2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan: Palo Alto’s Efforts to Act on Climate Change

September 30, 2020
Click on Q&A anytime during the presentation to ask questions
BE SURE TO WASH YOUR HANDS AND ALL WILL BE WELL.

CLIMATE CHANGE

RECESSION

COVID-19
Local Climate Action Planning

Strategic planning to . . .

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change
• Current S/CAP made up of three components:
  1. 80 x 30 Goal – adopted April 2016

• 2020 Council Priority: Sustainability, in the context of climate change

• Launched 2020 S/CAP Update earlier this year

• Community Input on Goals & Key Actions in 7 areas

[Images of energy, mobility, electric vehicles, water, climate adaptation, natural environment, zero waste]
Palo Alto GHG Emissions Down ~36%
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Palo Alto Municipal Operations and Community GHG Emissions

80 x 30 Target (150K MT CO2e)
Co-Benefits

- Co-benefits can describe other desirable outcomes from our actions beyond GHG reductions
  - Improve **Public Health**
  - Improve **Air Quality** through reduced exposure
  - Improve **Public Safety**
  - Increase **Productivity**
  - Increase **Resource Conservation**
  - Provide **Regional Benefit** that extends beyond the city
  - **Equity**: Address existing inequity
  - Reduce **Cost of Living** through cost savings
  - Reduce **Lifecycle Emissions**
Water: Potential Key Actions

- Maximize cost-effective water conservation and efficiency through incentives, outreach/education and other programs
- Expand the use of effluent from the RWQCP by funding and building a water reuse project for Non-Potable Reuse, Indirect Potable Reuse, or Direct Potable Reuse
- Increase implementation of green stormwater infrastructure on private property, municipal facilities and public rights-of-way to ensure water for urban canopy
- Design and build a salt removal facility for the Regional Water Quality Control Plant
- Develop a "One Water" Portfolio for Palo Alto
- By 2023, establish a baseline and Key Performance Indicator for reduction of impervious surfaces to support the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan
Estimated GHG Emission Reductions for Zero Waste Key Actions

- Champion waste prevention, reduction, reusables, and the sharing economy: 670 MTCO2e
- Expand the Deconstruction and Construction Materials Management Ordinance: 8,580 MTCO2e
- Eliminate single-use disposable cups and containers by expanding the Disposable Foodware Ordinance: 1,360 MTCO2e
- Require food waste prevention and edible food recovery measures for commercial food generators: 510 MTCO2e
- Promote residential food waste reduction: 450 MTCO2e
- Incentivize the use of reusable diapers: 390 MTCO2e
Areas of highest potential GHG reduction

GHG Reduction Areas

- Electrify most residential buildings
- Significantly reduce fossil fuel use in large commercial buildings
- Significantly reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Electrify vast majority of remaining vehicle trips

Could Potentially Achieve:

- ~15-20% of remaining reduction needed
- ~5% of remaining reduction needed
- ~10-20% of remaining reduction needed
- ~50-60% of remaining reduction needed
Spectrum of Tools for Achieving Climate Goals

Low Intervention

Examples:
- Early Adopters
- Voluntary Programs
- Education and Outreach
- Pilot Projects

Some Intervention

Examples:
- Council Policies, Plans, and Reach Ordinances
- Council Ordinances, Bans, and Mandates
- Financial Incentives

Higher Intervention

Examples:
- City-wide Voter-Approved Mandates or Financing
- Utility-scale Infrastructure Shift

Voluntary Market driven solutions ➔ Government driven solutions
1. **POLL:** Which higher intervention measures would you support exploring further:
   - Bond Measure: e.g. to help the community and businesses reduce GHGs
   - Carbon Fund: e.g. to invest in local projects to reduce GHGs
   - Carbon “Savings Account”: e.g. a fee that increases each year to pay for local mitigation projects at your home or place of work
   - VMT (Vehicle Miles Travelled) Bank: e.g. manage a VMT budget for the city by allowing new development to contribute directly to the expansion of transit service

2. **POLL:** Would you support a ballot measure at some point in the future that raises funds from the community in order to fund potential Key Actions?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Depends
Upcoming Webinars

- October 22: All-Electric Homes 101
- Nov 18: Getting to 80 x 30: Your Transportation Vision for Palo Alto
- December 8: The Importance of the Natural Environment in Meeting our Sustainability Goals
- November / December: Update on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan
- January – Feb 2021: Virtual Forum – Reviewing the Results of the Impact Analysis
- February 2021: Webinar on S/CAP Packages Of Options
Click on Q&A to ask questions