



City of Buena Park

MINUTES CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 3, 2026

1A. CALL TO ORDER

The Climate Action Commission met on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA.

- 1B. ROLL CALL** **PRESENT:** Schooner, Singhal, James, Bendinelli, Figueroa
STAFF: Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager
Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development
Laurie Aubuchon, Senior Management Analyst
Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. COMMUNICATIONS

This is a portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for each speaker.

2A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026 and February 5, 2026

****M/S/P – Singhal/Figueroa**

4. OLD BUSINESS – No items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. DISCUSS FUTURE COMPOST EVENTS / PROGRAMS

Laurie Aubuchon, Senior Management Analyst, reported that as of April 2023, EDCO has sponsored the City's "Declutter, Drive-Up, & Drop Off" event. This free event allows residents to safely dispose of electronic waste, have their sensitive documents shredded, and pick up compost and mulch.

The event takes place in a parking lot under Edison's right-of-way in November and April each year. In addition to keeping e-waste out of the landfill, this event helps contribute to the City's annual procurement target set by Senate Bill (SB) 1383. SB 1383 requires the City to procure or give away 6,530 tons of compost and mulch every year. Last April and November the events had over 600 residents participate with over 33 tons of mulch and compost given away. The next Declutter, Drive-Up & Drop Off events in will be held on April 25, 2026 and November 7, 2026.

Patty Oh, Executive Director of Cool OC reported that Cool OC is a local non-profit that inspires OC residents to take climate action. The organization hosts community workshops, resource fairs, youth programs, and community engagement projects. They have participated in the City's annual Sustainability Fair and recently hosted a composting workshop at the City's Community Gardens.

This year Cool OC has been working hard all year to inspire climate action and build resilient, connected neighborhoods across Orange County. Thanks volunteers, partners, and supporters. The mission of Cool OC is to share time-critical information with Orange County residents about the escalating climate crisis, and empower them to make planet-friendly choices.

At the December 2025 Climate Action Commission meeting, Commissioner Schooner requested a discussion on how to expand the compost/mulch giveaway program. Some cities have compost and mulch piles that are accessible to the public during normal business hours. This allows the community to collect compost and mulch frequently and assists the cities in reaching their SB 1383 procurement target.

The main barrier for Buena Park to have a consistent compost/mulch pile is a location where compost/mulch can be dumped by a truck. The City's Community Garden area is a natural place to have compost/mulch piles; however, the area is locked and only accessible to gardeners (except for community events).

5B. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY LANDSCAPING STANDARDS

Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development presented information and the background of the City's municipal code Chapter 19.332.010 pertaining to front yard landscaping standards and the International Property Maintenance Code. In summary, the chapter states:

Chapter 19.332.010

- In single-family residential zones, all required yards which abut streets shall be landscaped and a minimum of 50% of the required yard shall be maintained with "landscaping".
Landscaping: areas consisting of plantings, lawn/turf, mulch, or bark. Artificial turf may be used if substrate is permeable
- All landscape installation or rehabilitation shall meet the requirements of the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- Artificial turf may be used in lieu of natural turf within the front, side, and rear yards but a minimum of 20% of the landscaped area shall contain living plant material.
- Landscaped areas shall be kept in a neat and clean condition; free of debris, dead, or dying vegetation.
- Vegetation in landscaped areas shall be mowed, groomed, trimmed, pruned, and watered to keep the landscaping in a healthy, growing condition.
- Irrigation systems shall be kept in working condition.
- New construction shall plant a minimum of (1) tree along each street frontage.
- Pavement or hardscape shall not exceed 50% percent of a front yard.

International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)

- 302.1 Sanitation: All exterior property and premises must be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition.
- 302.3 Sidewalks and Driveways: Must be kept in a proper state of repair.
- 302.4 Weeds: Premises and exterior property must be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches (or shorter by City Ordinance).
- Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.
- 302.5 Rodent Harborage: Structures and exterior premises must be kept free from rodent harborage.

Mr. Foulkes reviewed the current Municipal Code standards for landscaping and the current IPMC standards. The Code Enforcement Division enforces these standards and can issue violation citations. Code Enforcement Officers enforce regulations with a verbal warning, written notice of violation, 2nd notice and then a final written notice of non-compliance resulting in an administrative citation/fine.

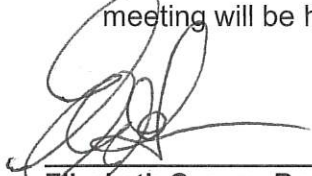
Foulkes shared photos of homes in Buena Park with the Commission to show examples of landscape maintenance violations. Violations are mostly due to landscaping that overhangs onto the public right-of-way, blocks any required vision clearance triangles, consists of only dirt; has anything in the front yard that presents a fire hazard.

The Climate Action Commission agreed staff should make recommended changes to the code, the planning commission will take the revised code to City Council for approval.

6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Lotus Thai reported that the *Sustainability Fair* will be held on April 4 at Boisseranc Park. The Metro Train Day excursion to San Juan Capistrano on February 28 went smooth, there were 80 passengers and several City Council members that attended. The ECOS tour on February 5 was very informative, the company manufactures eco-friendly cleaning products with zero carbon imprint.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary



Climate Action Commission Chair