

GREEN INITIATIVES

By Hans Uslar, *Public Works*



With Councilmembers at his side, Mayor Chuck Della Sala signed the U.N. Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement at a ceremony on the front lawn of Colton Hall on July 11. The agreements commit Monterey and its citizens to implementing various measures that aim to preserve the environment and natural beauty of the Peninsula. The objective of both documents is simple: by implementing local measures, Monterey can do its share to reduce its ecological footprint on global warming.

One major initiative, the Green Building Ordinance, is in the process of being drafted. The Green Building Ordinance, which is part of the U.N. Urban Environmental Accords, will provide guidelines, incentives and educational materials for developers, contractors and residents to build more sustainable and environmentally responsible communities. The City is taking a first step by remodeling 735 Pacific Street, a new office building for City staff, to green building standards.

Over the past decade, the City has completed numerous projects that reduced its energy consumption. Exchanging traffic signal light bulbs with energy efficient, long-lasting LEDs cut energy consumption by 70%. The City installed energy efficient lighting in the parking garages at Cannery Row, Downtown, and at the Sports Center. The Sports Center lighting swap alone saved \$10,000 in a year. In 2002, the City purchased a first-generation hybrid gas-electric Toyota Prius. Since then, the City has added several other hybrid vehicles to its fleet and continues to purchase emission-reduced fuel efficient vehicles.

As part of its commitment, the City continues to reach out to interested community members and community groups, such as the recently formed Monterey Green Action. Only in partnership with these groups, as well as the other communities on the Monterey Peninsula, can we sustain our environment for future generations. Find out more at monterey.org/green/climate

RECYCLING SUCCESS

By Angela Brantley, *Solid Waste Program*

Now that Monterey is a signatory to the U.N. Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, it's important to highlight the good things we are doing in our community and offer some new ideas too.

Battery Recycling Program: The battery recycling program has collected and processed approximately 1,600 pounds of batteries this year. Please remember that alkaline batteries are hazardous waste and rechargeable batteries are recyclable. Battery drop-off sites are located at the Monterey Public Library, City Clerk's Office, Whole Foods Market, and the Youth, Senior, Hilltop and Casanova-Oak Knoll Community Centers.

Bag your Bag & Tie Program: Although we strongly urge you to use cloth bags or re-use plastic bags when you shop, plastic bags still find their way into our homes. In Monterey, you can place all your filmy plastic, such as bubble wrap, dry cleaner, clean vegetable, Ziplok and grocery bags, together in one bag, tie the top and place it in the BLUE recycle bin. No SINGLE bags or recyclables in plastic bags please.

July 4th Lawn Party: Recycling was a success this year at the lawn party. The recycling efforts contributed to a cleaner event and 50% less trash generated. Thanks to all attendees.

Recycling the Blues! Thanks to a grant from the Department of Conservation and the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, the Blues Festival at the Monterey Fairgrounds proved that recycling works at large outdoor events. Approximately 20 cubic yards of bottles and cans were diverted from the landfill for re-use in new products.

Did you know? Each year, Americans throw away enough office paper to build a 12-foot high wall stretching from New York to San Francisco. That's 10,000 sheets per person!