

A U S T I N C I T Y H A L L

# Austin Community Climate Plan: Carbon Impact Statement

Joint Sustainability Committee | 11.30.2016

# Agenda

- I. Council Direction
- II. Staff Process
- III. Research and Examples
- IV. Next Steps



# Council Direction

## Austin Community Climate Plan

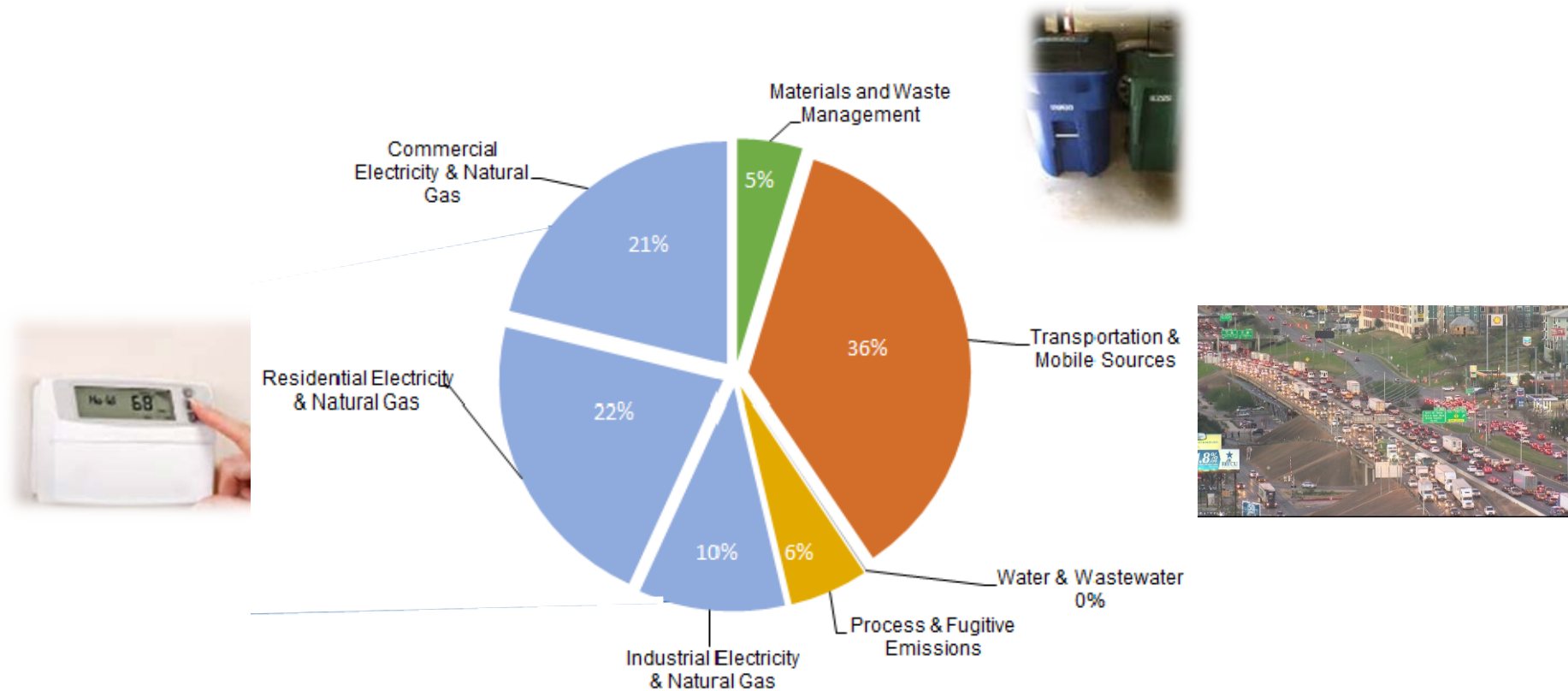
- Adopted by City Council via Resolution 20150604-048
- Recommendation #3:  
“Determine the feasibility of a carbon impact statement that could be used to inform policy makers of the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of major City decisions.”



# Staff Process

What City activities have major carbon impacts?

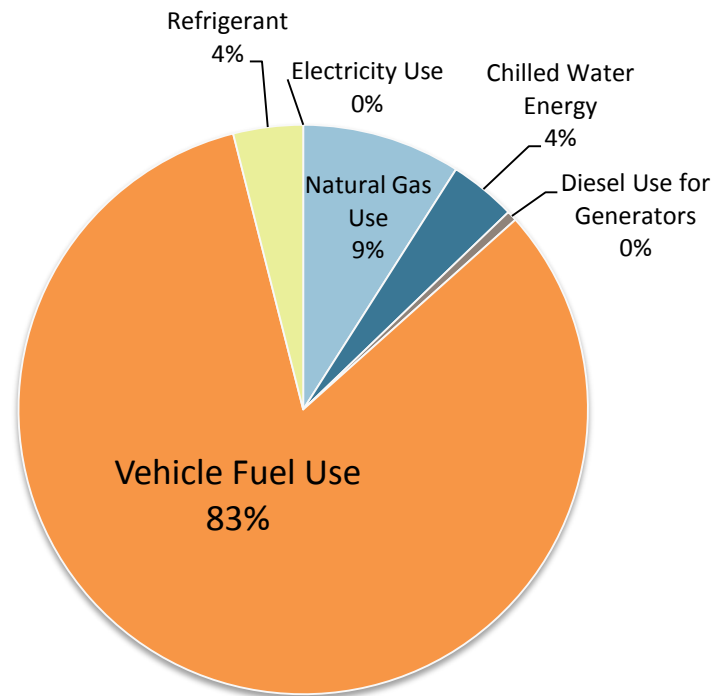
**2013 Austin Community Carbon Footprint**  
**14,500,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**



# Staff Process

What City activities have major carbon impacts?

**2015 Municipal Operations Carbon Footprint - 57,528 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e**



# Staff Process

What City Council actions result in major carbon impacts?

1. Purchases/Contracts
2. Resolutions/Policy direction
3. Zoning and Land Use
4. City CIP
5. Others...





# Staff Process

Review other City impact statements:

- Affordability Impact Statement – impact of a project on production of affordable housing, the cost of development and housing
- Education Impact Statement – how attendance at nearby schools would be impacted by a project
- Traffic Impact Analysis – how many additional vehicle trips would result from a project's approval

Carbon Impact Statement would be similar, but different.



# Research and Examples

## Examples

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Evaluating GHG emissions as Part of California's Environmental Review Process
- City of San Francisco Greenhouse Gas Environmental Impact Statement
- Hestia Project – Arizona State University
- Fort Collins Sustainability Assessment Tool

## Lessons Learned

- Has to be considered early in the process to have impact
- Must involve project sponsors, people who can influence the project's choices





# Research and Examples

## Texas State Class: Draft #1

**Austin Climate Action Plan  
Carbon Impact Statement**

Project: [project name here]

Construction Phase		Operation Phase	
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Waste & Wastewater	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Waste & Wastewater	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial Process Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial Process Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use / Forestry / Ag.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use / Forestry / Ag	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Green Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Green Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Sequestration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sequestration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

## Design Considerations


- Goals: Easy to use and understand, as objective as possible, advisory in nature
- What timeline does it cover?
- Which sectors of emissions are included?



# Research and Examples

Texas State Class:

Draft #2



## Carbon Impact Statement

C14-2015-0043-Shady Lane Mixed Use-District 13

**Project:**

Options	CIS Score
	[A] [B] [C] [D] [E]
A. Large Road and building	4 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
B. Large road med bldg	
C. Mixed use	
D. Smaller building	
E. Building Plus park	

	Construction Phase			Operation Phase				
	-1	0	1	-1	0	1		
A.	Transportation	Red	White	White	Transportation	Red	White	White
	Energy	Red	White	White	Energy	Red	White	White
	Land Use	Red	White	White	Land Use	Red	White	White
B.	Transportation	Red	White	White	Transportation	White	White	Green
	Energy	Red	White	White	Energy	Red	White	White
	Land Use	Red	White	White	Land Use	Red	White	White
C.	Transportation	White	White	Green	Transportation	Red	White	White
	Energy	Red	White	White	Energy	White	White	Green
	Land Use	White	Yellow	White	Land Use	White	Yellow	White
D.	Transportation	White	Yellow	White	Transportation	White	White	Green
	Energy	Red	White	White	Energy	White	White	Green
	Land Use	White	White	Green	Land Use	White	White	Green
E.	Transportation	Red	White	White	Transportation	White	White	Green
	Energy	White	White	Green	Energy	White	Yellow	White
	Land Use	White	White	Green	Land Use	White	White	Green

**Additional Notes:**  
(recommended talking points - Imagine Austin 8 Priority Programs)

This project has a direct and positive impact toward a compact and connected Austin.

This project has a negative impact on household affordability in Austin.

Options C & D have a very positive impact on the use of green infrastructure.

## Process Considerations

- Who is responsible for filling it out?
- How will it be communicated to City Council with projects/policies?
- How to measure impact/usefulness?



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# Next Steps

## Continued Internal Discussions

- Analyze concept and refine criteria
- Set thresholds
- Resources, roles, and responsibilities
- Revise and update to a clean first draft

## Future: External Input and Review

- Boards and Commissions
- Affected groups

## Pilot Process





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## Discussion



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