
Austin Climate Equity Plan

Implementation

12/6/21

Agenda

Plan Adoption and Resolution 110

Moving Forward

Next Steps

September 30 - Resolution 99

Adopted 10-1

Approve the adoption of the Austin Climate Equity Plan, which sets a new community-wide goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, using a steep decline path followed by negative emissions.

September 30 - Resolution 110

<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=368416>

By Nov 1 (*requested extension to Jan 1*)

- Identify and clearly define leadership responsibilities over the implementation of the plan and more generally over the climate emergency and sustainability efforts of the city government

Quarterly updates during work sessions

- January
- April
- July
- October

Resolution 110 - Action Items (2)

Identify recommendations included in the 2021 Climate Equity Plan that may be brought forward as a **midyear budget amendment and present such recommendations to Council by March 1, 2022** or sooner;

Identify recommendations and strategies that do not require a budget amendment and that can be launched by departments in the near term and/or at the regional or five-county scale, and report to Council on the progress and timeline of implementing such recommendations at the first quarterly update;

Bring forward a list of proposed investments that would advance the city's sustainability and climate goals and further the implementation of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan **in advance of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process.**

Within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process and all future budgets, the City Manager is directed to identify specifically investments related to supporting the city's greenhouse gas reduction efforts to achieve net-zero goals.

Resolution 110 - Action Items (3)

Be it Further Resolved - 4 Overarching priorities - general direction

Be it Further Resolved - 3 projects, Green Jobs, Federal - general direction

The City Manager is directed to **create a public-facing, accessible dashboard, webpage, or similar mechanism to provide up-to-date information on the methods and metrics on the City's progress in implementing the 2021 Climate Equity Plan and net-zero goals overall.** The information presented should include aspects of other City plans (such as the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan) that have an impact on reducing community-wide emissions and achieving equity through climate action.

The City Manager is further directed to **provide regular accessible public engagement opportunities regarding the implementation of the climate plan, and to evaluate extending the Climate Ambassador program** to incorporate the implementation stage of the 2021 Climate Equity Plan.

The City Council additionally supports **updating bylaws for the Joint Sustainability Committee to add additional members to the committee from the Austin community, appointed by City Council.** The City Council recognizes and appreciates the role of the Joint Sustainability Committee in advancing the City's climate goals.

Ongoing Community Oversight

Purpose: Providing ongoing guidance and community support on direction, priorities, and accountability to ensure an equitable implementation of the Austin Climate Equity Plan.

Structure: Working Group of the Joint Sustainability Committee.

- Up to 6 members of the JSC
- Up to 10 members of the Public
- City Staff

Activities:

- Ongoing Oversight of City Implementation of the plan
- Ensure Equity is prioritized and delivered in implementation
- Advocate to City Council on behalf of the plan and projects
- Provide guidance and oversight to Climate Ambassadors 2 and ongoing communications plans
- Assist with alignment and connection to participating businesses and non-profits in Austin
- Assist with pursuing funding, through the City Budget but also through Foundations and Gov. Grants

Meetings: Likely 2 hours, once or twice a month, starting in January

Strategy Categorization

In the process of dividing the 74 Strategies into the following categories:

No budget
implications

- Projects that are underway

Mid-year
budget ask

- Projects with existing work plan, but pending funding

22-23
Budget Cycle

- Projects in need of work plan and funding

FY23 and
beyond

- Long-term Initiatives, need more development, capital-intensive

Equity in Implementation

- Revisit and potentially adapt the equity tool for implementation
- Potential equity workshop to revisit discussion with implementation framework
- Meet and collaborate with departmental Equity and Inclusion Program Managers, where possible

Implementation Tracking Website

Moving forward with the Socrata Dashboard Platform

Audiences:

Internal – City Management / Department Directors (to approve and track implementation of plans)

External – City Council and Outside stakeholders serving on an advisory committee (funding and accountability)

1. Quantitative Data on all 17 Quantitative 2030 Goals
2. Reporting on all 74 strategies: Status, project phase, responsibility, tasks, budget, and impact
3. Prioritization / categorization of strategies - Ongoing, short term, long term
4. Funding summary - Is it funded, if not, how much is needed, source, summary by year

Climate Ambassadors #2

- We are hiring a Climate Equity Engagement Associate (Celine's replacement)
- Recruit participants and manage a 2nd Climate Ambassadors Program
- Focus on equitable implementation of the plan, barriers, community co-benefits
- Involve JSC Working Group on the focus and the details
- Model what worked from the first round, try out new ideas, drop what didn't work

Next Steps

- Stand up the Tracking Website
- Interviews and Hire new Community Engagement Staff Member
- 1-1 Departmental Meetings with OoS Staff
- Reviewing and updating the Implementation Tracking spreadsheet, Identifying Projects that:
 - Are off the ground now and can be highlighted
 - Just need funding and could be included in the Mid-year budget request
 - Need new detailed workplans and support in the 2022/23 Budget Process
 - Are longer term and more complex
- 1st JSC Working Group Meeting in December / January