



To: Albany Climate Action Committee

From: Andrea Martin, Senior Associate

Date: February 20, 2019

Subject: **Update: Albany's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan**

Introduction

Albany's current effort to develop a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) 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 Climate Action Committee members have a key role in this project as significant stakeholders and expert resources. The Climate Action Committee also provides a central avenue for public input.

Project Status & Timeline

Work to date:

Since the last Climate Action Committee update, the consultant team has:

- Planned and facilitated public and committee strategy development workshop.
- Reviewed input received to-date, including from the CAAP subcommittee SWOT analysis and strategy discussion, City staff interviews, and public and committee strategy development workshop.

Upcoming:

Next steps for the project include conducting external stakeholder focus groups, identifying high-level strategies and actions for the CAAP, and prioritizing and evaluating actions.

- Refine list of strategies and actions (January-February)
- Stakeholder focus groups (March)
- Review strategies for mitigation and adaptation impact (March-April)

Outline of Strategy Development Process:

City staff, the consultant team, the CAAP subcommittee, the Climate Action Committee, and the public will all contribute towards identifying, assessing, and finalizing CAAP strategies. Below is an overview of the strategy development process, including completed tasks:

1. Survey Administration and Analysis (Complete)

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 (Complete)

Who: Climate Action Committee with guidance from Albany Staff and Cascadia

1. Identify emissions sources by sector and climate vulnerabilities (e.g., residential natural gas use, exposure to wildfire).
2. Identify direct threats to emissions or climate vulnerability (e.g., ownership of gasoline vehicles, lack of marine buffer or flood plain).
3. 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).
4. Develop strategies that directly address factors.
5. Identify Albany's unique Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT).

3. Public Workshop (Complete)

Who: Cascadia, Albany Staff, Climate Action 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. Evaluate Strategies and Narrow Down List (January-February)

Who: CAAP Subcommittee, Albany Staff, and Cascadia team

- Cascadia team and Albany Staff will develop initial list of high-level strategies and actions for review by Climate Action Committee, considering questions such as:
 - 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? Is it proven to be 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?

5. Key Stakeholder Engagement (March)

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

- Staff will conduct focus groups with several stakeholder groups to determine priorities and feasibility of potential strategies.

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

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

- Finalize the co-benefits by strategy.

8. Committee & Public Review of Strategies (March-May)

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

- Climate Action Committee discussion of mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Solicit public input.

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

- Draft Implementation Strategy, including:
 - Timeline (informed by public feedback, funding, and impact)
 - Key Performance Indicators (informed by available data 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 and Adoption (June-July)

Who: Climate Action 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 interviews						x							
Support for Climate Action 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