

# Austin Community Climate Plan: Carbon Impact Statement

Joint Sustainability Committee | 8.23.17

# Agenda

- I. Review from November
- II. Staff Process
- III. Proposed Pilot
- IV. Carbon Impact Statement
- V. Next Steps



# Review from November



## Austin COMMUNITY CLIMATE PLAN 2015



- 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.”



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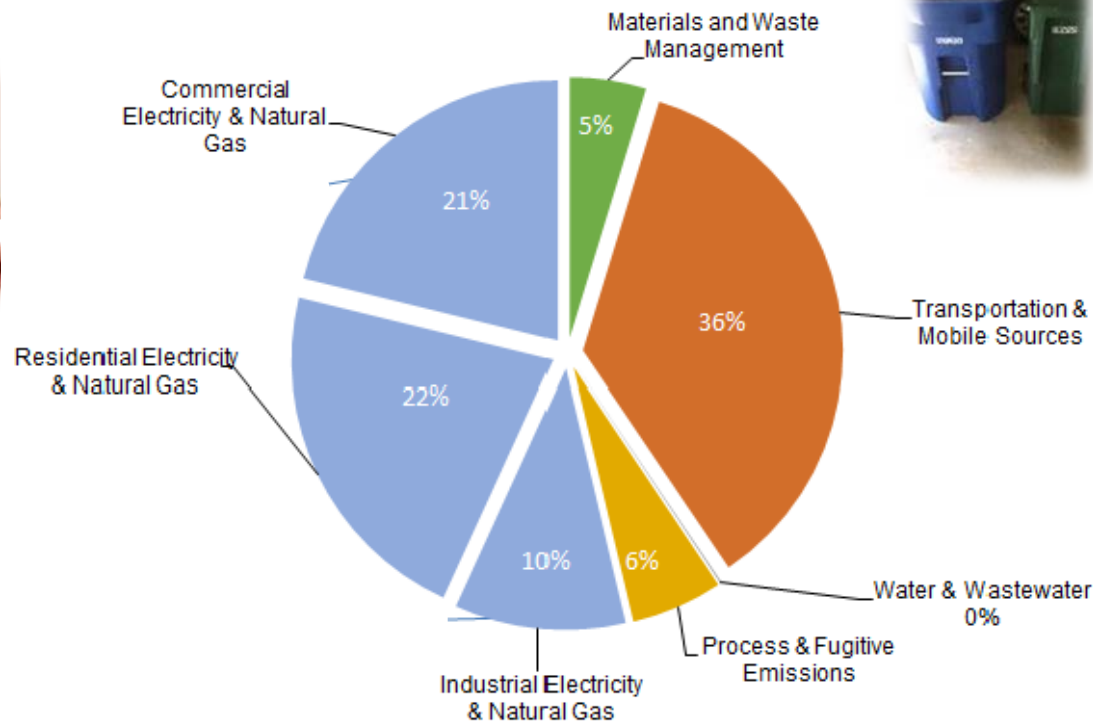
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# Review from November

What activities in the city have major carbon impacts?

## 2013 Austin Community Carbon Footprint



# Review from November

## 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 (possibly changing w/CodeNEXT)

## Carbon Impact Statement

- accompany other backup materials to inform Council how decisions relate to carbon impacts and the city's adopted long-term goals
- ties back to an adopted policy of net-zero emissions – like the Imagine Austin review of some zoning cases



# Review from November

## 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 – all rezoning requests
- Arizona State University - Hestia Project
- 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



# Proposed Pilot

## Carbon Impacts of Development

- WHERE development happens
  - Location drives automobile dependency
- HOW the development is designed
  - Long term impacts on energy, water use
- WHAT is included in the development
  - A mix of uses enables access to goods/services



# Proposed Pilot

## Audiences

- Mayor/Council and Council staff
- Boards and Commissions
- Development community
- Public

## Outcomes

- Better inform applicants, the community, and City Council about the carbon impact of agenda items, specifically redevelopment proposals
- Council may consider relative carbon impacts when deliberating their decisions, have the option to continue to work with applicants on projects
- Over time, drive positive changes in project proposals toward lower carbon options





# Proposed Pilot

## 6-12 month pilot

- Work with willing developers on planned unit developments (PUDs)
  - PUDs provide opportunity to include community benefits, demonstrate “superiority”
  - Timing of what’s known at time of application
- Process
  - PUD applicants will fill out the form with available information, Office of Sustainability staff will work with the zoning case manager to verify the information as documented
  - Form will be included in backup materials as additional information for Boards and Commissions, City Council to consider



# Carbon Impact Statement



## Carbon Impact Statement

Project:

Scoring Guide:

0-5: Business as usual

6-9: Some positive actions

10-14: Demonstrated leadership



	Response: Y=1, N=0	Documentation: Y/N
<b><u>Transportation</u></b>		
T1: Public Transit Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T2: Bicycle Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T3: Walkability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T4: Utilize TDM Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T5: Electric Vehicle Charging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T6: Maximize Parking Reductions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Water + Energy</u></b>		
WE1: Green Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WE2: Reclaimed Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WE3: Onsite Solar Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Land Use</u></b>		
LU1: Imagine Austin Activity Center or Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LU2: Floor-to-Area Ratio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LU3: Infill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Food</u></b>		
F1: Access to Food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Materials</u></b>		
M1: Adaptive Reuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total Score:</b>		

Notes:

Brief description of project

Further explanation of score and what it means

- Scorecard with simple point system
- As objective as possible, relying on existing ratings systems, plans, and processes
- Solely advisory in nature



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# Carbon Impact Statement

T1. Is the property within ¼ mile of rapid or frequent public transit options, where a completed sidewalk and/or dedicated bike facility connects the property to the public transit facility?

T2. Is the property within ¼ mile of an "all ages and abilities bicycle facility" as listed in the Austin Bicycle Master Plan?

T3. Is the property location "very walkable" with a minimum Walk Score of 70, or will the project include at least three new community services/amenities?

T4. Does the project utilize two or more of the following Transportation Demand Management strategies: unbundling parking costs from cost of housing/office space, providing shower facilities, providing secured and covered bicycle storage, and/or providing 2+ car sharing parking spaces for City-approved car share programs?

T5. Will the project include electric vehicle charging infrastructure for 1% of the total number of parking spaces built?

T6. Does the project utilize existing parking reductions in code to provide less than the minimum number of parking spaces required under current code by demonstrating superiority?

WE1. Does the project have a signed letter of intent with Austin Energy Green Building stating it will be a minimum 3-star Green Building project or proof of project registration for LEED?

WE2. Will the project include one or more of the following reclaimed water systems such as: large scale cisterns, onsite grey or blackwater treatment and reuse, or utilization of Austin Water Utility's auxiliary water system?

WE3. Will the project include onsite solar energy production?

LU1. Is the proposed project location in a defined Imagine Austin activity center or corridor?

LU2. If located in an Imagine Austin activity center or corridor, will the proposed project use at least 90% of its entitled amount of floor-to-area ratio?

LU3. If located outside of an Imagine Austin activity center or corridor, is the property an infill site (i.e. not a greenfield site) that will be used for redevelopment?

F1. Will the project include a healthy food retail location onsite, or is it located within 1 mile of a healthy food retail location?

M1. Will the project include adaptive reuse of an existing building onsite or significant use of recycled materials?

- Applicant to fill out and self-report, city staff to review and verify before adding as Council backup
- Attached to meeting backup documents



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# Next Steps

1. Apply this version on a current project
2. Work with new PUD applicants to utilize the form over the next 6 months, gather feedback and learn from the process
3. Assess whether to apply the form to other Council decisions, pause on use of the form, or decide another avenue forward.





# Discussion



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