

Town of Hillsborough

September 2017 City Council Meeting Recap

CITY COUNCIL MEETING ITEMS

Peninsula Clean Energy Update

Solid Waste & Recycling Rates to Remain Unchanged for 2018



Peninsula Clean Energy Update

On February 8, 2016 the Town entered into the Joint Power Authority Agreement with Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE). PCE is a public, locally-controlled electricity provider that offers all PG&E electric customers in San Mateo County the choice of having 50% ("ECOplus") to 100% ("ECO100") of their electricity supplied from clean, renewable sources at competitive rates. While rates associated with "ECOplus" are slightly lower than existing PG&E rates, "ECO100" rates are slightly higher. All customers can choose to stay with PG&E, participate at the default "ECOplus" program, or opt-up to "ECO100" program.



On September 11, 2017, City Council discussed whether the Town of Hillsborough's municipal electrical usage should remain at "ECOplus" or move up to "ECO100". While "ECOplus" saves the Town approximately \$7,000 annually in electricity costs, "ECO100" would increase electricity costs for municipal accounts by approximately \$6,500, according to Jan Pepper, CEO of PCE.

By using PCE, Hillsborough's municipal accounts save greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the carbon sequestered by about 98 acres of forest in one year with "ECOplus", and by about 237 acres of forest in one year with "ECO100".

The City Council directed staff to provide at a future City Council meeting confirmation of cost implications to assist in deciding whether the Town, as a municipality, should participate in the "ECO100" program. Participation by the Town would not eliminate the choices and options available to residents.

Solid Waste & Recycling Rates to Remain Unchanged for 2018

Customers will not see an increase in their solid waste and recycling rates for the calendar year 2018, as approved by the City Council on September 11, 2017. Costs will be contained to about 2% in 2018 due to operating efficiencies and contractual caps on costs. Also, Town residents have successfully diverted 74% of its solid waste to recycling and organics in 2017, which is one of the highest rates among twelve San Mateo County agencies.



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