinance **prohibiting the use of polystyrene food service ware** (foam and plastics #6), including at City-permitted events, in September 2013, becoming effective in October 2013.
- The City participates in the South Bay Blue Zones Project, which helps communities become thriving places to work, eat, and play.
- The City utilizes a grant awarded by the Department of Water Resources and West Basin Municipal Water District to **convert an existing planter on the Strand into an Ocean-Friendly Garden**.
- The City of Manhattan Beach receives a Project of the Year award in the Storm Water Quality category from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southern California Chapter for its work to **protect beach health and water quality through the “Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration Project”** which utilizes the Greenbelt to intercept and infiltrate dry weather and wet weather low flows from the existing storm drain system, which includes a 55.2 acre tributary area.
- The City receives State of California Beacon Awards in the Best Practices and Electricity Savings categories, recognizing Manhattan Beach’s efforts to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, and adopting policies and programs that promote sustainability**.



City Council recognizes the environmental stewardship of the MBFD Green Team.



Ocean Friendly Gardens promote conservation, permeability, and retention of water.



2014

- City Council **expands the polystyrene ordinance** to include all polystyrene plastic and foam food service materials, including **ice coolers, straws, cup lids,** and **utensils** made from polystyrene materials.
- The **Smoke-Free Public Places ordinance is adopted** by City Council in June 2014, which **prohibits smoking** (including electronic cigarettes) in all public places in Manhattan Beach.
- The City's Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) inspections include measures to track whether food service establishments are adhering to the City's plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances.
- The City's **plastic bag ordinance is expanded to include all restaurants.** All food service establishments are required to adhere to the plastic bag ban along with all retail establishments.
- The City initiates **education on safe fishing practices and sharks** through a partnership with the Roundhouse Aquarium and Heal the Bay to educate recreational anglers on safe fishing practices and about sensitive wildlife species in the ocean.
- Through Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) and AB2733 funding, the City **installs six public Electric Vehicle charging stations** (four at the City Hall lot, two at Lot 4). An additional two stations for City-owned fleet are located at the Public Works Yard.
- The City holds a **forum on renewable energy**, which ended with over 500 people standing on the Pier holding an LED candlelight vigil for climate action.
- The City initiates design work on a grant-funded project to **improve accessibility and plant drought-tolerant, environmentally appropriate landscaping on Veteran's Parkway.**
- The City continues its first **commercial and residential food waste collection pilot program**, with over 20 commercial and 775 residential participants, diverting food waste from the landfill.
- The City Council approves adding position of an **environmental intern** to assist the Environmental Manager in helping make Manhattan Beach more sustainable.
- The Green Business Program is expanded to add 8 new businesses.





2015 - 2016



Certified Green Businesses incorporate practices to minimize waste, save water, and reduce energy consumption.

- In July 2015, City Council adopts a contract amendment with Waste Management to offer **a permanent food waste recycling program** to both businesses and residents.
- The City achieves **Beacon Spotlight Awards** from the Institute for Local Government in Agency **Greenhouse Gas Reductions (9%)** and Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions (9%). The City also received recognition in the Sustainability Best Practices category and achieved the Platinum Level Spotlight Award.
- The City adopts **permanent water conservation requirements** that include **limitations on landscaping and washing cars and sidewalks.**
- In 2015, City Council adopts an addition to the **Climate Action Plan** with an Energy Efficiency Chapter addressing municipal and community goals.
- City Council adopts a resolution to **explore the feasibility of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** program for Manhattan Beach. A CCA program would bring **sustainable energy alternatives** to the community and ties into the City’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
- The City begins to **retrofit its street and traffic signal safety lights with LED fixtures.**
- City Council **expands the Breathe Free MB program** in October 2015, to institute a smoke-free multi-unit housing program.
- The City **joins the Compact of Mayors**, which is committed to climate action and where the City commits to take stock of greenhouse gas emissions, set ambitious emissions reduction targets, and monitor climate risks.



- The City **maintains its Platinum level status** in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments’ Energy Leader Program by **reduction of energy consumption.**
- In 2016, the City welcomes 9 new businesses to its Green Business Program.



2017 - 2018

- A new **Environmental Programs Manager** is hired to craft the City's environmental work plan and corresponding policy ordinances, implement programs, initiate a Sustainability Task Force, and conduct community outreach.
- The City holds its 25th Annual **Earth Day Celebration and Concert** in April 2017 which includes music, games, eco-friendly products, and information on the City's efforts to make Manhattan Beach environmentally sustainable.
- The 2018-2020 **Environmental Work Plan** is presented before Council in November 2017 and through a Study Session in January 2018, focusing on initiatives in **plastic pollution reduction, climate action/energy, climate adaptation and resiliency, smart water management, community partnerships, and setting sustainability goals.**
- City Council authorizes the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program Ygrene Energy Fund in October 2017 which facilitates **financing for homeowners to pursue solar panel installations, water and energy efficiency.**
- Manhattan Beach **joins the Clean Power Alliance** in December 2017, allowing residents to get **more of their energy from renewable sources.**



Plastic straws are commonly found during beach cleanups and pose dangers to marine life.



- A new **Sustainability Task Force** is launched in April 2018 and is composed of 10 community members, two council members, and inter-departmental staff.
- The City recognizes **15 new businesses** to the **California Green Business Program** in 2017-2018.
- The City, in partnership with Waste Management, continues to offer free classes on **food waste recycling and backyard composting.**
- The **County Lifeguard Station** at 26th Street and the Strand is **installed with drought tolerant landscaping**, with lifeguards trained to maintain it.
- In June 2018, City Council **adopts a new plastic pollution policy** banning the use and distribution of **single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and utensils**, as well as **polystyrene packing materials, polystyrene produce trays, and polystyrene egg cartons.**



2019 & BEYOND

- Conducting an updated **greenhouse gas emissions inventory** to determine the City's emissions and environmental impact on the climate and if the City is on track to meet climate action goals.
- **Analyzing climate vulnerabilities** in the City to determine MB's vulnerability to increasing temperatures and rising sea levels.
- Furthering community and business outreach and education on **prohibited single-use plastic items**.
- Pursuing **Green Business Certification** for City Hall to further greening City facility operations.
- A new **Climate Action Plan**, along with a **Climate Adaptation Plan** will be developed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.
- Promoting **water conservation efforts** throughout the City, convert more potable water use to recycled water, and implement stormwater capture projects.
- Developing an **Electric Vehicle policy** to support EVs in the community.
- The Sustainability Task Force will develop **Sustainability Goals** for the City while influencing the County of Los Angeles' development of a Sustainability Plan to span the region.
- Identifying and implementing projects to **build natural resiliency to climate change** in Manhattan Beach.



Using electric vehicles is an important method to combat climate change.



Assessing MB's climate vulnerabilities will help us adapt to sea level rise.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Going Green: Working Together to Build a Sustainable Manhattan Beach

Manhattan Beach's Environmental Sustainability Division strives to create a healthy, sustainable, and resilient city while furthering the City's long history of environmental leadership, policy, and stewardship, both as a community and as a city government.

2018-2020 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK PLAN:

The 2018-2020 Environmental Work Plan lays out environmental goals for the City to achieve within the next two years. Some focus areas include pollution prevention, climate change action and resiliency, smart water management and conservation, and community partnerships and outreach. A list of long-term sustainability goals is also a part of the plan, and includes objectives such as creating a community climate action plan, developing a Sustainable City Plan, and increasing the City's accountability with a sustainability reporting tool. The work plan also calls for a Sustainability Task Force to be created and for this report on environmental accomplishments to be compiled.

2018 SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

The City of Manhattan Beach launched the City's Sustainability Task Force in 2018, initiating meetings on April 20 during Earth Month. The Task Force is composed of a diverse cross-section of Manhattan Beach's community from business, scientific, nonprofit, environmental, and education fields with professional experience or demonstrated expertise in sustainability topics. Sustainability Task Force members provide technical expertise and original research and analysis to help form initiatives and policy recommendations to the City Council regarding environmental sustainability issues. The purpose of this working task force is assist the City in:

- Developing long-term Sustainability Goals
- Sharing technical skills and lessons learned from previous environmental and sustainability pursuits
- Contributing to the development of policies and programs related to a variety of topics including: climate action and energy, low-impact development and sustainable building, plastic pollution, smart water management, and climate adaptation and resiliency.

Please direct questions to the City's Environmental Sustainability Division: Dana Murray, Environmental Manager, 1400 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 at (310) 802-5508.

