

# Lafayette challenges more locals to go green



A big Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge point-winner (2,740 impact points) is adding green electricity, such as solar panels, to your home.

By Lou Fancher

Some Lafayette residents may not be incentivized to reduce their carbon footprint by the promise of free yard mulch or gift cards to local businesses or eco-conscious prizes such as reusable straws and worm and compost bins. But throw in a healthy, planet-saving bit of competition with people in Orinda and Moraga? Or remind them to look around at the green spaces, parks and trails nearby and think about their children and grandchildren enjoying the same landscape 10 or 20 or more years from now? That's a different story.

The city of Lafayette through its Environmental Task Force and a collaboration with Sustainable Contra Costa is signed up for the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. Issuing a call for residents to step up and join the efforts at home by conserving water, reducing overall energy profile, limiting carbon emissions and other actions, Mayor Carl Anduri at the Dec. 12 city council meeting in 2022 encouraged Lafayette residents to drive at or below the speed limit, but rush to participate in the challenge Sustainable Contra Costa says has in the past saved over 700 tons of carbon dioxide.

The Challenge is a partnership between Sustainable Contra Costa and Contra Costa County and has grown to include nine participating cities. Sustainable Contra Costa also partners with Contra Costa Water District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District in the program that invited individuals, teams and entire communities to share mutual benefits—addressing the climate crisis and preserving precious natural and regenerative resources.

Anduri in an early January 2023 interview with this paper about his goals as mayor on the council for the coming year, said, "The Environmental Task Force have a legislative agenda for EV charging for multifamily buildings, the Vision Zero plan and other initiatives related to climate change. And we're becoming a partner with Sustainable Contra Costa in the CCC Challenge. We're going to issue a specific challenge directly to the communities in Lafayette, to Orinda and Moraga. There is a platform dashboard on the SCC and the Cleaner Contra Costa websites that shows how much each city has converted into points. Moraga has a big lead right now, maybe at about one million, Orinda has about 500,000, and Lafayette has 300,000, so we want to get the word out, catch up, and surpass them."

The steps to participate are simple. Creating an energy profile is easy and establishes a baseline for carbon emissions from which progress can be tracked. The profile includes the number of rooms in your house, the fuel used in your primary heater and water heater, the electric or gas appliances used, and data from 12 months of energy service and its source (100% green electricity through a utility company or other). Questions about transportation, food and waste are added into the mix out of which comes your profile.

The second step is to decide if you will join the challenge as an individual, small team or neighborhood or community group. People are allowed to join one team and one community group. Action pages suggest ways to receive points and encourage people to set deadlines to accomplish a self-imposed goal.

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# Stanley principal on leave during investigation

By Jennifer Wake

Stanley Middle School principal Nikki Chaplan was placed on leave while the Lafayette School District conducts an investigation into what took place during her time as assistant principal in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District when a teacher was prosecuted for alleged sexual abuse against two minors.

According to a Jan. 28 statement from LafSD Superintendent Brent Stephens, the District's investigation will focus on this time, review source documents and, as much as possible, determine whether investigations were conducted adequately, whether reporting requirements were fulfilled, and whether investigations records were properly created and maintained.

"This is a challenging and sensitive moment for our school community," Stephens wrote. "Ms. Chaplan is new to us, has already contributed thoughtfully to the Stanley community, feedback about her leadership has been positive, and our decision to look into this matter objectively should not be construed by anyone that wrongdoing has occurred. Speculation about her role based only on media reports is not helpful in our community. Instead, this is a moment to respect privacy, to adhere to sound investigative practices, and ground our thinking in evidence."

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to the superintendent's office for an update on the investigation, but did not hear back before press time.



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

### City Council

Regular Meeting  
Monday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Design Review

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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