



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee**  
**September 27, 2022, 4:00 PM / Virtual – WebEx**

SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee Members:

Aaron Arguello At large	Harjot Kaur At large	Melissa Bryant
Dr. Adelita Cantu At large	Diana Lopez-Perez At large	Vacant At large
Anacua Garcia At large	Joshua Scott*	Vacant At large
Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez* At large	Dr. Joseph Simpson At large	<i>*Indicates not present</i>

Office of Sustainability Staff: Douglas Melnick, Harley Hubbard, Olga Montellano-Campos, NRDC:  
T. Adil Chowdhry

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Melissa Bryant at 4:07 p.m.

Dr. Adelita Cantu presented the Land Acknowledgment & Race Equity statements

**II. Public Comments**

No public comments for this meeting.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes from May 31, 2022, were presented for approval. Minutes were sent to committee members ahead of time and were attached to the September meeting agenda.

Motion: Cavender motioned for approval  
Cantu seconded

Vote: Yes: Cantu, Arguello, Garcia, Kaur, Lopez-Perez, Simpson,  
Bryant, Debbage (with amendment)

No: None

Abstain: None

Action: Motion passed with 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, 2 absent

**IV. Individual Items for Consideration**

**Dedicated Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund**

Councilwoman Sandoval proposed, for city council approval, a permanent fund for climate action, “Resiliency, Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (REES)”. The funding to OS of approximately 10 million a year or 14% of CPS STEP revenue was approved. Sandoval and staff identified four most urgent areas of focus but understand that OS is not mandated to these areas, this is a recommendation. The next step is planning how to best utilize the funds within the next 1-2 years. Any comments and/or suggestions from the advisory committee, please email the office, [district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov) with the subject line: New Climate Fund. This is a big deal! Very few cities, none in Texas, have a dedicated fund like this. McCary



echoed the sentiment, very much appreciated, amazing! As long as the STEP program exists, yearly funding will be allocated to OS.

### **OS FY 23 Budget**

Not only is this Fund a game changer, but this was also a good year for OS in terms of other resources. Publicly thank, McCary, for assisting OS with the process. OS was allocated a total of five new positions, funded through SWM and Energy Efficiency. Melnick shared the OS organizational chart, noted the reclassification of a fiscal position, Senior Municipal Sustainability Manager. The OS department is almost doubling in size!

Melnick shared an updated on the Energy Efficiency Fund; Capital and Bond Projects; 2023 Municipal sustainability initiatives; federal funding efforts; climate adaptation in terms of biodiversity, food systems, and urban heat mitigation; fleet efficiency within our organization; employee training and the 2021 inventory to be completed by end of month. Regarding community, Horne will share an update on the benchmarking program. The Energy Code (IECC) is still in progress. Vehicle Electrification efforts continue, focusing on publicly accessible charging stations and community engagement. Other highlights include the Urban Heat Island (UHI) program and CoSA Solar Procurement of municipal facilities, approximately 80 facilities, in upwards of 11-13 megawatts potential savings.

Discussion included Energy Efficiency project; community grants; staffing for benchmarking; resilience hubs; and UHI, can VIA plug into this and be part of delivery team? After the initial organizational phase, expansion will include other organizations. There is a huge opportunity to coordinate with others i.e., VIA, SAWS, River Authority.

### **Building Awareness Program**

The Energy Benchmarking ordinance is critical to our CAAP plans. The ordinance impacts only very large buildings, 50,000 sq feet or larger, 14% of all building stock in SA. The buildings are so large, they represent 70% of the floor space in SA. Benefits will be realized in the Health, Economy and Equity of the community. Forty cities have implemented this program and are seeing measurable, significant savings.

Discussion included status of program; exemptions; effective peer comparison; industrial buildings; remote sensing buildings/offsite management; and voluntary versus mandated.

### **Energy subcommittee**

Although membership and chair have not yet been finalized, the committee met. An update on the progress of the RAC was shared. There is some potential of overlapping and we may need to determine what is better addressed by RAC and what is addressed by this committee. At the next meeting, membership will be finalized, and a chair will be named. The committee will also discuss what it hopes to accomplish.

### **CPS Energy – RAC Update**



CPS announced significant projects; additional Generation Planning sessions are scheduled to give the public an opportunity to share their feedback. Looking at adding up to 900 more megawatts of solar; no agreement for energy storage or firming capacity yet.

### **Update – Climate Equity Tool**

The Climate equity screening tool will be used for all proposals submitted to the OS office. This tool uses a 6 steps process, each step is action oriented. All six steps will be ranked using a rubric.

Discussion included the possibilities of utilizing the tool; using the tool for other projects; usage of the term “empowerment”; implementation; and metrics, i.e., if a proposal generates a moderate rating, will it be modified or denied? OS will conduct a thorough review of a proposal using the tool.

### **SA Climate Engagement & Communications**

Regarding the *Who Cares?* Campaign, to date, OS received a total of 125 pledges, 25 comments. Results have been very positive from both businesses and residents noting why they care. The second stage is education and empowerment.

### **Open Space: Updates/New Business:**

- Movement with RAC – calling a special meeting?
- Future Energy subcommittee meeting
- Overview of Keep SA moving
- Overhaul of VIA planning and specifically how it aligns with CAAP
- How to engage School Districts
- Update on Resilience Hubs
- Councilwoman Sandoval / STEP Funding
- Federal funding
- Recommendation to hold future meetings in person or a hybrid
- Reminder next meeting: November 29

## **V. Adjournment**

Motion: Walter motioned to adjourn the meeting  
Weber seconded  
Vote: All in favor  
Action: Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm

Approved

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Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez, Chair  
Climate Equity Advisory Committee City of San Antonio, Texas

Date