



City Council

**Item #20-359 : Overview of
Sustainability Program and
Feedback on Program
Priorities**

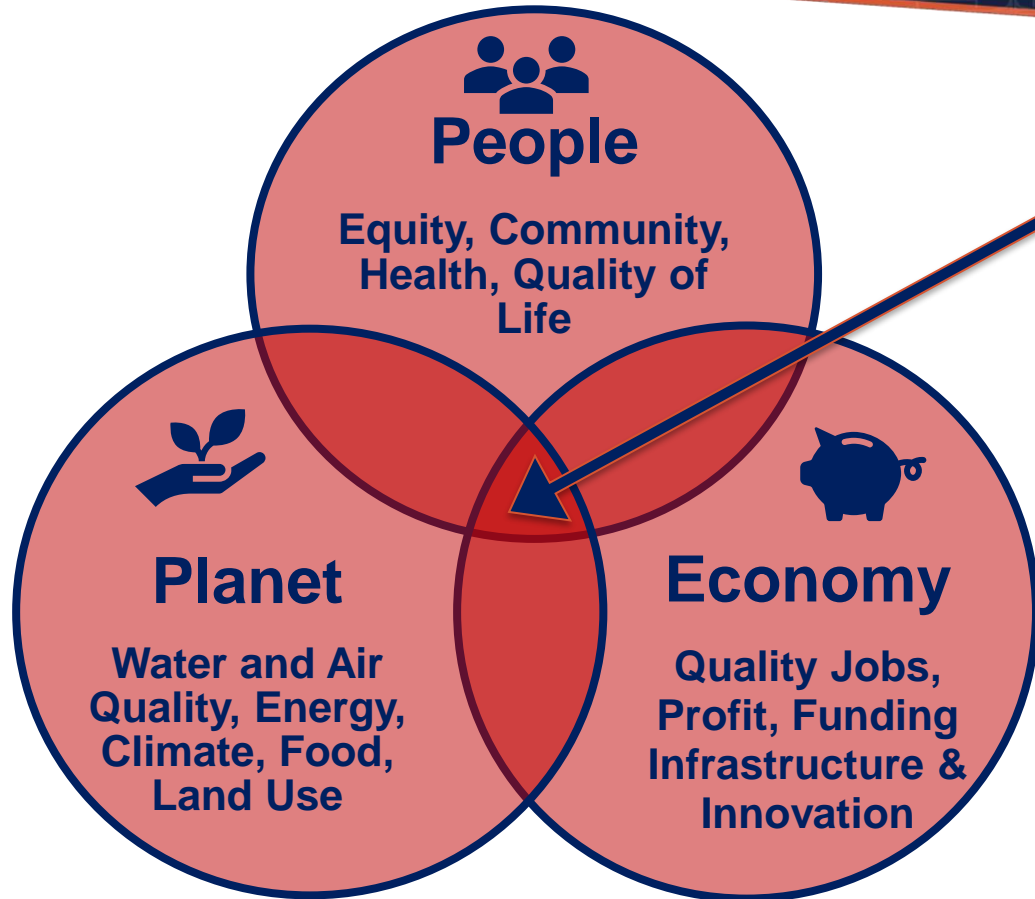
RTC # 20-359

July 13, 2020



Sustainability

A Balancing Act





Sustainability, COVID 19, Equity

Challenges and Unknowns

- Environmental momentum to come
- Economic investment in climate and sustainability
- Public priorities moving ahead
- Focus on long-term priority setting and include all voices

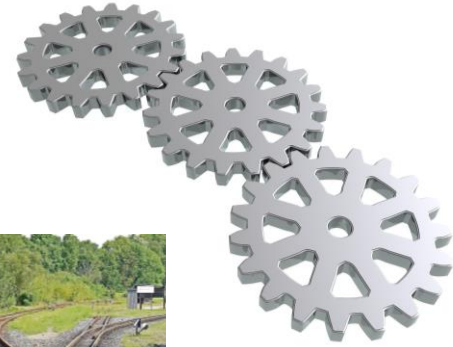
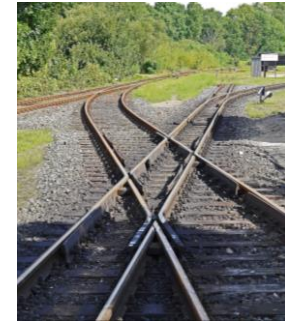




Strategically Addressing Fragility

Equity, Climate, Economy, COVID 19

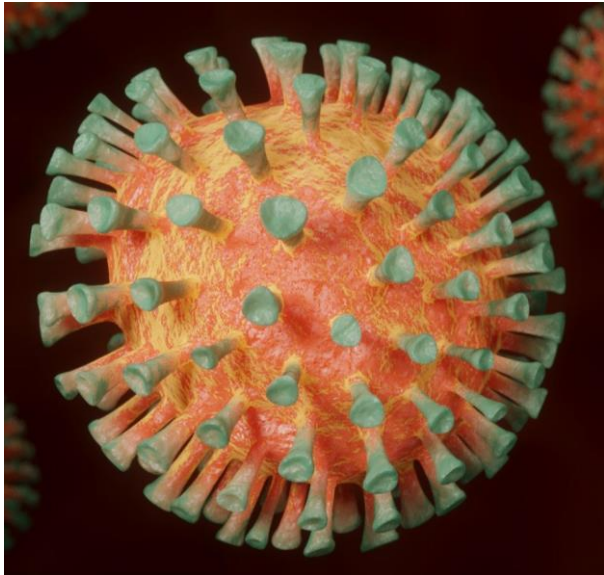
- Intersectionality - Consider at all to solve any
- Develop long term strategies that:
 - Minimize compounding crises
 - Build systems that address equity gaps
 - Maintain hard won environmental momentum
 - Serve tomorrow's residents and businesses as well as today's





Climate and COVID 19

Similarities, Differences, Lessons





Equity, Climate, COVID 19

Similarities

	Equity	Climate	Pandemic
Global impact	X	X	X
Crisis grows exponentially after certain thresholds	X	X	X
Physical crisis with data-based backing	X	X	X
Disproportionately impacts vulnerable, low income, people of color	X	X	X
Under acceptance of gravity affects ability to solve it	X	X	X
Long term solutions key to building resilience	X	X	X
Communities are leading the way in change	X	X	X



Sustainability/Climate & COVID 19

Differences

COVID 19 Crisis – Survival Response

Danger is tangible and immediate

Likely singular solution

Short term response is critical

Impacts should lessen over time

Prevention threatens livelihoods

Climate Crisis – Planning Response

Danger is gradual and cumulative

Multifaceted solution

Short/long term response key

Impacts last longer/permanently

Prevention can create jobs



Sustainability/Climate and COVID 19

Transferrable Lessons

- Highlights need for:
 - Science-based decisions
 - Clear policy
 - Preparedness
 - Resiliency planning
- Unprecedented global response to universal threat
- Local governments play critical role in worldwide roadmaps ⁸





Sustainability After COVID 19

Opportunities Moving Forward

- Smart recovery = embedding sustainability/equity in policy, programs, legislation
 - Green jobs, workplace models, tech focus
 - Minimize compounding crises
- Public engagement and ownership of solutions





Silicon Valley Transportation Data

COVID 19 Impacts on Air Quality and GHG

- GHG Emissions/Air Quality (BAAQMD estimates)
 - 20-30% traffic emissions reductions
 - Improved air and health in communities next to major roadways



San Francisco Chronicle

CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FOOD ELECTION SPORTING GREEN BIZ-TECH CULTURE DESK DATEBOOK US & WORLD

LOCAL // ENVIRONMENT

California's widely polluted air may increase coronavirus death toll

 Kurtis Alexander | April 20, 2020 | Updated: April 20, 2020 9:05 p.m.



Silicon Valley Transportation Data

COVID 19 Impacts on Transportation

LOCATION	REDUCTIONS	2020 DATES
Silicon Valley Freeway VMT	52%	April - Lowest in 17 year dataset
Santa Clara County "all road" VMT	75%	Jan – May
Silicon Valley Freeway Traffic Delays	94%	Feb – April
Bay Area Transportation Related Injury Crashes	69%	May



Sustainable Santa Clara

Where We Are

Where We Want to Be

When We Need to Get There

How We Get There - Building a Roadmap Together



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Where We Are Now

Strong Sustainability Baseline





Where We Want to Be

Meet Environmental Targets

Support a Healthy Santa Clara

Minimize Future Compounding Crises

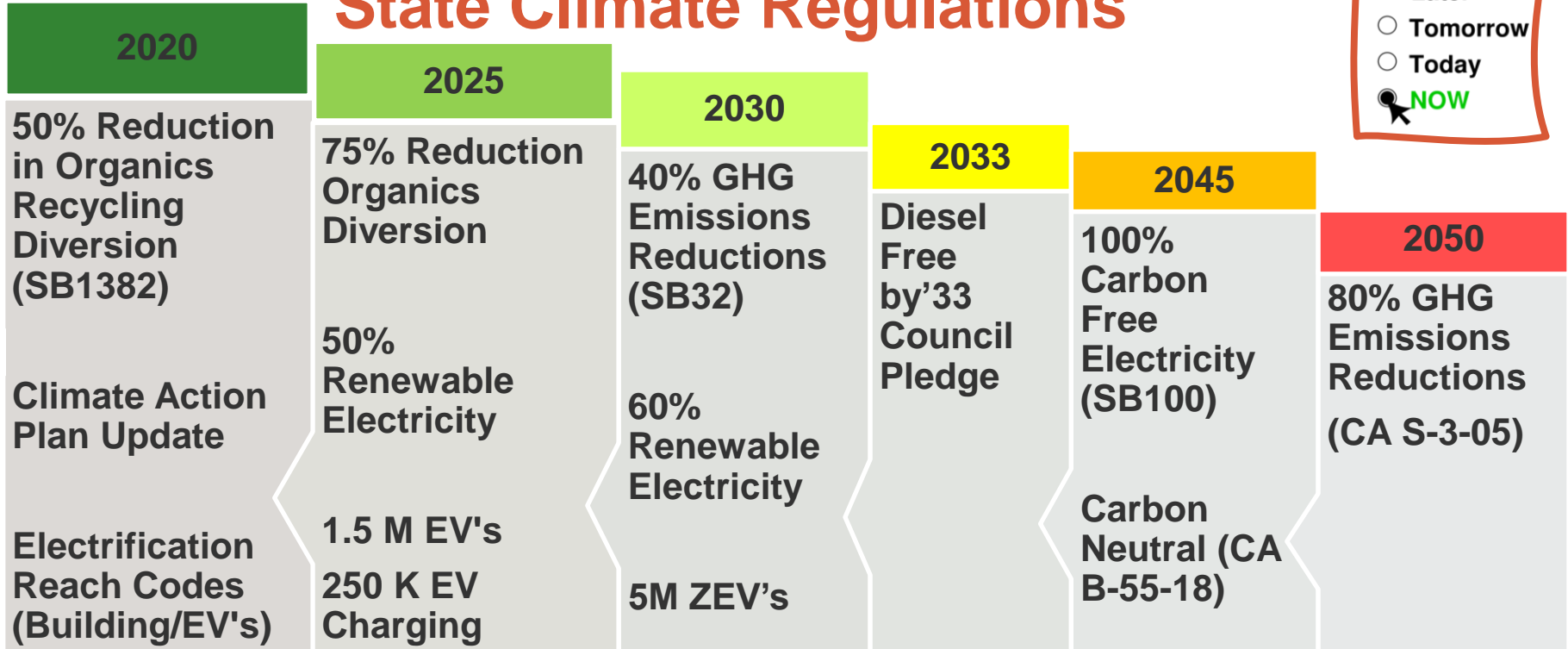
- Build sustainability lens into operations and programs
- Establish unified City goals, strategies, advanced planning
- Advance and support sustainability policies and legislation



When We Need to Get There

State Climate Regulations

- Later
- Tomorrow
- Today
- NOW**





How We'll Get There

Integration

Innovation

Collaboration and Connection



How We'll Get There

Integration Priorities

- Update to, and implementation of, Climate Action Plan
- Explore and develop sustainability advancement strategies in:
 - Water, wastewater, solid waste, parks and open space
- Align City practices/operational policies with sustainability
 - Green purchasing practices/policies
 - Fleet greening - EV and diesel free fleet expansion
 - Facility greening –generators, lighting, custodial, etc.



How We'll Get There

Innovation Priorities

- Establish building electrification and EV reach codes
- Establish climate forward transportation policies/programs
- Diversify energy incentives/rebates





How We'll Get There

Collaboration and Connection Priorities

- Staff Sustainability Team
- Community outreach/feedback/engagement
 - Ex: CAP public survey, Reach Codes, programs, website
- Explore partnerships to expand reach and impact
 - Empower our community (residents, business, and industry)
 - Build our sustainability network (local, regional, and national)
 - Explore climate forward Legislative Advocacy Positions





Sustainability Pillar Review

Council Priorities Identified in January 2020

- ✓ Continue the Climate Action Plan, ensuring the right mix of outside consultants and internal staff
- ✓ Consider infusing sustainability into all City decisions and operations (e.g. assess or rate the sustainability level of a project)
- ✓ Consider expanding recycled water
- ✓ Consider creating incentives for “green” proposals (e.g. EV charging stations)
- ✓ Consider hiring a sustainability manager



Recommendation

Title: Sustainability Program Update

Staff Recommendation:

- Note and File Sustainability Program Update and Provide Feedback on Program Priorities