
2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

September 2020

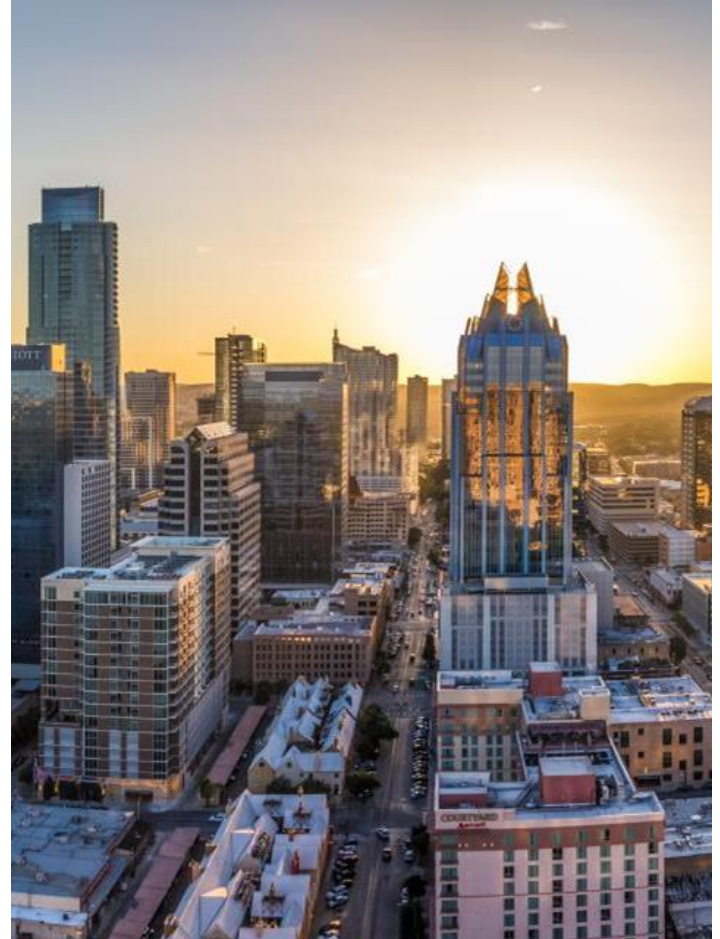


OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Summary

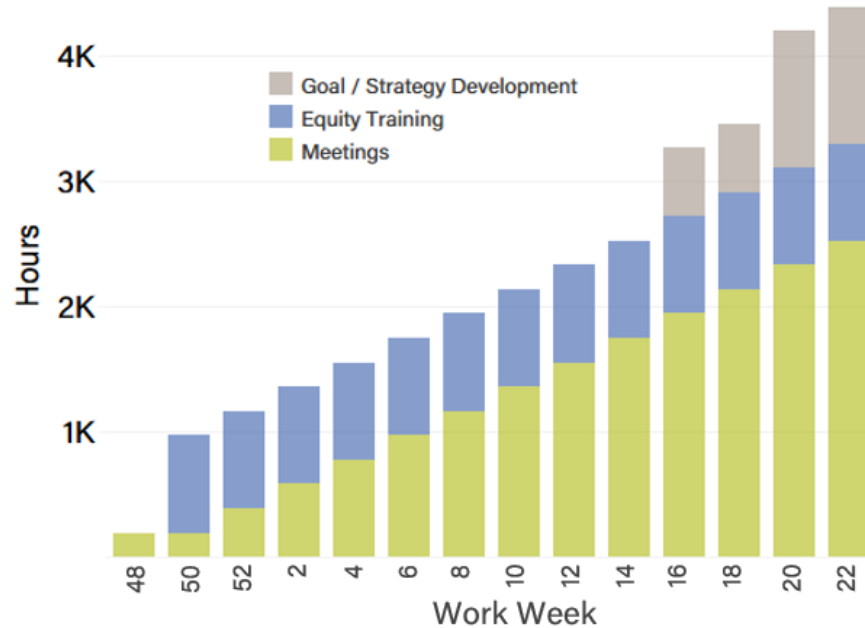
- We've been updating the Community Climate Plan
 - Draft for public comment out until September 30
 - Council likely November 12
- What we're looking for from you:
 - Comments
 - Areas of Interest
 - Pledge of Support



How was this plan update created?

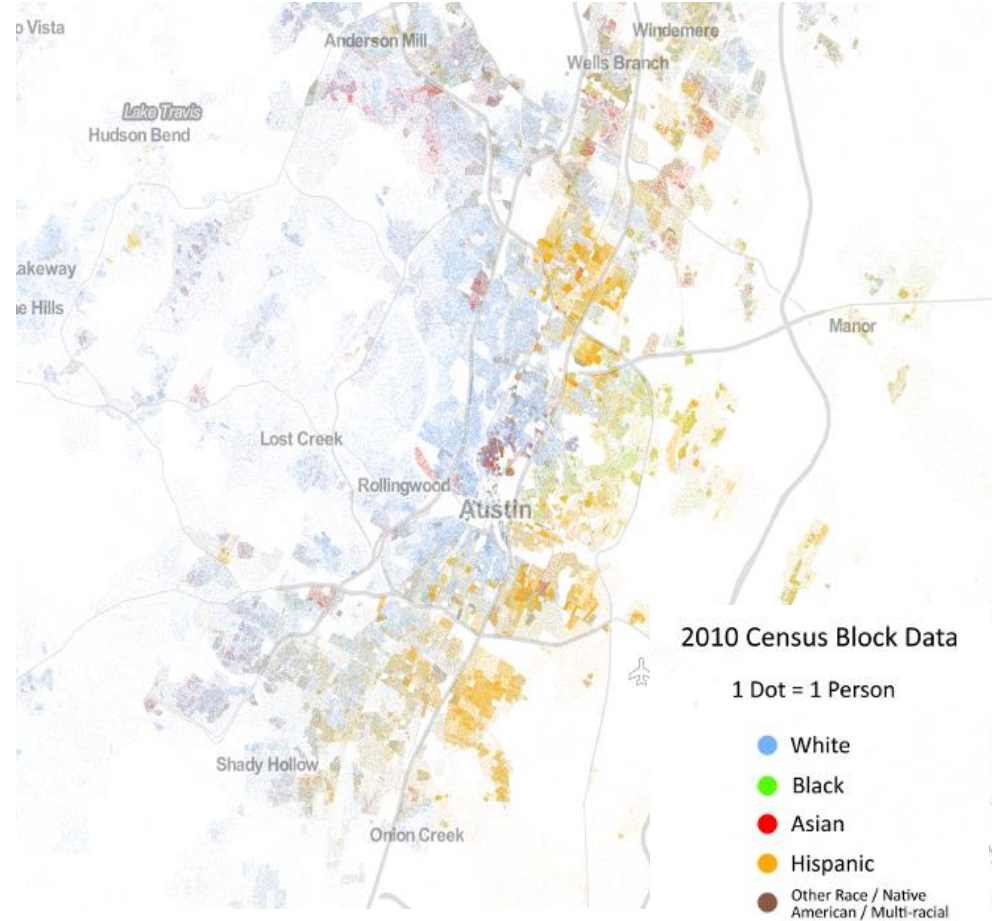
- 24 City Staff
- 120 Community Members
(NGO, Govt., Business)
- 12 Ambassadors
- 4 Equity Trainings
- 5 Community Workshops (over 250 attendees)
- 14 Steering Committee Meetings
- 60+ Advisory Group Meetings
- 50+ Interviews by Ambassadors

Stakeholder Time Commitment

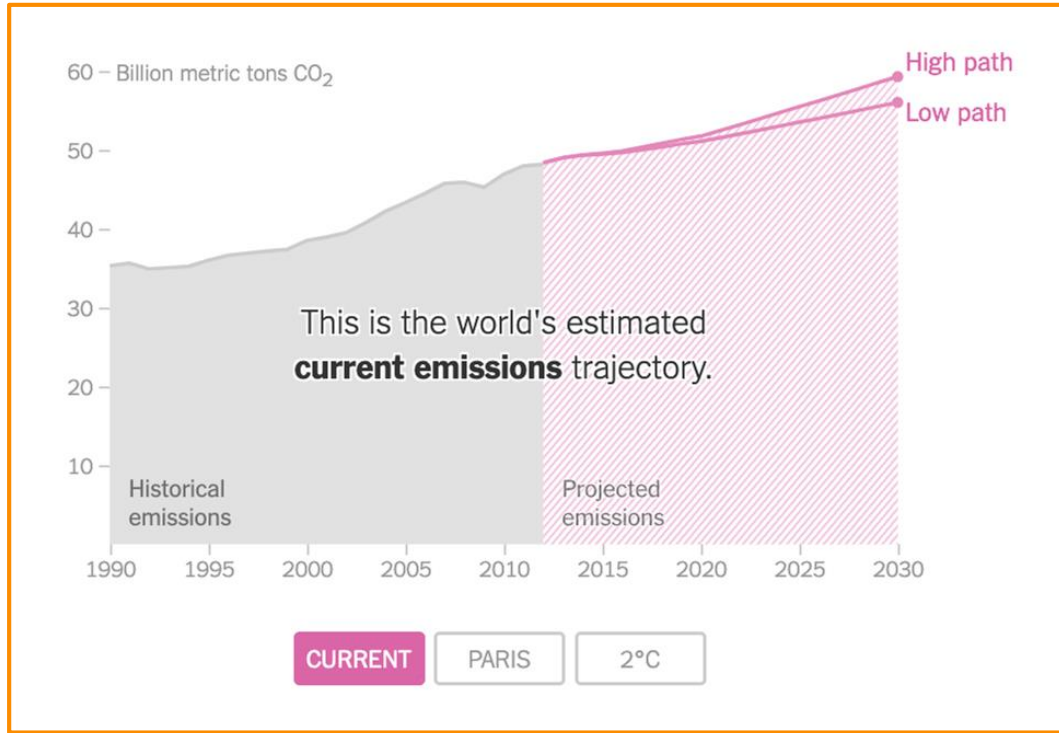


A History of Inequities that Remains Today

- The Austin 1928 Master Plan divided the city along racial lines, forcibly displacing Black residents into specific, undesirable areas.
- The Tank Farm fuel storage facility, Eastside Landfill, and the Holly Power Plant exposed people of color to toxic pollution in East Austin neighborhoods.
- Gentrification is taking place in parts of the city where low-income people and people of color have been forced to live, the African-American share of the Austin population declined from 12% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2010.
- As of 2015, 52% of white Austin residents were homeowners, only 27% of African-American and 32% of Hispanic/Latinx residents owned homes.
- Cases of COVID-19, hospitalization and mortality rates are disproportionately affecting Latinx and Black communities



We are Changing the Earth's Climate



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

Climate Projections for Austin

- Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate hazards
 - Experience climate shocks on top of existing economic stressors
 - Have less resources to bounce back from event
 - Suffer long-term impacts to mental and physical health



HIGHER TEMPERATURES



EXTENDED PERIODS OF DROUGHT



INCREASED RISK OF WILDFIRE



INTENSE RAIN AND FLOODING

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

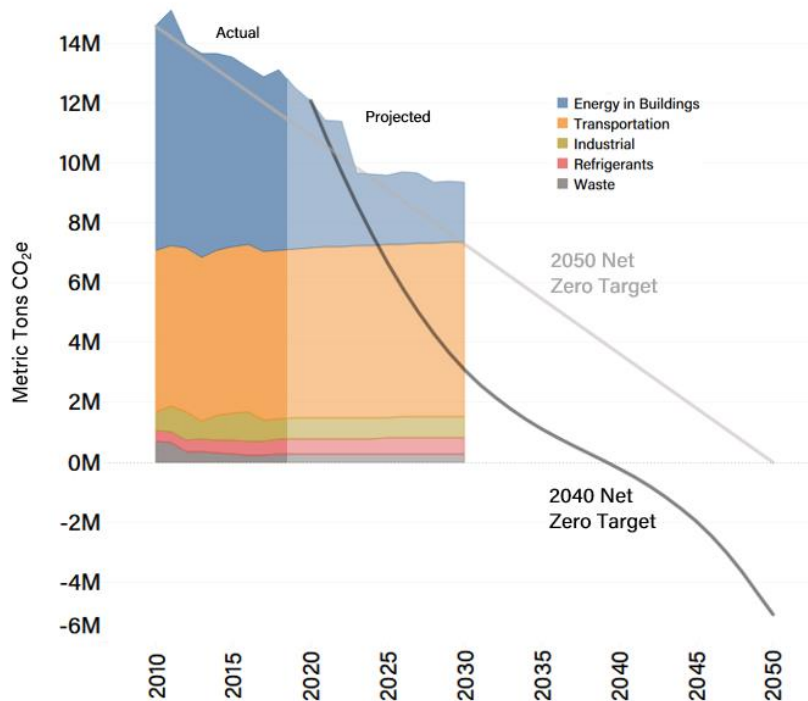
Eliminate disparities that can be predicted by race

- 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

Austin Community GHG Emissions



The updated Net-zero by 2040 target has a more aggressive emissions reduction target than the previous Net-zero by 2050 target

A Plan Among Plans

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

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

Food and Product Consumption

Production ►



◀ Consumption

AG participants



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.

Strategies:

- 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

Equity Highlights:

- Focuses on food insecurity and promoting affordable, culturally-relevant food
- Supports local businesses
- Provides employment opportunities for low-income communities and communities of color

Natural Systems



AG participants



TBG

THE
CONSERVATION FUND



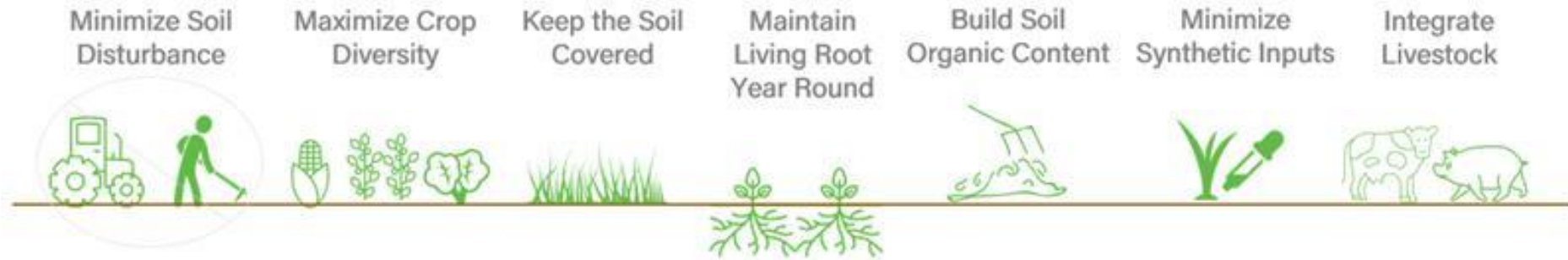
ASAKURA
ROBINSON



TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

Natural Systems

Regenerative Agriculture



Key Outcomes

- Improved soil health and nutrients
- Increased biodiversity
- Economic and climate resilience
- Reduced contaminants in water runoff
- Increased carbon sequestration
- Improved animal, worker, and community well-being

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
- Offer workforce development for farmers

Equity Highlights:

- Improves health outcomes and benefits low-income communities in and around agricultural lands by removing pollutants through use of regenerative practices
- Supports social and economic community resilience through local food production

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

Equity Highlights:

- Provides health and cultural benefits through access to green space
- Increases cultural relevancy of green spaces
- Offers programs that allow community members to benefit from stewardship of public lands and centers community values

Thank you!



More information:

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