



ETHICS SAN MATEO

DEDICATED TO TRUTH, TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT IN CITY GOVERNMENT

Ethics San Mateo Presentation

Blue Sky Session

3 February 2024

Honorable Council Members and Staff,

Ethics San Mateo appreciates these few minutes to recognize that our city leadership is embracing the need for Rules, Codes of Conduct and Ethics Standards. The efforts you and city staff are making can become a cornerstone in the building of public trust.

I'd like to quote from an article by Rod Gould in Western City Magazine, a publication of the League of California Cities¹.

"It is often said that ethics is the foundation of public service and essential for public trust and confidence in public officials."

As a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation, we have one focus, and it is in direct alignment with this concept. That focus, and our mission, is:

To lead and support efforts by the residents of San Mateo to ensure our city is served according to the highest level of ethical standards and behavior.

As you consider the topics being discussed today and decide whether a specific element should be prioritized, and at what level of priority, please consider the following which we strongly believe will assist you in reaching what should be your top priority, **public trust**. Without that, many of the objectives of the democratic process become more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

The cornerstone of giving San Mateo residents a predominant voice in discretionary decisions must be established. It is not enough to conduct public outreach only to stay on an unwavering course of action upon which significant objections are raised by residents. Not only should the city **hear**, but also **listen** to and with an **unbiased** mind fully consider the residents' voices. Find and employ methods to gather credible information as to the majority will of the residents. Don't just listen to the loudest voices, hear what may be the soft speech of a majority.

Ethics San Mateo believes that there are many special interest groups that perform much-needed work and are widely lauded. However, we are concerned about the methods used by some groups

¹ Gould, Rod, [Beyond Ethics: Establishing a Code of Conduct to Guide Your Council](#), [Western City](#) (December 1, 2019)

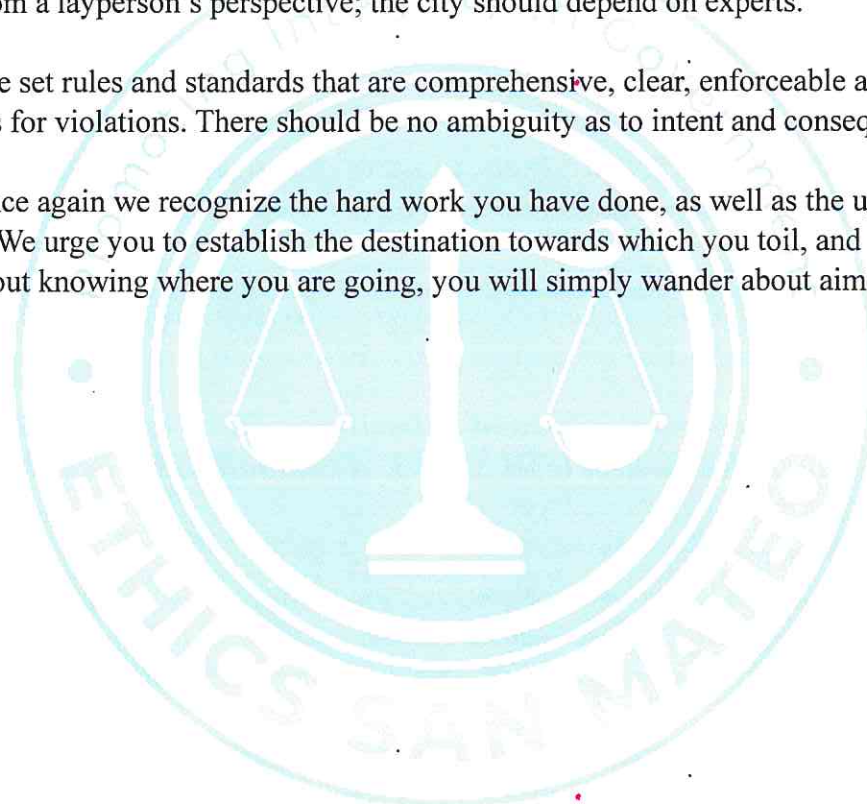
in influencing city government and shouting down opposing thoughts. We ask that you be willing to recognize when a special interest group, *and YES - Ethics San Mateo is one*, is involved in the arguments for or against an item before you. Evaluate the arguments on their merits, not the tone or loudness. Be aware of, and consider, who benefits from decisions. Look beyond the surface.

We urge you to engage with well-established organizations working in the field of government ethics to develop the ethics standards and Codes of Conduct. These organizations are the experts, they have no stake in specific issues the city is facing. Ethics San Mateo does not claim to have the level of detailed expertise, nor the desire, to be contracted to advise the city. We have been, and will continue to, provide information about our viewpoints to city leadership and the residents of San Mateo. Although carefully researched and opined, our recommendations are developed from a layperson's perspective; the city should depend on experts.

Finally, please set rules and standards that are comprehensive, clear, enforceable and that carry consequences for violations. There should be no ambiguity as to intent and consequences.

In closing, once again we recognize the hard work you have done, as well as the uphill path in front of you. We urge you to establish the destination towards which you toil, and decide the end goal; as without knowing where you are going, you will simply wander about aimlessly.

Thank you!



Council Information Packet

February 3rd, 2023 “Blue Sky” Goal Setting Workshop

Compiled by the San Mateo Climate Action Team and San Mateo Youth Climate Action Team

Image 1: Data on San Mateo's Bank Fossil Fuel Financing

Bank	Total financing of fossil fuels since 2016 in USD	Ranking compared to other banks in regards to fossil fuel financing*	% of San Mateo Investment Portfolio
JP Morgan Chase & Co	434.154 Billion	1	0.29
Bank of America	279.730 Billion	4	0.64
Royal Bank of Canada	252.48 Billion	5	0.78
Toronto Dominion Holdings	173.201 Billion	10	0.62
Morgan Stanley	153.430 Billion	12	0.36
Bank of Montreal Chicago	138.380 Billion	15	0.15
US Bancorp	47.172 Billion	34	0.23
			Total: 3.07%

*Being ranked first means that bank is the largest fossil fuel financier. Since 2016, the number one fossil fuel financier has been JP Morgan Chase & Co whom San Mateo is currently invested in.

All data on the banks was taken from the Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 Fossil Fuel Finance Report. Data on San Mateo's investment in each respective bank was taken from the information packet provided to council at their March 6, 2023 study session on ESG.

Image 2: Screenshot from 2020 Climate Action Plan

BE 2: All-electric existing buildings

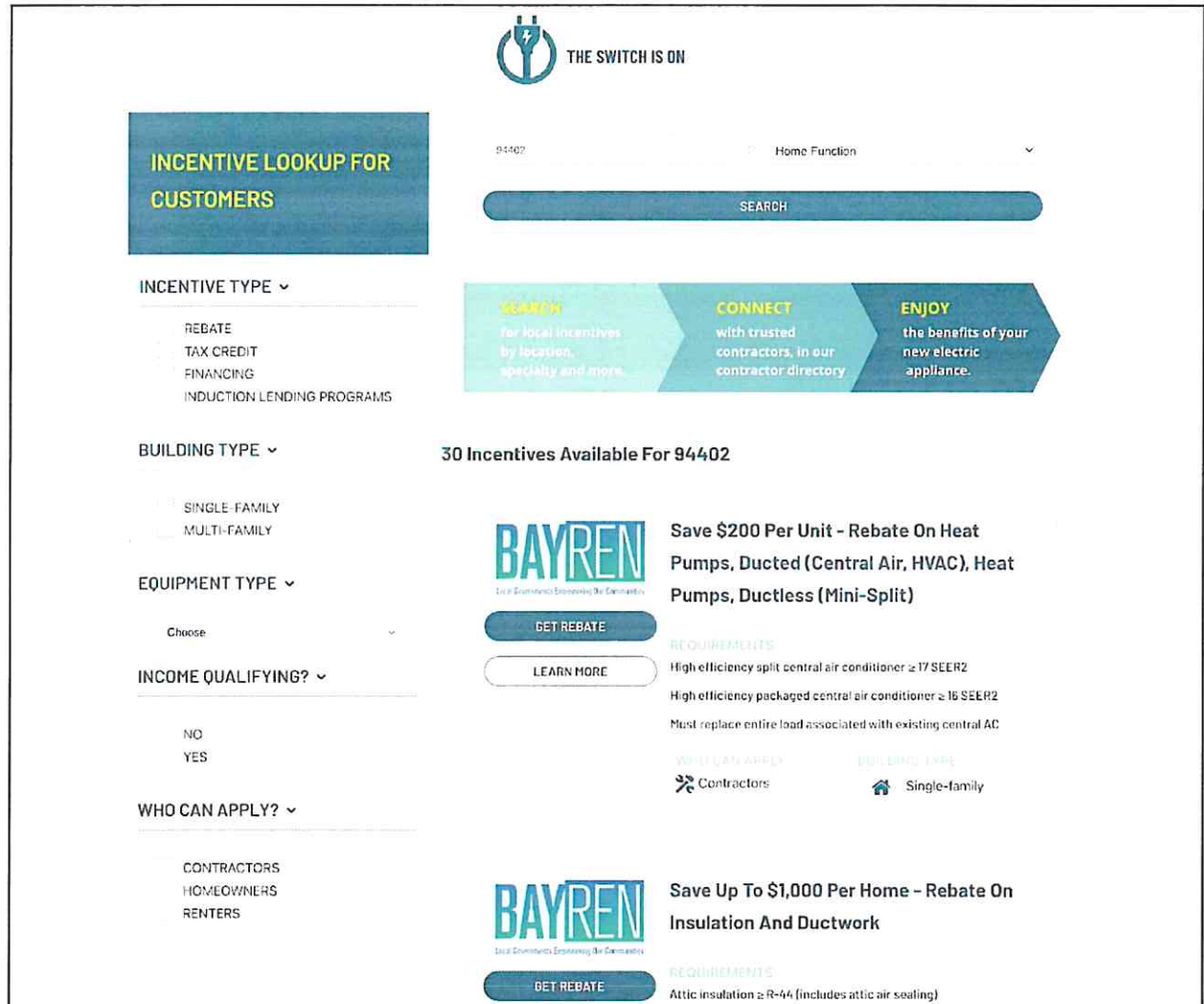
Although most existing buildings already have natural gas infrastructure and natural gas devices installed, these systems can be converted to all-electric. Electric appliances that replace natural gas-powered models are highly efficient, readily available, and cost-effective. Many buildings can install these appliances with simple electric wiring and panel upgrades, if upgrades are required at all. The cost of converting existing buildings to mostly- or all-electric can be further reduced if the electrification is done as part of a larger retrofit activity.

	2030	2040	2045
GHG reduction (MTCO ₂ e)	102,210	184,610	221,260

Recommended actions:

- Encourage residents and businesses to purchase electric technologies (e.g., air source heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, electric dryers, and electric stoves).
- Encourage residents and businesses to upgrade electric panels to accommodate electric technologies including solar PV, battery storage, air source heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, electric dryers, and electric stoves.
- Support training and outreach to residents, businesses, contractors, vendors, and installers about preferable electric equipment replacement technologies.

Image 3: Incentives Screenshot

(Accessed via: <https://incentives.switchison.org/residents/incentives>)


INCENTIVE LOOKUP FOR CUSTOMERS

94402 Home Function

SEARCH

INCENTIVE TYPE ▼

- REBATE
- TAX CREDIT
- FINANCING
- INDUCTION LENDING PROGRAMS

BUILDING TYPE ▼

- SINGLE-FAMILY
- MULTI-FAMILY

EQUIPMENT TYPE ▼

Choose ▼

INCOME QUALIFYING? ▼

- NO
- YES

WHO CAN APPLY? ▼

- CONTRACTORS
- HOMEOWNERS
- RENTERS

30 Incentives Available For 94402

BAYREN
Local Government Engineering the Community

Save \$200 Per Unit - Rebate On Heat Pumps, Ducted (Central Air, HVAC), Heat Pumps, Ductless (Mini-Split)

GET REBATE

LEARN MORE

REQUIREMENTS

- High efficiency split central air conditioner ≥ 17 SEER2
- High efficiency packaged central air conditioner ≥ 16 SEER2
- Must replace entire load associated with existing central AC

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Contractors

BUILDING TYPE

- Single-family

BAYREN
Local Government Engineering the Community

Save Up To \$1,000 Per Home - Rebate On Insulation And Ductwork

GET REBATE

REQUIREMENTS

- Attic insulation ≥ R-44 (includes attic air sealing)