

## 4 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



### *A. Background*

Rossmoor currently employs a wide variety of sustainable practices. These practices are found throughout the community, including operations related to structures, infrastructure, waste management, and landscaping. Key practices are listed below:

- ◆ Homeowners and Mutuals are encouraged to retrofit homes to improve energy efficiency, including improvements to insulation, windows, and heating systems.
- ◆ The GRF provides an extensive recycling program that includes items such as cardboard, green waste, and appliances.
- ◆ A prescription pill disposal service and hazardous waste collection are available to residents.
- ◆ Turf landscaping areas are being reduced where possible, deer- and drought-resistant plant material is used whenever possible, outdated irrigation systems are updated, and all irrigation controllers have been replaced with Smart Con-

- ◆ Rossmoor has identified heritage trees, and some Mutuals are currently inventorying other important existing trees.

In addition to the efforts listed above, the Rossmoor News presents extensive coverage of environmental sustainability, including a monthly column written by a Contra Costa Solid Waste representative. Similarly, there are presentations on water conservation at Mutual Board meetings.

***B. Goals, Policies, and Actions***

<b>Goal ENV-1    Conservation of energy and non-renewable resources within Rossmoor.</b>
--

**Policies**

- Policy ENV-1.1    Review programs and funding options on an on-going basis to find feasible approaches to energy conservation and renewable energy.
- Policy ENV-1.2    In new construction and remodels, meet State energy efficiency standards.
- Policy ENV-1.3    New construction, remodels, and landscaping projects should minimize paved areas and use absorptive paving materials to minimize heat island effects.
- Policy ENV-1.4    Evaluate siting of new buildings to determine if active or passive solar heating and cooling opportunities exist and if so whether to build them in initially or simply design new buildings to anticipate future potential alternative energy systems, such as solar panels.
- Policy ENV-1.5    Choose Rossmoor fleet vehicles that are the lowest-polluting and most energy-efficient available under the funding programs that support their purchase.

Policy ENV-1.6 Publicize energy-saving ideas, including the 'Hot Day Program,' through the Rossmoor News and similar community-wide outreach.

**Actions**

Action ENV-1.1 Consider implementation of the recommendations of the Alternative Energy Committee and successor committees on an ongoing basis as funds are available.

Action ENV-1.2 Create an administrative policy that makes energy conservation part of every employee's job.

Action ENV-1.3 Establish energy-saving policies for GRF fleet vehicles, including reducing idling times, reviewing routes for efficiency, and utilizing cost-effective non fossil fuel energy sources.

**Goal ENV-2 Minimal use of toxic materials throughout the community.**

**Policies**

Policy ENV-2.1 Use low- or no-toxicity building materials in landscape maintenance, new buildings, and building remodels where feasible.

Policy ENV-2.2 Substitute organic or non-toxic housekeeping products at all GRF locations when feasible.

**Goal ENV-3 Water conservation throughout the community.**

**Policies**

Policy ENV-3.1 Seek to reduce water demand for landscaping, including implementing landscaping standards developed by the City of Walnut Creek and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Policy ENV-3.2 Publicize water-saving ideas through the Rossmoor News and similar community-wide outreach.

Actions

- Action ENV-3.1 Explore additional opportunities for use of non-potable water for landscape irrigation.

**Goal ENV-4 Protection of biological resources in Rossmoor.**

Policies

- Policy ENV-4.1 Educate residents and employees about landscaping that provides habitat for sensitive species found in Rossmoor, and to the extent possible use that type of landscape material while discouraging invasive and nuisance species.

Actions

- Action ENV-4.1 Identify key habitat areas and ensure that hiking and other outdoor recreational activities are sensitive to species found in them.
- Action ENV-4.2 Continue to identify heritage trees located in Rossmoor and protect them per the Walnut Creek Tree Preservation Ordinance.

**Goal ENV-5 Balance between the enjoyment, the practicality, and the health issues of living with wildlife.**

Policies

- Policy ENV-5.1 Balance the enjoyment of living with wildlife with the practicality of dealing with the overpopulation of some species and the health issues that these species create.
- Policy ENV-5.2 Educate residents about the impacts of feeding wildlife.
- Policy ENV-5.3 Recognize the overpopulation of Canada geese and turkeys in the community, and consider ways to reduce their presence.

### Actions

Action ENV-5.1 Minimize the presence of goose and turkey populations to address safety and cleanliness issues.

<b>Goal ENV-6</b>	<b>Reduced waste generation in Rossmoor through creative solutions to waste management.</b>
-------------------	---

### Policies

Policy ENV-6.1 Purchase and use recycled materials whenever feasible.

Policy ENV-6.2 Expand the range of materials recycled at Rossmoor as new recycling programs become available.

Policy ENV-6.3 Expand recycling programs in GRF buildings, with a focus on educating residents and providing clear information about recycling options. Include the Activities Council in this effort, with a focus on reducing the use of non-renewable materials and resources associated with club and GRF events.

### Actions

Action ENV-6.1 Expand hazardous waste collection options and information.

Action ENV-6.2 Evaluate opportunities to market green waste, which we do not already reuse onsite, to outside vendors for chipping, composting or other uses.

Action ENV-6.3 Develop a program with an outside agency to accept recycled household goods.

**GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION**  
**GENERAL PLAN**  
**APRIL 2011**  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY