

Long Range Planning Subcommittee Recommendation - “Project Review Policy”

Sustainability Committee Project Review Policy Statement

The Sustainability Committee will serve as a resource and advisor to all City of Albany Actions as follows.

Short-Term City Actions - The Committee will formulate a short set of advisory statements and circulate these to all other commissions/committees, with the goal of city council adoption for use in review of all decisions made by the City. These will summarize and echo city ordinances, checklists, and other materials already used by the City. These will be refined once a year by the Sustainability Committee following the initial establishment. Examples of City actions to be guided by this set of advisory statements include:

- Changes in city charges/fees/permits (unless directly implementing GHG reduction goals)
- Annual capital and operating expenditures by City of Albany
- Planning and Zoning decisions for individual building renovations or individual development projects

Example guidance includes:

- Does the action or regulation encourage reduction of carbon, methane, and/or other GHGs?
- Does the action or regulation promote long term natural resource management in accordance with established City procedures?
- Does the action or regulation fully support conversion to renewable energy resources?
- Does the action or regulation fully maximize, to the extent practical, recycling, reduction of waste, restoration of natural resource quality, and/or promotion of a zero-carbon future?

(need to look at other goals stated in City's original GHG reduction resolution)

Long-Term City Actions - For those plans, actions, policies which have a long-term, cumulative effect on City sustainability, the Sustainability Committee requests a direct advisory role. These include:

- General Plan Updates
- Housing Element Updates
- Visioning processes
- Specific Plans
- Economic Development strategies
- Development Impact Fee programs and studies
- Natural Resource Plans and Policies including: Green Building, Reforestation, Landscaping, Storm Water Management, Drainage, air quality, water quality, and soil quality
- Major development projects requiring an Environmental Impact Report, Environmental Impact Statement (federal), or other major commitment of city resources and / or major cumulative impacts on the City of Albany's operations, residents, businesses, and visitors
- Major agreements with large public or quasi-public landowners including State of California, transit agencies, EBRPD, UC Berkeley, UC Regents, AUSD, and USDA that can influence the long term sustainability of Albany
- Regional and sub-regional initiatives including but not limited to energy policies, waterfront park development, air quality, transportation plans and five year capital programs

For long-term cumulative actions encompassed by the above list, the Sustainability Committee will place each item on its agenda (we need to add a section on the agenda for Long Range Project Discussion) and at that time will resolve to either hear a project/plan in full committee, or delegate the initial review to the Long Range Planning Subcommittee for a recommendation to full Committee. We understand that our purpose and mission is advisory only until such time as state or regional regulations or legislation grant additional powers, and as such, our findings and recommendations will be drafted through Committee motions, letters to Council or other decision-making bodies, and other such mechanisms to provide for Sustainability Committee review and comment.

The above Policy Statement shall be reviewed and refined as necessary at each one year anniversary of its adoption by the Sustainability Committee.