

2020 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

POTENTIAL AREAS AND PRIORITIES



- ➔ Building efficiency and electrification are key to achieving Palo Alto's greenhouse gas reduction goals. Overcoming building electrification barriers at both the local and regional level will be necessary to increase market adoption in existing buildings.
- ➔ Priority: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Palo Alto's building sector



- ➔ Road transportation represents the largest percentage of Palo Alto's existing carbon footprint – and a congestion headache. Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), is one solution to reduce transportation related GHG emissions.
- ➔ Priorities: Increase active transportation (human-powered methods of travel, such as walking or bicycling); Increase availability of transit and shared mobility services



- ➔ Powering transportation through Electric Vehicles (EVs) as opposed to fossil fuel powered vehicles can significantly reduce GHG emissions and climate pollution.
- ➔ Priorities: Increase the number of EVs registered in Palo Alto; Ensure adequate EV charging infrastructure



- ➔ Water is a limited resource, and its availability will be further impacted by climate change. Strategies include reducing water consumption while exploring ways to capture and store water and increasing the availability and use of recycled water.
- ➔ Priorities: Reduce per capita water use; Increase the percentage of recycled water used; Reduce total dissolved solids (inorganic salts and some small amounts of organic matter that are dissolved in water); Manage stormwater



- ➔ Sea level rise (SLR) in San Francisco Bay is anticipated to range between 3 – 10 feet by 2100. In Palo Alto, many City services and infrastructure that are essential to the City's public health, safety, and economy are located within areas that are predicted to be inundated by Bay water if adaptation measures are not implemented.
- ➔ Priorities: Conduct a SLR vulnerability assessment; Develop and implement a SLR Adaptation Plan using protect, adapt, retreat strategies; Potentially modify City planning, zoning, building codes, and floodplain management; Protect and enhance the Baylands ecosystem



- ➔ Sustainability is not only about mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, but also regeneration –identifying opportunities for renewal, restoration, and growth of our natural environment. Palo Alto will continue to build and restore the natural environment and its ecosystem services and the bio-capacity that supports it.
- ➔ Priorities: Renew, restore, and enhance resilience of our natural environment; Maximize biodiversity; Reduce environmental impacts of our actions; Increase tree canopy; Expand the designation of pesticide-free parks and city facilities



- ➔ Reducing waste is an important strategy for both GHG reductions and overall sustainability. Zero Waste is a holistic approach to managing materials in a closed loop system (circular economy), where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.
- ➔ Priorities: Divert waste from landfills; Implement 2018 Zero Waste Plan Initiatives