



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee**  
**August 2, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**  
**Virtual – WebEx**

**SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee Members:**

Aaron Arguello At large	Diana Lopez-Perez At large
Dr. Adelita Cantu At large	Eloisa Portillo-Morales At large
Anacua Garcia At large	Joshua Scott At large
Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez *	Dr. Joseph Simpson At large
Harjot Kaur *	Tristan Tovar At large

\*Indicates Not Present

Office of Sustainability Staff: Douglas Melnick, Julia Murphy, Minerva Defee

NRDC Advisor: Adil Chowdhury

Chair or Vice-Chair of the Technical & Community Advisory Committee: Melissa Bryant

Facilitator: Lupita González

Assistant City Manager: David W. McCary

Texas Creative: Ashley Landers, Marcie Treviño Ripper

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Douglas Melnick at 4:08 p.m.

**II. Public Comments**

No citizens signed up to be heard.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minerva Defee presented the minute meetings from June 1st, 2021, for approval. Minutes were sent to committee members ahead of time and were attached to the August meeting agenda.

Motion: Cantu motioned for approval.  
Portillo-Morales seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Arguello, Cantu, Garcia, Lopez- Perez, Portillo-Morales, Scott, Simpson, Tovar

Nays: None

Absent: Garcia-Gonzalez, Kaur

Action: Motion passed with 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.



#### **IV. Individual Items for Consideration**

##### **Strategy Prioritization and Discussion:**

Office of Sustainability staff worked together with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs or each Committee to identify the recommended strategies. Douglas Melnick introduced the strategy prioritization discussion, noting the considerations behind the selection of the specific priorities such as equity benefits, potential impact, co-benefits, timing, and available resources. To ensure a holistic approach, strategies had to represent both approaches in the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan Equally. Thus, there is one strategy under mitigation, one under adaptation, and four that fall under both mitigation and adaptation. Finally, each strategy was matched with a set of co-benefits that would result from implementation.

##### ***Building Energy Benchmarking***

Adil Chowdhury, Buildings and Energy Advisor from NRDC, outlined the background and process for the proposed energy benchmarking policy for large multifamily and commercial buildings. In summary, Energy benchmarking is the process of regularly measuring a building's energy use, tracking its performance over time, and comparing its performance to that of similar buildings. Other major cities around the country have benchmarking policies in place and have had them for several years. The City of San Antonio benchmarks its municipal buildings annually and released a full report in 2020. Sample policy components include the following:

- Non-residential, multifamily, and municipal buildings  $\geq 50,000$
- Benchmark both energy and water consumption
- Follow a staged roll out, including compliance
- Ensure transparency and recognition

In order to continue building on the proposed policy, the Committee voted on the creation of an Energy Benchmarking Subcommittee that will include members from both of the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committees as well as outside experts and stakeholders.

Motion      Simpson motioned for approval.  
Arguello seconded the motion.

Vote:      Ayes: Arguello, Cantu, Garcia, Lopez-Perez, Portillo-Morales,  
Simpson, Scott, Tovar  
Nays:      None  
Absent:      Garcia-Gonzalez, Kaur

Action:      Motion passed with 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.

##### ***Resilience Hubs***

Diana Lopez-Perez introduced resilience hubs, community-serving facilities that support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce pollution while enhancing quality of life. She then outlined the five resilience areas, programming, structure, power, communications, and operations, as well as the three modes of the hubs, normal, disruption, and recovery. Melnick described existing resilience hub programs in different cities and states, noting the different stages of development.

##### ***Communications and Engagement***

Defee related the different initiatives taking place under the communications and engagement umbrella, generally under four categories, mass input, grassroots input, youth input, and business community input. Each of these categories has a specific timeline, but all are currently in progress. It is important to note that results from an effective communications and engagement



campaign can assist with both mitigation and adaptation and have the potential to support all co-benefits.

#### *Current Opportunities*

There are three opportunities for the advisory committees to provide input regarding development, energy, and municipal projects, the Unified Development Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, and the 2022 Bond Program. Recommendations for all three will be accepted through the Fall of 2021, giving the Advisory Committee a few months to prepare key suggestions that will assist in achieving the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Reviewing these documents requires a certain amount of expertise and extensive time commitment, so a survey will be sent out to gauge interest within the committee. Those that express interest in being deeply involved with this process will work with the Office of Sustainability to review the required documents and compile recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the full Committee for approval before they are sent to Executive Leadership.

#### Subcommittee Updates:

Joseph Simpson provided an update on the Climate Equity Screening Tool Subcommittee. The group is currently analyzing screening tools from the Office of Equity, outside organizations, and other cities to identify best practices. The main goals include ensuring that appropriate metrics are being tracked at crucial steps in the development or programs, ensuring that the frontline communities are benefiting from these programs, and ensuring that the tool is functional and practical. A draft screening tool will be presented at the next meeting.

#### Texas Creative Updates:

Ashley Landers shared key results from the Attitudes, Awareness & Perceptions Quantitative Study. The two most impactful results were that a total of 86% of those surveyed believe that climate change is occurring, and that there is no single most important tactic to reduce emissions and become resilient, all strategies must be considered.

Marcie Treviño Ripper updated the Committee on the grassroots grant initiative. Three different organizations were chosen, Yanawana Herbolarios, Martinez Street Women's Center, and disABILITYsa. These three organizations have started their outreach efforts and will provide interim updates in early September. The grants will continue through the end of the calendar year, full results from their engagement with frontline communities will be shared with the Committees in early 2022.

#### **V. Determination of Next Meeting Date**

The next SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 4th, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, this meeting may be in-person. The Technical and Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5th, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and may also be in-person.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.