

**CITY OF ALBANY  
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 1, 2017

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Fanny Yang, CivicSpark Climate Fellow  
Claire Griffing, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan Update

---

**BACKGROUND**

The current Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2010, lists approximately 90 measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions and climate change impacts in the City of Albany. Of the 90 measures, approximately 70 measures have either been completed or are in progress, focusing on building and energy strategies, transportation and land use, waste reduction, green infrastructure, water conservation, and food and agriculture. The following is intended to serve as a brief status update regarding implementation of Climate Action Plan measures.

**BUILDINGS AND ENERGY**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

The City of Albany joined the CCA East Bay Clean Energy (EBCE) in 2016. The program is designed to provide residents with an alternative in energy providers, aiming to reduce rates, increase the renewable energy portfolio in the power mix supplied to customers, and encourage more local jobs. EBCE will be responsible for purchasing electricity while PG&E will continue to provide transmission and delivery systems.

Measure(s): BE-2.4A, BE-4.3

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

PACE programs are a financial tool for property owners to utilize for solar installation, energy efficiency improvements, water upgrades, and seismic retrofits, where their loans are repaid on their property tax bill for an assigned term. The City currently offers three PACE programs: CaliforniaFIRST, AllianceNRG, and Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO).

Measure(s): BE-2.1D, BE-2.2

Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance (BEADO)

The BEADO aims to decrease GHGs and increase energy efficiency by requiring residential and commercial property owners to complete an energy assessment at time of sale. The resulting energy report identifies potential improvements and financing options. Staff has been working with the Sustainability Committee to model the BEADO after Berkeley's BESO. The ordinance is set to go to council in early 2017.

Measure(s): BE-2.3A, BE-2.3C, BE-2.3D, BE-2.3E

### CAP Implementation Subcommittee

The CAP Implementation Subcommittee is currently looking into a pilot survey of energy use in existing buildings.

### Schools Subcommittee

The Sustainability Committee established a Schools Subcommittee to work with the AUSD energy efficiency and carbon reductions for new schools.

### Green Building Subcommittee

The Sustainability Committee established the Green Building Subcommittee which consists of committee members from both the Sustainability Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Green Building Subcommittee will be discussing reach codes.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE**

### Complete Streets Vision

The Transportation Element in the General Plan update focuses on the Complete Streets vision, which identifies street improvements for the intersections of Solano Avenue/Marin Avenue and San Pablo Ave/Buchanan Street to ensure that all roads accommodate the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, and automobile drivers.

Measure(s): TL-1.1A

### Bicycle Master Plan

The revision and adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan to incorporate an expanded Complete Streets vision was achieved in 2012. Under the current plan, Stage 1 of the bicycle infrastructure improvements as described in the Bicycle Master Plan has 85% of Class 1 bike paths completed and 70% of Class 2-3 bike paths completed.

Measure(s): TL-1.1B, TL-1.1C, TL-1.1D

### Parking Requirements

In November 2016, voters approved Measure N1, allowing City Council to change parking requirements as part of the ongoing process to evaluate residential and commercial parking, height, and setback requirements. The parking project will begin in early 2017 while the setback requirements are set for a long-term review.

Measure(s): TL-3.2B

### Safe Routes to School Program

The City established the Safe Routes to School Program in Albany schools in 2007 and continues to provide staff support and grant funding for initiatives that encourage walking and biking to school. The City has also completed three major infrastructure improvements to increase safety around schools in the past few years.

Measure(s): TL-4.4A, TL-4.4C

### Rideshare Station

The City is currently considering establishing Park and Ride with MTC on Buchanan Street under the freeway overpass. The parking management study is scheduled for late spring 2017.

Measure(s): TL-4.4D

## **WASTE REDUCTION**

### Waste Management Franchise Agreement

Waste reduction initiatives included into Albany's Franchise Agreement with Waste Management require the operation of a fleet of compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks, which run on renewable natural gas produced by Altamont Landfill, and to help the City achieve its zero waste goals.

Measure(s): WR-1.1A, WR-1.1C

### Mandatory Recycling and Organics Program

The City opted into Alameda County's mandatory recycling and organics ordinance for multi-family and commercial properties and has conducted extensive citywide outreach and coordinated on ordinance enforcement.

Measure(s): WR-1.1B, WR-1.1D

### Single Use Plastic Bag Ban

An Alameda County reusable bag ordinance went into effect January 2013. Staff worked with Stopwaste and the Alameda County Clean Water Program to expand the ordinance into all retail businesses and restaurants. The expanded ban will take effect in May 2017.

Measure(s): WR-1.1E

## **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Green Streets

Green streets elements are incorporated into the General Plan. These elements include expanding Albany's urban forest and capacity for local food production and maintaining and improving water quality in Albany's creeks, shoreline, and off-shore waters. The City is in the process of implementing a couple of rain garden projects and will complete a Green Streets Plan in 2017.

Measure(s): GI-1.1A, GI-1.1F

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

### Water Conservation Partnerships

The City collaborates with PG&E, Stopwaste, and EBMUD to provide residents with resources and information related to water conservation. EBMUD offers water conservation programs and the City provides outreach materials on indoor/outdoor water conservation practices on the city website.

Measure(s): WC-1.1A, WC-1.2B

### Irrigation System Installation

Efficient weather-based ET controller irrigation systems have been installed in all municipal landscapes. Recycled water lines were installed on the Ohlone Greenway and the Buchanan Bike Path.

Measure(s): WC-1.2A

### Green Building Code Updates

The City has updated its building code to require all new construction and remodels to improve water efficiency of fixtures and fixtures fittings by 20% above the California Building Standards water efficiency standards.

Measure(s): WC-2.1A, WC-2.2A

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

### Community Farming

The City manages two community gardens at Ocean View Park and Memorial Park.

Measure(s): FA-1.1, FA-1.2, FA-3.1

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### General Plan GHG Reduction Goals

The Sustainability Committee introduced two new goals for GHG emission reduction in the General Plan update: 65% GHG emission reduction by 2035 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

### CAP Funding

The Sustainability Committee discussed increasing the utility users tax (UUT) on gas and electric services to fund the CAP, restructuring the tax to better reflect greenhouse pollution. The UUTr resolution clarified the connection between PG&E's billing system and greenhouse gas reduction and called upon the CPUC to require utilities to enable municipalities to make this change. Resolution 2016-66 was approved by City Council in December 2016, which urges PG&E to allow the City to set the utility user tax based on greenhouse pollution.

### Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy

The Sustainability Committee provided a formal recommendation to City Council supporting a Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend policy. The Carbon Fee and Dividend proposes a fee on carbon at the source and provides rebates back to households, making the measure revenue-neutral. The goal is to equalize the true cost of fossil fuels and encourage the development of clean energy. Resolution 2016-26 was approved by City Council in April 2016, and endorses Citizen's Climate Lobby's proposal of the Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend.

### Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee

A subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee planned the annual Arts & Green Festival in May 2016. The event celebrated Albany's commitment to the environment with live youth performances and green booths exhibitors.