

AGENDA ITEM #5

POSTING LANGUAGE: Briefing and possible action on the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas R. Melnick, AICP, ISSP-SA, CNU-A

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: All

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan

SUMMARY:

A briefing on the Office of Sustainability's implementation of the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan was adopted by City Council in 2016 along with the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive and Multimodal Transportation Plans.

The SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan identified community-wide and municipal strategies in the following focal areas:

- Energy
- Food System
- Green Building and Infrastructure
- Land Use and Transportation
- Natural Resources
- Public Health
- Solid Waste Resources

In addition, the plan identified the following cross-cutting themes:

- Air Quality
- Economic Vitality
- Equity

- Resilience
- Water Resources

As part of the sustainability plan, the City completed its first-ever community-wide GHG emissions inventory and its first government operations inventory since 2008, using 2013 and 2014 as baseline years. A greenhouse gas inventory is a way to assess greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted to or removed from the atmosphere over time and can be used as a key air quality indicator. Inventories are used to track emission trends, develop mitigation strategies and policies, and assess progress.

Another component of the Sustainability Plan was the development of the City's first climate vulnerability assessment. The goal of the assessment was to look beyond the historic climate record using scientifically accepted models to identify the probability of future extreme weather events and changing climate conditions that could affect the city.

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. In order to ensure consistency in CoSA's sustainability efforts, SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan strategies and objectives were incorporated and enhanced within the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) that City Council adopted by Ordinance 2019-10-17-0840 on October 17, 2019.

ISSUE:

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. 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
- Building community resilience.

The SA Climate Ready Plan also included a Climate Projections Report, a 2016 municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas inventory, and Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.

This briefing will provide an overview of how the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan was incorporated into the CAAP, how equity is centered within the plan, and an update on plan implementation.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this briefing.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.