

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 17, 2017

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Chelsea Plevy, CivicSpark Climate Fellow
Claire Griffing, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan Progress Report

SUMMARY

The following is intended to serve as a status update regarding implementation of Climate Action Plan measures.

BACKGROUND

The City's current Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2010, lists 86 measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions and climate change impacts in the City of Albany through strategies related to building and energy, transportation and land use, waste reduction, green infrastructure, water conservation, and food and agriculture. The Sustainability Committee is tasked with implementing the Climate Action Plan through policy development, technical assistance, and community outreach.

DISCUSSION

The City of Albany Climate Action Plan is relatively complete, with a large percentage of measures accomplished or in progress. The following serves as an update on the status of specific CAP measures. Please refer to Attachment 1 for a matrix of all measures.

ENERGY

Streetlight Retrofit (LED Lighting)

The City replaced all conventional streetlights with more efficient lighting technologies to reduce energy and GHG emissions. Light-emitting diode (LED) lighting provides an improved, whiter, clearer light quality which enhances night visibility while lowering energy consumption, GHG emissions and maintenance costs. This streetlight retrofit was completed with grant funding from PG&E.

Measure: BE-4.2A

Energy Efficiency Partnerships

The City of Albany partners with PG&E, government partners such as Stopwaste and the State's Energy Upgrade California program, regional networks like the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) and East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW), and nonprofits such as the Community Energy Services Corporation (CESC) to provide a variety of energy efficiency outreach, rebate, and direct install programs to residential and commercial properties in Albany.

Measures: BE-2.1A, BE-2.1B, BE-2.1C, BE-2.1D, BE-2.3B

Municipal Building Upgrades

The City adopted an Energy Action Plan in 2012 through an EPA climate action grant for small cities. The plan identifies energy efficiency measures for all City facilities. Many of the measures have been implemented, including lighting controls and more efficient HVAC systems.

Measures: BE-1.1A, BE-1.1B

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Albany's Climate Action Plan identifies Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA, as a priority for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CCA allows public agencies to procure a greater percentage of electrical power from renewable sources on behalf of electricity customers. The Sustainability Committee considered CCAs from 2012-2014 and made a recommendation to Council to join Marin Energy Authority (MCE), the only operating CCA in California at the time. Staff received a grant from the World Wildlife Fund to conduct a membership analysis to join MCE, but the Council chose not to pursue membership with MCE at that time. Alameda County began considering an East Bay CCA program. Staff participated on the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) steering committee during the formation of the JPA, and the Albany City Council approved a JPA agreement to join EBCE on November 21, 2016. EBCE hired CEO Nick Chaset in June and submitted their Implementation Plan to the CPUC in August. EBCE is also completing a local renewable development business plan (LDBP), which will provide a high-level roadmap for local renewable generation, demand reduction, storage, and other distributed energy resource programs in Alameda County. The LDBP will provide a timeline for developing local projects and programs, offer policy guidance, and identify potential implementation challenges. Albany staff has been working with Tom Kelly of KyotoUSA/Sequoia Foundation and Ben Foster of Fosterra on an Air District-funded study to evaluate the potential for CCEs to allow individual cities to launch with a 100% renewable energy default product.

Measures: BE-2.4A, BE-2.4B, BE-2.4C, BE-4.3

SunShares Program

The City of Albany has partnered with the SunShares Program, a clean energy procurement program offering discounts and education on residential solar and zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). SunShares provides support to reduce the complexity and cost of residential solar, buying or leasing ZEVs, and residential electric vehicle charging stations. Administered by the nonprofit Business Council on Climate Change (BC3), SunShares manages the entire procurement process, issuing an RFP to qualified providers and forming a community evaluation committee to review proposals and select vendors. The program pools the buying power of the community to secure lower up-front purchase pricing and financing options. BC3 also provides technical guidance, workshops, and webinars for program participants. Currently, 11 Albany residents have signed up for additional information about solar installations and 8 residents have requested information about electric vehicle discounts.

Measures: BE-2.4C, TL-4.3

Energy Assessment Pilot Program and Home Energy Survey

Albany's Climate Action Plan identifies a RECO/CECO ordinance that requires property owners to make building efficiency upgrades on an established schedule as a priority measure for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. RECO/CECO ordinances have been repealed by other cities, however, because of concerns with cost effectiveness, low building turnover rates, and challenges keeping up with state building codes. Berkeley has replaced their RECO with a Building Energy Savings Ordinance (BESO), which requires property owners to conduct energy assessments at time of sale. The Sustainability Committee has been considering a similar Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance (BEADO), which staff brought to Council for feedback in December 2015 and April 2016. Council expressed concerns about

privacy, cost to homeowners, staff time, enforcement, and effectiveness. At a meeting in April 2017, the Oakland Berkeley Association of Realtors urged staff to consider a voluntary program due to concerns about the usefulness and cost effectiveness of assessments, and high deferral rates. The Sustainability Committee approved the energy survey and voluntary assessment pilot program recommended by the CAP Implementation Subcommittee. Staff administered a pre-survey in September 2017, selected 20 homes to receive free assessments, and has selected a contractor to conduct assessments. Staff will present pilot results to the Committee in December or January.

Measures: BE-2.3A, BE-2.3C, BE-2.3D, BE-2.3E

WASTE

Waste Management Franchise Agreement

Waste reduction initiatives included in 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 help the City achieve its zero waste goals.

Measures: WR-1.1A, WR-1.1C

Mandatory Recycling and Organics Program

In January 2014, 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.

Measures: 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 in May 2017, and all restaurants starting November 1, 2017.

Measures: WR-1.1E

WATER

Irrigation System Installation

The City installed efficient weather-based evapotranspiration (ET) controller irrigation systems in all municipal landscapes. Recycled water lines were installed on the Ohlone Greenway and the Buchanan Bike Path.

Measures: WC-1.2A

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 online.

Measures: WC-1.1A, WC-1.2B

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Community Farming

The City has facilitated and promoted community-supported agriculture (CSA) through the establishment and management of two community gardens: the Ocean View Community Garden and the Memorial Park Community Garden. These gardens increase local food security and provide local recreation amenities.

Measures: FA-1.1, FA-1.2, FA-3.1

TRANSPORTATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The City is working to incentivize the use of electric vehicles (EVs) through the development of automobile charging infrastructure. EV charging stations are set to be installed at four City facilities pending grant funding approval from the Air District. The City is also performing research on incentivizing charging infrastructure on private property.

Measures: TL-4.3

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. This includes projects on Jackson Street, Marin Avenue/Santa Fe Avenue, and Marin Avenue/Curtis Street. The City is seeking additional grant funding to perform infrastructure improvements on Marin Avenue/Cornell Avenue.

Measures: TL-4.4A, TL-4.4C, TL-4.4E, TL-4.4F

Parking Requirements

In November 2016, voters approved Measure N1, allowing City Council to change residential and commercial parking requirements in the city. Changes to parking requirements are scheduled for Council approval on October 16, 2017.

Measure: TL-3.2B

Complete Streets Projects

The Transportation Element in the General Plan update focuses on the Complete Streets vision, which identifies street improvements to ensure that all roads accommodate the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, seniors, children, people with disabilities, and motorists. The City currently has two Complete Streets projects underway. The Transportation Division is preparing construction plans for the installation of medians, pedestrian bulb outs, flashing pedestrian beacons, traffic signal improvements, and high visibility crosswalks along San Pablo Avenue. This project also includes safety improvements at three intersections along Buchanan Street, a pocket park at the merge of Marin and Buchanan, a pedestrian signal at Buchanan and Taylor, and gateway improvements at Pierce and Buchanan Streets. Then, in 2018, the City will begin a planning process for improvements on Solano Avenue from Masonic Avenue east to the Berkeley City limit. The improvements aim at making Solano Avenue more pedestrian and cyclist friendly as well as more accessible to people with disabilities and all users of the street.

Measure: TL-1.1A

Active Transportation Plan

The revision and adoption of the Active Transportation 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 is 85% complete and Stages 2-3 are approximately 70% complete.

Measures: TL-1.1B, TL-1.1C, TL-1.1D

Kains & Adams Bicycle Facility Study

The Kains and Adams Bicycle Facility Study includes determining the feasibility of installing bikeways along Kains Street and Adams Street as alternatives to cycling on San Pablo Avenue.

A community meeting and walking audit took place in June 2017, and another community meeting for discussion of conceptual alternatives took place on October 4, 2017. The Traffic and Safety Commission will consider a recommendation to Council for potential bikeway facilities for the Kains and Adams corridors at its October 26, 2017 meeting.

Measures: TL-1.1B, TL-1.1C, TL-1.1D

Buchanan/Marin Bikeway & Utility Undergrounding

The City is extending bike lanes and adding pedestrian bulb outs and high visibility crosswalks to improve safety along Marin Avenue from Cornell Avenue to San Pablo Avenue. The project, known as the Buchanan Marin Bikeway Phase III Project, is being funded by PG&E and will be completed in 2018. In addition, the City has received funding for the upcoming Buchanan Phase IV Project, which includes traffic signal modifications at the intersection of Marin and San Pablo Avenues and an eastbound bike lane.

Measures: TL-1.1B, TL-1.1C, TL-1.1D

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to implement CAP measures that are in progress or ongoing, including the energy assessment pilot program, electric vehicle charging stations, and active transportation projects.

Additionally, staff will be prioritizing the development of a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan in 2018 based on Council Strategic priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CAP Measure Status Update 2017