

Applicant Information

Name	Ting Fung So
Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
How long have you lived in Sunnyvale?	3 Years
Description Area	Residence Notice:Unless otherwise noted, your principal place of residence must be in Sunnyvale. You must live in Sunnyvale at the time of appointment and at all times during service on a board or commission.
Current Main Residence	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Are you currently a registered voter in Sunnyvale?	Yes
When was the last time you voted? Month/Year	11/2024
Have you ever served on a City of Sunnyvale board or commission?	No
Have you attended a meeting of the City Council, or a board or commission?	No
Have you attended meetings of the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying?	No

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice	Sustainability Commission
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Applicant Qualifications

What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?

I've spent much of my career working at the intersection of finance and climate, and I'm looking to contribute that expertise locally. My background spans emerging markets and commodities investing at firms like BlackRock for the past 20 years, with a later focus on advising climate tech startups and advising for organizations such as Climate TRACE, co-founded by Al Gore, and WattTime on decarbonization strategies in the past few years. I've seen how policy, data, and innovation can drive real change-and I want to help bring that kind of momentum to our community. Through my role on the board of a local nonprofit focused on plastic education, I've come to value local engagement and would welcome the opportunity to contribute more directly to Sunnyvale's sustainability efforts.

What skills or attributes can you bring to this board or commission?

I bring a strong background in global finance, risk management, and climate strategy, shaped by two decades of experience in emerging markets and commodities. My transition into climate work was driven by firsthand exposure to climate-related financial risks, and I now advise climate tech startups and consult for initiatives like Climate TRACE and WattTime. This includes collaboration with international organizations such as the World Bank IFC, UNEP, PCAF, and C40 on emissions policy, public health, and sustainable supply chains. I'm analytical, solution-oriented, and strategic-skilled at translating big-picture climate and policy goals into actionable plans and measurable outcomes. I look forward to applying my expertise in finance, environmental policy, and operational strategy to support the board's goals and impact.

The primary role of a board or commission member is to provide advice to City Council on policy issues that are within the scope of the board or commission. What steps would you take to effectively exercise this specific board or commission role?

To effectively advise the City Council, I would begin by understanding Sunnyvale's current climate goals, baseline data, and ongoing efforts. I would draw on my experience in finance, climate strategy, and policy to help identify high-impact opportunities for emissions reduction. Just as important, I would actively engage with fellow board members, leveraging their professional expertise and perspectives to develop well-rounded, practical recommendations. By combining data-driven analysis with collaborative input, we can craft policy solutions that are both impactful and tailored to the community's needs and long-term sustainability goals.

Education - List college degrees, majors and any relevant training or experience that demonstrates your ability to effectively serve on this board or commission.

- Harvard Kennedy School - Executive Education in Climate Policy
- Carnegie Mellon University - Master of Science in Computational Finance
- University of Waterloo - Bachelor's degree, double major in Actuarial Science and Statistics
- Climatebase Fellowship (Cohort 4) - Specialized training in climate solutions and policy

In addition to formal education, I bring practical experience advising WattTime and Climate TRACE on impact strategy, turning emissions data into actionable solutions in collaboration with multinational organizations and national and sub-regional governments. I also advise climate tech startups on business models and project financing. My professional background includes 20 years as an investment manager in emerging markets and commodities, with expertise in macroeconomic policy, natural disaster risk, and multi-sector project financing. I currently serve on the board of Inventurous, a local nonprofit focused on plastic repurposing and climate education.

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

I serve on the board of Inventurous, a local nonprofit focused on educating communities about the climate impact of plastics and promoting creative plastic repurposing. This role has deepened my engagement with local sustainability efforts and community education. Beyond this, I regularly volunteer my time advising early-stage climate startups and nonprofits, helping them shape strategies that align with environmental goals and community impact. These experiences have helped me stay connected to both local and broader climate efforts in a practical, community-focused way.

Description Area

The City has a Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials and an Attendance Policy (7.2.19), 2 G (II) that appointed members are required to follow.

Do you have any concerns related to the above code and policy?

No

Are you willing to accept a temporary appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term?

Yes

Board or Commission-Specific Questions

Sustainability Commission

Category One: I'm a Sunnyvale resident.

Yes

Sustainability is a new and emerging concern in many communities. What do you think are the primary sustainability policy issues this commission will be addressing over the next few years?

In the next few years, the commission should focus on helping residents and businesses switch from gas to electric appliances, since natural gas remains a major source of emissions in Sunnyvale. This includes advancing policies and ordinances that speed up electrification while ensuring upgrades are affordable and accessible. In transportation, it's important to expand EV adoption and ensure public charging stations are available across all neighborhoods. Waste reduction also deserves attention-particularly through programs that redirect surplus food to local centers and underserved communities. Finally, we need to prepare for climate impacts like extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding by updating emergency plans and ensuring residents are informed and supported.

Description Area

View the Climate Action Playbook

Have you read the above version of the Climate Action Playbook?

Yes

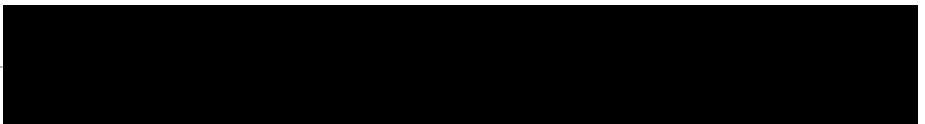
What are your thoughts on the Playbook? How might the actions ("Plays") be improved?

While Sunnyvale has made progress, implementation timelines can be slow. Electrification policies need stronger enforcement and clearer support for renters and small businesses. Public charging infrastructure, though expanding, still lags behind rising EV demand, especially in multi-family areas. Waste diversion efforts would benefit from more visible public outreach and easier participation. Emergency preparedness programs could do more to engage residents, such as by offering sustainability-focused emergency kits with solar lamps and reusable masks-simple tools that also raise awareness and build community resilience.

Demographic Information

Your age

Your gender

A large black rectangular box redacting the demographic information provided by the respondent.

Description Area

LGBTQIA+ Identity

Race or Ethnicity (select all that apply)

Do you speak a language other than English?

Which languages?

Household Income

Residence - Are you a

Do you live in a

Your Agreement

Description Area

IMPORTANT NOTICE - READ BEFORE SIGNING:By selecting both “Yes” and “Submit Form” below I am adding my digital signature to this application. I am also agreeing with the following statements:All statements I have made on this application are true and correct.I authorize the City of Sunnyvale (City) to investigate the accuracy of this information.I release the City from all claims and liabilities arising from such investigation.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application will be grounds for the City to deny my appointment. A false statement discovered later, will be grounds to dismiss me from my appointment at any time.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application could lead to criminal charges. Charges could fall under California Penal Code, Section 115 or other applicable law.

I agree

Yes

Your full name

Ting Fung So

Date

Apr 24, 2025