



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: April 24, 2025

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas Melnick

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

SA Climate Ready climate resilience initiatives for FY25.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Sustainability will present an update on the SA Climate Ready climate resilience initiatives, which include the Municipal On-Site Solar Project, the Climate Ready Neighborhoods Network (CRNN), and the Quintana/South San Neighborhood Resilience Initiative. Additionally, they will provide insights into the progress of the 2025 SA Climate Ready Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2017, the City of San Antonio (City) adopted a resolution to meet the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, and after extensive community input, City Council passed the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) on October 17, 2019. The CAAP commits the City to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and to adapt to current and future climate impacts, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

In FY 2024, the Office of Sustainability initiated several programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change including the Municipal On-Site Solar Project, the Low-Income Neighborhood Resilience Program, and the Climate Ready Neighborhoods Network.

In FY 2023, City Council established the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability (REES) Fund to provide resources to support the implementation of the SA Climate Ready Plan.

City Council approved \$825,000 in funds to establish the Low-Income Community Resilience Pilot Program. This program utilizes equity and climate vulnerability indicators to identify priority neighborhoods to focus an expedited community-led planning process to develop a climate resilience assessment and priority implementation projects. The initial pilot project has focused on the Quintana/South San Neighborhood and in partnership with the local Community Based Organization (CBO) lead, Fuerza Unida, constituents identified extreme heat as the priority climate vulnerability. The South San Heat Resilience Project focuses on developing community driven neighborhood cooling solutions, while empowering leadership in climate resilience. The project aims to create long-term, equitable solutions for climate adaptation in South San and beyond. Community engagement over the summer and fall of 2024 have led to a report outlining priority projects for implementation. The Office will continue to work with Fuerza Unida and other community members in seeing through implementation of select projects.

The Office of Sustainability has also launched the Climate Ready Neighborhoods Network (CRNN), a partnership of the Office of Sustainability and Impact Guild, a local nonprofit. This network of community partners links climate resilience information, trainings, resources, and funding through a coalition of trusted community groups and spaces called Neighborhood PODs. Learning tools and bimonthly networks meetings serve as the backbone for neighborhood associations, CBOs, businesses, and interested residents to come together to build community resilience and proactively plan for community response to climate disruptions.

In November of 2023, City Council approved a \$30 million project to install roof top and parking canopy solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at 42 city facilities. The City's approved services agreement with local developer Big Sun Solar will also make progress toward San Antonio's 2040 goal of zero net energy for all municipal buildings. The project uses new Inflation Reduction Act incentives, the State Energy Conservation Office LoanStar low-interest loan and local tax dollars.

In addition, as the SA Climate Ready Plan is required to be updated every 3-5 years, the Office of Sustainability has initiated the 2025 SA Climate Ready Plan Update. This update is funded through a \$1M Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) that is also being utilized to develop the Alamo Area Climate Plan that is being led by AACOG program.

ISSUE:

This is a briefing item, and no action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff does not recommend any action.