

A U S T I N C I T Y H A L L

Austin Community Climate Plan: Carbon Impact Statement

Joint Sustainability Committee | 11.30.2016

Agenda

- I. Council Direction
- II. Staff Process
- III. Research and Examples
- IV. Next Steps



Council Direction

Austin Community Climate Plan

- Adopted by City Council via Resolution 20150604-048
- Recommendation #3:

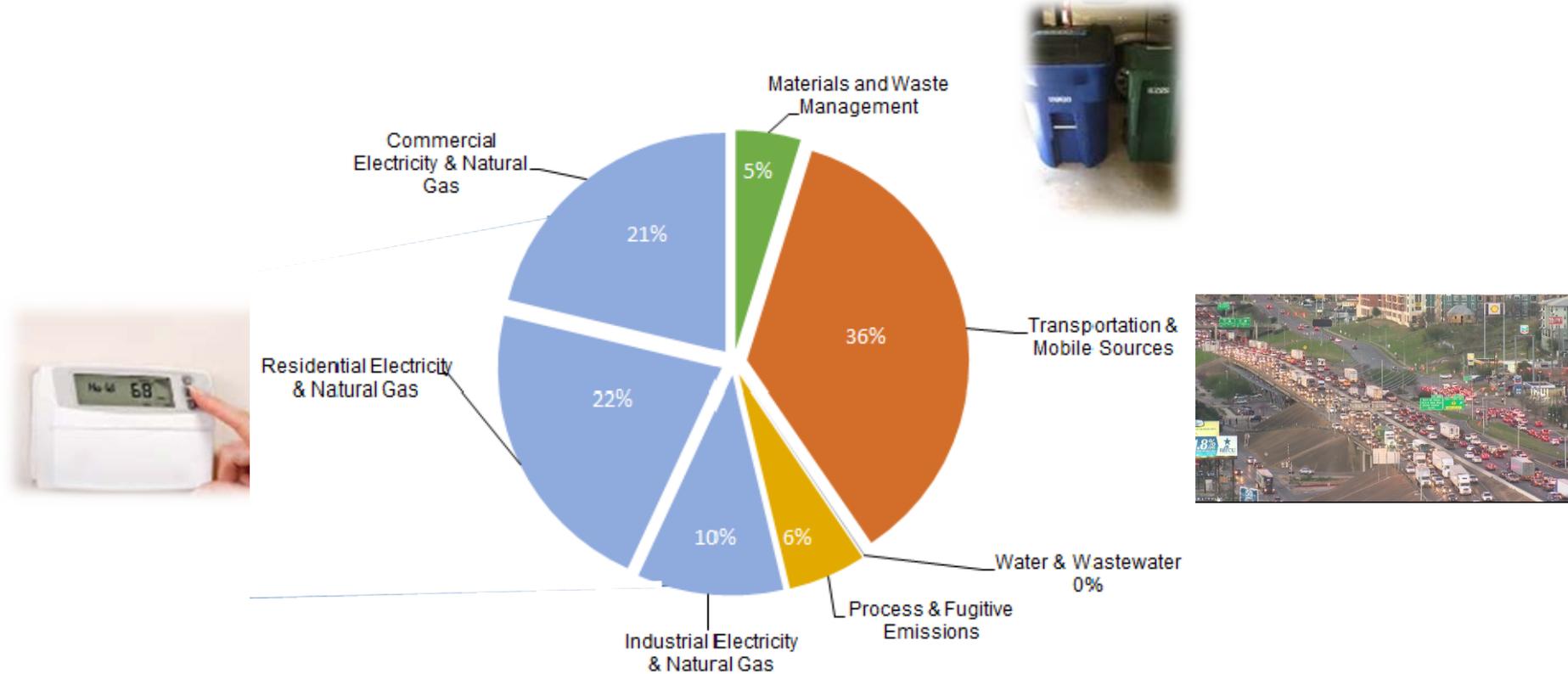
“Determine the feasibility of a carbon impact statement that could be used to inform policy makers of the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of major City decisions.”



Staff Process

What City activities have major carbon impacts?

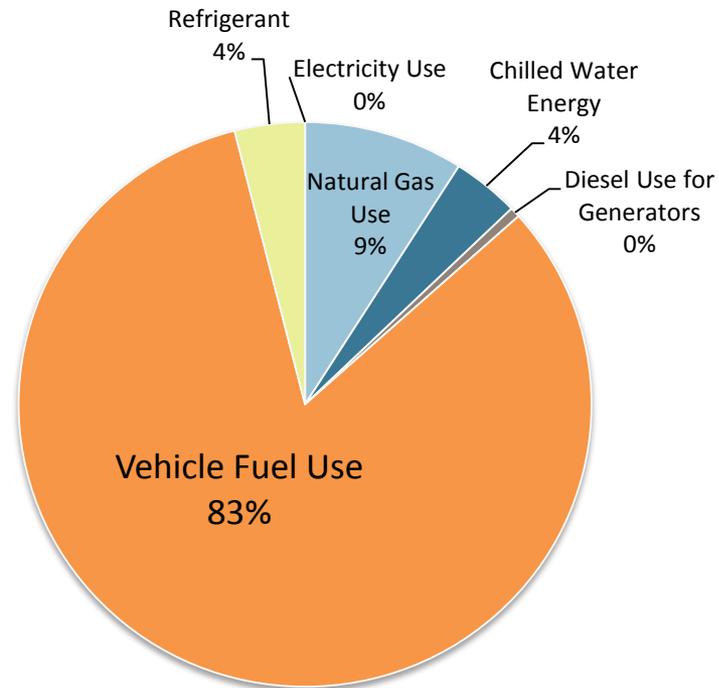
2013 Austin Community Carbon Footprint
14,500,000 MT CO₂e



Staff Process

What City activities have major carbon impacts?

2015 Municipal Operations Carbon Footprint - 57,528 MTCO₂e



Staff Process

What City Council actions result in major carbon impacts?

1. Purchases/Contracts
2. Resolutions/Policy direction
3. Zoning and Land Use
4. City CIP
5. Others...



Staff Process

Review other City impact statements:

- Affordability Impact Statement – impact of a project on production of affordable housing, the cost of development and housing
- Education Impact Statement – how attendance at nearby schools would be impacted by a project
- Traffic Impact Analysis – how many additional vehicle trips would result from a project's approval

Carbon Impact Statement would be similar, but different.



Research and Examples

Examples

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Evaluating GHG emissions as Part of California's Environmental Review Process
- City of San Francisco Greenhouse Gas Environmental Impact Statement
- Hestia Project – Arizona State University
- Fort Collins Sustainability Assessment Tool

Lessons Learned

- Has to be considered early in the process to have impact
- Must involve project sponsors, people who can influence the project's choices



Research and Examples

Texas State Class:

Draft #1

Austin Climate Action Plan Carbon Impact Statement

Project: [project name here]



Design Considerations

- Goals: Easy to use and understand, as objective as possible, advisory in nature
- What timeline does it cover?
- Which sectors of emissions are included?



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Research and Examples

Texas State Class:

Draft #2



Carbon Impact Statement

C14-2015-0043-Shady Lane Mixed Use-District 13

Project: Use-District 13

Options

	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]
A. Large Road and building	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2
B. Large road med bldg	-2	-1	0	1	2
C. Mixed use	3	4	5	6	6
D. Smaller building					
E. Building Plus park					

	Construction Phase			Operation Phase				
	-1	0	1	-1	0	1		
A.	Transportation	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Land Use	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.	Transportation	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Land Use	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	Transportation	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
	Energy	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
E.	Transportation	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■

Additional Notes:
 (recommended talking points - Imagine Austin 8 Priority Programs)

This project has a direct and positive impact toward a compact and connected Austin.

This project has a negative impact on household affordability in Austin.

Options C & D have a very positive impact on the use of green infrastructure.

Process Considerations

- Who is responsible for filling it out?
- How will it be communicated to City Council with projects/policies?
- How to measure impact/usefulness?



Next Steps

Continued Internal Discussions

- Analyze concept and refine criteria
- Set thresholds
- Resources, roles, and responsibilities
- Revise and update to a clean first draft

Future: External Input and Review

- Boards and Commissions
- Affected groups

Pilot Process





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Discussion



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