

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

2020 Climate Action Plan Update – Recommendations

SUMMARY

The Climate Change Working Group – comprised of residents, business, education, non-profit, and utility representatives has been evaluating new opportunities to help reach the Chula Vista Climate Action Plan’s greenhouse gas reduction goal of 55% below 2005 levels by 2030. As such, the CCWG has identified 7 action recommendations, below, that could help the city reach its 2030 goal, while improving local air quality, generating utility savings, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting a healthier community.

Climate Action Recommendations

1	Ban most single use plastics and items in lieu of compostable or recyclable products through Zero Waste Plan
2	Support building decarbonization in new construction through education and outreach while evaluating potential building codes that reduce fossil fuel usage
3	Review commercial solar permitting process and streamline where possible
4	Support vehicle decarbonization through education and outreach while evaluating potential building codes that reduce fossil fuel usage.
5	Increase protected bike lanes, or highest level of protection possible, in locations where traffic collisions have occurred while supporting other active transportation infrastructure
6	Create a Climate Equity Index and Communities of Concern Map
7	Adopt GHG reduction goal of an 80% reduction by 2050

Background

Since the adoption of the 2017 Climate Action Plan (CAP) the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has been meeting quarterly to review current CAP implementation actions and potential recommendations for future CAP actions. As presented to the CCWG, the most recent greenhouse gas inventory shows the City on track to meet its 2020 goal with reductions below the 2005 baseline in all sectors except natural gas. Some implementation highlights include the adoption of the City’s Active Transportation Plan, the creation of the Chula Vista Climate Action Challenge and the adoption of a goal for 100% renewable energy by 2035 and an update can be found online at

<https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/clean/conservation/climate-action-plan>. The recommendations above are intended to help guide City leaders to reaching the City’s long-term goals.

Planning Process

The CCWG was established as a working group of the City’s Sustainability Commission and includes a diverse membership of residents, businesses, education, non-profit, and utility representatives:

Climate Change Working Group Members			
Residents		Transportation	
Edward Legaspi	CCWG Chair	Matt Lowery	Bike/Walk Chula Vista
Adriana Guevara-Gluyas	CCWG Vice-Chair	Waste Management	
Carolyn Scofield		Giovanna Castro	Republic
Community Services		Len Hering	I Love A Clean SD
Angie Guerrero	High Tech High	Utilities	
Carmen Richardson	CV Charitable Foundation	Eric Drabb	SDG&E
New Development		Clay Clifton	Sweetwater Authority
Nick Lee	Baldwin & Sons	Environment	
Rich D'Ascoli	Pacific SW Assoc. of Realtors	Fabiola Lao	Center for Sustainable Energy
Existing Buildings & Infrastructure		Noah Harris	Climate Action Campaign
Eddie Price	Grid Alternative	Staff	
Lisa Cohen	CV Chamber of Commerce	Cory Downs, Yasemin Corrales, Coleen Wisniewski, Manuel Medrano and Dennis Gakunga	

Over the last two years the CCWG held 8 public meetings, including an online survey and public forums, to explore Climate Change related topics and hear from subject matter experts. Through this process the CCWG evaluated over 100 potential policies or programs before refining the final 7 recommendations. Some of the criteria that the working group used to make the selections were 1) focusing on actions that were in the City’s control. 2) limiting actions negative impact to the City, and 3) prioritizing actions that could be implemented within 5 years. Based on the discussions and deliberations of the working group the 7 recommendations above will help reduce GHG emissions and provide positive benefits to the community.

Next Steps

The recommendations are high level and, if supported by City Council, should be further developed by City staff and presented back to the SSC and City Council through a CAP Update. Specifically, implementation steps, cost estimates, timelines, and GHG reduction estimates for the various recommendations would need to be outlined for future consideration by City Council.