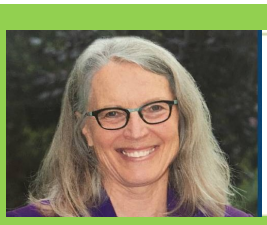
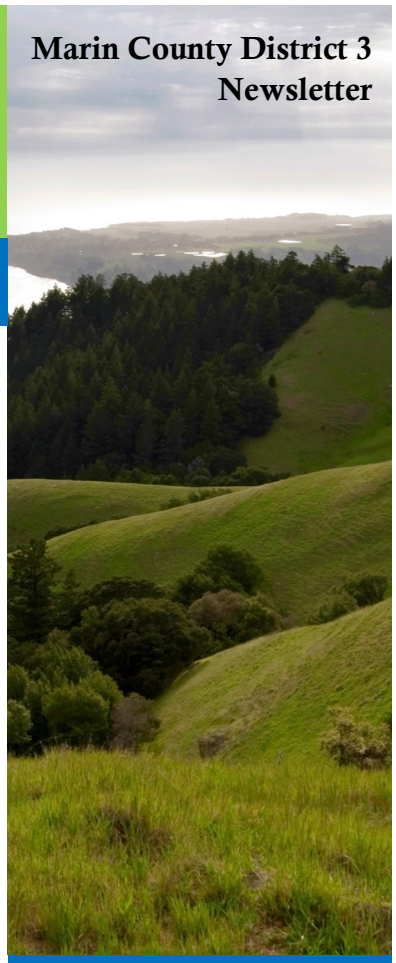


MARIN COUNTY
SUPERVISOR
KATE SEARS

THE "CARBON FOOTPRINT" ISSUE

Marin County District 3 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

As 2017 was winding down, I happened to watch a wonderful short video created by Wildcare, a long-time Marin organization that is a leader in wildlife rehabilitation and nature education. It's message speaks to all of us, wildlife and human:

Live well • Care • Lend a Hand • Be Curious • Be Humane • Be Free • Be Wild • Be Grateful

The outpouring of generosity and support for those affected by the North Bay fires this October showed that we live well by caring for each other and lending a hand to those in need. We grow as individuals and remain mentally agile as we age by being curious, by seeking new experiences, and by engaging with others.

We strengthen our bonds of community by remembering that kindness, mercy, and compassion are the essence of what it means to be "humane." We nurture the spark of wildness in all of us and acknowledge our urge to be free of whatever it is that burdens or restrains us. And we are grateful.

We are grateful for the extraordinary place that is our home and for the engaged, thoughtful, creative, and passionate people who live, work and share in our community.

2017 was a tumultuous year – natural disasters from Texas to Florida to Puerto Rico, and fires that devastated our neighbors to the north and south; a mass shooting in Las Vegas; the whipsaws and distractions of national politics; attacks on health care and immigration policies that threaten many individuals and communities; and terrorist attacks, conflict and disarray abroad. A total solar eclipse offered a rare moment of awe and wonder.

We met the challenges of 2017 with a renewed sense of activism and determination. No matter your political persuasion, the Women's March the day after the Inauguration brought the largest outpouring of solidarity, amusing signs of encouragement, and hot-pink knitted caps the world has ever seen. We must keep that good energy going in 2018.

Marin's ongoing challenges of traffic, affordable housing, roads and public infrastructure, and issues of equity and income inequality, all call for our renewed attention, inclusive solutions and decisive action. 2018 also will be the "Year of the Older Adult," a year-long recognition of the 27% of Marin residents who are age 60 or older and an exploration of how to address their diverse needs and provide opportunities for everyone to thrive.

Climate change also remains a critical focus of our attention. The County's BayWAVE initiative to address sea level rise along the Bay shoreline completed a multi-jurisdictional sea level rise vulnerability assessment in April 2017 and is moving into adaptation planning – significant work for 2018 that will need your input.

Finally, I want to focus this newsletter on Marin's carbon footprint and the important goals we want to achieve under our Climate Action Plan and DRAWDOWN: Marin, our initiative to dramatically reduce carbon emissions countywide. As you read the next pages, I urge you to think about what part you will play and what actions you can take to help move these vital initiatives forward in the coming year - with me, with our neighbors and Marin's businesses. We're all in this together and I need your help to get this work done.

As always, be in touch and share your ideas with me at ksears@marincounty.org. I look forward to an active and engaged year with you in 2018.

Warmest wishes to you and yours for the New Year,

Kate Sears

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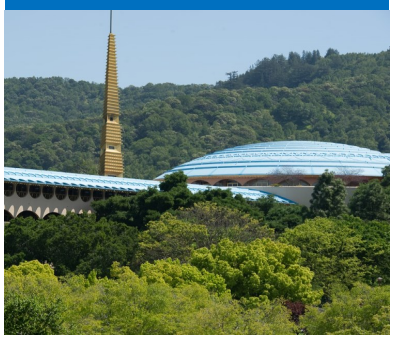

DRAWDOWN: Marin
Dramatically Reducing Marin's Carbon Emissions

On October 3rd, the Board of Supervisors signaled its unwavering commitment to climate action as we launched **DRAWDOWN: Marin**, a campaign to dramatically reduce Marin's greenhouse gas emissions and put Marin at the forefront of addressing climate change.

Supervisor Damon Connolly and I co-hosted the kick-off event at the Marin Center's Showcase Theater, which was attended by over 425 residents, business leaders, students, and environmental leaders. The evening included a presentation of Marin's Climate Action Plan, the film *"What's Possible",* inspiring remarks by two high school students - Cameron Evans and Milo Wetherall - both emerging environmental leaders, and a wide-ranging conversation between Paul Hawken (Project Drawdown editor), Joel Makower (GreenBiz CEO), and Leah Seligmann (Director, Net-Zero Initiative).

Everyone was asked this question: "What part will you play?" From inspiration comes action, and the DRAWDOWN: Marin campaign is focused on these five integrated strategies:

100% renewable energy: countywide use of electricity from 100% renewable energy sources; local and community energy generation (primarily from solar), distribution, and storage; conversion of gas powered heating and cooling systems and appliances to electric models.

Low carbon transportation, including rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) across all modes of transportation; comprehensive EV charging infrastructure, including for multi-family homes and apartments; improved public transportation; expanded ride-sharing and car-sharing options; walkable and bike-friendly communities.

Energy efficient buildings and infrastructure, including retrofit incentives for public, residential, and commercial buildings; net-zero energy standards for all new construction; funding mechanisms that incentivize energy efficiency.

Local food and carbon sequestration, including promotion of locally and regionally produced food; carbon sequestration practices on agricultural lands and open space; dramatic reduction of food and organic waste; widespread adoption of composting practices and compost applications.

Climate resilient communities that understand climate risks and are prepared for both the near and long-range impacts of climate change; strong neighborhoods that are prepared for and respond cohesively in emergencies; shared solutions that preserve and protect community diversity, housing, businesses, open spaces and natural resources, and provide options to adapt to an uncertain future; and participatory decision-making that ensures a thriving and equitable future for all Marin County residents.

Yes, we can do it!

The choices we make today will determine the magnitude of climate change risks for decades ahead. To avoid potentially catastrophic consequences – and protect the futures of our young people and those who come after -- we must act boldly to reduce emissions.

And we must act now.

If we are to cut our greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 – the ambitious but achievable goal set by the California Climate Strategy – our greenhouse gas emissions must stop increasing and begin declining by 2020. That is only two years from now. We all must act now and we must act effectively.

One-third of Marin County's greenhouse gas emissions come from residential and commercial building energy use. And over one-half are generated by combustion engine vehicles.

All of us need to challenge ourselves - as a County and as individuals - to not just talk about the challenge of climate change but to take action to dramatically reduce emissions from our homes, our businesses, and the vehicles we drive. We can't wait for anyone to solve this problem for us -- innovation and problem solving starts in our homes and in our minds.

Each of us is the activist and the innovator who will start using 100% renewable energy, who will choose to replace our gas powered furnace with an electric model. We'll check out electric induction cooktops, and unplug our energy guzzling computers, iPhones and iPads. We are the ones who will decide to try an electric vehicle, share cars and rides, and challenge ourselves to see how often we can use an electric bike instead of a car.

It is each of us who will dramatically reduce food waste – the #3 most impactful strategy identified in Project Drawdown – by purchasing only as much food as we will eat. We also will choose to eat a plant rich diet – the 4th most impactful strategy identified in Project Drawdown. We will work together to convince the owners of commercial buildings to install solar panels and retrofit for energy efficiency; and to convince our county, cities and towns to adopt net-zero energy standards for all new construction and major remodels.

And we will choose to come together as neighbors to make sure that everyone understands climate risks, is prepared for the impacts of climate change, and able to respond cohesively in emergencies.

I call on us to be bold, to be creative, to have courage, and to work together to implement the realistic strategies of our DRAWDOWN: Marin initiative.

All of us have a role to play in taking the decisive actions that will protect future generations.

SO GET ENERGIZED!

Learn More - Use Less

and Just Do It!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DRAWDOWN: MARIN, TO VIEW THE VIDEO OF THE EVENT, AND TO SEE LISTS OF THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW, PLEASE VISIT:

HTTPS://WWW.MARINCOUNTY.ORG/DEPTS/CD/DIVISIONS/SUSTAINABILITY/CLIMATE-AND-ADAPTATION/DRAWDOWN-MARIN

and for information on Project Drawdown, visit www.drawdown.org

CLIMATE ACTION UPDATES:

100% Renewable Energy – the County Takes a Big Step Forward!

This fall, Marin became the first county in the state to have 100% renewable electricity for all of its county, town, and city municipal accounts, including all public buildings and streetlights. By opting up to Deep Green, MCE Clean Energy's 100% California-sourced renewable energy service, our 12 Marin jurisdictions (cities, towns, and County) are estimated to have eliminated 3,570 metric tons of pollution, or the EPA equivalent of removing 764 cars from the road in one year. This is great news! And it's encouraged more local businesses and residents to enroll in Deep Green, too. While Deep Green enrollments increased 62% in just 10 months, there's a lot more that needs to be done in 2018 to significantly increase the number of Marin residents and businesses who use 100% renewable energy. You'll hear more from us soon about how you can help reduce our carbon footprint and make a difference for our climate future.

Closing the Loop on Waste By Turning Landfill Gas into Electricity.

In September, the Redwood Landfill in Novato cut the ribbon on a new, state-of-the-art plant that closes the loop on waste by turning the methane gas produced by Marin's trash -- which was previously flared into the atmosphere -- into electricity. Landfill gas powers two reciprocating engines that generate 3.9 megawatts of electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week – supplying renewable power even when the sun is down and there's no wind producing electricity. The plant is expected to eliminate 8,900 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and generate enough renewable energy to service more than 5,000 MCE Clean Energy customers.

County Debuts a Portable Solar-Powered Car Charging Station.

Earlier this year, the County's Department of Public Works acquired a portable solar-powered electric vehicle charging unit, an Envision Solar EV ARC, which will provide a solution for first responders during emergency situations when standard power sources fail. The unit can charge two cars at a time using only solar power, so it's simple to install (no trenching required) and is portable. The county's vehicle fleet includes 355 cars and light trucks, of which 80 are hybrid vehicles and 6 are plug-in electric vehicles. Two all-electric Chevy Bolts will soon join the fleet. Although the portable charging unit is only for County fleet vehicles, there are 3 standard charging stations in the Civic Center parking lot available for public use. We're working to expand that number in 2018!

AND OTHER UPDATES OF NOTE:

Muir Woods Shuttle To Begin Year-Round Service, Taking More Cars Off the Road. Starting the third week in January 2018, the Muir Woods Shuttle will begin serving passengers on weekends and holidays year-round. The shuttle previously operated only during the peak season from April to October and on certain winter holidays. Ridership on the Muir Woods shuttle has grown each year, including a 12% increase in 2016 over 2015. Thanks to Marin Transit for continuing to expand service, taking even more cars off our roads.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED:

Marin Firefighters Deliver Over 1500 Donated Bikes to North Bay Wildfire Victims. In addition to their stellar mutual aid efforts to save lives and property during California's devastating wildfires, members of the Marin County Fire Department, Mill Valley Fire Department, and Southern Marin Fire Department launched a bike drive to help kids and families affected by the North Bay fires. With the generous support of Turning Wheels for Kids, Mikes Bikes, and a host of businesses, organizations and individuals, over 1500 bikes have been collected and delivered to those who lost their homes to wildfire. And the bike drive is not over yet! This is yet another example of the incredible generosity of our community in stepping up to help those in need. Thank you, everyone!

AND FINALLY, A WORD ABOUT MARIN COUNTY ROADS:

Marin Roads Get Help from Senate Bill 1 (SB 1)

On April 28, Governor Brown signed SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, which will generate $54 billion for statewide transportation improvements over the next decade by raising gas taxes and vehicle fees. The gas tax increase took effect on November 1, and the new vehicle registration fees will begin on January 1, 2018. The County of Marin and all 11 cities and towns receive SB 1 funds on a per capita basis.

Addressing Marin's road quality and traffic congestion are top priorities for the Board of Supervisors. In fiscal year 2016-17, the Board committed an additional $1 million per year to its ongoing roads budget, plus a one-time allocation of $2 million, bringing the total for road improvement projects for FY 2016-17 to $10.5 million.

The Marin County Department of Public Works expects to receive an average of $4.1 million per year for use on the 400+ miles of roads in the unincorporated areas of Marin. These funds will help the County fix its deteriorating roads, which are estimated to need $190 million over the next 10 years just to maintain current road conditions. We still have a long way to go to reach our road improvement goals but the SB 1 funds will help.

QUICK LINKS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Traffic Conditions
To check Bay Area traffic, click here

Check the Tides
Click here for a local tide table from NOAA

Power Outages
Click here to report or check on a power outage.

Downed Power Lines
If you see a downed power line call 911 immediately. For more safety information about downed power lines click here.

Do you live in a FEMA designated flood zone?
Check out the FEMA Flood Map to find out more information

MEETING INFORMATION

Marin County Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesdays, generally starting at 9:00 AM and often going into the mid-to late-afternoon, at the Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors' Chambers, Room 330, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael.

For start times, agenda packets, as well as minutes of prior meetings, or to view webcasts of meetings, visit: **www.marincounty.org**, and click on the "Board of Supervisors" section, and then click "Minutes/Agendas/Webcasts".

Marin Transit District Board and **Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board** meetings are also held at the Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors' Chambers, Room 330. Regular meetings of the Marin Transit Board are generally held at 10 AM on the 3rd Monday of each month, but holidays may require rescheduling, and regular meetings of the TAM Board are held on the 4th Thursday at 7 PM. Please check those agencies' websites for current information. **Marin County Planning Commission** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1 PM at the Marin Civic Center in the Planning Commission Chambers, Room 328.

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Board meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5401 Old Redwood Highway, 1st Floor Petaluma

MCE Clean Energy (MCE) Board meetings , held on the 3rd Thursday at 7 PM, and MCE sub-committee meetings are held at 1125 Tamalpais, San Rafael

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1 PM, at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District meeting are held on the 4th Friday of each month at Golden Gate Bridge District offices (at the bridge toll plaza)

Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) meetings are held at different locations on a rotating basis. Check the website for updates and current information: www.rbra.org

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Board meets the 1st Friday of every other month and meeting locations rotate. Visit www.sfbayrestore.org for current information

Please visit the website of any agency you are interested in for more information on meeting dates, times, agendas, and staff reports

A complete list of 2018 Board and Commission assignments will be available once approved at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on January 9th

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Newsletter: http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/district-3/newsletters

JANUARY 2018 PUBLIC MEETINGS

JAN 1 County Holiday
Happy New Year!

JAN 2 No Board of Supervisors' mtg

JAN 3 No SMART Board meeting

JAN 4
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Bay Conservation and Development Commission

JAN 9
9:00 AM
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Marin Civic Center, Room 330

JAN 15 County Holiday
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance

JAN 16 No Board of Supervisors' mtg

JAN 18
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
7:00 PM—9:00 PM
MCE Board Meeting

JAN 23
9:00 AM
Board of Supervisors' meeting

JAN 24
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Conservancy

JAN 25
9:30 AM—10:00 AM
Golden Gate Bridge District Finance, Gov't Affairs and Public Information Committee
7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board Meeting

JAN 26
10:00 AM—11:30
Golden Gate Bridge District Board

JAN 29
10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Marin Transit District Board

JAN 30
9:00 AM
Board of Supervisors' Meeting

For more information on these and other meetings, and to review agendas and staff reports, please visit the website for the particular agency that you are interested in