



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Date: June 8, 2022

In Control: City Council B Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas Melnick

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the status of the implementation of the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

SUMMARY:

The SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) was approved by City Council on October 17, 2019 and serves as a pathway to meeting the City's commitments to climate action as outlined in City Council's resolution of support for the Paris Climate Agreement on June 22, 2017.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 22, 2017, City Council passed Resolution No. 2017-06-22-0031R in support of the Paris Climate Agreement; directing city staff to develop a plan to help San Antonio meet the objectives of this agreement that includes minimizing global climate change to no more than 1.5°C and implementing climate adaptation measures, particularly in support of our most vulnerable residents. On October 17, 2019, City Council adopted the CAAP by Ordinance 2019-10-17-0840.

The CAAP identifies twenty-eight (28) community, thirteen (13) municipal climate mitigation strategies and forty-five (45) adaptation strategies and sets the target of net carbon neutrality by

2050.

SA Climate Ready focuses on:

- Reducing emissions and improving air quality and public health outcomes;
- Reducing unnecessary energy consumption, lowering energy bills and saving money for residents, businesses and institutions;
- Promoting equity and environmental and climate justice;
- Increasing economic competitiveness and access to green job opportunities; and,
- Adapting to climate change and building community resilience.

In 2021, the Office of Sustainability released a 2019 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory that showed that San Antonio's total community emissions decreased 0.2% between 2016 and 2019, which is not consistent with the target of carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, in April 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their latest report titled Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, which states that "if global CO₂ emissions continue at current rates, the remaining carbon budget for keeping warming to 1.5°C will likely be exhausted before 2030." Beyond this threshold, the planet will experience even greater extreme heat and weather patterns, sea-level rise and flooding, catastrophic infrastructure failures, increased vector-borne illness, strain on natural resources and loss of biodiversity.

84% of San Antonio's GHG emissions are generated in the building energy and transportation sectors. Therefore, in addition to focusing on cleaner energy sources and conservation, since the plan's implementation, prioritized policy initiatives from the CAAP have included: education and empowerment; reducing transportation consumption, reducing building energy consumption, and leading by example in municipal operations. Investments made now will pay dividends in future savings and avoided costs.

San Antonio has participated in the competitive American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC) for the past two and a half years, and the challenge will conclude at the end of June 2022. More information about CoSA's climate initiatives may be found on the Sustainability Dashboard website at www.sasustainability.com.

ISSUE:

As implementation is the key to the success of the CAAP, this briefing will provide an update on the status of the following plan elements:

- General plan implementation status;
- Municipal policies and programs;
- Community policies and programs, including Benchmarking and Disclosure for Large Buildings;
- Communications and engagement activities; and,
- Climate Equity activities

ALTERNATIVES:

This is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for briefing purposes only.