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# 2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

August 2020

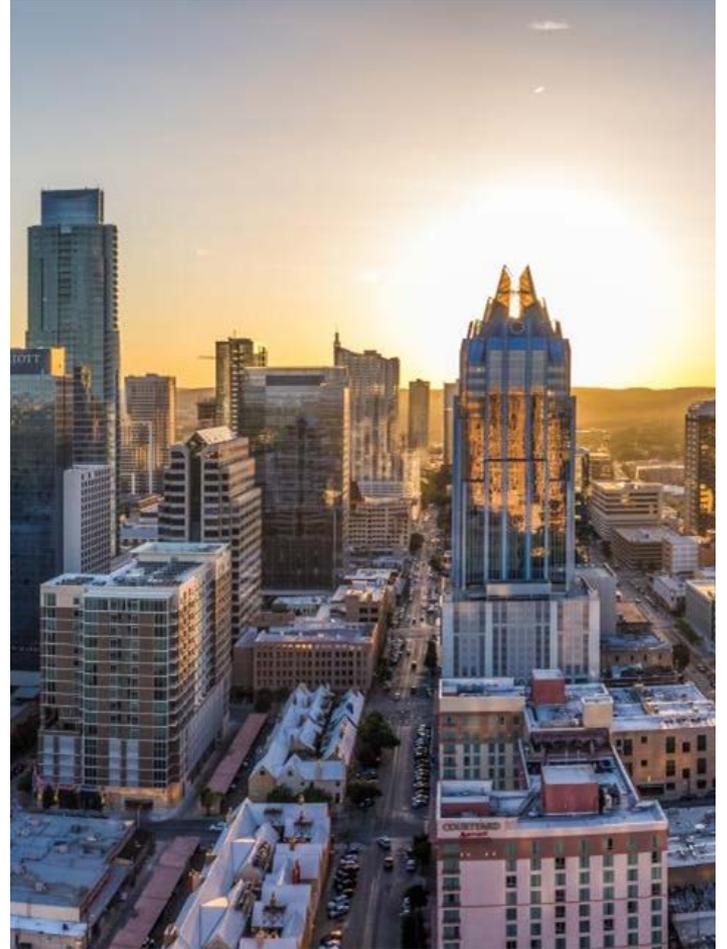


OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

# Thank you for having us!

- We've been updating the Community Climate Plan
  - First draft has been internally reviewed
  - Draft for public comment coming out this week – full and summary documents.
  - Council in October
- What we're looking for from you:
  - Comments
  - Areas of Interest
  - Pledge of Support



# 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

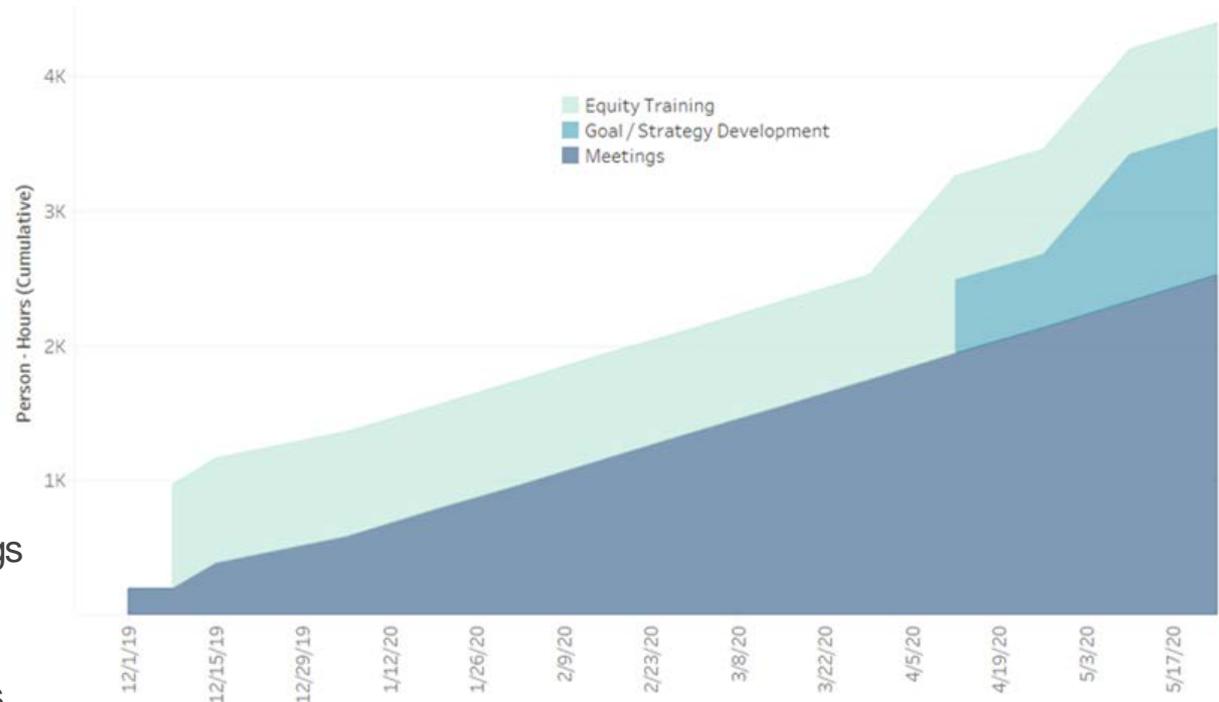
Materials & Waste  
Management

Industrial Processes

*135  
qualitative  
actions  
directed at  
departments*

# How was this plan Revision created?

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



# 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

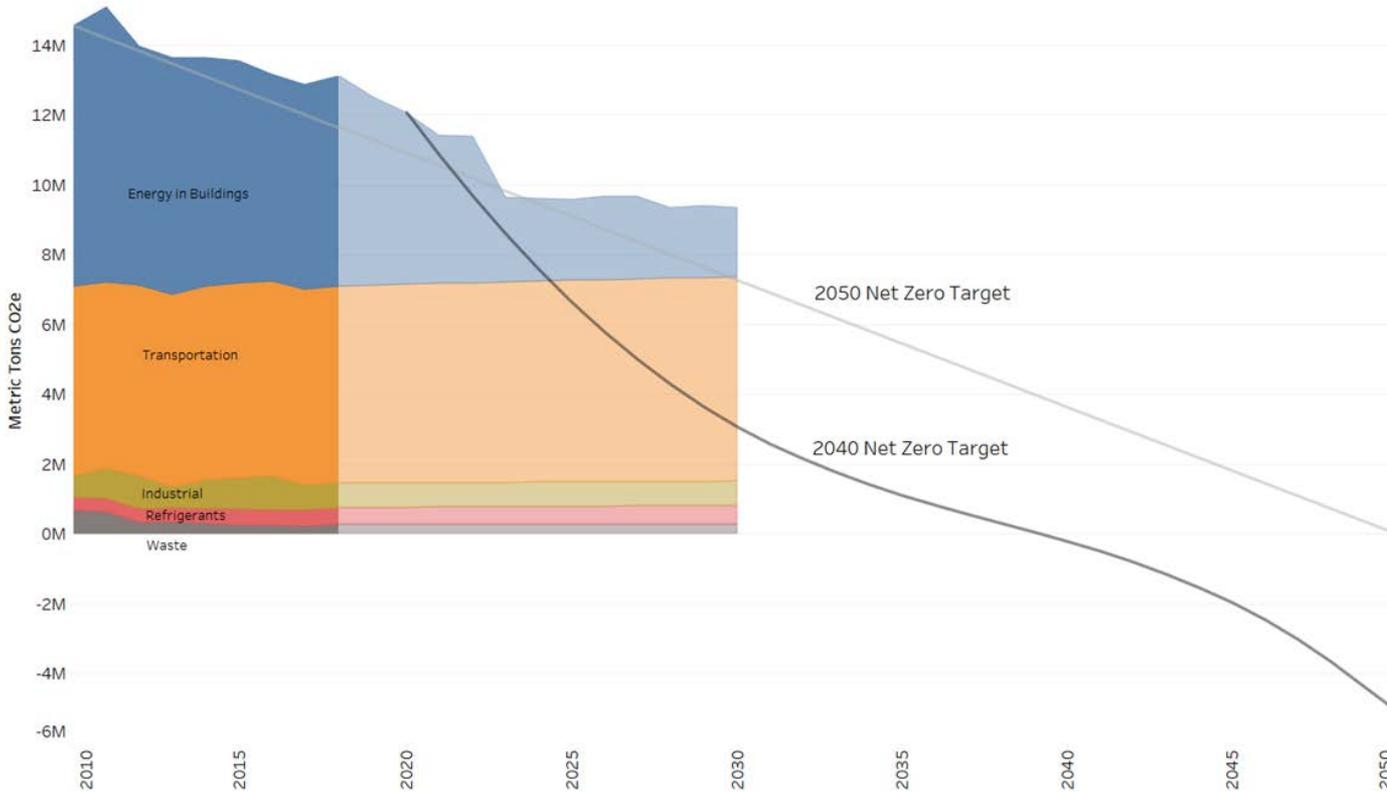
## Racial Equity

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*

# Net-zero by 2050 → Net-zero by 2040



## 5 Plan Sections:

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



# Equity Process for Advisory Groups



# 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 and other benefits for the Eastern Crescent
- Center communities of color in ongoing learning and studies

# Sustainable Buildings

**GOAL 1: By 2030, decarbonize buildings and reduce energy burden by achieving net-zero carbon\* for 100% of new and 25% of existing buildings, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas sector by 50% in Austin.**

- Ensure benefits flow to low income communities and communities of color
- Enhance understanding of energy consumption
- Decarbonize buildings
- Ensure equitable workforce development for emerging technologies

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

- Capture and destroy old refrigerants
- Improve building codes to encourage cleaner refrigerants
- Create incentives for leak detection and repair
- Awareness and training for HVAC service providers
- Reduce the volume of refrigerants

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

- Lead by example through design and construction standards
- Incentivize lower-carbon materials
- Educate stakeholders on materials best practices

**GOAL 4: By 2030, equitably achieve a community-wide water demand of 152,000 acre-feet per year.**

- Engage residents in technological transitions and conservation programs
- Evaluate program participation criteria
- Reduce emissions at the water-energy nexus

# Transportation and Land Use

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

- Plan for Complete Communities
- Work with employers on location and amenities
- Create mobility hubs
- Phase out free 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.**

- Offer Immediate Affordable Housing Assistance
- Fund Affordable Housing
- Enhance community engagement for affordable housing

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

- Expand and Improve Public Transportation
- Promote Free Transportation Options
- 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.**

- Prioritize Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Education and Training
- 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.**

- Conduct an EV Community Needs Assessment
- Create Equitable Incentives for Buying and Leasing EVs
- Reduce Tolls for EV's in the Eastern Crescent
- Launch an e-Bike + Electric Car Sharing Program
- Electrify Public Sector Fleet Vehicles
- Electrify Private Sector Fleet Vehicles

**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.**

- Create a Network of Low-cost, Accessible Charging Stations
- Incentivize Internet-Connected Smart Charging
- Adopt New Energy and Building Codes
- Expand Outreach to Underserved Groups

**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.**

- Create a Regional Coalition to Support EV's
- Pilot and Adopt New Technology
- Prioritize a Just Transition
- Expand the EV-related 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.**

- Support institutional food purchasing
- Promote and fund community-driven food retail programs
- Incentivize pro-health, pro-climate food choices
- Conduct a food waste root cause analysis

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

- Measure institutional lifecycle emissions
- Strengthen the City's sustainable purchasing program
- Strengthen non-City institutional purchasing programs
- Expand the City's Circular Economy Program

**Goal 3: Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting and recycling to achieve a new overall zero waste goal pending adoption of a new Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Plan. The new community-wide per capita disposal rate goal will be added as an amendment to the Climate Equity Plan by June 2021.**

- Promote Reuse
- Create Eco-Hubs
- Create a workforce development program for the circular economy
- Offer incentives for products that have lower negative environmental and social impact
- Retool the bulk pick-up collection program

# Natural Systems



Natural Lands

Working (Agricultural) Lands

Urban Forest / Tree Canopy

Urban Public Lands (mostly Parks)

**PARD Representation in AG:**

- Amanda Ross, Lisa Storer, Matt McCaw

**PARD Contributors:**

- Justin Steward, Steven Linett, Christine Chute Canul, Randy Scott, Tom Rowlin

# Natural Systems

Goal 1: By 2030, legally *protect an additional 20,000 acres* of carbon pools on natural lands and *manage all new and existing natural areas* (approximately 70,000 acres total) with a focus on resilience.

## Strategies:

- Protect Additional Natural Lands
- Manage Natural Lands for Resilience
- Increase Community Access and Positive Perceptions of Public Land
- Protect Water Sources

## PARC Connections:

- Applies mostly to preserve lands.
- Recommendations related to land acquisition, prioritization, and management.
- Recommendation for inclusive accessibility and programming.

# Natural Systems

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

## Strategies:

- Protect Working Lands
- Reform Agricultural Tax Appraisals
- Support Farmers Through Financial Assistance
- Provide Farmers with Resources
- Expand Composting
- Workforce Development for Farmers

## PARD Connections:

- Explores using public lands for agricultural incubator programs or leasing to pro-profit farming operations.
- May require update to ordinance that prohibits people from profiting off parks

# Natural Systems

Goal 3: Achieve at least 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050, with a focus on increasing canopy cover equitably.

## Strategies:

- Canopy Cover on City Lands
- Tree Protections and Landscape Regulations
- Community Tree Planting
- Promote Tree Health and Resilience on Private and Non-City Public Lands

## PARC Connections:

- “No net loss” policy for City lands (require tree canopy replacement, on- or off-site).
- Require more tree planting in parkland dedications.

# Natural Systems

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

## Strategies:

- Prioritize Carbon Neutrality for Public Lands
- Reclaim Public Space
- Promote Community Stewardship
- Promote Carbon Farming

## PARC Connections:

- Carbon-neutrality in land management and maintenance.
- Sustainable SITES certification, as feasible.
- Supports landscape conversions and Green Infrastructure.
- Multiple recommendations around specific community stewardship opportunities.
- Carbon farming in community gardens.

# Schedule

Aug

Boards & Commissions +  
Public Comment Period

Sept

Public Comment and Revisions

Oct

Finalize and present to council



# Thank you!

## Contact:

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Office of Sustainability

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## More information:

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