



## Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, April 2016

### Draft Climate Plan Looks to Future



Just in time for Earth Day celebrations, the City Council will discuss new goals outlined in an updated draft of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) at its meeting on April 18.

The first plan was

adopted in 2007, and the City has already far exceeded the 20 percent Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction goal (from 1990 levels) set out in the initial plan.

The City is striving to further reduce its carbon footprint, and the draft SCAP lays out strategies and a possible pathway to reduce the City's emissions by 80 percent by 2030, a goal that the Council will discuss further on April 18.

Most of the GHG reductions so far have come from the City's commitment to carbon neutral electricity. The two big

### Earth Day Facts



- Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees

- Recycled paper requires 64 percent less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp

- 84 percent of all household waste can be recycled

- 90 percent less energy is used to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones

- Every gallon of fuel used releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide

- Avoid 10 miles of driving a week & eliminate 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions

Source: Planetpals.com & globalwarming-facts.info

### Calendar of Events

remaining sources of GHG emissions are road transportation and natural gas use.

Here are some of the green ideas proposed in the S/CAP Plan that could yield further reductions:

- Optimizing transit, supporting electric vehicles, providing incentives to change travel modes
- Expanding bike network and parking incentive programs
- Mobility as a Service: using technology to provide flexible, on demand transportation services
- Energy efficiency and conservation, electrification of water and space heating and cooking where cost effective, “zero net energy” new buildings

The City has also updated its Earth Day report on the City’s 150 sustainability programs. Highlights include:

- **Electricity:** Electric supplies have been 100 percent carbon neutral through generation from hydroelectric and renewable energy resources, and the purchase of renewable energy credits.
- **Zero waste:** Palo Alto is on track to meet its 2021 goal of 90 percent diversion of material from landfills.
- **Green building standards:** Continue to be ahead of state standards
- **PaloAltoGreen gas:** Participation rate is expected to double this year to about four percent of residents.

For more details on the Climate Action Plan and Earth Day report, click [here](#).

## Comp Plan Update: Send In Your Ideas via Digital Commenter



This month, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Comprehensive Plan update is continuing its work on the Land Use and Community Design Element. The CAC will discuss the element and public comments and ideas

### Children’s Book Festival

Palo Alto City Library  
Mitchell Park Community Center  
Sat., April 16, 1-4pm

### The Great Race for Saving Water

5K Fun Run & Walk & Earth Day Festival!  
Baylands Athletic Center  
Saturday, April 30, 9 am

### Spring Family Day

Palo Alto Art Center  
1313 Newell Road  
Sunday, May 1, 2 – 4:30 p.m.



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received so far via the City's [Digital Commenter](#) at its next meeting on Tuesday, April 19 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Rinconada Library.

The draft Environmental Impact Report for the plan is also open for public comments until May 5. The draft EIR can be viewed on the City's project website, [www.paloaltocompplan.org](http://www.paloaltocompplan.org) and can also be reviewed at the Planning Division office at City Hall (5th floor), and at the Rinconada and downtown libraries. Or, written comments can be sent to [elena.lee@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:elena.lee@cityofpaloalto.org). The City Council will also take up the draft EIR at its April 25 meeting.

## 10 Years of Safe Routes to School

The City of Palo Alto is celebrating 10 years of the [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) program](#) that encourages students and families to bike or use other alternatives besides driving to school. The program is a partnership between the City, the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and PTA volunteers, and it teaches children health, fitness and safety skills, brings traffic relief, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions-- all under one program. Half of all PAUSD middle school students and 42 percent of high schoolers ride their bikes to school. At the elementary level (K-5), about 39 percent bike or walk to school.



The Safe Routes to School anniversary will be recognized at the City Council meeting on May 2. It is considered one of the most successful in the nation, incorporating the five E's: education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation.

## Get the Scoop



Downtown employees are now eligible to carpool to work for \$1 per ride. The new Downtown Transportation Management Association (which the City is a member of as an employer), is partnering with Scoop, a mobile carpooling app, to sponsor commutes to Downtown Palo Alto for just \$1 per ride.

Here's how Scoop works:

- Download the app ([Android](#) or [iOS](#)).
- Book a ride – one way at a time. The app is flexible – some people book ahead if they have a set schedule; others book as little as 15-30 minutes ahead of when they need a ride. You should try to book your ride to work the night before, prior to 9 p.m.
- Guaranteed Ride Home (GHR) – in the unlikely event no match can be found you will automatically get a guaranteed ride home through your preferred alternative (taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc.) or through Scoop's GRH assurance.

For hours of operations and more details, click [here](#).

## Pledge to Save Water

Mayor Pat Burt is joining mayors across the country asking community members to take part in the national 2016 Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The challenge asks people to take the "My Water Pledge" on behalf of their city.



Commit to simple water-saving behaviors at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) throughout the month. The city with the most pledges at the end of April wins, and those in the winning city may be eligible to win prizes such

as a new Toyota Prius or home water efficiency makeover kits!

The City offers many free services and rebates to help you save water at home or work. Read about the state's ongoing drought and water supply conditions and learn about water efficiency program at: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/water](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/water).

### Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what's on your mind.



[City of Palo Alto@cityofpaloalto](#) April 2

. [@CityofPaloAlto](#) City Hall lights up blue for World Autism Day. View other landmarks: <http://bit.ly/1MKavTE> #LIUB



[Palo Alto Library@PaloAltoLibrary](#) March 30

Submit your BookFace photo to be displayed in the Teen Zone and a chance to win prizes! <http://bit.ly/1WE8hFs>

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: [www.ourpaloalto.org](http://www.ourpaloalto.org)