



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3010, **Agenda Item #:** 99.

9/30/2021

Posting Language

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.

Lead Department

Office of Sustainability.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

February 15, 2007 - Council approved resolution 20070215-023, the first resolution in Austin's history that was focused on climate change. The resolution directed the City Manager to make City of Austin facilities, fleets and operations carbon neutral by 2020, make Austin Energy the leading utility in the nation for greenhouse gas reduction through renewable energy and energy efficiency, implement the most energy efficient building codes in the nation, establish an interdepartmental City Climate Action Team, and work with community members, businesses and regional entities on reducing emissions.

April 10, 2014 - Council approved resolution 20140410-024, adopting the goal of net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with the preference to achieve it as soon as feasible. The resolution also directed the City Manager to review the goals from the 2007 plan and create a stakeholder process to develop a new community-wide plan focused on energy, transportation and waste/industrial emissions sources.

June 4, 2015 - Council approved resolution 20150604-048, adopting the 2015 Austin Community Climate Plan, supporting the trajectory to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with interim targets. The resolution also directed the City Manager to identify and prioritize resources to implement the plan as well as create the Joint Sustainability Committee to oversee its implementation.

May 9, 2019 - Council approved resolution 20190509-020, declaring transportation electrification to be included in the revision of the Austin Community Climate Plan. The resolution directs the City Manager to analyze electric vehicle adoption scenarios and associated emission reductions, establish interim targets and identify partnerships.

August 8, 2019 - Council approved resolution 20190808-078, declaring a climate emergency and called for immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate. The resolution directs the City Manager to reconsider accountability structures, increase external engagement and accelerate activity towards the City's net-zero goal.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

August 3, 2020 - Presentation to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs, no action taken.

August 12, 2020 - Presentation to the Commission on Seniors, no action taken.

August 14, 2020 - Presentation to the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, no action taken.

August 17, 2020 - Presentation to the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, no action taken.

August 26, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Joint Sustainability Committee on a vote of 10-0, Commissioners Rothrock and Phillips off the dais.

September 2, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Environmental Commission on a vote of 9-0, Commissioner Creel and Gordon off the dais.

September 2, 2020 - Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board, no action taken.

September 9, 2020 - Presentation to the Water and Wastewater Commission, no action taken.

September 11, 2020 - Recommendation with amendments approved by the Urban Transportation Commission on a vote of 8-0, Commissioners Franco, Hennessey, and Wifley off the dais.

September 11, 2020 - Presentation to the African-American Resource Advisory Commission, no action taken.

September 11, 2020 - Presentation to the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission, no action taken

September 14, 2020 - Presentation to the Electric Utility Commission, no action taken.

September 14, 2020 - Presentation to the Pedestrian Advisory Council, no action taken.

September 15, 2020 - Presentation to the Bicycle Advisory Council, no action taken.

September 18, 2020 - Presentation to the Economic Prosperity Commission, no action taken.

September 25, 2020 - Presentation to the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Commission, no action taken.

October 2, 2020 - Presentation to the Human Rights Commission, no action taken.

October 7, 2020 - Presentation to the Commission on Women, no action taken.

October 12, 2020 - Recommendation with amendments approved by the Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board on a vote of 11-0, Commissioner Rosshirt off the dais.

October 13, 2020 - Recommendation with amendments approved by the Planning Commission on a vote of 11-0, Commissioner Pulido off the dais.

October 13, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Community Development Commission on a vote of 9-0, Commissioners Louie, Mays, Mejia, Otero and Sloan off the dais.

October 14, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on a vote of 9-0.

October 20, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Resource Management Commission on a vote of 8-0, Commissioners Chavarria and Fralin off the dais.

October 28, 2020 - Recommendation approved by the Design Commission on a vote of 9-0, Commissioners Whatley and Gonzalez off the dais.

March 16, 2021 - Presentation to the Zoning and Platting Commission, no action taken.

Additional Backup Information:

The Office of Sustainability staff recruited over 120 community members to work with 30 City staff members from 15 departments to co-create the new Austin Climate Equity Plan. A community-led steering committee and five advisory groups - each focusing on a different climate topic area - worked together to create the goals and strategies that make up the new plan. These groups met every other week from December 2019 through October 2020 to collaborate, create, and write the new plan.

The first public version of the Draft Austin Climate Equity Plan was published on SpeakUp Austin in September 2020. We received over 1,500 written comments on the draft plan. After the first round of comments and recommendations by Boards and Commissions were addressed, a second version of the plan was created in November 2020. The Steering Committee and Advisory Groups reviewed this version of the plan, and another set of comments was received and addressed. A third version of the plan was created but put on hold until the conclusion of the Texas Legislature. The Draft Final Austin Climate Equity Plan, including all changes and updates is now available.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Mobility, Safety, Health and Environment, Culture and Lifelong Learning, Government that Works for All.