



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 11201)

Report Type: Action Items

Meeting Date: 4/13/2020

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 (Continued From March 23, 2020)

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 2020](#)¹. 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 Policy](#)² reflecting the City's intention to be a sustainable community - one which meets its current needs without

¹ <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=59474.17&BlobID=75032>

² <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/7856>

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Since then, the City 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](#), 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](#)⁶. 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,

³ <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/9946>

⁴ <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=3534&TargetID=268>

⁵ <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/60858>

⁶ <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63141>

Mobility, Electric Vehicles, Water, Sea Level Rise & Climate Adaptation, 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 adaptation; 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)⁷
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
8. Providing multiple opportunities for community input on the 2020 S/CAP Update.

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.

⁷ <http://cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/75512>

Environmental Review

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

	2020				2021	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Consultant and Staff Work		2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Draft Goals and Key Actions with Community input	Impact Analysis of Goals and Key Actions	Draft 2020 S/CAP	Finalize 2020 S/CAP	Final CEQA Report
Community Engagement		2020 S/CAP Update Workshop On-going On-Line Community Engagement		2020 S/CAP Update Summit		Adopted 2020 S/CAP Update
	2020 S/CAP Update Area-Specific Community Engagement					
Council Meetings	Council Info Report			Council Study Session		Council Adopts 2020 S/CAP

		2020					2021						
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	July/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	July/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec
2018 - 2020 SIP and 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Update	Staff and Consultant Work		2019 GHG Inventory, Draft 2020 S/CAP Goals and Key Actions with Community Input		Impact Analysis of Goals and Key Actions		Draft 2020 S/CAP	Finalize 2020 S/CAP	Final CEQA Report	2020 GHG Inventory			
		Incorporate sustainability in CIP process and staff reports						Implement 2020 S/CAP Update					
	Energy	Develop 2020-21 Building Electrification Work Plan with program funding and staffing request; this work plan targets existing buildings			(Pending approval of funding and staffing request) Implement 2020-21 Building Electrification Work Plan: (i) expand programs to include other electrification measures and commercial buildings to the extent feasible and cost-effective; (ii) undertake analyses to evaluate the operational and financial impacts of building electrification								
		Continue existing energy efficiency & building electrification programs											
		Implement Phase I of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for New Low-Rise Residential Construction (effective April 1, 2020)		Finalize Phase II of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for New Non-Residential Construction and ADU's, pending availability of cost-effectiveness study. Phase III to Define Substantial Remodels that qualify for new construction and Reach Code				Implement Phase II of All-Electric Energy Reach Code for Commercial, ADUs and High-rise Residential New Construction Projects					
	Mobility	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						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					
	Electric Vehicles	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.						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.					
	Water	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						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					
	Sea Level Rise		Conduct SLR Vulnerability Assessment		Develop Draft SLR Adaptation Plan			Finalize SLR Adaptation Plan		Implement SLR Adaptation Plan			
	Natural Environment	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						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					
Zero Waste	Begin to enforce Phase 1 of the Disposable Foodware Ordinance			Begin to enforce Phase 1 of the Deconstruction Ordinance (July 1)			Finalize Phase 2 of the Disposable Foodware Ordinance			Evaluate Deconstruction Ordinance data and develop potential Phase 2 ordinance			
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			2020 S/CAP Workshop			2020 S/CAP Update Summit				2020 S/CAP Implementation Resources and Updates			
		On-going On-Line Community Engagement						Earth Day Festival and Great Race					
		2020 S/CAP Update Area-Specific Community Engagement											
COUNCIL MEETINGS	Council Info Report on 2020 S/CAP Update	Council Mtgs: Sustainability Workplan (Mar); SIP Update (Apr)			Council Study Session on 2020 S/CAP Update				Council Mtgs: Adopt 2020 S/CAP; Adopt SLR Plan				