



Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Report

March 11, 2021
Item 6

SUBJECT: REVIEW THE DRAFT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE (CAP 2.0)

EXHIBITS:

1. Draft CAP 2.0 Actions and Strategies
2. Public Outreach

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City's original Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2012 and outlines local actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, enhance environmental sustainability, and prepare for climate change. The City Council identified preparation of an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP 2.0) as a priority in the Council Work Plan. The CAP 2.0 has been underway since the start of 2020. Throughout the process, the Committee on Energy and Environment (Committee) has been reviewing project update progress reports, discussing project details, and providing feedback at key project milestones. The Committee has provided direction on and the City Council has affirmed a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target pathway and the document framework. The Committee has also provided feedback on draft actions for inclusion in the document.

As the next step in the process, a list of potential actions for inclusion in CAP 2.0 has been developed for public review, and as part of that process is being presented to various City boards and commissions, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as other stakeholder groups, for input. This list is still considered draft and may be expanded and/or further refined through the CAP update process and as new ideas, and potential actions emerge--including at the community workshop that will be held in spring.

RECOMMENDATION

Review the draft strategy and actions for the CAP 2.0 and provide feedback.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There is no financial impact to this action.

BACKGROUND

The project kick-off occurred in early January 2020, though it experienced a delay due to COVID-19. CAP 2.0 meetings with the Committee on Energy and Environment (Committee) have consistently occurred since August 2020, and an adjusted public outreach program, using virtual meetings, online tools and materials, and other methods of outreach has been underway.

Evaluation of Existing Conditions

The first step in updating the Climate Action Plan involved reviewing a series of background documents important to understanding the City's current conditions and context for future policy setting. Those documents included:

- [Baseline Assessment Memorandum](#) with relevant plans, programs, and policies that inform the City's current decisions relating to climate activities.
- [CAP 1.0 Progress Memorandum](#) that assesses progress implementing the City's 2012 Climate Action Plan actions.
- [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) which provides a high-level overview of climate science, climate scenarios, and a summary of biophysical impacts of climate change in Pleasanton.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Pathway

The next step was to establish a [GHG emission reduction pathway](#). This involved reviewing current State regulations, updating the existing greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, forecasting future GHG emissions, forecasting future GHG emissions that are adjusted for State and Federal regulations, and setting a target pathway to reduce emissions. The Committee recommended, and the [City Council](#) affirmed, a short- and long-term target for emissions reductions which together define the pathway of emissions reductions for the City. The actions in the CAP 2.0 will be focused on closing the gap between the adjusted GHG emissions forecast and the pathway established.

CAP 2.0 Framework

The next step was to determine the document framework which is crucial in identifying environmental priorities beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., clean water, protecting habitats, and resilience in the face of wildfires) and guiding the actions that ultimately get prioritized for inclusion in the document. The Committee recommended, and the [City Council](#) affirmed, an overarching goal for the document (i.e., a Vision Statement), parameters for the actions selected (i.e., Guiding Principles), other priorities of the City (i.e., Co-Benefits), and criteria to help prioritize and narrow down the potential actions ultimately included in the CAP 2.0 (i.e., Action Selection Criteria).

Draft CAP 2.0 Actions

A "long list" of potential CAP 2.0 actions was then developed from the following sources:

- Reviewing the existing Climate Action Plan
- Best practices and actions from neighboring jurisdictions and other cities that have prepared Climate Action Plans
- Input from the public (e.g., online survey and public comments received to date), the Committee, and City staff
- Discussion at six different focus groups that included stakeholders and implementation partners (e.g., PG&E, Zone 7, StopWaste, etc.)

To prioritize the “long list”, the consultant team (Cascadia) with input from staff, completed a multi-criteria analysis (MCA). The MCA is a qualitative assessment, based on the consultants’ professional experience, available literature, peer city case studies, and outreach to date. It assigns a score for each action based on the Action Prioritization Criteria: effectiveness, cost, feasibility, support, co-benefits, and equity. The analysis aims to prioritize the action list to a realistic and achievable quantity of highly impactful actions that will be implementable over the life of the plan.

The prioritized long list of actions is included as Attachment 1. The high priority actions are recommended to move forward to the next step of analysis and the low priority actions are recommended to be removed from consideration. While the MCA helps establish the priority actions to include in the CAP 2.0, staff acknowledges there may be some actions that did not receive a high priority, but that ultimately may be included in the plan as either supporting actions (e.g., community outreach and education), or because they are of particularly high importance to the community (e.g., carbon sequestration actions).

In the current step of review of the draft actions, staff seeks input from several Committees, Commissions, and the community (including at a community workshop that will be held later in the spring). The action list is still considered a draft, and may be expanded, reduced, or refined based on the public outreach process that is currently underway. Attachment 2 provides a complete list of outreach conducted to date, and planned future outreach events.

Following the public outreach process, the refined high priority action list will go through a more detailed quantitative assessment, that will include estimates of projected costs, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions for each action. The cost/benefit analysis will help determine the final list of actions included in the CAP 2.0.

DISCUSSION

As mentioned above, the prioritized draft list of potential CAP 2.0 actions is being shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission for feedback and discussion. The actions are categorized into a variety of sectors including Building and Energy (BE), Transportation and Land Use (TR), Materials and Consumption (MC), Water Resources (WR), Natural Systems (NS), and Community Resilience and Wellbeing (CR). Each sector has a sector-specific goal, high level strategies that identify how the City plans to achieve the goal, and specific actions for each strategy. As an example:

Natural Systems

- Goal:
 - Foster resilient natural landscapes and optimize local carbon sequestration.
- Strategies:
 - **Increase land carbon sequestration:** Improve natural lands and systems, including trees and soil, to increase the potential to store and sequester carbon.
 - **Improve ecosystem resilience:** Increase the resilience of natural lands and systems to prepare for future climate impacts.

While the Commission can comment on the entire prioritized draft action list in Attachment 1, staff is calling attention to the following actions which are most relevant to the purview of the Commission:

Action ID	Action Name	Action Description
BE 1173	Municipal solar panels	Install solar panels and storage at municipal parking lots, parks, the library, the senior centers, and other municipal buildings. <i>High priority (Strategy 3- Expand renewables).</i>
NS 1150	Develop Urban Forest Master Plan	Develop an Urban Forest Master Plan that includes best practices for tree health and maintenance and reevaluates community tree regulations to protect existing canopy and to ensure trees are replanted with a "right sized tree" with sufficient tree well and/or rooting volume. <i>High priority (Strategy 1- Increase land carbon sequestration).</i>
NS 1202	Modify Municipal landscape management practices	Modify municipal landscape management practices including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace synthetic nitrogen fertilizer with soil amendments such as manure or other organic by-products (e.g., compost and mulch) on city-owned properties to increase carbon sequestration potential, increase drought- and flood-resistance of soil and further SB 1383 compliance. 2. Improve organic nutrient management by managing the amount, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments in City parks, green spaces, and natural areas. 3. Eliminate the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides. <i>High priority (Strategy 1- Increase land carbon sequestration).</i>
NS 1050	Support carbon sequestration projects	Encourage composting on private lands to increase carbon sequestration potential, increase drought and flood-resistance of soil, and further SB 1383 compliance. Strategies may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidizing the cost of compost. • Increasing awareness through education campaigns. • Requiring the use of compost in new landscape projects. <i>Low priority (Strategy 1- Increase land carbon sequestration).</i>
NS 1148	Ecosystem health on City property	Assess the health of natural systems and trees on City property including parks and rights-of-way. Support Zone 7's assessment of natural systems on their property as needed. Develop goals and restoration strategies to improve habitat quality, tree canopy cover, and provide sufficient soil rooting volume for trees. <i>Low priority (Strategy 2- Improve ecosystem resilience).</i>
NS 1204	Community conservation programs	Develop a Library and Recreation program dedicated to conservation and stewardship projects for different age groups. <i>Low priority (Strategy 2- Improve ecosystem resilience).</i>
TR 1056	Create an EV Infrastructure Plan	Review existing Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure to identify gaps and develop an EV Infrastructure Plan that strategically expands EV infrastructure throughout the community. The plan should include, among other strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of publicly available EV infrastructure. • Installation of EV chargers on municipal properties including parking lots at parks, the library, the senior center, and other municipal buildings. • Collaboration with existing gas stations to install EV chargers. • Partnership with EBCE and other organizations. <i>High priority (Strategy 1- Advance vehicle decarbonization).</i>

TR 1064	Complete Streets Expansion	Support and track progress towards the expansion of the complete streets network as directed in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, with a focus on designated and protected bike lanes to parks and schools. Report progress indicators such as new bike lanes and bike racks installed in CAP. <i>High priority (Strategy 2- Advance active, shared, and public transportation).</i>
TR 1082	Trails Master Plan implementation	Encourage development project amenities, when amenities are required, to include contribution of funds or land to further the trails network as outlined in the Trails Master Plan, with a focus on closing trail network gaps. <i>High priority (Strategy 2- Advance active, shared, and public transportation).</i>
CR 1143	Community gardens	Partner with nonprofits, low-income communities, and underrepresented communities to expand urban agriculture opportunities in community gardens, schools, parks, and on rooftops. <i>Low priority (Strategy 1- Improve community resilience).</i>

Discussion Questions:

Staff poses the following discussion questions to the Commission:

1. Should any of the high priority actions be removed from the list (e.g., they may not be actionable/feasible, are already happening, or do not make sense for the community)?
2. Should any of the low priority actions be elevated to high priority and included in the next step of review (i.e., the quantitative analysis)?
3. Are any crucial actions missing?
4. Do you have any strong support or opposition to any of the actions listed?

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The feedback from this meeting and other public meetings and outreach will be provided to the Committee on Energy and Environment. The Committee will review the results of the outreach and recommend preferred actions to be included in the CAP 2.0. The Committee recommendation and quantitative analysis will be provided to the City Council around June and a draft CAP 2.0 will be circulated in late summer. Ultimately, the City Council will review and act on the CAP 2.0 with an anticipated goal for CAP 2.0 adoption in fall of 2021.

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