

# AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN



# Austin Climate Equity Plan

September 2021



# Supporters Invited Here Today



## Steering Committee Co-Chairs:

Mayuri Raja, AZAAD, Google

Shane Johnson, Sierra Club

Katie Coyne, Asakura Robinson

Kurt Stogdill, Austin Energy

Karl Popham, Austin Energy

Erica Leak, Planning and Housing

Liane Conte, Austin Transit Partnership

Caitlin Admire, Planning and Housing

Jen Cregar, American Cities Climate Challenge

Elizabeth Nelson, Austin Resource Recovery

Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager

Celine Rendon, EcoRise

Susana Almanza, PODER

Cavan Merski, Pecan Street, Inc.

Phoebe Romero, Office of Sustainability

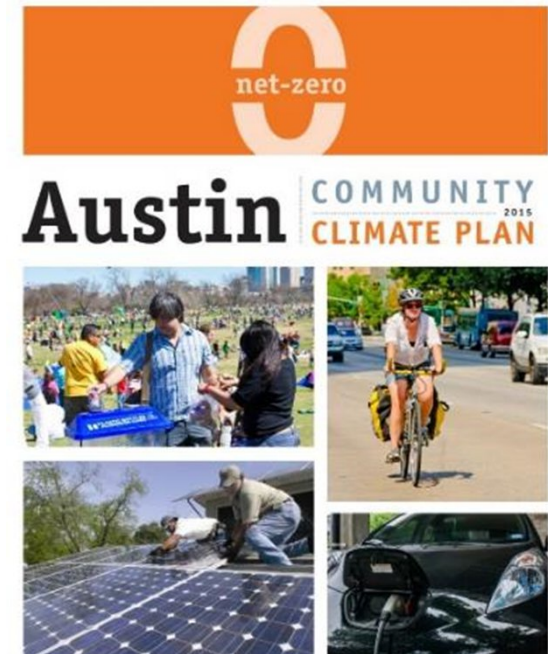
Marc Coudert, Office of Sustainability

Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability

# Climate Planning Timeline



- June 2015 First Plan adopted by Council
- November 2019 5 year Update Process Begins
- September 2020 Version 1.0 released for Public Comment
- November 2020 Version 2.0
- December 2020 Process put on hold due to TX Legislature
- January 2021 Version 3.0
- Jan – May 2021 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session
- August 2021 Version 4.0 DRAFT FINAL complete



City Manager's Climate & Environment Leadership Team reviewed throughout

# Good News & Progress in the Last Year



- President Biden
  - Recommitted to Paris Climate Agreement
  - Committed 50% new vehicle sales EV by 2030
  - Push for Civilian Climate Corps
- American Cities Climate Challenge
  - Austin Drives Electric Dealership Initiative
  - Won 3 awards, 80,000+ website visits & thousands of new EVs on road
- CapMetro committed to EVs for most new vehicles
- Project Connect passed & underway
- 2021 Residential International Energy Code Adopted, will save energy and GHG emissions, removed mandatory NG hookups for residential
- Austin Civilian Conservation Corps
  - New green jobs focus with equity lens





# What This Plan “is” and “is not”

## The Austin Climate Equity Plan IS:

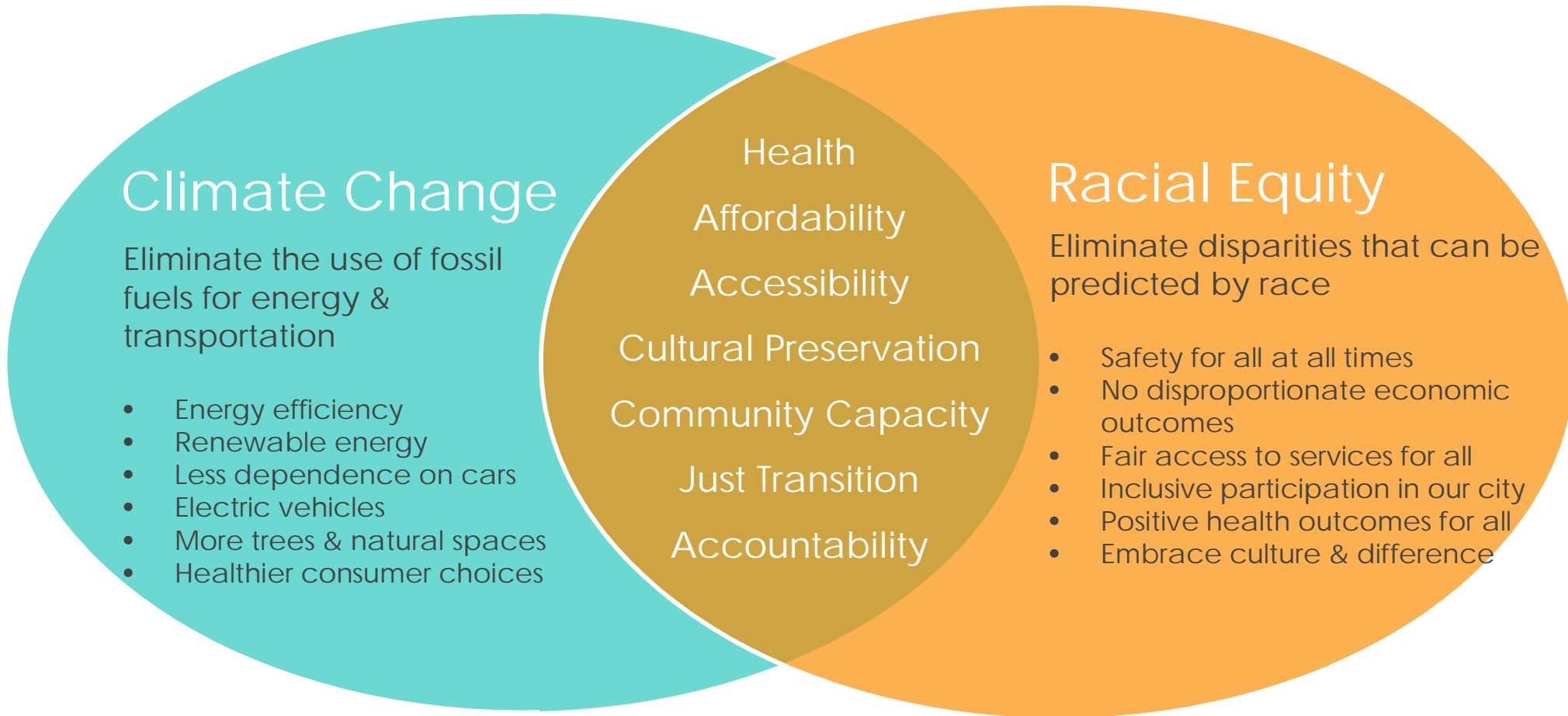
- Product of co-creation between staff & over 120 community members / businesses
- Aggressive but realistic approach to reducing emissions, not a resilience plan
- Builds upon existing City plans + chart new visionary goals / actions
- High-level road map: 10-year sector goals + 5-year strategies

## The Austin Climate Equity Plan IS NOT:

- The Austin Energy Generation Plan, which has a huge positive impact on reducing emissions. They are complementary.
- Exhaustive of everything needed to address climate change
- Implementation plan with exact costs, benefits, & funding identified



# Plan Commitment to Racial Equity



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

# Plan Development Process



Joint Sustainability  
Committee

Steering  
Committee

Climate and  
Environment  
Leadership Team

Transportation  
Electrification

Transportation  
and Land Use

Sustainable  
Buildings

Food and Product  
Consumption

Natural Systems

Staff + Stakeholder Advisory Groups

- Diverse participation
- Community ownership approach
- Mandatory Equity training



# 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, Guidehouse  
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

## Advisory Group Representatives:

Nakia Winfield, Brandi Clark Burton, Karen  
Magid, Kurt Stogdill, and Nick Kincaid



# Participating Stakeholder Organizations





# Participating Departments



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT



MOBILITY



SAFETY



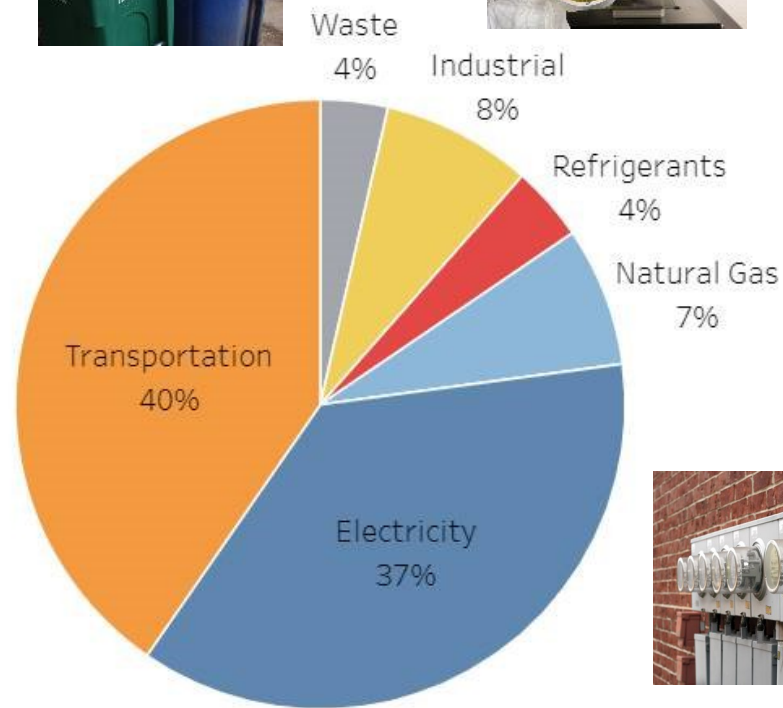
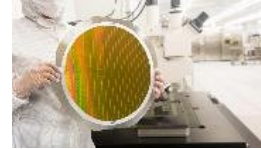
GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR ALL



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & AFFORDABILITY

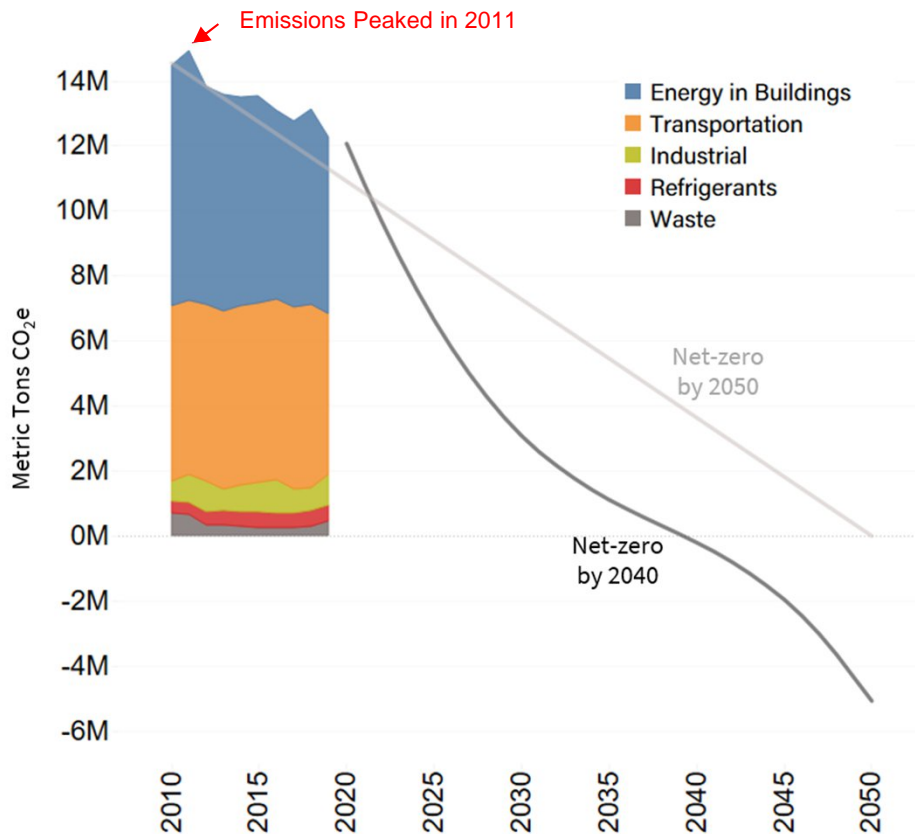
- Austin Energy
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Austin Water
- Aviation
- Development Services
- Economic Development
- Equity Office
- Fleet Services
- Housing and Planning
- Parks and Recreation
- Purchasing Office
- Transportation
- Watershed Protection

# City of Austin – Community Carbon Footprint



2019: 12.3 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e

# New Proposed Community-Wide Goal

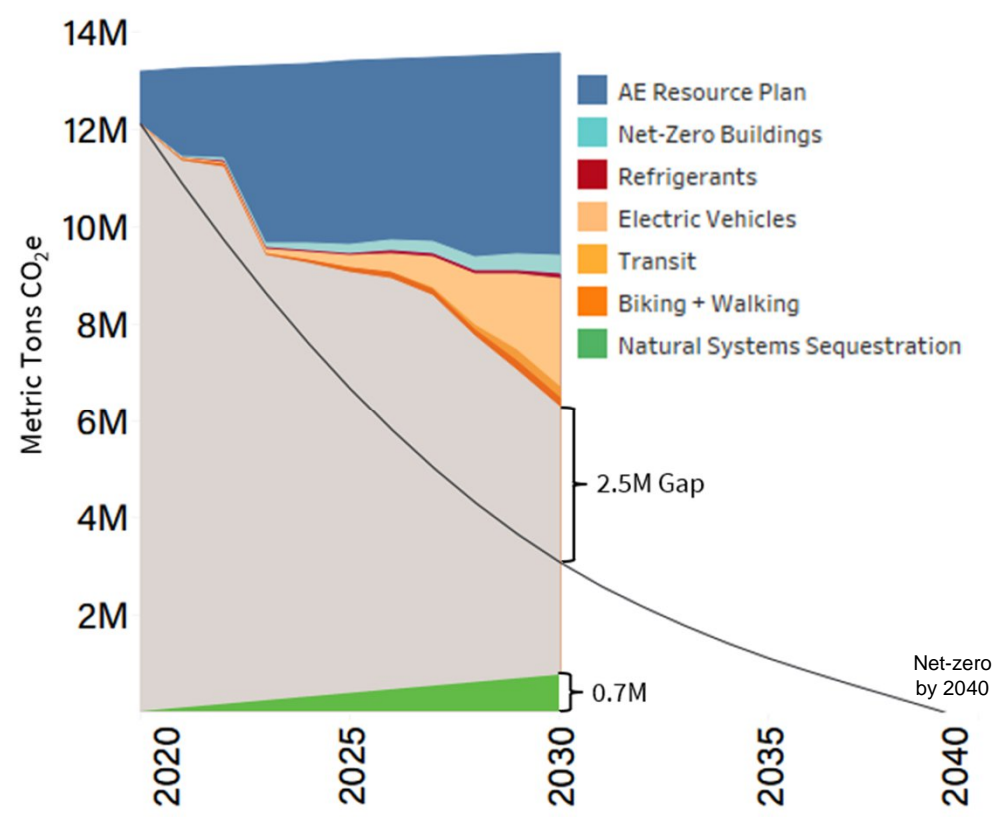


Previous Goal: Net-zero by 2050  
(Adopted by Council)

New Proposed Goal: Net-zero by 2040  
(Staff recommendation - requested by Council)



# Projected Emissions Reductions by 2030



## Emissions Reduction Strategies

Buildings	Current	Goal
Carbon Free % of AE Customer Load	63%	93%
Net-Zero Carbon Buildings	<1%	25%
Refrigerant Leaks	-	-25%
Transportation	Current	Goal
Electric Vehicle Miles Traveled	1%	40%
% of Trips on Public Transit, Biking or Walking	20%	50%



# A Plan Among Plans



## Climate Equity Plan

### 5 Plan Sections

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





# Community Input Mechanisms

Plan Creation Process: inclusive & focused on climate + equity

- Diverse participation in Steering Committee and Advisory Groups
- 5 in-person Public Workshops
- NEW Community Climate Ambassadors Program

Broader Public Feedback

- SpeakUP Austin comment box and Survey
- Virtual Panel Presentations and webinar recordings
  - Including Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Climate Leaders
- 24 Boards and Commissions Presentations with feedback
- Sustainability Office Inbox

Each feedback mechanism has pros and cons & different audiences

# Community Climate Ambassadors



- 50% African American/Black
- 25% Latino/Hispanic
- 8% Asian
- 8% Pacific Islander
- 8% Two or more races
- Over 50% under 24 years old
- Over 75% female

## ***Priorities & concerns***

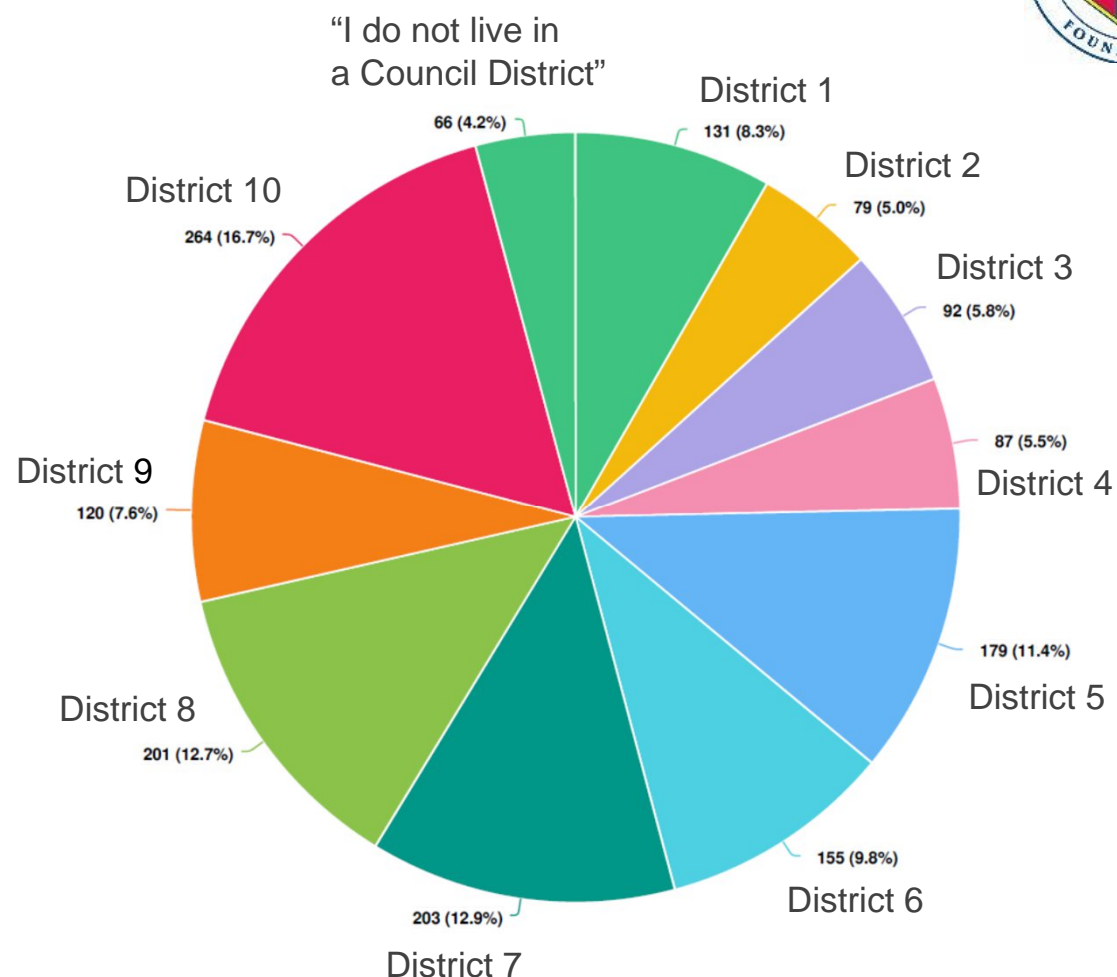
Ambassadors helped identify these high-level community concerns, which will be detailed further in the next section.



# Online Response Overview



- **Total responses: 1,577**
  - Half topic-specific survey questions
  - Half open-ended comments
- 30% open-ended responses anti-government / anti-science
- 79% at least somewhat concerned about climate change
- 16% concerns about implementation cost exacerbating affordability and displacement





# Boards and Commissions Presentations (25)

- Electric Utility Commission
- Resource Management Commission
- LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Pedestrian Advisory Council
- Bicycle Advisory Council
- Economic Prosperity Commission
- Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission
- Design Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Commission on Women
- Community Development Commission
- Planning Commission
- Zoning and Platting Commission
- Commission on Immigrant Affairs
- Zero Waste Advisory Commission
- Commission on Seniors
- Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
- Joint Sustainability Committee
- Parks Board
- Environmental Commission
- Water and Wastewater Commission
- African American Resource Advisory Commission
- Urban Transportation Commission
- ATC Food Policy Board

# 50 Signatories - Austin Climate Leaders Pledge



AIA Austin  
Alamo Drafthouse  
American Youthworks  
Applied Materials  
Asakura Robinson  
Austin FC  
Austin Habitat for Humanity  
Austin Parks Foundation  
Barr Mansion  
Black + Vernooy  
BEST  
Britt Design Group  
Capital Metro  
Catellus Development  
Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems  
Citizens Climate Lobby

Climate Buddies  
Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation  
Ecological Estates, LLC  
Enotech Engineering Consultants  
EcoRise  
Environmental Resources Management  
Foundation Communities  
Great Springs Project  
HM Risk Group  
Lake | Flato Architects  
Landmark Surveying  
Stanley Studios  
McKinney York Architects  
Movability Austin  
Patagonia Austin  
Pease Park Conservancy  
Perkins and Will

Positive Energy  
Pure WRX Inc  
Save Barton Creek Association  
Shademaker Studio, LLC  
SPEER  
Studio 8 Architects  
Studio DWG  
Sustainable Food Center  
Tesla Gigafactory Texas  
The Purple Fig Eco Cleaning Company  
The Trail Foundation  
The VORTEX  
Tree Folks  
USGBS, Texas Chapter  
Walter P Moore  
Travis Audubon  
United Way, Greater Austin

# Plan Overview

4 Cross-Cutting Strategies - Big picture themes

17 Goals – To be accomplished by 2030 to keep on track

74 Strategies - Progress in next 5 years

Equity Throughout, particularly in Strategies

- Prioritize **incentives** + target communications towards **low-income & communities of color**
- Just transition **to green jobs** for new industries & technology
- Prioritize health + other benefits for **Eastern Crescent**
- **Center communities of color** in ongoing learning



## Cross-cutting Strategies

Strategy 1: Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Strategy 2: Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

Strategy 3: Regional Collaboration

Strategy 4: Local Carbon Reduction Projects, Carbon Offsets and Carbon Dioxide Removal





## Transportation and Land Use

1 of 3 Goals by 2030:

50% of trips in Austin are made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home.



## Transportation Electrification

1 of 3 Goals by 2030:

40% of total vehicle miles traveled in Austin are electrified and electric vehicle ownership is culturally, geographically, and economically diverse.





## Sustainable Buildings

1 of 4 goals by 2030:

All new buildings are net-zero carbon, emissions from existing buildings are reduced by 25%, and natural gas-related emissions are reduced by 30%.



## Food and Product Consumption

1 of 3 goals by 2030:

Greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing are reduced by at least 50%.



## Natural Systems

1 of 4 goals by 2030:

All city-owned lands are included under a management plan that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community benefits.

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Thank you!

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