



**City of Huntington Beach
Environmental Board 2009 Annual Report
December, 2009
Draft #4**

***Preserving the environment
for a sustainable future***

Board Members

Bob Smith(Chairman)
Robert Schaaf (Vice-Chairman) Sue Gordon (Secretary)
Bo Glover, Dave Guido, Sue Marquez, Mike Marshall,
Dave Mootchnik, Don Rice

City Council Liaisons

Jill Hardy, Devin Dwyer, Keith Bohr

City Staff

Aaron Klemm

Planning Commission Liaison

Barbara Delgleize

1. Introduction

The Huntington Beach (HB) City Council (Council) established an Environmental Board (Board) almost 40 years ago. Much has changed in the intervening years, and in 2009 the Council streamlined several Boards and Committees. The revised purpose of the Board is now expanded to include economic, environmental and social sustainability. Staff responsibility was changed from Planning to Administration (Energy Manager).

What the Board does: Preserving the environment for a sustainable future:

- Review General Plans, Specific Plans, Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations with HB staff to promote sustainability
- Assist in programs to reduce energy consumption and develop sustainable energy
- Support HB's evolving Sustainability Program with external awareness, educational and advisory projects
- Deliver an Annual Report to the Council on plans and results

What the Board will consider:

- Topics in the context of 2009-2020 problems that drive our attention today
- Federal and State adaptations beyond 1970 legislated programs
 - Private sector adaptations and advanced thinking by academia, think tanks (environmental, economic, and technical)
 - LEED Existing Building Operations & Maintenance
 - LEED Neighborhood Development
 - Available Standards applicable to parts of perceived crises: Water, Energy, Carbon, Food, Health (H1N1), etc.

2. Goals and Objectives 2009

The Board's goals and objectives for 2009 included:

- Establishing sponsorship for the Environmental Awards in order to provide a monetary incentive for these achievements.
- Implement the Green Scorecard and recognize successful participants
- Establish a Speakers Program to provide the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues
- Establish an Environmental Board web page
- Participate in Green Events
- Enter the project planning process at an earlier point in order to become more effective

The Board members established four ad-hoc committees to accomplish the goals and objectives. These Ad Hoc committees include:

- Energy/Green: Monitoring the external environment for opportunities for building process improvements in the areas of energy efficiency and the use of environmentally friendly materials/processes.

- Solar: Participating in the HB's internal implementations of solar energy.
- Communications: Provide awareness of environmental/sustainability issues, concerns, and programs to the community.
- Environmental Awards: Annually recognizes HB residents and organizations for outstanding contribution to improving the environment

3. Accomplishments

The Board studied many environmental topics of interest in 2009. Below is a summary of the accomplishments achieved during the year.

Environmental Awards:

The annual Environmental Awards are now sponsored by Southern California Edison. Organizations and residents that submit applications for outstanding environmental activities or projects can now, if chosen, win a cash grant.

Green Scorecard

The Green Scorecard program was successfully implemented by the Board. Two HB residents were recognized by the Council for meeting Green criteria. One was for a new house and one was for a remodel.

Presentations:

The Board established a Speakers Program to provide the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues. The following presentations were made in 2009:

- Building Industry Association: The Green Revolution (Board Member)
- Green Score Card: A voluntary residential program for green remodeling (Board)
- Urban Heat Island Effect and Mitigation (City Intern)
- Permeable Concrete (Industry representative)
- Permaculture Principles Don Torres

Web Page

An Environmental Board web page is now on HB's web site.

Green Events

The Board participated in the following Green Events:

- HB Green Expo booth
- Rainbow Earth Day booth
- SCE – LED Awareness booth at Surf City Nights

Project Planning

In a pilot effort to get involved in projects earlier in the process, Board members are working with HB staff to evaluate and implement the new solar program.

Development Planning

The Board reviewed eleven CEQA documents and provided comments to improve environmental impacts. This includes the DTSP, Circulation Element, and the Beach-Edinger Corridor. Members spoke on Bay-Delta Conservation Plan amendment to the Council

Site Tours

- Orange County Sanitation District wastewater treatment facility
- Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach
- ASCON Landfill

Environmental Improvements

The Board researched environmental content of other Southern California cities' web sites. The Board also researched use of the HB web site and guidelines for developing/maintaining web site content. It is intended to have more environmental information on the Environmental Board web page in the future.

Published Articles

- Green Score Cards and Energy Efficiency
- Bibliography and Glossary

4. Goals and Objectives for 2010

The Board's specific 2010 goals and objectives are:

- Institute a consumer-based energy assessment program (Solar)
- Develop a list of LEED oriented development Best Practices (Energy/Green)
- Update & improve the 2008 city green practices & ordinances survey (Energy/Green)
- Have a guest speaker at each meeting (Communications)
- Speaker presentation put onto HBTV (Executive)
- Present Environmental Awards with SCE sponsorship (Environmental Awards)
- Participate in green events (Communications)

The Board's general goals identified are to improve the Environmental Board web page, publish targeted articles to increase environmental education, increase public attendance at the meetings, and evaluate ways to improve communication and exchange of ideas between the Board and Staff and City Council Liaisons. In order to accomplish both the specific and general goals, the Board will hold quarterly meetings with Council members and change the Board meeting time to 5:30 PM to make it easier for HB staff members to attend as guests.