

SLCgreen

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



SLCgreen

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



If I had to give 2022 a theme, I would say it has been a year of optimistic anticipation. Looking ahead, I expect a year of hard work and progress. Thankfully, I am supported and surrounded by a Sustainability Department team, a City team, and community partners who are devoted to making our community one of the best in the nation. This gives me hope.

The work to address climate change has shifted. While much of our work continues to focus on reducing pollution, we must also consider the reality of our future with an eye towards resilience. Unusual weather patterns caused by climate change are the “norm”. The Sustainability team working on climate, energy and food policy is gearing up for the federal support, along with generous philanthropic support, to center equity in our work to ensure we are creating

a more resilient community as we face climate challenges.

I am extremely proud of our Waste & Recycling crew. Regardless of what the weather brings on any given day, they continue to shine – providing the very best waste and recycling collection services to keep our community clean, while making sure all discarded materials are destined for their highest and best use.

I am grateful for the privilege I have working for the City and in the Sustainability field, to work alongside a dedicated city team and community members to create a better future.

DEBBIE LYONS

Sustainability Director

OUR MISSION

The Salt Lake City Department of Sustainability aims to preserve and improve our built and natural environments and provide residents information on sustainability issues affecting Salt Lake City. The Department develops goals and strategies to reduce pollution, slow climate change, and establish a path toward greater resiliency and vitality for all aspects of our community.

Sustainability is one of 17 departments within Salt Lake City government and supports the vision of enhancing resilience and stewardship. The expense budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is \$24.9 million and operates with 63 full-time equivalent positions (FTE's). Two programs make up the Department: The Sustainability Energy & Environment Division and the Waste & Recycling Division, both funded within the Refuse Fund Class.

The Sustainability Energy & Environment (E&E) Division serves to ensure that Salt Lake City Corporation departments comply with all applicable environmental regulations and guides city-wide policy and practice to minimize the environmental impact of community and city operations. Focus areas include air quality, energy efficiency & electrification, renewable energy, climate change, food equity, sustainable business engagement, communications & outreach, and environmental compliance.



WASTE + RECYCLING

The Waste and Recycling Division is dedicated to providing convenient, accessible, and outstanding service to all those who live, work, and play in the city, while providing a safe and positive work environment for employees and maintaining our core values of fiscal integrity, and sustainable waste diversion.

2023 PRIORITIES

- » Launch an updated Waste Characterization Study to assess the success of our diversion programs and make recommendations on equitably achieving our Zero Waste goal.
- » Apply for Environmental Protection Agency grant to expand public outreach and communications campaigns around recycling.
- » Drive public engagement around multi-year rate increase plan.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4.3
million

Containers emptied and provided weekly waste collection for approximately 42,000 residential customers.

70K
tons

of material collected.

37

Alternative-fueled vehicles in the refuse collection fleet, including 30 compressed natural gas and 7 clean diesel packers.

37%

of the waste stream diverted by composting and recycling including:

- » **8,674 tons** of recycling
- » **15,597 tons** of green waste
- » **1,312 tons** of glass recycling through curbside pickup and drop-off dumpsters

10,200

Call 2 Haul requests fulfilled as the bulk waste program continued to be well-utilized. Other highlights include:

- » **206 tons** of electronics, mattresses, appliances, metals, and tires recycled
- » **194 tons** of bulk green waste composted
- » **748 illegal piles** removed from public spaces

267K tons

of Construction & Demolition (C&D) material diverted from landfills by the Education & Permits team. E&P's goal is to improve recycling rates, reduce contamination, and answer questions about our services and recycling guidelines. Other highlights include:

- » Connected with **3,000 residents**
- » Audited **625,000 carts**
- » Provided waste services at **78 special events**
- » Hosted a successful Master Recycler cohort with **19 graduates** who completed **230 hours** of volunteer service
- » Reviewed **191** Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Diversion plans and post-project reports.
- » Assisted **12 businesses** and/or multi-family properties in developing recycling programs to comply with the City's Business & Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance.



3

local artists who partnered with the Waste and Recycling Division to create wraps on our newest refuse trucks.



AIR QUALITY

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Hosted an Indoor Air Quality Summit and launched a new public campaign to share best practices around keeping our homes, buildings, schools, and other spaces healthy.
- » Secured funding to help the Public Lands Department transition riding lawnmowers and other landscaping equipment from gas-powered to electric models.
- » Completed a proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Ordinance, which calls for all new multi-family construction projects to include electric wiring to allow 20% of future parking stalls to host charging stations. The proposal was heard by the Planning Commission and will be in front of City Council in early 2023. This ordinance change is one way the City is helping support cleaner vehicles and cleaner air.
- » Submitted a grant application for an EV car share pilot program at affordable housing properties
- » Obtained grant funding for the installation of three EV chargers on the 200 South reconstruction project.
- » Expanded the City's Comprehensive Sustainability Policy so that all new construction and major renovations of large City buildings will, when practicable, be constructed to use all-electric, combustion-free technologies.



Funded the exchange of 539 gas-powered lawnmowers for clean electric models across the community, in partnership with the State Division of Air Quality. Combined with 2021's exchange, we have now reduced emissions by 8.28 tons annually through this program.

2023 PRIORITIES

- » Apply for and develop strategies to make use of the influx of federal funding coming through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- » In partnership with the State DAQ, incentivize businesses in Salt Lake City to phase in electrified landscape maintenance equipment.
- » Launch two electrified transportation assessments: an internal study to support the Salt Lake City fleet's transition to EVs, and a Community Electrified Transportation Study.
- » Propose a budget to facilitate the launch of a City-led air quality incentives program, which could include resident rebates for landscaping equipment, indoor air quality tools, and e-bikes.

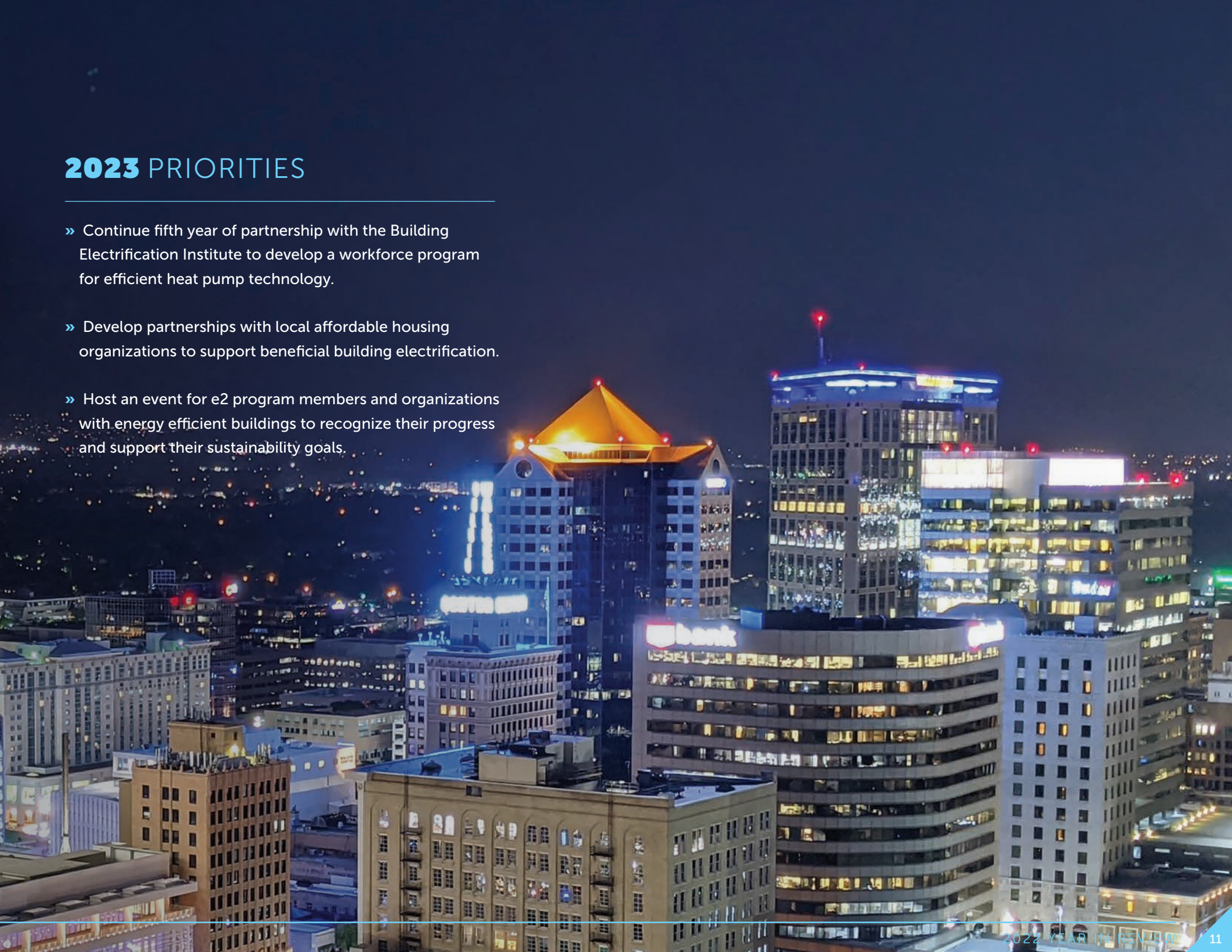
ENERGY EFFICIENCY + ELECTRIFICATION

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Implemented year four of the Energy Benchmarking & Transparency Ordinance and benchmarking efforts of large commercial buildings. The program helps achieve greater awareness of energy waste, and points building managers toward cost-effective tools to reduce pollution and save money.
- » Supported the publication of a report for commercial developers on the economic benefits of all-electric developments, which eliminate combustion from our homes and buildings—a leading cause of air pollution and climate change. Our team worked with partners to present *The Economics of All-Electric New-Construction in Utah* to four major developers and at numerous community forums.
- » Supported a proposed electric-ready homes amendment to the Utah Uniform Building Code Commission.
- » Published the 2021 Salt Lake City Municipal Energy Benchmarking report.

2023 PRIORITIES

- » Continue fifth year of partnership with the Building Electrification Institute to develop a workforce program for efficient heat pump technology.
- » Develop partnerships with local affordable housing organizations to support beneficial building electrification.
- » Host an event for e2 program members and organizations with energy efficient buildings to recognize their progress and support their sustainability goals.



CLIMATE + RENEWABLE ENERGY

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Launched **Solar Salt Lake**, a pilot bulk purchasing program that offered an estimated 12-15% discount below Utah's average market price for up to 50 Salt Lake City households to go solar. By year-end, 28 systems were contracted through the City's preferred provider, Gardner Energy, equating to 192 kW of solar.
- » Successfully negotiated a new agreement for the City's single largest renewable energy project, the 80-Megawatt Elektron Solar Project which faced extraordinary supply chain and international trade challenges in 2022. The solar farm is expected to come online in 2024 and will supply approximately 80 - 90% of the electricity for Salt Lake City government operations.
- » Continued making progress on implementing net-100% clean electricity for the whole SLC community through the Community Renewable Energy Program:
 - *18 of 23 eligible communities have now joined the Community Renewable Energy Agency and, together, represent about 25% of all electricity Rocky Mountain Power sells in the state.*
 - *The Agency's Program Design Committee—supported by outside counsel and an energy consultant—has been negotiating with Rocky Mountain Power for a year and is targeting a Program Application submission by March of 2023.*
 - *Although significant uncertainty remains, the Community Renewable Energy Program could launch as soon as the end of 2023.*
- » Became one of eight teams across the country selected by U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to receive project support for an initiative to increase solar adoption for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-owned businesses on the city's Westside.





2023 PRIORITIES

- » Complete construction of Elektron Solar Project
- » Submit successful program application on the Community Renewable Energy Program to state regulators
- » Launch public outreach and communications campaign on this program.
- » Complete NREL project and fund rooftop solar plus back-up battery systems for up to five BIPOC-owned businesses or non-profits on the Westside, thanks to a generous donation by American Express.
- » Host Western Adaptation Alliance member cities and partnering organizations from across the Intermountain West and Southwest to collaborate on equitable climate resilience efforts.

FOOD EQUITY

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- » Launched the second cohort of the Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA) program, which includes 13 residents who are invested in making the City's food system more resilient, healthy, and equitable. They will make recommendations in spring 2023 on one or more equitable food solutions for the City to consider implementing.
- » Received funding to undertake a Community Food Assessment which will provide a holistic, cross-sector snapshot of the current state of SLC's food system with a focus on equity and sustainability. The assessment will help inform future Salt Lake City food-related projects, policy, planning, and investments over the coming years.
- » Designed and administered a statistical survey in collaboration with Y2 Analytics to assess food inequities and opportunities across the City.
- » Developed a proposal to launch a new City-run Food Equity Microgrant program which will open in 2023.
- » Continue participating in an 18-month national community of practice (COP) for food policy councils organized by the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future's Food Policy Networks. The COP focuses on how to advance economic justice and racial equity in the food system.
- » Provided comments in support of preserving land zoned as agricultural use in Salt Lake City, especially in the North West Quadrant.
- » Worked with the Public Lands Department to support the development of the Harrison Community Garden; collaborated on identifying City parcels that could be made available for urban agriculture; and helped develop protocols for environmental assessments.
- » Convened the Salt Lake City Food Policy Council. We also participated in multiple state and national advisory groups including: the Governor's Food Security Workgroup and the Task Force on Food Security; the State's Local Food Advisory Council's Distribution and Ag-Lands workgroups; and the monthly US Conference of Mayors Food Policy Advisory Group

2023 PRIORITIES

- » Support planning efforts for the Rose Park Neighborhood Center Community Garden which is on track to open in 2023.
- » Undertake Community Food Assessment, complete Resident Food Equity Advisors Program, and convene SLC Food Policy Council.
- » Launch Food Equity Microgrant to support resident- and community-led projects that build off existing assets to advance food justice and equity for all.
- » Network with food systems policy groups, practitioners, and experts in other cities across the US to continue to build best practices and engage in strategic planning for Salt Lake City's food system.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Convened eight dedicated E2 businesses consultations, which included development of an organizational building decarbonization strategy, guidance on rooftop solar and C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing, all-electric commercial kitchen design, energy benchmarking program best practices, EV charging infrastructure resources, and completed Designed to Earn ENERGY STAR documentation preparation.
- » Presented at four business and industry association convenings, including for the Utah Commercial Real Estate Task Force, ASHRAE Utah (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), Tarkett, and IFMA Utah (International Facility Management Association).
- » Supported two private EV charging campaigns for businesses, including development of an EV business survey, and EV Business Roundtable strategy.
- » Distributed four E2 newsletters

COMMUNICATIONS + OUTREACH

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Convened an environmental stakeholder meeting with EPA Region 8 Administrator KC Becker to discuss EPA and community priorities.
- » Brought back our summer internship program and worked with students at the University of Utah and Westminster College.
- » Maintained a robust online outreach presence through SLCgreen blog, email newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- » Resumed summertime tabling and attended 20 events across the city, with a focus on outreach for the Community Renewable Energy Program, recycling education, and air quality.
- » Hosted three community workshops on our Solar Salt Lake bulk discount program.
- » Organized the SLC Corp team for the annual Clear the Air Challenge.
- » Supported the Mayor's Office in public relations for sustainability milestones.



2023 PRIORITIES

- » Work with the City Council to update city code identifying the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Sustainability Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » In partnership with Salt Lake County and Murray City, Salt Lake City was **awarded a second EPA Brownfields assessment grant** of \$600,000.
 - *Began working with the coalition to identify priority sites for Environmental Assessments.*
 - *Assessed two properties for the Cannon Greens/Green Phoenix farm project*
 - *Assisted with site assessments for the Redevelopment Agency.*
- » Supported city departments with environmental investigations at various city sites, including the Glendale Water Park, Folsom Trail, and the Richmond Community Garden.
- » **Supported the Tiny Home Village project**—an initiative by The Other Side Academy (TOSA) and the Mayor's Office to develop a supportive village of permanent housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.
 - *Worked with TOSA, environmental consultants, and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to understand environmental regulatory considerations and anticipate potential mitigation efforts to support the development.*
 - *Entered the pilot area into the State's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP).*
 - *Conducted initial phase of site investigation.*
 - *Pending any unexpected findings, the VCP process is on schedule to allow construction to begin in spring 2023.*

2023 PRIORITIES

- » Support the completion of regulatory and environmental compliance processes for a successful ribbon cutting of The Other Side Village.
- » Identify remedial approach and conduct remediation at Glendale Urban Farm and Cannon Greens Community Garden to allow community garden and farm development to start in 2023.
- » Develop an SOP to help staff and garden organizers navigate environmental requirements related to community garden development.
- » Support the studies required by the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Inland Port Authority: Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment; Traffic Study; and Community Impact Assessment.



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