



City of Huntington Beach Environmental Board

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

*Preserving the Environment
For a Sustainable Future*



Board Members

Sue Gordon (Chairman)
Mike Marshall (Vice-Chairman) Kim Nicolson (Secretary)
Jeff Coffman, Bo Glover, Chris Ann Lunghino,
Debra Orrill, Robert Schaaf, Bob Smith

City Council Liaisons

Keith Bohr, Connie Boardman, Joe Shaw

City Staff

Aaron Klemm

Planning Commission Liaison

Barbara Delgleize

1. Introduction

The Huntington Beach (HB) City Council (Council) established an Environmental Board (Board) over 40 years ago. Much has changed in the intervening years and in 2009 the Council streamlined several Boards and Committees to reflect those changes. The purpose of the Board was revised and expanded to include economic, environmental and social sustainability. Staff responsibility is now handled by the Energy Project Manager, Aaron Klemm.

What the Board Does: *Preserving the Environment for a Sustainable Future:*

- Review and comment on General and Specific Plans as well as Environmental Impact Reports and Negative Declarations to promote sustainability and a healthy community
- Assist with the City's programs by reducing the consumption of water and energy, increasing recycling and waste diversion and promoting sustainable energy practices
- Support the City's evolving environmental goals and sustainability programs through external awareness, educational and advisory projects
- Promote the Board's Sustainability Awards for deserving organizations and individuals who demonstrate commitment to sustainability
- Deliver an Annual Report to the Council on plans and results

2. Goals and Objectives 2011-2012

Some of the Board's 2010-2011 goals and objectives continued into 2011-2012 and included:

- Present a guest speaker at each meeting
- Present Environmental Awards in association with sponsors SCE
- Participate in green events

The Board's additional goals for 2011-2012 were:

- Improve the Environmental Board web page
- Publish targeted articles to increase environmental education and increase public attendance at the meetings
- Evaluate ways to improve communication and exchange of ideas between the Board and Staff and Council Liaisons.

The Board accomplishes its goals and objectives via Ad Hoc Committees. This year, the Board combined the Solar and the Green Energy Committees since their purposes overlapped. The three (3) Ad Hoc Committees follow:

- **Green Energy:** Monitors the external environment for opportunities for building process improvements in the areas of energy efficiency and the use of environmentally friendly materials/processes
- **Communications:** Provide awareness of environmental/sustainability issues, concerns, and programs to the community.
- **Environmental Awards:** Annually recognize HB individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to improving the environment and sustainability of Huntington

Beach

There is also one (1) standing committee. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary who meet monthly to discuss the agenda and other special projects.

3. Accomplishments

Below is a summary of events and accomplishments achieved during 2011-2012 by the Environmental Board.

Environmental Awards:

Annually, the Board presents awards to deserving organizations and/or individuals demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and resource conservation. Two \$500 monetary awards have been sponsored by SCE for the past several years. In 2012, the awards were expanded to include Huntington Beach schools. A new sponsor, Rainbow Environmental Services, stepped up to provide two \$500 monetary awards: 1) the Sustainable School Award, and 2) the Seed Award. The Sustainable School Award is given to a school that has already implemented sustainable practices but desires to expand those practices whereas the Seed Award is given to a school with the desire to become sustainable but in need of “seed” money to initiate it.

Huntington Beach High School received the SCE-sponsored monetary award in the commercial/nonprofit sector for its Sustainability Program. The school accomplished the following:

- Conducted energy audits. Students monitored unnecessary use of lights, computers, and appliances and will give energy citations to staff if they don't turn them off when not in use
- Asked school administration to explore the school switching to solar
- Conducted a solar demonstration project
- Explored the many concepts of sustainability including sustainability classes in Environmental Awareness
- Presented educational films. The Sustainability Club showed environmental films at school and promoted them to all students

Pegasus School and Carden Conservatory won the two School Awards. Pegasus School won the Sustainable School Award for their Reduce Plastic project. A team of students performed a waste characterization of a section of beach to determine what types of waste were accumulating. Their findings were presented to the City Council with a recommendation to consider banning Styrofoam. The students were commended for their efforts. Additionally, the team reached out to the rest of the students to encourage them to use reusable water bottles and to create less waste at lunch using sustainable lunch products. With the award money Pegasus School purchased a hydration station so the students can refill their reusable water bottles. Carden Academy won the Seed Award with their Seeds of Change project. Carden is striving to add environmental education as part of their students' daily lives. They will do this by starting a school recycling program using the award money to purchase recycle bins for each classroom and common areas. In addition, Carden will implement grade-level lessons on sustainability and plant an organic garden using organic soil

products, develop a plan to reduce water consumption and grow sustainable plants.

Turf Removal Project:

As noted above, one of the Board's responsibilities is to assist the City to reduce its consumption of water and energy. In keeping with that responsibility, a City Council member contacted the Board staff liaison to suggest it take on a turf removal project using Metropolitan Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) grant funds to help offset the cost of turf removal and replanting with less water intensive plants. The project area was a large (17,500 sq. ft.) grassy knoll located at the end of Seapoint and Garfield that has no potential for recreational use due to its slope. The area was being irrigated and maintained by the Bluffs' Homeowners Association (HOA).

A meeting was held with the HOA and the Board's Executive Committee. HOA concerns were centered on the cost of the project. Estimates obtained were in the high \$200K range. Surfrider Foundation recommended as a cost reduction solution the use of volunteer labor and emphasized the savings regarding water usage. The goal of the project should be to be a turf conversion demonstration project. The HOA requested three follow-up items from the Board: 1) Resources such as Coastkeeper and Surfrider websites, 2) the authority to complete the project in phases; and 3) future policies to improve the economics of water conservation projects. Staff liaison, Aaron Klemm, will inform City Council of the HOA's interest and recommend this as a viable project. Additional concerns are the construction of a bioswale around the perimeter of the project to protect Bolsa Chica resources and to capitalize on public relations opportunities.

Presentations:

The Board has a Speakers Program to provide the members of the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues. The following presentations were made at the Environmental Board meetings in 2011-2012:

- July - Taylor Honrath, Clean Tech OC, spoke about Clean Tech OC and its purpose to advocate for green energy public policies
- August - Bill Crisp and Lenica Castner spoke about Huntington Beach public policies regarding water conservation
- September - Joe Shaw, HB City Council member, presented information regarding public education and outreach for the proposed plastic bag ban
- October – no speaker
- November - Kimmy Colpin presented the CPR plan for the lower bench of the Bolsa Mesa
- December - Scott Longhurst, president of Trillium Consulting, Inc., and Chairman of CalWa (California Wireless Association), spoke about the wireless industry and its growth and challenges
- January - Deborah Orrill presented information about the new Recycling and Resource Management Program at Golden West College.
- February - Andy Forth, Vice President of Eco Cover, informed the Board about his sustainable product made from recycled materials

- March- Teresa James, Rainbow Environmental Services, spoke about AB341, the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law and how it will be implemented in Huntington Beach
- April - Lena Luna, Luna Energy Corporation, informed the Board about the EEMIS: Enterprise Energy Management Information System
- May - Terry Elliot spoke about the Huntington Beach Water Quality Program
- June- Greg Goran, Surfrider Foundation, presented information about Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Garden Program

Municipal Solar Project

The Board participated in the development of the Huntington Beach Municipal Solar Project. The project scope was installation of 2.13 Megawatts of solar power for use by Huntington Beach facilities. The project was completed without any capital cost to the City and is expected to reduce its energy costs.

Web Page

The Board met its goal of improving the website. The website contains updated information about the Board along with meeting agendas and minutes. Educational information is also on the site including new Board member orientation materials. The Environmental Board web page can be found at: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Boards_Commissions/Environmental_Board/environmental_board.cfm

Green Events

The Board staffed a booth at the Huntington Beach Green Expo on September 17, 2011. This was the fourth year of participation for the Environmental Board. Environmental awards and energy reduction projects were highlighted at the booth along with the Board's various activities.

Development Planning

The Board reviewed eight environmental documents and provided comments to reduce environmental impacts and enhance sustainability. The documents included:

- Garguis Mixed-Use Development Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 09-003
- Warner/Nichols Initial Study and Draft EIR No. 05-003
- Beach/Ellis Mixed Use Draft EIR No. 10-004
- Skate Park Project Notice of Preparation Draft EIR
- Plastic Bag Ban – Notice of Preparation Draft EIR No. 11-002
- Skate Park Project Draft EIR No. 10-009
- Harmony Cove Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 12-004
- 405 Freeway Improvements

Site Tours

- OC Sanitation District
- Orange Coast River Park
- Environmental Nature Park

Communications with Deputy City Manager

In March 2012, the Board wrote a letter to the Deputy City Manager informing him of Proposition 84 funding, Water/Storm Water and Measure M2, \$18 million in grants available across the state for water quality and energy. The Board urged the City to apply for and avail itself of the grant money to improve water quality in Huntington Beach. In April 2012 the Board received a written response to the Board's letter providing information on the various grants applied for and received by the City.

4. Goals and Objectives for 2011-2012

The Board's specific 2011-2012 goals and objectives are:

- Continue to have a guest speaker at each meeting to provide the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues - **Goal Met.**
- Continue to upgrade the Environmental Board web page with educational information - **Goal Met.**
- Participate in Green Events including the 2012 Green Expo - **Goal Met.**
- Maintain sponsorship for the Environmental Awards in order to provide recognition and/or monetary incentives for organizational and residential environmental achievements in Huntington Beach - **Goal Met.**
- Continue to partner with the Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Surf City Committee to leverage outreach to Huntington Beach businesses to increase their sustainability – **Goal Met.**