



**EAST PALO ALTO
PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: March 20, 2024

TO: Public Works & Transportation Commission Members

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SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan Implementation Report

Recommendation

Receive an informational report regarding the current status and planned implementation of the 2030 Community Climate Action Plan. Offer feedback on existing projects and insight into future priorities.

Background

Cities are leading the charge in combating global warming by adopting sustainable solutions and passing forward-thinking policies. Yet cities are also on the frontlines of climate impacts such as flooding, extreme heat, and air pollution.

In recognition of both the challenges and opportunities of local climate action, the City of East Palo Alto has taken important steps towards building a more sustainable future. The City of East Palo Alto's first Climate Action Plan was adopted in December 2011 with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by 2020. The City successfully completed 22 out of 23 planned projects and exceeded its goal in just six years by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, avoiding emitting more than 27,000 metric tons of polluting carbon dioxide.

2030 Climate Action Plan

After surpassing the goals of the 2011 CAP, the City began work on a new 2030 Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2019. The City set a goal of a 55% reduction in per capita emissions relative to 2005 levels by 2030 in alignment with a long-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 and related state regulations ([SB32](#)). The CAP was designed using input from community organizations including Acterra's [Community-Based Vulnerability Planning Report](#), a resident survey, and five council and commission meetings. The CAP was adopted on September 5, 2023.

The CAP details key actions that the City aims to take to reach its goals of emissions reduction as well as achieving “co-benefits” to health, equity, the environment, and [climate resilience](#). The plan recommends 53 actions which are broadly grouped in Energy & Water (including many efforts around sustainable buildings), Transportation, and Waste. The CAP also contains further recommendations for 17 adaptation strategies to better prepare for the impacts of climate change as well as an analysis of ways climate justice could be more thoroughly incorporated into the General Plan. As part of the implementation of the CAP, the City seeks to provide annual updates on its implementation status and the most up-to-date emissions inventory data available.

Analysis

After the passage of the CAP last fall, City staff have taken key steps to lay the groundwork for CAP actions and develop plans for ongoing and future implementation of CAP projects. City staff have worked to strengthen ties to the strong community-based environmental movement in the area in order to align City actions and priorities with those of residents and community members. Extensive coordination with County and regional entities has also been crucial to develop thorough implementation planning. The following section detail the ongoing and planned projects surrounding the CAP, future strategies that are under consideration, the specific status of each CAP measure, and the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

The following are projects the Environmental Programs Division is involved in, but many involve or are led by other City departments or community partners. Relatedly, this is not an exhaustive list of all city programs related to the CAP, just those that are specifically geared towards achieving CAP goals.

Current & planned projects

Expand engagement and communication

A key part of the CAP is to ensure continued engagement from the community and to build awareness of ongoing efforts in the city. This forms a key starting point for shaping CAP projects and building momentum moving forwards, and it is crucial to working to improve trust and engagement with government.

- *The Climate Change Community Team (CCCT)* – The CCCT is a group of city residents

and community group representatives who share information and resources on climate-related topics at monthly meetings as well as coordinating events and projects in the city. Environmental Programs representatives have attended nearly every meeting and planning session since the passage of the CAP to provide City updates and receive feedback.

- *Community events* – Staff have run sustainability focused events in the city including a creek cleanup last fall and the planned Earth Day festival, Arbor Day celebration, and Bike to Work Day later this spring. Staff have also helped promote, plan, and conduct outreach at other community events such as the MLK Day tree planting and the upcoming EPA Resilience Fair.
- *Environmental Programs website* – Created an Environmental Programs website covering information and resources on key CAP topics including sustainable homes & buildings, transportation, waste, disaster resilience, and the environment. The website is undergoing revisions, but it should be publicly accessible later this month.
- *Sustainability newsletter* – Started a bimonthly sustainability newsletter to keep residents and community groups informed of events, resources, and ways to get involved in sustainability in the city. The first newsletter will go out this month.
- *Citywide newsletter* – Beyond the sustainability-specific newsletter, staff have also promoted events, workshops, surveys, and resources from other groups through the city newsletter, social media, and community calendar.
- *Implementation report* – In addition to presenting to the PWTC, the implementation report will be posted publicly for survey comments, presented to the CCCT (April), and presented to the City Council at a public session (tentatively in June).

Sustainable homes & buildings

Building energy use accounts for 35% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from natural gas-fueled appliances. It is also one of the emission sources over which the City and residents have the greatest control, and it is key to reaching the City's ambitious emissions reduction goals. Key challenges include lack of awareness of supportive programs and displacement/cost-burden risks to renters, in addition to the high cost and technical challenges of replacing much of the gas-powered infrastructure in homes and buildings across the city. Thus, most initial efforts have focused on understanding concerns and opportunities, working with funding providers to move towards more equitable programs, and trying to secure additional funding for residents with barriers to existing resources such as low-income residents and renters.

- *Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)* – Participated in the planning process for a regional application for over \$100 million in federal funding towards electrifying gas appliances in single family homes and small multifamily complexes across the Bay Area including in EPA. Notification of funding is expected by Fall 2024.
- *Increasing City facility sustainability* – Working with PG&E and PCE to secure funding through three separate programs to help reduce or remove emissions from City facilities by replacing gas water heaters, installing more efficient HVAC, and potentially installing

solar. Connecting with energy-efficient design incentives and technical assistance from the State to improve sustainability of upcoming affordable housing and library projects.

- *Existing building electrification (EBE) planning* – Creating an EBE plan is a key part of the CAP and the city’s long-term emissions reduction goals. Staff have met repeatedly with key organizations involved in housing and electrification work including CRC, PCE, BayREN, and the Rent Stabilization Program to evaluate challenges and needs.
- *EBE resource outreach* – Looking to expand outreach about existing incentive and technical assistance programs, particularly as new key programs from PCE and BayREN become available. Investigating ways to expand access to electrification (and healthy appliance upgrades more generally) for renters.
- *Streamlining EBE permitting* – Working with PG&E to identify ways to simplify permitting for electrification work for residents and utilities.

Transportation

Transportation is the largest part of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions — and also the largest opportunity for a shift to a more sustainable city. Since the vast majority of residents get around by driving alone in a gas-powered vehicle, shifting towards more sustainable modes of transit (such as biking and walking) or more sustainable vehicles (such as electric and hybrid vehicles) can both have a big impact on both emissions and air quality. While it can be difficult to transition away from cars when alternatives are less convenient or more expensive, developing policy, infrastructure, and community perspectives can help shift the balance in favor of sustainable transportation.

- *City fleet upgrades* – Completed first holistic inventory of City fleets across all departments to comply with Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations. Working with PCE to develop a plan for shifting City vehicles to EVs over time to reduce air pollution and comply with ACF regulations. Planning and designing EV charger installation for City vehicles and potentially the public as well.
- *Increasing access to bikes* – Worked with Live in Peace (LIP) Bike Shop to secure over 100 free bikes for EPA residents. Partnered on an application for County Measure K funding to implement an e-bike pilot for low-income residents along with job training. Working with LIP and community members to identify locations for new and expanded bike parking.
- *Improving bike safety and education* – Helping promote free bike trainings and repair workshops run by LIP and the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition through community events and the City newsletter. Coordinating with the County Office of Education to distribute bike safety equipment and implement Safe Routes to School programs. Updated decade-old city bike maps to update Google Maps, Open Street Maps, 311 Bay Area, and local nonprofits’ bike maps.
- *Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)* – Participated in the planning process for a regional application for over \$100 million in federal funding towards developing “[mobility hubs](#)” which could include projects in EPA or improved transit connections to Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Notification of funding is expected by Fall 2024.

- *Promoting micromobility in multifamily housing* – Incentivized the inclusion of shared micromobility (ie, e-bikes and e-scooters) in new multifamily housing through the City’s Transportation Demand Management regulations.
- *Potential complete streets funding* – Considering a couple of large grants this year – Active Transportation Program and Safe Streets for All – which would help fund bike infrastructure and pedestrian access/safety improvements.

Reduce waste

Rethinking how we deal with waste is a key part of maintaining a healthy environment and a clean city. Even something as simple as putting trash in the right bin can avoid pollution and reduce emissions. The City has made strong commitments to reducing waste both within the CAP and through other policies and targets it has set.

- *Composting outreach* – As part of CA SB1383, all businesses and multifamily developments are required to have composting available. City staff reach out and correspond with businesses to help them comply with regulations and reduce the amount of food waste that goes to landfills. In addition to this, the City has installed composting at all City facilities.
- *Composted product procurement* – The City participates in the County Resource Conservation District program to acquire several tons of composted products per year to comply with state regulations.
- *City sustainable purchasing* – Certifying that paper products the City purchases are compostable/recyclable and made from qualifying percentages of recycled content. Training staff to use recordkeeping systems.
- *Foodware ordinance outreach* – The City is looking into adopting an ordinance which would require all foodware (such as food containers and utensils) to be compostable. While considering the ordinance, staff will conduct outreach to food vendors in the city to gauge potential challenges and impacts of the regulation.

Community resilience

It is crucial for residents to adjust to more damaging, climate change-fueled disasters by increasing community resilience – preparing for, responding to, and bouncing back from these disasters. The City plays a key role in helping inform residents and developing forward-thinking policies and infrastructure improvements.

- *Safety & Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Updates* – Working with County consultants to update the Safety and EJ Elements of the City’s General Plan. Currently planning and conducting initial, general outreach about the plan, soliciting resident input.
- *Expanding tree coverage and green infrastructure* – Working with Canopy to plant more than 50 trees per year with the help of the Teen Urban Foresters program. Currently partnering with Canopy on two grant applications totaling over \$11 million to dramatically expand tree planting and resilience outreach programs. Partnering with

CRC on an application to expand their community rain garden program to install hundreds of rain gardens for residents.

- *Flood preparation and flood insurance* – Investigating projects to improve flood response planning and communication to increase resident awareness and safety. Seeking to reduce flood insurance costs by improving the city’s FEMA Community Rating System classification.
- *Community resilience events* – Helping plan and coordinate a community resilience fair and resilience-focused Earth Day events featuring a series of workshops and events with tangible benefits to residents, increasing resilience to a wide range of environmental and health challenges.

Future directions & options

In addition to the projects listed above, many of which are ongoing or have just started, there are many other parts of the CAP and broader sustainable action the City could take. A major goal of the implementation report is to seek guidance on which projects to prioritize and directions that staff should explore further over the next seven years of CAP implementation.

Existing building electrification (EBE)

Although some of the City’s current work covers sustainable buildings and healthy homes, creating strategies, policies, and partnerships to equitably transition the city’s buildings to all-electric appliances (ie: water heaters, HVAC, stoves) is a key part of the CAP and the City’s emissions reduction goals and can reduce utility bills. Electrification has important benefits to health as well – switching to electric stoves alone reduces the risk of childhood asthma by more than 40%. However, this project is challenging due to the costs of the switch (many of which may be unexpected), lack of awareness of benefits and incentives, and a wide range of barriers for renters including unresponsive property owners, risks of raising costs for renters, and the “split incentive” -- where the tenant benefits from lower utility bills but the property owner owns the actual appliances.

Several potential options exist for promoting EBE, and further input is key for focusing on the pathways that offer the greatest potential. A few key pathways are listed below, and a more direct comparison is available in the attachments.

- *Time of replacement/renovation* – These policies would require old gas appliances to be replaced with electric versions once they need to be replaced or when the building/room is significantly remodeled. Some versions of this policy build in flexibility for electrifying a portion of appliances and alternative compliance for high efficiency versions. These may have the greatest impact but could raise costs for households depending on how incentives change.
- *Building performance standards* – These policies are targeted towards large commercial or residential buildings. They set standards of energy use which have to decrease by a set amount every few years to reach a target level. The

standards can have big impacts on energy use and emissions since large buildings account for much of the city's emissions (eg: Ikea is responsible for 2% of the emissions of all the buildings in the city), but they require a lot of management from the City and may be more practical on a county or state level.

- *Pursue funding to support electrification for priority groups* – Most electrification projects to date have been done by wealthy homeowners in single family homes. Increasing funding to reach renters, low-income residents, residents with language barriers, and more is key to support electrification and make sure its benefits are equitably distributed, especially if there are any requirements mandating electrification. Due to the high demand for electrification funding and upcoming regional rules, it may be difficult to secure funding specific to EPA.
- *Expand outreach about existing programs* – There are already several programs from local to federal levels offering incentives and technical assistance with electrifying homes; however, relatively few EPA residents take advantage of many of them, in part because many are unaware of them and how to access them. Taking a more active role in outreach about existing programs could increase voluntary electrification, avoiding direct costs to the city and mandatory upgrades. However, existing programs have many gaps and frequently fail to address the needs of renters and low-income residents – issues that promoting existing programs may exacerbate.

Other CAP measures

Beyond EBE, there are many CAP measures that are still in early planning stages or lack a clear path forward. While the City is working to achieve all of the goals in the CAP, prioritization is important, especially at this early stage in CAP implementation. Thus, this is an important time to seek input on which measures to prioritize and in what way the City should aim to enact them.

More information on each CAP measure is listed below, but several key topics that the City has not thoroughly approached yet include:

- Promoting residential water efficiency
- Creating a plan for public EV charging
- Reducing the impact of small off-road engines (eg: leaf blowers, lawn equipment)
- Recruiting e-bike/e-car share services to the city
- Promoting microgrid pilot projects – energy systems that maintain power even when the grid is down
- Reforming parking policies to encourage alternative transit
- and most measures in the below section with **planning** as their listed status

Action-by-action status

EW.1: Reduce energy emissions

Action	Description / Goal	Status
EW.1.1	Participate in PCE, encourage "opting up" to 100% clean energy	Planning – Already participating in PCE. Currently seeking ways to increase participation in ECO100 "opt up" program including promotion on sustainability website and co-promotion with PCE. By 2027, all PCE electricity will be clean and emission-free by default.
EW.1.2	Promote energy efficiency in commercial buildings / 15% receive efficiency upgrades	Planning – Promoting commercial energy efficiency programs through the sustainability website. Potential policy measures include enacting building performance standards to continually decrease energy use in large commercial buildings.
EW.1.3	Promote energy efficiency in residential buildings / 5% receive efficiency upgrades	Initial steps –Promoting residential energy efficiency programs through the sustainability website and the CCCT. Collaborating with PCE and BayREN to strategize upcoming residential programs.
EW.1.4	Implement programs for free or subsidized shade trees / 5% of households receive trees	Ongoing – Free tree planting is available for residents through a contract with Canopy which was just extended. Seeking to expand efforts through Community Change Grant, ICARP Extreme Heat Grant, and promotion on the website.
EW.1.5	Promote opportunities for microgrid projects / one every other year	Planning – Completed initial planning for PG&E Microgrid Incentive Program but determined to be incompatible with community needs. Currently evaluating funding opportunities.
EW.1.6	Encourage pairing battery storage with all solar PV systems	Planning – Promoting the advantages of battery storage on sustainability website. Updated state solar generation incentives (NEM3) also strongly incentivize pairing with battery storage.
EW.1.7	Policy to prohibit small offroad engines on Spare the Air Days	Planning – As of 2024, state regulations ban the sale of new gas-powered small offroad engines (eg: leaf blowers, lawn mowers). Currently evaluating potential impacts of a partial ban.
EW.1.8	Participate in incentive programs through Commute.org	Ongoing – Participating in commute.org incentives. Assisting with outreach to businesses and promoting free Caltrain pass program.
EW.1.9	Support partnerships to bring awareness to air quality monitoring	Ongoing – In communication with researchers in the Our Communities Our Bay team to remain apprised of any findings.
EW.1.10	Install energy efficient streetlighting	Complete – All streetlights updated to LED.
EW.1.11	"Opt up" to 100% clean power for City buildings	Complete – Currently exploring low-cost upgrades to make city buildings more energy efficient.

EW.2: Electrify building stock

Action	Description / Goals	Status
EW.2.1	Expand all-electric building policy	Complete – City reach codes mandate all-electric construction. Working with RICAPS to address legal challenges.
EW.2.2	Develop an existing building electrification strategy (EBES)	Planning – Developed EBES policy matrix, seeking further input. Working with Rent Stabilization, CRC, and PCE to determine challenges and next steps.

EW.2.3	Develop partnerships for EBES development	Ongoing – Working with Rent Stabilization, CRC, and PCE to determine challenges and next steps. Consulting with RICAPS, CRC, and PG&E to ease permitting.
EW.2.4	Conduct community engagement for EBES	Planning – CRC and PCE have done some community workshops. Planning to combine with implementation outreach.
EW.2.5	Adopt an electrification ordinance for existing building appliances	Initial steps – Currently drafting a city policy in support of BAAQMD rules 9-4 and 9-6. Timeline 2027.
EW.2.6	Define equity metrics for EBES ordinance enforcement	Planning – Work with PCE, CRC, and Rent Stabilization to determine renter protections. Planning ways to track equity in electrification rebate distribution with PCE.
EW.2.7	Develop partnerships to fund existing building electrification	Initial steps – PCE currently developing turnkey, hotline, and whole home decarbonization programs. BayREN overhauling single family rebates. Working with BARCAP on Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application.
EW.2.8	Develop a temporary staff position to support EBES	Planning – Status uncertain.
EW.2.9	Establish building performance standards	Planning – Scoping feasibility using state benchmarking program and SMC Energy Watch. Pending interest.
EW.2.10	Partner with PG&E on infrastructure pruning	Planning – Currently corresponding with PG&E on pruning potential and possible permit streamlining.
EW.2.11	Expand partnerships to bring awareness to air quality monitoring and appliance replacement	Ongoing – In communication with researchers in the Our Communities Our Bay team to remain apprised of any findings.

EW.3: Reduce water consumption

Action	Description / Goals	Status
EW.3.1	Promote water efficiency programs with local partners / upgrade 10% of homes	Initial steps – CRC and Grassroots Ecology installing rain gardens for residents, partnering to expand it through Community Change Grants program. Investigating other external funding.
EW.3.2	Ensure enforcement of Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance	Initial steps – Working to integrate MWELO review into the standard planning process.

EW.4: Protect low-income residents from extreme heat

Action	Description / Goals	Status
EW.4.1	Conduct an extreme heat study to understand impacts	Initial steps – Acquired modeled data from the Future Bay Initiative and updated map of units with central AC. Partnering with PASCC on a grant for an in-depth heat study this summer.

EW.4.2	Identify financing opportunities for deploying heat pumps in low-income housing	Initial steps – Identified opportunities, listed on sustainability website. Directly communicating with affordable housing properties about opportunities for efficiency and solar financing.
EW.4.3	Educate low-income communities about steps for extreme heat	Planning – Currently working to expand information on sustainability website. Planning to target outreach based on results from upcoming heat study.

T.1: Reduce vehicle miles traveled in the community

Action	Description / Goal	Status
T.1.1	Establish or expand local shuttle service / expand coverage 50%	Complete – SAMTRANS Ride Plus fulfills this target. Currently partnering with SAMTRANS on upcoming promotional campaign.
T.1.2	Encourage e-bike/car shares to operate in the city / target 2030	Planning – Evaluating feasibility, planning outreach to service providers.
T.1.3a	Design infrastructure to promote shared e-bikes and e-scooters	Initial steps – Pending interest from shared micromobility service providers. Working with Live in Peace to identify areas with bike parking needs.
T.1.3b	Pass policy to promote shared e-bikes and e-scooters	Planning – Investigating similar ordinances from surrounding cities. Pending interest from service providers.
T.1.4	Expand bike access and bike safety training	Ongoing – Working with Live in Peace to secure 150 free bikes for residents. Planning multiple bike repair and safety events.
T.1.5	Free public transit program	Complete – Youth Unlimited pass was made permanent. Confirmed participation and outreach with RCSD.
T.1.6	Adopt employer TDM ordinance	Ongoing – Consultant has prepared revised transportation demand management (TDM) guidelines for City approval.
T.1.7	Encourage free micro-mobility in new MFD	Ongoing – Added sections incentivizing shared micro-mobility to proposed multifamily development (MFD) TDM guidelines
T.1.8	Free e-bike pilot	Initial steps – Partnered with Live in Peace on a grant application for free e-bikes and a job training program. Staying updated on e-bike pilot program in surrounding cities.

T.2: Decarbonize transportation

Action	Description / Goal	Status
T.2.1	Increase EV ownership / 6% of miles travelled from EVs	Planning – Compiling EV financing resources on sustainability website. Integrating PCE workshops into planning.
T.2.2	Expand EV charging infrastructure / 20% of MFD, 10% of work-	Initial steps – Working with PCE to identify potential for public charging at City facilities. Working to publicize information on EV charging infrastructure incentives through sustainability website.

	places, 100 publicly accessible chargers	
T.2.3	Survey EV charging network	Initial steps – Identified public charging locations, identifying residential charging installations. Working with PCE to identify potential for public charging at City facilities.
T.2.4	Establish EV charging ordinance	Complete – Completed by City Reach Codes mandating minimum EV charging requirements for new development.
T.2.5	Encourage the use of EV rideshares	Planning – Unclear legality and process.
T.2.6	Pursue EV car share for priority housing	Planning – Investigating options for EV carshare expansion.
T.2.7	Review and improve local EV adoption rates	Planning – Investigating barriers with PCE and CRC.
T.2.8	EV on-bill financing	Planning – Evaluating options with PCE, but not currently in effect.
T.2.9	Commercial EV incentives	Planning – Compiling information on incentives in sustainability website. Planning outreach.

T.3: Increase walkability and bikeability

Action	Description / Goal	Status
T.3.1	Develop walkable and bikeable street landscaping	Ongoing – Engineering currently working on designing safe, pedestrian/bike friendly streets when updated. Completed Addison Avenue project.
T.3.2	Reform parking policies to encourage alternative transit	Planning – Evaluating potential impacts to residents.
T.3.3	Support Safe Routes to School Program	Initial steps – Completed traffic circle pilot, coordinating with County on projects including Addison Avenue. Working with Live in Peace to distribute bike safety supplies and information.
T.3.4	Equitable bicycle and pedestrian network	Planning – Working to identify opportunities to prioritize bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
T.3.5	Bike parking improvements	Initial steps – Working with Live in Peace to identify locations with further bike parking needs. Considering a request form.

T.4: Increase Housing in Transit Corridors

Action	Description / Goal	Status
T.4.1	Implement smart growth development policy	Ongoing – Continuing to pursue smart growth policy outlined in the General Plan.

W.1: Increase Diversion of Materials from Landfills

Action	Description / Goal	Status
W.1.1	Increase waste diversion rate	Initial steps – Conducting outreach to businesses on SB1383 composting requirements. Starting paper product staff reporting. Acquired composting for city facilities and planning training.

Adaptation strategies

Action	Description / Goal	Status
1	Update City planning to account for sea-level rise	Ongoing – Many planning policies already incorporate sea-level rise. Currently updating Safety Element using most up to date sea-level rise projects under the high risk aversion scenario.
2	Pass climate emergency resolution	Planning – Not currently underway.
3	Improve climate action communication	Initial steps – Expanding outreach through sustainability newsletter, community events, updated website, and CCCT.
4	Incorporate climate risks into Hazard Mitigation Plan	Complete – Updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021) includes planning for climate hazards.
5	Expand tree coverage on an earlier timeline	Initial steps – Extending tree planting contract with Canopy for two years. Partnering on two grant applications to expand tree planting in EPA.
6	Increase protections for trees	Initial steps – Currently reviewing proposed changes to the Tree Protection Ordinance.
7	Implement the Green Infrastructure Plan	Initial steps – Parks Plan (2023) incorporated elements of the plan. Permeable area requirements for large new construction.
8	Support horizontal levee development	Ongoing – City continues to work with SFCJPA and OneShoreline on coastal barrier project.
9	Develop climate-resilient infrastructure	Planning – Currently planning ways to improve City drainage systems, upgrade pump station, and expand green infrastructure.
10	Expand linear parks and accessibility	Planning – The completed Parks Master Plan (2023) outlines planned linear park expansions including San Francisquito Creek, SFPUC right of way, and more Bay Trail access points.
11	Divert more waste from landfills	Initial steps – Conducting outreach to businesses on SB1383 composting requirements. Starting paper product staff reporting. Acquired composting for city facilities and planning training.
12	Expand local compost use	Planning – Working with Recology to organize compost distribution events. Investigating more ways to use SMC RCD compost procurement locally.
13	Reduce impervious surfaces in private lots	Planning – The Green Infrastructure Plan (2020) identifies key strategies. CRC implementing rain garden pilot project.

14	Partner to reduce air pollution impacts	Planning – Partnering with Stanford on OCOB project studying air pollution impacts. CRC helping distribute some air purifiers.
15	Increase local water supply resilience and emergency readiness	Initial steps – Two local wells are undergoing further testing as backup water sources. Menlo FD running emergency prep outreach. Planning residential water conservation efforts.
16	Consider expanding wetlands to buffer sea level rise	Planning – City is working with SFCJPA and OneShoreline on plans for sea level rise protections and preservation of local ecosystem functions.
17	Plan for seawater intrusion	Initial steps – Currently considering sea level rise impacts on groundwater in Safety Element update.

GHG inventory update

Since complete data records lag by about two years, our most recent available greenhouse gas emissions inventory is from 2021. This inventory differs from previous ones used to develop 2011 and 2030 CAP goals in that it uses a different method of deciding which city to attribute vehicle emissions to (the “origin-destination” method). Under this new emission accounting method, the city’s 2021 emissions are 73,885 Megatons of CO₂ equivalent (Mt CO₂eq), down from 111,214 Mt CO₂eq in 2005 (the CAP baseline year). This represents about a 33% reduction in overall emission, but only a 26.5% reduction in per capita emissions. Because these years were recalculated using the new vehicle emissions method, it is no longer accurate to compare them against previous 2017 and 2019 emissions inventories which have not been recalculated using the new method.

For a detailed breakdown of emissions from 2021 and 2005 as well as some of the available 2022 data, see the attachments.

Public Notice

The public was provided notice of this agenda item by posting the Public Works & Transportation Commission agenda on the City’s official bulletin board outside City Hall and making the agenda and report available at the City’s website and at the San Mateo County Library located at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto.

Environmental

The action being considered does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378 (b)(5), in that it is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Government Code § 84308

Applicability of Levine Act: No, as the entitlement involves a contract that is proposed to be competitively bid, the Levine Act is not applicable.

Analysis of Levine Act Compliance: Not applicable.

Attachments

Attachment A – 2030 Community Climate Action Plan

Attachment B – 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

Attachment C – 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

Attachment D – 2022 PCE energy inventory

Attachment E – Existing building electrification strategy options matrix