



To: Albany Sustainability Committee

From: Andrea Martin, Senior Associate

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Subject: Update on Albany's Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Plan

Introduction

Albany's current effort to develop a Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Plan is a crucial opportunity for the City to move towards carbon neutrality by 2050, integrate climate adaption measures, and generally build on the successes of the City's first Climate Action Plan. Albany's Sustainability Committee members have a key role in this project as significant stakeholders and expert resources. The Sustainability Committee also provides a central avenue for public input on sustainability initiatives.

Project Status & Timeline

Work to date:

Since the last Sustainability Committee update, the consultant team has:

- Outlined, facilitated, and reviewed outcomes from subcommittee characterization of major emission sources.
- Discussed format and objectives for upcoming committee engagement.
- Reviewed public survey results.
- Outlined additional strategy development activities for the CAP subcommittee, including instructions for conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment.

Upcoming:

Next steps for the project include continuing internal staff engagement, analyzing feedback, and identifying initial mitigation and adaptation measures:

- Continue City staff interviews (Nov-Dec)
- Subcommittee emissions source analysis and strategy development (Nov)
- Initial development of mitigation and adaptation measures (Jan-Feb)

Outline of Strategy Development Process:

Albany City Staff, the consultant team, the CAP Subcommittee, the Sustainability Committee, and the public will all contribute towards identifying, assessing, and finalizing CAP strategies. Below is an overview of the strategy development and refinement process:

1. Survey Administration & Analysis (October-November)

Who: Albany Staff and Cascadia

- Administer community survey, analyze results, and utilize feedback on co-benefits and priorities to inform the timeline for strategy implementation and framing

2. Brainstorm Emissions Sources, Threats, Factors, and Strategies (November)

Who: CAP Subcommittee with guidance from Albany Staff and Cascadia

- Identify emissions sources by sector and climate vulnerabilities (e.g., residential natural gas use, exposure to wildfire)
- Identify direct threats to emissions or climate vulnerability (e.g., ownership of gasoline vehicles, lack of marine buffer or flood plain)
- Brainstorm factors that create barriers to action (e.g., people have not heard of electric alternatives to natural gas, land along the coastline is developed)
- Develop strategies that directly address factors
- Identify Albany's unique Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)

3. Public Workshop (January)

Who: Cascadia, Albany Staff, Sustainability Committee, and community participants

- Engage the public to generate mitigation ideas, identify priorities and concerns, and to build support for and awareness of the planning process

4. Key Stakeholder Engagement (February)

Who: Albany Staff, key stakeholder groups (landlords, Albany Strollers & Rollers, and business associations)

- Staff will "focus groups" with several stakeholder groups in February to determine priorities and feasibility of potential strategies

5. Evaluate Strategies and Narrow Down List (January-February)

Who: CAP Subcommittee with guidance from Albany Staff and Cascadia

- Which lever, or mechanism does the strategy employ to affect change? Is that the most effective mechanism?
- Is this strategy immediately actionable and achievable?
- Has another city implemented this strategy? Was it successful? Is this a "no-regrets" strategy?

- Who is best positioned to implement this strategy? Is another actor already implementing this strategy?
- Any initial ideas of how this strategy would provide co-benefits to the community?
- What actions support the implementation of this strategy?

6. Review Strategies for Emissions and Adaptation Impact (March)

Who: Cascadia, Rincon, and Albany Staff

- Analyze the strategies for estimated impact in terms of reducing exposure to climate risks, increasing resilience, or reducing greenhouse gas emissions

7. Review Strategies for Co-Benefits (April)

Who: Cascadia, Rincon, and Albany Staff (after initial feedback from committees and public)

- Finalize the co-benefits by strategy

8. Public Review of Strategies (April-May)

Who: Sustainability Committee and the public, potentially other relevant committees/commissions

- Sustainability discussion of mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Solicit public comment

9. Strategy Funding Analysis (May)

Who: BAE

- Identify funding opportunities for final list of strategies

10. Implementation Strategy (June)

Who: BAE, Cascadia, and Albany Staff

- Timeline (informed by public feedback, funding, and impact)
- Key Performance Indicators (informed by data available to City staff and consultant experience)
- Co-benefits (informed by committees and public feedback)
- Priority ranking (informed by public feedback and impact potential)
- Lead agency, department, or person (identified by Albany staff and committee)
- Estimated costs (BAE)
- Funding available (BAE)

11. Final Cap Review & Adoption (June-July)

Who: Sustainability Committee and City Council

- Review and adopt final plan



Figure 1. Project Schedule

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Task 1. Project Initiation													
Project kickoff meeting	x												
Draft and final work plan	x												
Review existing plans		x											
Task 2. Development of Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies													
Initial list of mitigation and adaptation options				x									
Revised shortlist of mitigation and adaptation strategies								x					
Publicly-oriented list of actions for residents								x					
Task 3. Implementation Planning													
Financial analysis and potential funding sources for selected strategies										x			
Prioritized implementation plan											x		
Task 4. Engagement													
City staff interview interview guide		x											
Support for Sustainability Committee Meetings				x		x		x		x		x	
Monthly progress reports to City Committees	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Task 5. CAP 2.0													
Draft Climate Action Plan									x				
Revised Draft Climate Action Plan										x			
Public comment period													
Public comment review													
Final draft of Climate Action & Adaptation Plan											x		
City staff presentation to City Council												x	
Project Management													
Bimonthly check-in calls, invoices & team coordination													

X indicates final project deliverable