



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 1

**Agenda Date:** May 9, 2024

**In Control:** City Council Special Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Sustainability

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Douglas Melnick

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

A briefing on the status of the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund (REES) and Urban Heat Island Mitigation Initiative. [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability]

**SUMMARY:**

This briefing will provide an overview of the SA Climate Ready Plan to cover implementation highlights and a timeline for SA Climate Ready Plan Update, and an update on FY24 the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund (REES) programs including grants to community organizations, business incentives, community-based climate resilience projects, and Urban Heat Island mitigation initiatives.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

SA Climate Ready

The SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is the City's roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality and to adapt to current and future climate impacts. In 2017, City Council approved a resolution setting a goal to become carbon neutral by 2050 and to adapt to climate

impacts with a focus on the most vulnerable populations. City Council adopted the CAAP in 2019 and will be updated in 2024 - 2025 as part of a \$1M Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Since adoption of the CAAP, the City of San Antonio has been a leader in the nation on implementing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. In addition, several partner agencies have taken steps to implement the CAAP.

#### Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, & Sustainability (REES )

In FY 2023, City Council established the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, & Sustainability (REES) Fund with portion of City's payment from CPS Energy on STEP Recovery. The FY24 REES budget is \$9.5 Million. As outlined by City Council, the fund is intended to support:

- Grants to community organizations
- Business incentives
- Urban Heat Island Mitigation
- Leveraging grant opportunities

The following REES Programs will be discussed at the briefing:

- The SA Climate Ready Community Action Fund which includes a Neighborhood and Community Grants Program, a Business Grant Program, and a Grassroots Engagement Program.
- Community-Based Climate Resilience Projects including the Community-based Organization Resilience Network and the Low-Income Neighborhood Resilience Pilot.
- Urban Heat Island Mitigation to include an update on the Cool Pavement Pilot Program, a preview of a Heat Story Board as a tool for community awareness and engagement, and a new Cool Neighborhood Pilot Program.

In addition, as one of the REES program areas is Leverage Grant Opportunities, this briefing will address the following grants either applied for or secured:

- EPA Solar For All for low-income solar, battery storage, and workforce development;
- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for regional climate planning across the 13-county AACOG service area as well as an update to the CAAP;
- USDOE Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant for CoSA Aviation Energy Master Plan, and EV Charging Stations and Low-income E-bike rebates in partnership with Opportunity Home.
- NREL Technical Assistance Program for a Waste to Energy assessment.

#### **ISSUE:**

This is an information briefing on the status of the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund (REES) and Urban Heat Island Mitigation Initiative.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.