

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 17, 2017

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Claire Griffing, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Update on Development of a New Climate Action Plan

BACKGROUND

The City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2010, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. The Sustainability Committee has proposed even more ambitious goals of 60% reductions by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050, which have been included in the City's General Plan. The City Council's 2017 Strategic Plan update includes a measure to develop a new Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan for these 2035 and 2050 Goals.

The City of Albany has prioritized climate adaptation planning because of the potential increase in extreme weather events and sea level rise. The National Research Council (NRC) projects six inches of sea level rise by 2030 (range: 2-12 in), 11 inches by 2050 (range: 5-24 in), and 36 inches by 2100 (range: 17-66 in) relative to the year 2000.

DISCUSSION

A Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan that aims to meet the City's new aggressive reduction targets will require in new approach, focusing on innovative and bold policies that address deep decarbonization principles. Staff is therefore looking to hire experts to develop a forward-thinking and locally relevant plan.

The project will begin with an analysis of state and regional programs and policies to avoid redundancy and determine the appropriate role for Albany in the next phase of climate action. Then an analysis of best practices for long-term climate action planning will be conducted. The plan must define net zero emissions and determine how to achieve this goal. The planning process will include a community outreach component, potentially including surveys and workshops. Starting with existing resources, consultants will incorporate relevant adaptation and resilience measures into the plan.

A key component of the process will be identifying potential partnerships and sources of funding. This includes traditional grant funding, but also a strengthened relationship with private investors and the advancement of public-private partnerships.

The ultimate plan should include a prioritized list of community-supported strategies that reach all sectors. Each strategy should include responsible agencies, departments, and staff, as well as actionable steps and possible funding sources. The development of policy templates and case studies could also be helpful. It is important to note that we believe any recommendations for climate action should also incorporate adaptation, resilience, and equity.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of consulting services to develop the Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan is \$75,000. This funding is unbudgeted. Staff is identifying grant opportunities for climate action planning and/or adaptation and resilience planning.

NEXT STEPS

For the Sustainability Committee meeting in December, staff will develop a draft scope of work for this project, based on the project elements summarized above. This scope of work will also be informed by research on climate action planning best practices, including an analysis of any recent CAPs that address similar long term goals. Staff is will also research grant funding opportunities for the planning process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2016 ICLEI Report on State of Local Climate Action
2. Climate Action Resource Guide for Local Governments