

# COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Meeting Summary | July 16, 2020

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## AGENDA

5:30 pm – 5:40 pm	Welcome + Introductions
5:40 pm – 5:55 pm	CAP Overview
5:55 pm – 6:20 pm	Sectors, Strategies, and Measures
6:20 pm – 6:55 pm	Breakout Rooms + Report Back (6:45)
6:55 pm – 7:00 pm	Closing + Next Steps

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the Climate Action Plan update process
- Provide a brief overview of the City’s 2016 emissions profile and forecast
- Summarize community engagement to date
- Collect input about:
  - Climate issues that are important to the community
  - Prioritizing the proposed climate action strategies
- Engage the public in an open and transparent way about the Climate Action Plan Update

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

- What do climate action plans do? **SLIDE 7**
- Community engagement process **SLIDE 8**
- Community engagement conducted to date **SLIDE 9**
- Findings from initial community engagement **SLIDES 10 & 11**
- City of Santa Clara’s greenhouse gas emissions profile **SLIDE 12**
- City of Santa Clara’s forecasted greenhouse gas emissions **SLIDE 13**
- City of Santa Clara’s greenhouse gas reduction targets **SLIDE 14**

## SECTORS

- **Buildings + Energy [SLIDE 18]:**
  - Buildings use electricity and natural gas for heating, cooling, water heating, and operating pumps, fans, and other building systems. Ways to reduce energy use in buildings are to increase efficiency through weatherization, add insulation to walls and roofs, and replace outdated equipment. More stringent energy efficiency standards can be established for new construction.
  - Both electricity and natural gas have associated greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity supplied to homes and businesses in Santa Clara by Silicon Valley Power is generated through renewables like solar and wind, hydroelectric, and natural gas. The GHG factor of electricity varies depending on which of these sources is available at any given time. SVP’s current rate of renewables is slightly greater than 30%.



- The GHG factor related to the combustion for natural gas, or methane, is typically constant, although there are efforts to introduce renewable natural gas into the pipeline in the coming years. Ways to reduce the GHG emissions is to increase the amount of carbon-free energy in the overall mix and to shift gas appliances and buildings systems to electric. The State of California has a requirement that all electrical energy is carbon neutral by 2045.
- **Community Resilience + Wellbeing [SLIDE 20]:**
  - Resiliency is the ability to withstand shocks and stresses when suffering catastrophic system failure. In the context of climate action or adaptation this means recognizing that a changing climate has the potential to exacerbate current areas of vulnerability. For Santa Clara this includes high heat days, flooding due to intense storm events, sea level rise, and disruption of the energy or transportation systems. Silicon Valley Power provides a higher level of electricity delivery than surrounding areas, as SVP owns and operates much of the distribution system within the City and has local production capacity. As a result, Santa Clara residents and businesses may be less susceptible to public safety power shut offs and other disruptions. Other options to increase resilience are upgrading the stormwater drainage system, implementing strategies to address sea level rise in the Bay, and providing cooling centers on hot days.
  - Another aspect of resilience is the ability of a community to care for itself, particularly its most vulnerable members. Preparedness, connections, and trust in government are all components of community wellbeing. Methods to foster social resilience including working a diverse spectrum of community organizations to raise awareness of critical threats, creating opportunities for community members to interact with each other and social bonds, and providing support for climate-related events and projects.
- **Materials + Consumption [SLIDE 21]:**
  - GHG emissions related to materials are largely caused by the decomposition of organic material in landfills (green waste, food waste, cardboard, wood, etc.), which produces methane. Methane is a regulated greenhouse gas and has over 80 times the potential of carbon dioxide to retain heat in the atmosphere. Methods to reduce landfill emissions include reducing the overall volume of waste, particularly food waste. In the US roughly 20% of food purchased is throw away. Donating excess food, reducing food spoilage at home, and supporting composting efforts to return organic material to the soil are examples. California has passed a law that requires a 75% reduction in the disposal of organic waste by 2025. Furthermore, changing consumption patterns is a means to minimize waste from discarded items and packaging from new items.
- **Natural Systems + Water Resources [SLIDE 22]:**
  - The movement and treatment of water requires energy, usually electricity, to run pumps and equipment. Using water wisely has the concurrent benefits of reducing energy use and helping to protect local and regional water resources. Strategies include high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets, low-water landscaping design, greywater reuse, and stormwater retention and infiltration systems.
  - Natural systems provide numerous benefits including cooling urban areas by providing shade and through evapotranspiration by trees and other plants and capturing or sequestering carbon in the urban forest or protected natural terrestrial and aquatic areas. Methods to increase this capacity include planting additional trees, restoring degraded ecosystems, and expanding protected natural areas.
- **Transportation + Land Use [SLIDE 23]:**
  - GHG emissions attributed to built environment factors are largely related to transportation using cars and light trucks, especially single occupant drivers. This source is typically characterized as vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Driving is a function of the proximity of housing to employment centers and the availability of alternatives to solo driving, such as carpool, transit, bicycling, or walking. Ways to reduce emissions related to transportation include facilitating carpools, providing local support for transit use, creating safe bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, streets, and

intersections. Other strategies include focusing new development in areas with transit services, establishing plans for mixed use development that provide services and amenities within walking or biking distance, and encouraging a diversity of housing options so people can live close to their place of employment and reduce their annual VMT.

## STRATEGIES & MEASURES

- Action development process **SLIDE 17**
- Evaluation criteria **SLIDE 18**
- Proposed CAP strategies/actions (note this is a subset of the complete list):

<b>Buildings + Energy</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
Advance the decarbonization of buildings	Electrification readiness requirement	Require electric panel upgrades upon sale for low-rise residential, and small multifamily and commercial buildings to facilitate the transition to clean electricity buildings and vehicles.
Expand Renewables	Renewable energy and storage support and streamlining	Remove hurdles to implementation of renewable energy generation systems and energy storage infrastructure, including streamlining of project permitting.
Advance the decarbonization of buildings	Electric-preferred construction	Update codes to require electric-preferred new construction (e.g., penalty for using natural gas).
Improve energy consumption & efficiency	Introduce EE requirements for commercial buildings	Introduce minimum energy efficiency requirements for commercial buildings. One option could be to require certification equivalent to LEED for new buildings or buildings over a size or consumption threshold.
<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are your priorities in this topic area? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the amount of renewable energy provide by SVP. Renewables currently focused on residential sector. Even though SVP is in early compliance with RPS requirements, the access to a high renewables option should be available to the commercial sector as well.</li> <li>• Energy or carbon benchmarking of larger existing buildings, per San Jose.</li> <li>• All-electric or electric preferred reach codes.</li> <li>• Incentives need to be able to shift the market and work with the building efficiency industry.</li> <li>• Need to make sure that costs of electrification do not create a burden on low-income residents. Need to work with landlords to make sure rents don't increase more than energy savings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Do these make actions sense to you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrifications readiness makes sense, but time of sale is challenging.</li> <li>• Do you think they would be effective?</li> <li>• Shifting to electricity is essential in order reduce and ultimately eliminate fossil fuel combustion within the City. With increasing levels of renewables this is an effective strategy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What are some of the challenges related to this topic area or specific strategies? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost to property owners</li> <li>• Disruption to businesses or residents during upgrades or fuel switching</li> <li>• Incentives do not cover the full cost of upgrades.</li> <li>• Value of energy savings may not justify cost of upgrades</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What do you see as your role in implementing these measures?</li> </ul>		

- The energy measures are primarily implemented by the City (reach codes), SVP, or PG&E/PUC. There is a role for energy efficiency companies to market the incentive programs and assist property owners with application.
- Benchmarking would happen through a City of Santa Clara ordinance process to augment SB 802 energy reporting requirements. There an opportunity to participate in any stakeholder process.
- What is the potential for regional coordination? Who are possible key stakeholders or partnerships?
  - There is the potential to work with Bay Area Regional Energy Network (Bay REN) to align the SVP incentives with those provided by PG&E (on the gas side) and State cap-and-trade programs like Low-Income Weatherization (LIWP).
  - Informal collaboration is occurring among Santa Clara County and San Mateo County cities on reach codes, partly through the support of Silicon Valley Clean Energy.
- Other Ideas + Strategies?
  - Consider a carbon-based (rather than Energy Use Intensity) benchmarking ordinance that sets a max carbon per sf. For buildings - provides flexibility to owners while encouraging fuel switching to electric.
  - Require replacement, and/or early retirement of gas appliances with electric. Example is Menlo Park burnout ordinance (cash for clunkers)

**Community Resilience + Wellbeing**

Strategy	Action	Description
Improve energy consumption & efficiency	Extreme heat resilience measures	Encourage actions to address extreme heat from climate change, including installation of cool roofs, green roofs, cool pavement, and low-emissions space-cooling devices such as ceiling fans and heat pumps.
Improve community resilience	Neighborhood Resilience Hub program	Form partnerships with neighborhood-based organizations and businesses to develop Neighborhood Resilience Hub Programs to prepare residents and respond to climate change.
Prepare for climate change	On-site & natural stormwater systems	Integrate natural stormwater systems within site and building design to expand on-site stormwater management capacity.
Improve community resilience	Launch a community climate action grant	Establish an annual micro-grant program to support local citizen-led projects and programs that will reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and enhance equity.

**Discussion:**

- What are your priorities in this topic area?
  - Educational outreach component, lack of awareness
  - Equity – reaching all community members, ages
  - Policy – what policies can we put in place to achieve these goals?
  - Work with businesses and social agencies, advocacy organizations – inclusion of existing community-based programs i.e. Kaiser and leveraging resources – partnerships
- Do these make actions sense to you?
  - State policies, building codes, legislations – efficiency
  - SVP incentivizes cooling fans, air filters – proactive on rebates
  - Green roof on Levi stadium – the only one in Santa Clara
  - Opportunities with larger business campuses, looking into requiring LEED certification
- Do you think they would be effective?
  - SC public facilities and community centers in parks
- What are some of the challenges related to this topic area or specific strategies?
  - Money and cost
  - Grants?

<b>Materials + Consumption</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
Reduce organic food waste	Edible Food Recovery Program	Partner with other local agencies to implement an Edible Food Recovery Program as required under State Bill 1383. Establish an excess edible food baseline and then assist food recovery organizations in establishing pickup and redistribution.
Enhance sustainable consumption	Low-carbon food choices outreach	Partner with other local agencies to launch an outreach campaign that educates the Santa Clara community about eating lower down on the food chain and provides information on lower impact, nutritionally equivalent foods, reducing food waste, and composting food scraps.
Enhance sustainable consumption	Reduce packaging consumption	Adopt ordinances for reducing single-use product and shipping packaging, such as food service ware, individual toiletry bottles in the hospitality sector, home meal delivery services, and other packaging.
<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do these make actions sense to you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Already doing a lot around food recovery.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What are some of the challenges related to this topic area or specific strategies? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Don't have compost bins in apartment complex. Would be nice to have that everywhere (only in a few neighborhoods). Some don't like this in the neighborhoods where it's available.</li> <li>● If some recyclables are dirty, not considered recyclable. Is there a regulation around the types of materials?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other Ideas + Strategies? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make community gardens more accessible / available. Especially helpful for people who do not currently have access to fresh, healthy food.</li> <li>● Instead of big trash cans, have separate component to put food waste. Split collection on the truck.</li> <li>● Composting in public areas (e.g., downtown). Educational opportunity with proper signage and shaped lid so it's clear what goes in.</li> <li>● Ways to encourage bringing your own reusable products – encouraging companies to accept this. Berkeley could be a model for implementing citywide.</li> <li>● Support eliminating Styrofoam boxes.</li> <li>● Support eliminating toiletry bottles.</li> <li>● In addition to eating lower on the food chain, promote in-house composting (i.e., how to do it in households and use for gardening).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Natural Systems + Water Resources</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
Increase tree canopy cover	Private property tree planting support	Support trees on private property, such as through a front yard tree rebate program.
Increase carbon sequestration	City Tree Ordinance	Update City Tree Ordinance to address retiring trees and unintended consequences such as sidewalk uplifts.
Prepare for climate change	Planting Guide	Developing a planting guide that provides information on native and climate-adaptive plants, how to properly apply compost and mulch, reducing synthetic fertilizers to support soil health, how to store more water in the ground, and how to store carbon in soil, plants, and trees.

Improve community resilience	Recycled Water Requirements	Require all new development within a reasonable distance of existing or proposed recycled water distribution systems to connect to the system for landscape irrigation approved uses.
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**Discussion:**

- What are your priorities in this topic area?
  - Recycled water
  - Increasing tree cover
  - Green roofs
- Do these make actions sense to you?
  - Overall yes
  - Not sure about Planting Guide action. Is this where the City should be spending its time/resources?
- Do you think they would be effective?
  - Overall yes
- What are some of the challenges related to this topic area or specific strategies?
  - Is there enough capacity to support all new development with recycled water?
  - How can renters get involved in these actions?
  - Interested in recycled water retrofitting—but very expensive/invasive (requires tearing up the road/other infrastructure).
- What do you see as your role in implementing these measures?
  - Staying involved with local meetings.
  - Spreading the word to friends.
  - Living by example.
  - Advocating for green solutions.
- Other Ideas + Strategies?
  - Work with local nurseries to encourage planting drought tolerant/native plants (visible labels/indicators to make it easier for shoppers).

**Transportation + Land Use**

Strategy	Action	Description
Improve sustainable mobility	Improve curb management	Develop a program to optimize curbside areas for low-carbon modes and technologies, such as designated rideshare parking and loading zones, scooter and bike share docks, bike parking, electric vehicle charging stations, and autonomous vehicle loading zones.
Advance sustainable land use	TDM requirements	Require plans for reducing vehicle miles traveled for all new developments over a square footage threshold (i.e., transportation demand management [TDM] plans).
Advance vehicle decarbonization	EV parking	Revise parking standards for new multi-family residential and nonresidential development to require a minimum proportion of all new parking spaces to be designated for electric vehicle charging.
Improve sustainable mobility	Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan	Fund and implement the Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan, focusing on enhancements to safety to the highest priority or most dangerous intersections.
Improve sustainable mobility	Transit gap and improvement study	Partner with VTA to conduct a public transit gap study to increase transit use within the City.

**Discussion:**

- What are your priorities in this topic area?
  - Strong TDM Plans.

- Vision Zero
- More bike parking (i.e., one secure bike parking per bedroom).
- Shared bikes and scooters
- Pedestrian + Bicycle Master Plan - no line item in the City's budget
- Funding for items selected as high priority
- Completing Trail Plan; connect to safe bike/pedestrian routes
- Include e-bikes in EV charging and parking accommodations
- Better transportation network for bikes/pedestrians
- Do these make actions sense to you?
  - Important to integrate these actions
- Other Ideas + Strategies?
  - Eliminate car parking requirements for new developments (perhaps limiting not eliminating)
  - Include increased density for mixed use zones
  - Have unbundled parking (pay for parking separately from rent).
  - Developers pay for providing parking programs (people occupying multifamily homes should not have to pay for it).
  - Bring services closer to residences. Pilot a signal timing project(s). The City should work with consultants to identify a corridor, install communications, connect signals, put in new equipment, to conduct a signal progression analysis. This analysis should look to create the least amount of delay and limit idling. The program may be funded through the transportation fund for clean air for grant funds. The project should emphasize the movement of people with without VMT increases and low emission modes of transportation.

## NEXT STEPS

- **Public Input**
  - Online survey #2 – August 2020
  - Online draft + workshop - TBD
- **Action evaluation and prioritization**
  - Multi-criteria analysis (GHG reductions, cost, feasibility, etc.)
  - Action shortlist
- **Planning Commission review – August 26, 2020**
- **City Council review – TBD**

## PUBLIC INPUT

- **Include on stakeholder list:**
  - Bicycle + Pedestrian Advisory Committee
  - Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
  - Car owners
  - Santa Clara Community Advocates
- **Include in CAP:**
  - Heat islands + heat retention mitigation.
  - Public parks/open space prioritized over transportation projects.
  - “End of flow” natural gas to progress faster toward electrification
- **Questions:**
  - Do data centers offer job growth?
    - Data centers enable jobs as more businesses rely on cloud storage.

- What does Business-as-Usual (BAU) mean?
  - Business as Usual (BAU) assumes the conditions today are continued out into the future without any changes. For example, electricity does not get more renewable; cars do not get more efficient; there is no transition to electric vehicles; the city sends the same amount of organic waste to landfill; building codes do not change; etc.
  - The Adjusted Business as Usual (ABAU) shows what happens by virtue of state legislation and policies (background conditions).
- How will you adjust the greenhouse gas projections/targets to compensate for more people working from home (due to COVID-19)?
  - The county is looking into long term impacts of telework. The CAP project team will review and consider how to address in the CAP (e.g., VMT reduction).
- Why does the BAU scenario show sharp growth in the near-term but then levels off?
  - Primarily due to the availability of data. We used ABAG's projections to model future scenarios. ABAG predicts significant growth in the region from 2016-2020.
- Is Santa Clara's CAP doing anything about racial and social justice
  - Yes, equity is one of the proposed criteria for evaluating and prioritizing actions in the CAP.
- Do the materials + consumption strategies/actions consider construction materials like concrete?
  - Most of the potential strategies/actions in this sector are intended to increase the diversion of construction materials (wood in particular). The project team will consider how to address the embodied carbon of construction materials.
- Can I get a rebate for an electric bicycle?
  - California's Clean Cars for All program has been expanded to offer rebates for electric bike purchases in exchange for gas-powered vehicles in qualifying air quality districts.
- How will final CAP target reductions and timelines be determined?
  - Final target reductions and timelines will be approved by City Council based on the draft CAP. The targets should reflect work to date, plus feedback from the community and the Planning Commission.
- Will the City consider creating a "Green Ribbon Task Force" or other committee made up of representatives from the public?
  - The City's approach to date is to reach the widest swath of the community possible to bring in new sources of information/opinions.
- Will you create metrics for the CAP strategies/actions?
  - Yes, these will be developed as part of the strategies/actions.
- Does Slide 13 refer to job growth in terms of number of jobs or GHGs associated with the increase in jobs?
  - Growth in the number of jobs themselves.