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# 2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

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# Thank you for having us

- We've been revising the Community Climate Plan
  - First Draft Recommendations out now
  - Draft for Public Comment in August
  - Council in October
- We're looking for your:
  - Comments
  - Areas of Interest
  - Pledge of Support



# There is an opportunity in this moment

Convergence driving Change

COVID-19 → Economic Devastation

Black Lives Matter

Climate Change

What people actually want:

- Good jobs and training for new industries
- To be healthy
- Safety in all places for all
- Vibrant community
- Clean environment

*Existing Initiatives moving in this direction:*

- *Austin Civilian Conservation Corps*
- *Green Jobs Grants*

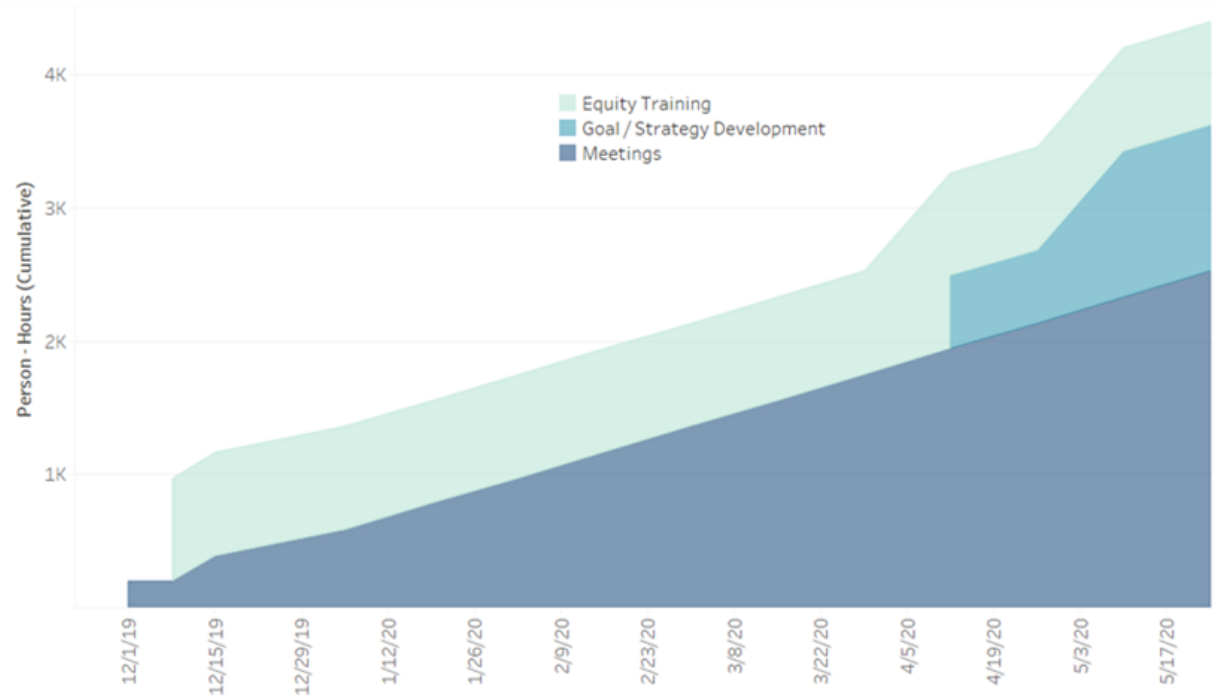
“The pandemic” is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.

- Arundhati Roy

# How was this plan created?

- 24 City Staff
  - 120 Community Members (NGO, Govt, Business)
  - 12 Ambassadors
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- 4 Equity Trainings
  - 5 Community Workshops (over 250 attendees)
  - 14 Steering Committee Meetings
  - 60+ Advisory Group Meetings
  - 50+ Interviews by Ambassadors



# Steering Committee Members

## Co-Chairs

Mayuri Raja, AZAAD, Google

Shane Johnson, Sierra Club

Katie Coyne, Asakura Robinson

Susana Almanza, PODER

Joep Meijer, Citizen

Jim Walker, Univ. of Texas

Rocio Villalobos, Equity Office

Drew Nelson, Mitchell Foundation

Rodrigo Leal, Navigant Consulting

Rene Renteria, Citizen

Kaiba White, Public Citizen

Lauren Peressini, Sunrise Movement

Shawanda Stewart, Huston-Tillotson Univ.

Kenneth Thompson, Solar Austin

Ben Leibowicz, Univ. of Texas

Suzanne Russo, Pecan Street Inc.

Pooja Sethi, Sethi Law

Darien Clary, AISD

Alberta Phillips, Joint Sustainability Committee, ECHO

Also: Nakia Winfield, Brandi Clark Burton, Kurt Stogdill

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# 2015 Community Climate Plan

## Adopted by Council in June 2015



**Austin** COMMUNITY  
2015  
CLIMATE PLAN



**2017 Travis County Carbon Footprint**  
12.5 million metric tons carbon dioxide-equivalent



Electricity & Natural Gas

Transportation & Land Use

Materials & Waste  
Management

Industrial Processes

**135**  
*qualitative  
actions  
directed at  
departments*

# Our Commitment to Climate Equity

## Climate Change

**Eliminate the use of fossil fuels for energy & transportation**

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Less dependence on cars
- Electric vehicles
- More trees & natural spaces
- Healthier consumer choices

**Health**

**Affordability**

**Accessibility**

**Cultural Preservation**

**Community Capacity**

**Just Transition**

**Accountability**

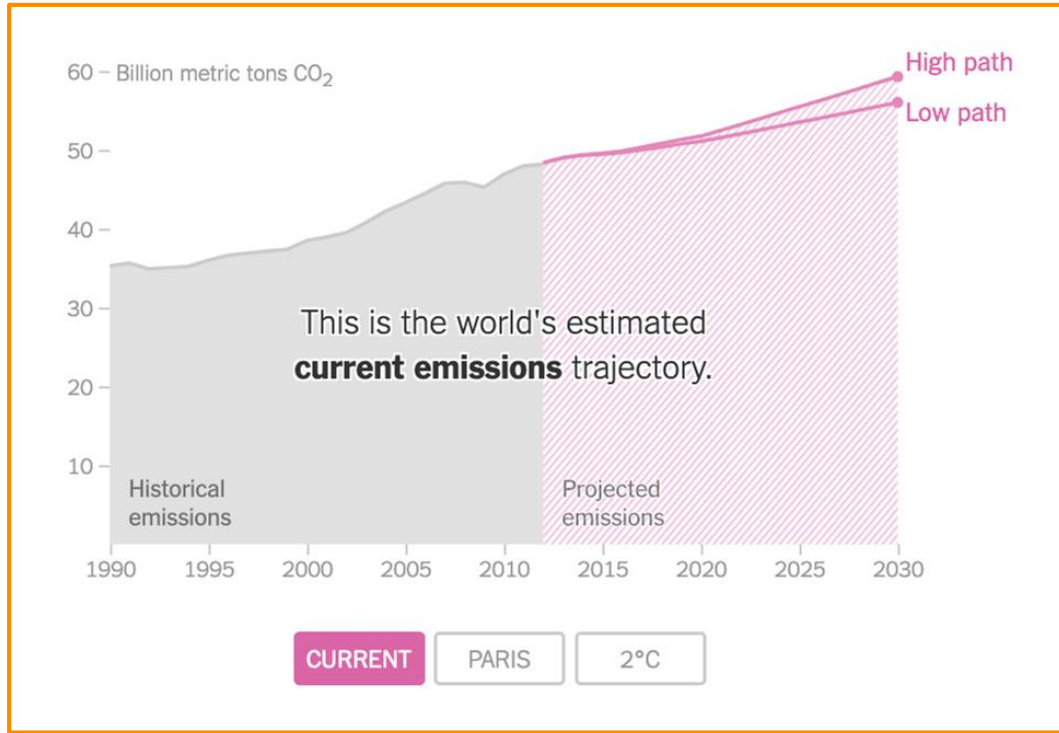
## Racial Equity

**Eliminate disparities that can be predicted by race**

- Safety for all at all times
- No disproportionate economic outcomes
- Fair access to services for all
- Inclusive participation in our city
- Positive health outcomes for all
- Embrace culture & difference

***If we're not proactively addressing equity, we're perpetuating injustice***

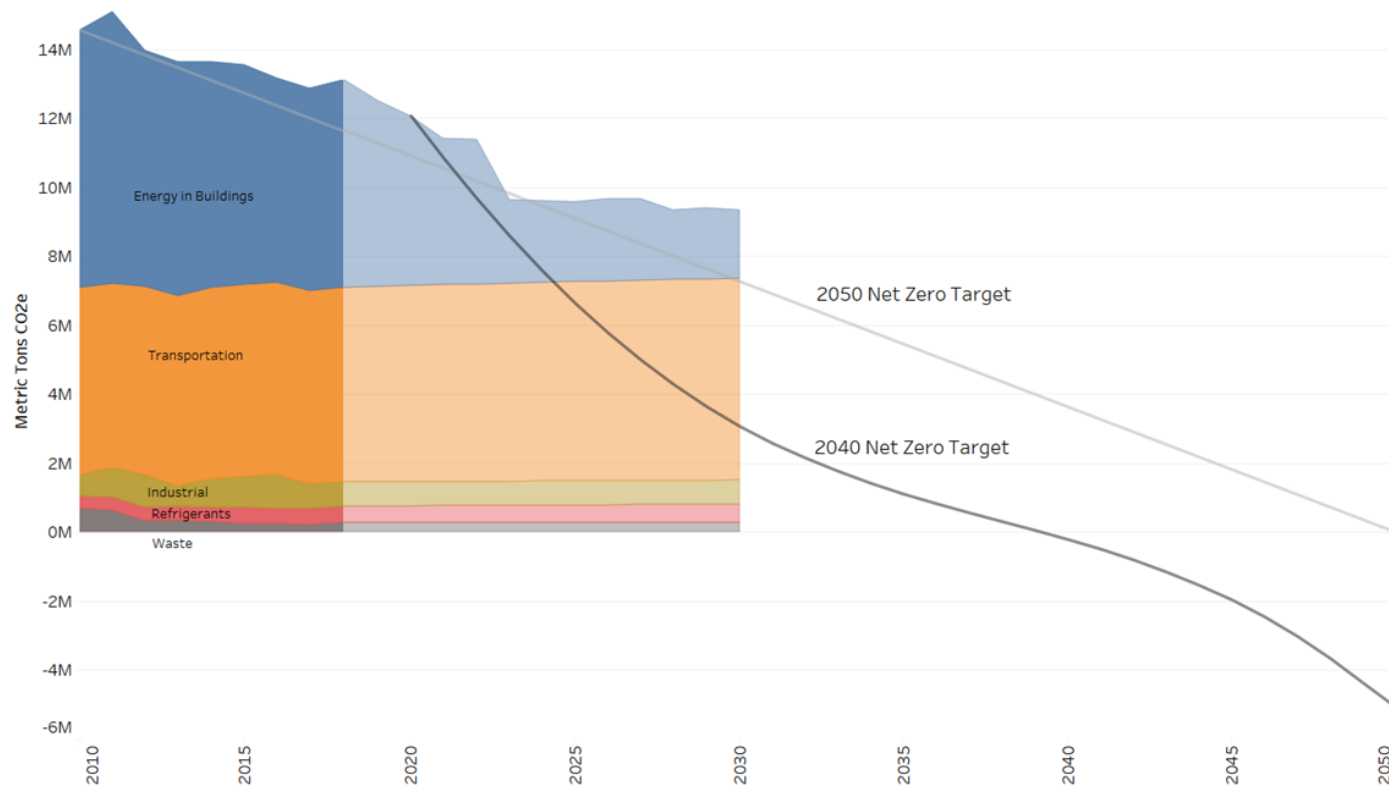
# We are Changing the Earth's Climate



*Warming over  
2°C could be  
catastrophic to  
life on earth*



# Net-zero by 2050 → Net-zero by 2040



# A Plan Among Plans

## 5 Plan Sections:

- Sustainable Buildings
- Transportation Electrification
- Transportation & Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Consumption



# Equity Process for Advisory Groups



# Evaluating Equity

*Our strategies must prioritize low income communities and communities of color in these ways:*

**Health** — Improving mental and physical health.

**Affordability** — Lowering and stabilizing living costs.

**Accessibility** — Increasing access to opportunities, transportation and a healthy environment.

**Just Transition** — Ensuring that benefits reach these communities first.

**Community Capacity** — Elevating and strengthening community skills, abilities and resources.

**Cultural Preservation** — Deliberately honoring cultural history to maintain past and present heritage.

**Accountability** — Ensuring government and institutional accountability for equitable implementation.

# Equity-focused Engagement

## Community Climate Ambassadors



# Draft Goals & Strategies

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# Summary

18 Goals - What needs to be accomplished by 2030 to keep us on track

75 Strategies - What should be implemented in the next 5 years to make progress

## Centered on Equity Throughout

- Prioritize incentives and target communications towards low income communities and communities of color
- Specific focus on Anti-Displacement
- Focus on a Just Transition (training and jobs) for new industries and technology
- Prioritize Health benefits for the Eastern Crescent
- Center communities of color in ongoing learning and studies

# Sustainable Buildings

**Goal 1: By 2030, 25% of existing buildings and all new buildings will be net zero operational carbon, and greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas sector in the Austin Area will be reduced by 50%, while keeping total energy costs affordable for all residents in the city.**

- Ensure benefits flow to under-resourced communities
- Enhance accessibility of energy information and understanding
- New energy building codes and full electrification of buildings
- Equitable workforce development for emerging technologies
- Natural gas emissions reduction

**Goal 2: By 2030, reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerant leakage by 25%.**

- Old refrigerant destruction
- Building codes for no and low GWP refrigerants
- Commercial leak reduction and repair
- Awareness and training for HVAC service providers

**Goal 3: By 2030, reduce embodied carbon footprint of building materials used in local construction by 40% from a 2020 baseline.**

- City design and construction standards
- Incentivize through PUDs and AE Green Building Standard
- Partnerships to decarbonize high-impact materials
- Equitable stakeholder education and outreach

**Goal 4: By 2030, equitably reduce water demand by XX,XXX acre-feet of water per year.**



# Transportation and Land Use

**Goal 1: By 2030, 80% of new non-residential development is located within the city's growth centers and corridors**

- Future Development
- Employers
- Community Hubs
- Parking

**Goal 2: By 2030, 70% of new housing units are located within the city's growth centers and corridors while preserving 10,000 deeply affordable housing units and producing 1,000 deeply affordable units.**

- Immediate Assistance
- Fund Affordable Housing
- Engagement

**Goal 3: By 2030, Public Transit will make up 5% (up from .3% in 2018) of distance traveled for all trips in Austin.**

- Public Transportation
- Free Transportation
- Transit Stations and Stops

**Goal 4: By 2030, people-powered transportation (bicycle, walking, wheelchairs, strollers, etc.) will make up 4% of distance traveled for all trips in Austin.**

- Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Education
- Sidewalks, Urban Trails and Crossings

# Transportation Electrification

**Goal 1: By 2030, 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the City of Austin are electrified and electric vehicle ownership is diverse culturally, geographically and economically. This translates to approximately 460,000 electric vehicles on the road.**

- Electric Vehicle Community Needs Assessment
- Equitable Incentives for Purchasing and Leasing Private EVs
- Reduced Tolls for Eastern Crescent EVs
- Electrified Bike + Car Sharing + Transit
- Public Sector Fleet Electrification
- Private Fleet Electrification

**Goal 2: By 2030, Austin has compelling and equitably-distributed charging infrastructure that is a mix of level 1, 2, and DC fast charging to accommodate 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the city. This translates to 226 megawatts of electrical load and could mean over 37,000 charging ports.**

- Low-cost Accessible Charging Network for all
- Intelligent Internet-Connected Charging
- Energy and Building Codes
- Culturally Competent Outreach

**Goal 3: The Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA will be a global leader in transportation electrification by adopting policies and technologies that maximize the economic and health benefits for all while evolving with and defining the growth of this emerging industry.**

- Regional Coalition
- Piloting New Technology
- Just Transition for Workforce
- Local Business Ecosystem

# Food and Product Consumption

**Goal 1: By 2030, ensure 100% of Austinites, with a focus on the food insecure, can access a pro-climate, pro-health food system that is community-driven, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-based over animal-based foods and minimizes food waste.**

- Pro-Climate, Pro-Health Institutional and Corporate Food Procurement
- Provide Equitably Allocated Funding for Community-Driven Pro-Climate, Pro-Health Foods
- Incentivize Affordable and Culturally Relevant Food Choices
- Engage and Empower Individual Pro-Climate, Pro-Health Food Choices
- Conduct Food Waste Root Cause Analysis

**Goal 2: By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing by at least 50%.**

- Measurement and Metrics
- City of Austin Sustainable Purchasing
- Non-City Purchasing Standards/Guidelines
- Sustainable Purchasing Network
- Expand Circular Economy Program

**Goal 3: By 2030, Austin will meet the percent reduction target\* in the community-wide per capita disposal rate goal identified in Austin Resource Recovery's Zero Waste Master Plan.**

- Consumer Awareness
- Eco-hubs
- Workforce Development
- Financial Incentives
- Bulky Item Reuse

# Natural Systems

**Goal 1: By 2030, Legally protect at least 40,000 acres of carbon pools on natural lands and manage with a focus on resilience.**

- Protect Natural Lands
- Manage Natural Lands for Resilience
- Provide Community Access to Natural Lands
- Protecting Water Sources

**Goal 2: By 2030, Protect 500,000 acres of farmland in the 5-county region through legal protections and/or regenerative agriculture programs.**

- Protection of Working Lands
- Reform Agricultural Tax Appraisals
- Support Farmers via Financial Assistance & Resources
- City Compost
- Workforce Development

**Goal 3: Achieve 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050, with a focus on increasing canopy cover in areas where coverage is lower than average.**

- No Net Tree Canopy Loss
- Tree Protections and Landscape Regulations
- Community Tree Planting
- Promote Tree Health and Resilience on Private Properties

**Goal 4: By 2030, Include all City-owned lands under a management plan that result in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximize community co-benefits.**

- Priorities
- Reclaiming Public Space
- Community Stewardship
- Carbon Farming

# Schedule

**Aug**

Boards & Commissions +  
Public Comment Period

**Sept**

Public Comment and Revisions

**Oct**

Finalize and present to council



# Thank you!

email:

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More information:

- [austintexas.gov/climateplan](https://austintexas.gov/climateplan)
  - [SpeakUp Austin!](#)
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