

## Comments from Climate Action & Adaptation Community Workshop

Comments came from the posters, comment cards (1 response), and the notecard activity.

Comments typed as they were written by event attendees, with little to no grammatical/spelling correction (if a word was spelled wrong in such a way that it did not make sense, I corrected it).

For the posters, the topic/emissions source/climate effect is underlined. The comments/suggestions are bulleted (•), and the comments written on colored sticky notes (key below) are bulleted underneath (o). Not all sticky notes had comments on them.

The sticky notes follow the following key:



**“Rose”**: Your favorite idea (what do you like about this idea?)



**“Bud”**: Budding idea, but could use some work (how would you improve it?)



**“Thorn”**: Appealing but infeasible idea (how would you change it?)



**“Worth It”**: Idea you’re most likely to pay for (how should it be funded?)

### Wildfire and Smoke:

- Have plans to coordinate information with surrounding communities
- Vegetation management on Albany Hill and in overgrown creek corridors
  - Rose: Keep doing it
- Emergency plan in case of major fire on Berkeley Hills
  - Worth It: Berkeley Hills Contingency Plan
- Emergency alarms throughout city
- Masks & inhaler distribution
  - Rose
- To restrict fire risk, plant restoration programs need to reduce broom, invasive ivy, pampas grass, & some gum trees
- Is there a FireWise NFPA program in the East Bay?
- Equip public buildings (schools!) with air purifiers & masks
  - Rose: Easy way to ensure every student has access to healthy air
- Increase public info on response during events (beforehand)

### Sea Level Rise & Flooding

- Partner with EBMUD to create incentives for rain barrels for individuals & residents (also will be useful for disasters)

- Green: not sure if EBMUD does this
- Compost application in soils to increase water holding capacity
- Increase green infrastructure (eg. Curb cuts & rain gardens)
  - Rose: Lots of examples of how to do it well
- “Dig once” – embed in all capital projects
- Coastal restoration and planning to help more businesses/infrastructure for flood-prone areas along the coast
- Adopt a storm drain volunteer program (like in Oakland)
  - Worth It: Drainage is a large factor during floods and having a program to mitigate poor drainage that could be avoided would be a low cost solution.
- Re-establish oyster reefs
  - Rose: Great idea New York City is doing this
- Incorporate SLR into CIP process

### Water Scarcity

- Pumping gray water into an aquifer
- Reclaim & reuse graywater
- Leak detection
  - Worth It
- Instead of raising Shasta Dam, use billions \$ to equip homeowners with rainwater collection → instant water reserves in case of fire.
- Encourage installation of tech for real-time monitoring of water usage. Gives feedback on use throughout the home and alerts when there are leaks
  - Rose
  - Worth It
- Partner with EBMUD and/or grey water action to support residential rain barrels!
  - Rose
- Water efficient sprinklers
- Trainings/free classes on drought tolerant landscapes
- Contest to encourage water reduction goals per household & per capita, 35 → 55 gal/person a day!
- Educate kids in Albany schools about how precious water is – field trips to learn outdoors!
- \*Drip irrigation workshops
- Change law to mandate unit owners in multi-unit housing to be billed for their water usage (currently paid by HOA as a whole – does not incentivize conservation by unit owners)
  - Rose: Good idea but not practical because you would need individual water meters. Probably is a simple tech solution for this.
- Mandate dry gardens for ornamentals and lawns
  - Rose x 3
- How-to workshops for rainwater collection and irrigation
  - Bud
- Keep runoff in yards, not to storm sewer

- Encourage replacing or eliminating size of lawn. Up to 60% water use is used on landscaping → plant natives
  - Rose
- Give away free aerators & showerheads
- Incentives for low-flow toilets – as low as .8 gal/flush

#### Environmental Preservation & Repair

- Assure that means of carbon reduction don't destroy or ignore natural wildlife such as plants, insects, mammals, birds, etc. native to the area
- Native plant list for Albany residents
  - Rose: Native plant education
- Signage about native gardening/landscaping in parks with gardens
- Bioswales
- Encourage eco-friendly AC as it becomes more necessary

#### Extreme Heat

- Event-specific geoengineering
- LA piloted white roads. Was this successful/worth replicating?
- Albedo modification
- Encourage light-colored or reflective rooftops
- Plant more trees to offset urban heat-island effect
  - Rose: Very doable
  - Rose x 5 (6 Rose sticky notes total)
- More trees & tree canopy
  - Worth it: More trees
- Vertical gardens (like in France)
  - Thorn: Need to be more clear as to how they would help
- Community energy generation (microgrid) in event of outages
  - Bud
- Replace asphalt with “plant & soil scapes”
- Provide community shelters and healthcare
- More trees! More school gardens.
  - Rose: TREES!! (shade, etc.)
- Fire respirators to low-income residents during fire events
- Paint roads white
- Solar panels over parking lots

#### Carbon-Sequestration

- Plant & preserve the urban forest (trees)
- Work with StopWaste to add compost/composted mulch strategically to increase soil organic matter, couple with planting of trees & shrubs
- More woody shrubs in parks (e.g. Ohlone Greenway, Terrace Park)
- City planting program expanded beyond street trees (e.g. native perennial grasses)

- Plant example list for residents
- Buy & protect rainforest funded through a bond measure
  - Worth It
  - Worth It: I'd be willing to vote and pay for this
- Review "Project Drawdown" ideas to expand City's capacity
- Green roofs/vertical gardens
- Rain gardens
- Educate and encourage use of carbon sequestering building materials and low emitted carbon options → plant-based (wood, straw, bamboo, hemp, cork); low-carbon concretes (clay, adobe, etc.); build less/smaller/efficiently
  - Bud.
- Encourage trees on the Ohlone Greenway
- More street trees' "sponsor a tree" program
  - Rose.
- Expand program w/ cub scouts to plant natives throughout city (e.g. parks, medians)
  - Rose.
- Re-think grass at Pierce St. Park – maybe make it into a carbon-sequestering landscape
- Education!
- Trim more street trees instead of removing them if diseased
- Expand urban forester capacity
- Re-establish oyster reefs off coast
- Prioritize or mandate "green cement" in infrastructure projects
  - Rose
- Encourage urban agriculture! Front & back yards, more community gardens.
  - Rose.
- Plant more fruit trees
- Work w/ other cities/county to support their carbon drawdown projects

### Consumption

- Put fee (or prohibit) on plastic take-out containers
  - Rose: Businesses' supporting waste reduction
- Encourage businesses who offer reusable options instead of disposable to-go containers, utensils, cups, etc.
- Consider where businesses/industry source materials to reduce GHG/waste pre-consumption
- Public education on how to purchase grocery items w/out plastics. i.e. – glass jars and cloth bags for produce. Signs on buses, workshops by City, Park & Rec. Reuse & Recycle Days
  - Rose: Yes – education at Albany schools – start young
  - Bud: Advertise @ the DMV (*this one was next to the "signs on buses" statement*)
- Schools: add a curriculum on waste reduction: zero organics in landfills, more reusables, less disposables → zero waste schools
  - Rose: Public schools are a strong tool already in place we should use them to get the message out early & often about the need to reduce waste
  - Rose: Educate our kids (K-12), they will teach their parents how to reduce waste

- Bud: Curricula @ elementary/middle/high school; Teach about complete waste cycle first, making reduction an obvious & critical next step
- Smaller portions served at restaurants
- Educate on IPM to reduce HHW consumption
- Encourage planting/purchase of fruit trees, edible garden plants
- Encourage use of reusable water bottles through water filling stations, give-aways
- Fees on plastic containers like the CRVs for glass containers
- Participate in regional approach to reducing single-use plastics. i.e. Bay Area-wide drop off of reusable to-go containers
  - Rose: Yes – encourage re-use swaps & repair stations.
- Reduce/eliminate single-use products from all municipal events
- Schools: More local/sustainable foods in cafeteria
  - Rose x 2
- How about a real-life plastic bag ban? (Styrofoam ban too). Still plastic bags and single use plastic containers used at restaurants, stores (Target, etc.). Also, plastic utensils and straws!
- Public educ. On what can & cannot be recycled. Better recycling program in schools.
- Less beef consumption.
  - Rose
- More reusable businesses
- Creating network for redistribution/reuse of goods
  - Rose: Zero Waste center with bulk products, repair businesses, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items...
  - Rose: Regional network of redistribution/reusable
  - Rose: Network of redistribution/reuse
  - Worth It: I would invest in this one.
- Reduce airline travel
- Educate people on flying non-stop
- Charge garbage collection (waste) by weight, not volume → incentive to take out wet waste (organics) from landfill.
- Better detailed info on recycling
- Recycled paper in municipal buildings.
- Better monitoring/enforcement of construction & demolition waste/building material reuse
- Organize neighborhoods for resource sharing
  - Rose: CERT network can help with organizing neighborhood-resource sharing!
- Citywide bulletin board
- Encourage produce boxes – imperfect produce
  - Bud
- Encourage bulk purchases
- Promote free recycle sites like Buy Nothing Albany (Facebook).
- Encourage local businesses to use eco-friendly takeout containers

### Energy Use in Buildings

#### Electricity:

- Solar panels on roof of New Ocean View School

- Rose: Love!
- Encourage home solar
  - Rose: Yes!! I love the solar panel incentives being offered by the EBC
- Encourage insulation & green roofs for better climate control
- Streamline the process of going solar: education & case studies, resources/simple calculator, expedite permitting/decrease soft costs/reduced permitting fees.
  - Bud: Partner with a local solar company to help achieve this?
  - Worth It: Should have good value for investment.
  - Rose: Streamline solar process.
  - Rose
- Pilot/example (+ heat pump) energy retrofits (+/- 5?)
  - Rose: A home tour and bring EBCE to see it! (anytime? By appt.)
- Rebate or incentive programs
  - Bud: Explore and promote commercial & residential PACE programs.
  - Rose: Incentives tend to be effective.
  - Rose: More incentives help people insulate their homes.
- Behavior awareness: phantom loads, living w/o a 2<sup>nd</sup> fridge (#1 energy user)
  - Thorn
  - Bud: LOW HANGING FRUIT
- Encourage opt-up in EBCE to 100% renewable
- I have tar + gravel roof & was told not compatible with solar panels so encourage compatible roofing materials. Peer-Peer Roofing Projects → Generalize.
  - Rose: Yes!
- PV on AHS/schools
- Block-level retrofits for lower cost
- City install solar on City buildings (& over parking lots) and share real-time electricity production graphs/data & economics of it so residents can see positive impact & viability in foggy Albany
  - Rose: & at schools!
  - Rose: Pay back period tracked as well as carbon footprint reduction with time (life-cycle)
  - Rose: Solar panels over parking = cooler temperature in urban environment
- UCB Village residents don't know how much energy their unit is using. If facilities can't make that info available, at best building usage. Can start electricity challenge there.
- Educate Albany residents about SunShares program.

#### Natural Gas:

- Electrification Expo (Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed Roberts Campus), education, information on costs and benefits, options (heat pumps, induction cooling, etc.)
  - Worth It
- Contractor education on heat pumps.
- Prohibiting natural gas in new buildings! "Stretch" codes for greater efficiency.
  - Bud X 3
  - Bud: Work w/ other regional partners to support development & implementation of electrification stretch codes!
  - Thorn: Discourage through higher fee for installing gas-fitted units

- Thorn: Too extreme to prohib. Maybe incentives
- Utility use tax to incentivize change in existing buildings
  - Worth it
  - Worth It: Natural gas use – tax funds are used for incentives to educate & incentivize fuel switching to heat pumps for heating & HW
  - Bud
  - Bud: 0 tax on elec. & most tax on gas
  - Rose X 2
  - Rose: Good idea may face some challenges
- Mitigation fee (escalating) for incentivizing change
- Encourage (tankless) on-demand hot water heaters or electric
  - Rose: Seems very feasible.
- Bulk purchase programs
- Subsidize insulation retrofits.
  - Worth It.
  - Worth It: Subsidize insulation.
  - Worth It: Old houses need insulation
  - Worth it: Credit on property tax if homeowner installs

#### Gas-Powered Vehicles:

- Share charging stations
- Car share programs, dedicated spaces
- Carpools – facilitate them
- Casual carpool site
  - Bud.
  - Rose.
  - Rose: So needed!
- All taxi, Uber, Lyft = e-car or carbon tax
- Albany as “walkable” “bikeable” health benefits
- Eliminate tax on electricity – promote e-cars
  - Rose
- Availability of charging stations on street parking. Free charging.
  - Bud.
- Free bikes
- Pedi-cabs
- Free bus for youth, seniors
- Less accessible to cars
- Ride share for longer trips
  - Bud: Ride sharing
- Non-gas transport – frequent use stamps
- Priority right-of-way for bikes & peds
- Bike & walk tours in City
  - Rose: gets people out & in community to experience City

- (Existing) campus shuttle – free to students
- Build light rail transit along San Pablo to Downtown Oakland or streetcar
- Support transition to e-vehicles
  - Thorn: New cars are very expensive & new vehicles are not frequently purchased by lower income houses/families
- Focus on older cars
- Package rates increase \$ commercial & residential
- Incentive for e-vehicle parking rates, space permits
  - Bud
- Encourage increase housing density, discourage cars, parking, reduce need
  - Rose: Housing density
- More people could live closer to jobs, less commuting
  - Rose: EV Car sharing
  - Rose: Infill development of housing: This is necessary, but must be linked to effective transportation (see suggestion on shuttles).
  - Thorn: Humans are not robots, you can't expect them to live immediately adjacent to work spaces
- Walking school bus – expand, reduce driving to school, more regular times, days.
  - Worth It: WSB – low to no cost
- Add BART station in Albany
  - Rose: great idea, will increase pedestrian access to Albany
  - Rose.
  - Thorn.
  - Thorn: BART station – need to increase density around new station site
  - BART station ↓
- Require vehicle charging station with remodel, purchase
  - Thorn: Requirements are challenging – incentivize it instead
- Bus lanes
- Expand plug-share
- Richmond ferry service, Berkeley
- Capitol Corridor stop in Albany
- Require all new City fleet vehicles to be zero-emission vehicles
  - Worth It.
  - Rose.
- Bike lanes – more, San Pablo Ave., make safer, cycle tracks protected.
  - Rose. X 2
  - Worth It.
- Fewer cars – limit parking in residential bike lanes on all streets (to only one side of street (written by someone else))
  - Worth It: Regional connected bike network
- Public Trans – more freq. buses, shuttle to BART
  - Rose. X 2
  - Bud: More frequent buses need to work with regional agencies & nearby cities



- Free shuttles to Solano, San Pablo, BART
- Car free sections, streets, days, “Sunday Car Free”
  - Rose
  - Rose: LET’S DO THIS! (Awareness)
  - Worth It: !
- EV Charging @ U Village, rental prop.
  - Bud.
  - Bud: Incentives & permitting for curbside EV charging
- Education to residents on ped + bike safety, + motorists
  - Rose.
- More ped cross walks w/ lights
  - Worth It: Tax me to pay for more lighting.
- Solar paved bike lanes
- Incentive for home charge stations
- Cars & buses powered by Bio-gas
- Hydrogen fuel station
- Improve safety of ped & bike street crossings on San Pablo & Buchanan to encourage walking/bike
- Bridge across Cerrito Creek on Adams to encourage regional bike/ped
  - Rose
  - Worth It: Yes! Connect to bike lanes on Carlson, EC, Raven 99, etc.
  - Worth It

Comment Cards:

(Please use this comment card to write down any additional comments you have about the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and place it in the comment card box prior to leaving the workshop.)

- Prioritize resilience & mitigation in capital improvement plan process. All capital investments should require climate (sea-level, heat, etc.) considerations in order to be included. Ruberic should include co-benefits of climate change prep and give extra consideration to projects that address climate issues.

Notecard Activity Responses:

(By 2050, how do you hope Albany will have changed?)

- A more inclusive engagement from all cultural groups on civic matters of interest.
- We have places for people to live here, so they no longer have to drive in from the Central Valley to work in the Bay Area.
- Require buildings to convert to electric heating.
- Reduced waste production by >50%; zero emissions; charging stations.
- World class bike infrastructure
- All municipal buildings and all new construction will be electrified and on renewables
- Regular communication about Albany climate status and how we can help.

- More biking.
- More trees to offset urban heat island effect and sequester carbon
- A lot more charging stations (or access to garbage for Mr. Fusion car power)
- All households use electric vehicles and charge with renewable energy!
- More trees! (tree canopy)
- Have trolleys running again!
- More solar panels!
- Solar & battery storage on all school, commercial and public space.
- >1/2 of residents will feel comfortable biking to all destinations in town.
- Dense housing/commercial along main through fores,. Solano street a pedestrian/bike mall.  
Solar power generation on schools & city buildings. MORE TREES.
- Complete streets that support many modes of transportation throughout town.
- By 2050, we will be ahead of targets on reductions – through largely positive lifestyle changes
- Solar powered homes.
- Zero Waste City!