City of Palo Alto
City Council Staff Report

Report Type: Action Items  Meeting Date: 3/23/2020

Council Priority: Climate/Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, Transportation and Traffic

Summary Title: Accept the Sustainability Work Plan

Title: Review the 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Update Process and Accept the 2020-2021 Sustainability Work Plan

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Public Works

Recommended Motion
Staff recommends that City Council review the 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Update Process (Attachment A) and accept the 2020-2021 Sustainability Work Plan (Attachment B) to address Council’s “Sustainability, in the context of climate change” priority.

Executive Summary
Consistent with the Council’s adoption of “Sustainability, in the context of climate change” as one of the top three priorities for CY 2020, staff is developing a 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) to help the City meet its sustainability goals, including its goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and has prepared a related high-level Work Plan to guide the City through CY 2020 and 2021. The key components of the Work Plan are largely taken from the 2018 - 2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan, which was accepted by Council late in 2017, and the work to date on the 2020 S/CAP Update, which was described in an Information Report to Council in February 2020¹. The Work Plan is divided into three sections: 2018 - 2020 SIP and 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Update, Community Engagement, and Council Meetings.

Background
In April 2001, Palo Alto City Council adopted a Sustainability Policy² reflecting the City’s intention to be a sustainable community - one which meets its current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Since then, the City

² [https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/7856](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/7856)
has undertaken a wide range of initiatives to improve the sustainability of both government operations and the community at large, adopting one of the first municipal Climate Action Plans\(^3\) in the US in 2007. In April 2016, City Council adopted the ambitious goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030\(^4\) - 20 years ahead of the State of California 80 x 50 target. Next, in November 2016 Council adopted the Sustainability/ Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Framework\(^5\), which has served as the road map for achieving Palo Alto’s sustainability goals. As of July 1, 2017, the City was providing 100 percent carbon neutral natural gas, in part through the purchase of “offsets,” making the City of Palo Alto Utilities the first utility in the world to provide carbon neutral electricity and natural gas as a standard to all customers, having provided 100 percent carbon neutral electricity since 2013. Then in November 2017, Council adopted the 2030 Comprehensive Plan\(^6\), which includes 10 sustainability goals and over 50 sustainability-related actions outlined in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan. In December 2017, Council accepted the 2018-2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) “Key Actions” as a summary of the City’s work program\(^7\). Finally, in June 2019, Council accepted the 2019 – 2020 Sustainability Work Plan. Now staff is proposing that Council review the 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Update Process (Attachment A) and accept an updated Work Plan (Attachment B) covering CY 2020 and 2021.

**Discussion**

For the City to continue progress towards its climate and sustainability goals and targets, a 2020 S/CAP Update is necessary to further study the highest impact actions to take. The 2016 S/CAP Framework provided direction and overall goals through 2020. The intent was for staff to update the S/CAP every five years and develop more granular five-year work plans and short-term programs, rather than attempt to build a detailed 14-year work plan. Staff recommends that Council review the 2020 S/CAP Update Process (Attachment A) to provide context for the 2020 – 2021 Sustainability Work Plan.

Although the 2018-2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) provides key actions through the end of 2020, staff believes Council will be well served by a summary of the specific projects related to those actions – highlighting the most important ones – and including other key sustainability items, such as the 2020 S/CAP Update workplan, community engagement opportunities, and sustainability items that will be coming to Council. Therefore, staff has prepared the attached Sustainability Work Plan (Attachment B) and recommends that it be accepted by Council.

The first section of the Work Plan is divided into eight areas: staff and consultant work, plus seven potential 2020 S/CAP Program areas. The seven 2020 S/CAP Program Areas - Energy, Mobility, Electric Vehicles, Water, Sea Level Rise & Climate Adaptation, Natural Environment, Natural Environment,
and Zero Waste - all support the City’s sustainability goals, including the over-arching goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In addition to this goal, traffic reduction; economic vitality; equity; water conservation and reuse; sea level rise adaption; ecosystem protection; enhancing the urban forest and canopy cover; and waste reduction goals are also supported by these seven areas.

The second section of the Work Plan focuses on Community Engagement and the various opportunities for the community to provide input on the 2020 S/CAP Update process, priorities, goals, and key actions.

The third section of the Work Plan highlights the key sustainability items that will be coming to Council in the next two years.

Example key components of the Work Plan for 2020 include:

1. Development and implementation of a Utilities Electrification Work Plan (see the March 5, 2020 Utilities Advisory Commission report on this topic)
2. Adoption of a TDM (Transportation Demand Management) Ordinance
3. Ensuring adequate and diverse Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure
4. Implementation of the City’s first Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan
5. Development of a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan
6. Exploration of programs and policies to provide local carbon storage and other environmental benefits through the urban forest
7. Beginning to enforce the Disposable Foodware Ordinance and the Deconstruction Ordinance to reduce waste

Stakeholder Engagement
Staff has developed a 2020 S/CAP Update Engagement Plan which identifies relevant stakeholders, proposed materials, and desired meeting milestones and outcomes. Opportunities for engagement are noted in the 2020 S/CAP Update Proposed Process and the Community Engagement section of the Work Plan.

Policy Implications
The 2020-2021 Sustainability Work Plan aligns with two of the top three Council Priorities for CY 2020: “Sustainability, in the context of climate change” and “Improving mobility for all.”

Resource Impact
Appropriate resources are already in place or being considered through the FY 2021 budget process to implement the actions described in the Work Plan. Highlighting and tracking the CY 2020-2021 Work Plan will not require significant additional resources.

Environmental Review

7 http://cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/75512
Acceptance of a work plan does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Individual items within the work plan will be evaluated consistent with CEQA prior to approval by the City.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: 2020 SCAP Update Proposed Process
- Attachment B: 2020-2021 Sustainability Workplan
# 2020 S/CAP Update Proposed Process

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### Consultant and Staff Work

- **2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory**
- Impact Analysis of Goals and Key Actions
- Draft Goals and Key Actions with Community input
- Draft 2020 S/CAP
- Finalize 2020 S/CAP
- Final CEQA Report

### Community Engagement

- 2020 S/CAP Update Workshop
- 2020 S/CAP Update Summit
- On-going On-Line Community Engagement
- 2020 S/CAP Update Area-Specific Community Engagement
- Adopted 2020 S/CAP Update

### Council Meetings

- Council Info Report
- Council Study Session
- Council Adopts 2020 S/CAP
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<td><strong>Energy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Develop 2020-21 Building Electrification Work Plan with program funding and staffing request; this work plan targets existing buildings</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue existing energy efficiency &amp; building electrification programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implement Phase I of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for Non-Residential Construction and ADU’s, pending availability of cost-effectiveness study.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finalize Phase II of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for New Non-Residential Construction and ADU’s, pending availability of cost-effectiveness study.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase III to Define Substantial Remodels that qualify for new construction and Reach Code</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implement Phase II of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for Commercial, ADUs and High-rise Residential New Construction Projects</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mobility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue to fund the Palo Alto TMA (Transportation Management Association), begin Phase 3 of the Charleston-Arastradero Corridor Project, begin preparation of environmental documents for the preferred rail grade separation alternative, adopt TDM Ordinance per Comp Plan Policy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue to explore ways to expand and diversify Palo Alto’s EV charging network; continue community education and outreach to facilitate mass EV adoption; implement City fleet electrification plan and continue expanding public EV chargers with grant and city funds.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Facilitate the installation of EV charging infrastructure for residents, businesses and inbound EVs, with greater focus on EVSE installations for low-income households; increase EV education and outreach to all customer segments, including information on external grant funding opportunities; adopt a new parking ordinance which supports EV charging infrastructure installations at multi-family and mixed-use properties and commercial parking lots; develop plan to electrify city fleet.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Incorporate sustainability in CIP process and staff reports Implement 2020 S/CAP Update</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue existing energy efficiency &amp; building electrification programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue to fund the Palo Alto TMA; make transit investments that significantly enhance coverage, service quality, frequency, speed and/or access; expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, connectivity, convenience, and/or safety</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Electric Vehicles</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explore potential ordinances and programs to expand onsite water reuse systems, design a salt removal facility for the Palo Alto Wastewater Treatment Plant, implement the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plan and identify the next several new projects</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete the One Water Plan, construct the salt removal facility for the Palo Alto Wastewater Treatment Plant, begin design and construction of new GSI projects</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue to fund the Palo Alto TMA; make transit investments that significantly enhance coverage, service quality, frequency, speed and/or access; expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, connectivity, convenience, and/or safety</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sea Level Rise</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conduct SLR Vulnerability Assessment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Develop Draft SLR Adaptation Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finalize SLR Adaptation Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implement SLR Adaptation Plan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Natural Environment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implement the 2019 Urban Forest Master Plan, explore programs and policies to provide local carbon storage and other environmental benefits through the Urban Forest, consider revisions to Title 8 of Palo Alto Municipal Code, establish an ongoing community forum to comment on urban forestry and ecosystem issues</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ensure No Net Tree Canopy Loss, develop methods to allow for both solar panels and trees, reduce the toxicity and the total amount of pesticides used in the city</strong></td>
<td><strong>Facilitate the installation of EV charging infrastructure for residents, businesses and inbound EVs, with greater focus on EVSE installations for low-income households; increase EV education and outreach to all customer segments, including information on external grant funding opportunities; adopt a new parking ordinance which supports EV charging infrastructure installations at multi-family and mixed-use properties and commercial parking lots; develop plan to electrify city fleet.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Zero Waste</strong></td>
<td><strong>Begin to enforce Phase 1 of the Disposable Foodware Ordinance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Begin to enforce Phase 1 of the Deconstruction Ordinance (July 1)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finalize Phase 2 of the Disposable Foodware Ordinance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evaluate Deconstruction Ordinance data and develop potential Phase 2 ordinance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2020 S/CAP Workshop</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020 S/CAP Update Summit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Earth Day Festival and Great Race</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020 S/CAP Implementation Resources and Updates</strong></td>
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