

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/17/2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Angiel, Hedley, Hernandez, Hill, Kissel, Chair McKenna, Vice Chair Meyer
Absent: None
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

C. Public Comment

- Brian Schmidt spoke on electric vehicles rebates.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Approve the August 20, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hill/ Kissel), to approve the August 20, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed 6-0-1 (Hedley abstaining).

- D2. Update on building electrification outreach and the Home Upgrade Services (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on Home Upgrade Program Services program budget, qualifications, completed projects and equipment included.

- Brian Schmidt spoke on rental electrification bundles, program marketing and program data.

The Commission discussed improving outreach by evaluating past outreach activities, creating a referral list of those with completed projects and offering referral bonuses, following up with people who dropped from the program, inviting those with completed projects to join outreach efforts and compensating them, leveraging community-based organizations, presenting to seniors at Belle Haven Community Campus and families at local schools, connecting with churches, hosting additional events and potential program enhancements including helping small businesses, multifamily buildings and churches to electrify, supporting workforce development programs and expanding the program to all of Menlo Park.

D3. Presentation from Matching Rebates ad hoc subcommittee (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Chair McKenna and Commissioner Hernandez made the presentation (Attachment)

The Commission received clarification on use of grant funds.

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of electrification education, using grant funds to offer heat pump water heater (HPWH) rebates city-wide and renter program.

The Commission discussed recommending a rebate program to City Council.

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Kissel), to recommend that the City allocate \$250,000 of the California Energy Commission communitywide electrification grant funds to a matching rebate program available citywide, regardless of income, to start as soon as possible, offering \$1,500 for converting from gas water hear to HPWH, \$500 for converting from electric resistance to HPWH and \$3,000 to install a heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) system, passed unanimously.

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Commissioner Hedley spoke on Silicon Valley 350 being awarded a City grant for party packs and the Green@Home tour through Acterra.

Management Analyst Liz Tapia reported out on the heritage tree scavenger hunt.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the home upgrade progress report to City Council on Sept. 30 and zero emission landscape equipment ordinance enforcement.

F. Informational Items

F1. 2025-26 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

The Commission discussed moving the Emissions Reductions Impact Study ad hoc subcommittee presentation to February 2026.

G. Adjournment

Chair McKenna adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

Minutes approved at the October 15, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.