Why does the City of Santa Cruz not yet have a Green City Commission?

Humanity’s primary organizing principle is now saving -- and restoring -- Earth. For example, climate catastrophe could end civilization as we know it. Addressing environmental issues like climate change requires a holistic approach. Corporations have not risen to the occasion in meaningful ways and neither has the federal government.

State and local governments are the only force currently able to act decisively enough to regenerate Earth. California governments are responding with green commissions, green blocs and regional and bioregional green alliances among cities and states.

The County of Santa Cruz already has a Commission on the Environment. Similarly, several progressive California cities have joined Green Cities California and have Sustainability or Green City Commissions: see http://www.greencitiescalifornia.org/members/

It’s time for Santa Cruz to step up and make our community as green and healthy as possible. This inspiring vision is supported by a large majority of our community and promises myriad environmental, social and economic benefits. We propose a 7-member Green City Commission appointed by City Council in March 2019.

The **Santa Cruz Green City Commission** acts as an advisory body to, and resource for, City Council. The Commission is charged with recommending policies and action programs designed to improve and protect the environment. The Commission shall:

1. Advise City Council and make recommendations on ways to improve and protect the environment to ensure the long-term environmental sustainability and restoration of the City;
2. Advise City Council and work with other commissions in reviewing and updating City policies to provide comprehensive courses of action to support these goals in both the public and private spheres;
3. Serve as an information clearing house to City Council and other City commissions about proposed and pending legislation, both state and federal that may impact the environment;
4. Advise City Council on potential opportunities for cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations to plan and implement effective environmental policies in Santa Cruz; and
5. Exercise any other responsibilities that may be set forth in the commission’s bylaws, or may be directed by City Council.