2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

September 2020

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
CITY OF AUSTIN

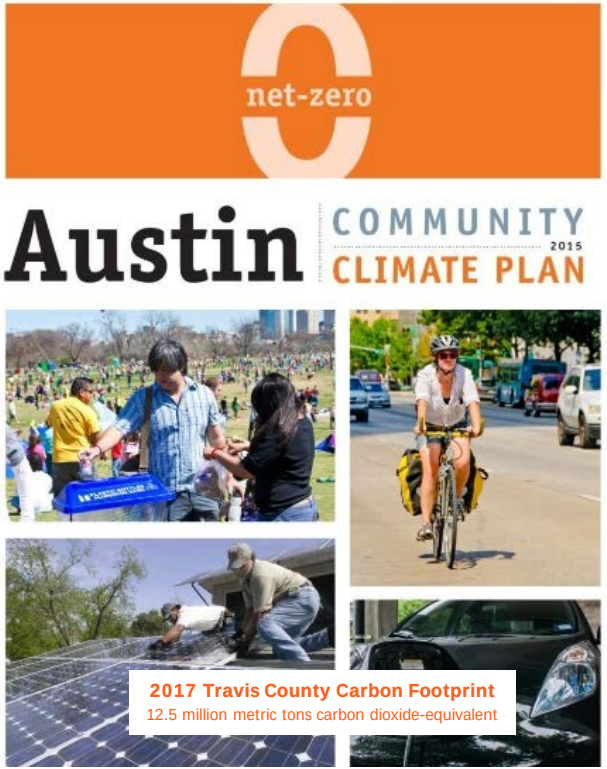
Summary

- We've been updating the Community Climate Plan
  - First draft has been internally reviewed
  - Draft for public comment coming out next week – full and summary documents.
  - Council in October

- What we're looking for from you:
  - Comments
  - Areas of Interest
  - Pledge of Support

2015 Community Climate Plan

Adopted by Council in June 2015



- Electricity & Natural Gas
- Transportation & Land Use
- Materials & Waste Management
- Industrial Processes

135 qualitative actions directed at departments

How was this plan update created?

- 24 City Staff
- 120 Community Members

  (NGO, Govt., Business)
- 12 Ambassadors

- 4 Equity Trainings
- 5 Community Workshops (over 250 attendees)
- 14 Steering Committee Meetings
- 60+ Advisory Group Meetings
- 50+ Interviews by Ambassadors

Steering Committee Members

Co-Chairs

Mayuri Raja, AZAAD, Google
Shane Johnson, Sierra Club
Katie Coyne, Asakura Robinson

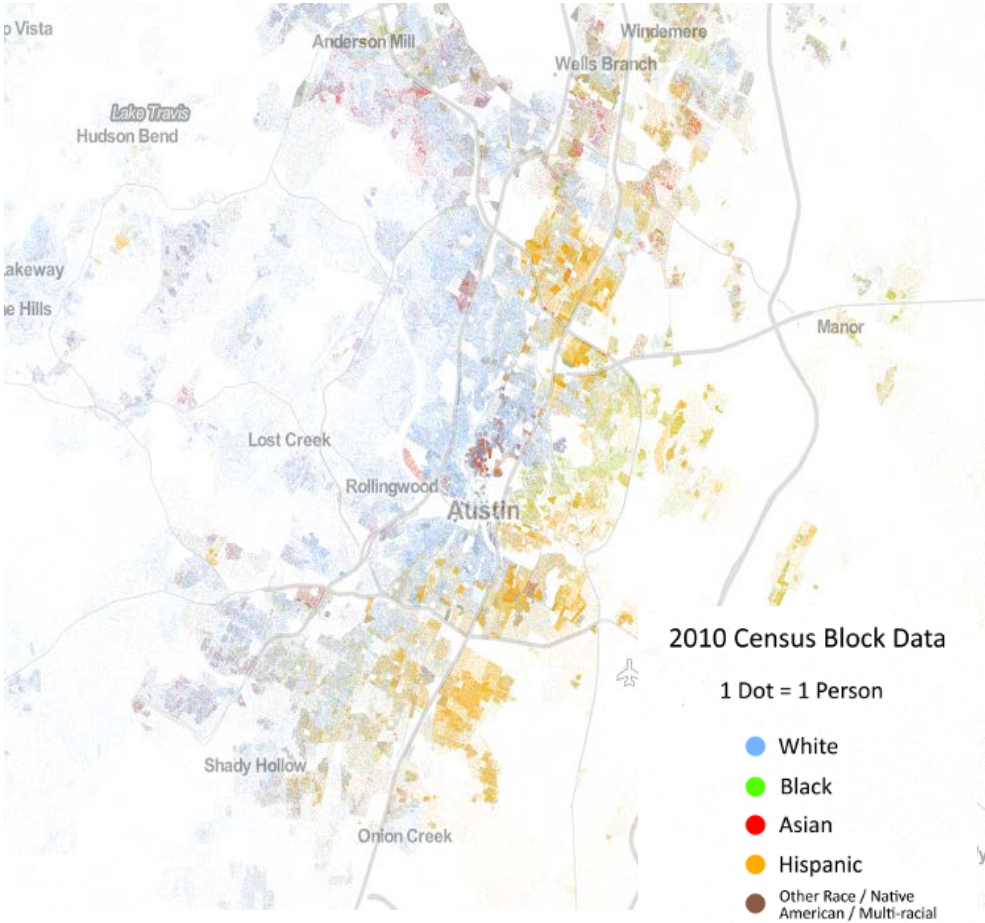
Susana Almanza, PODER
Joep Meijer, Citizen
Jim Walker, Univ. of Texas
Rocio Villalobos, Equity Office
Drew Nelson, Mitchell Foundation
Rodrigo Leal, Guidehouse
Rene Renteria, Citizen
Kaiba White, Public Citizen

Lauren Peressini, Sunrise Movement
Shawanda Stewart, Huston-Tillotson Univ.
Kenneth Thompson, Solar Austin
Ben Leibowicz, Univ. of Texas
Suzanne Russo, Pecan Street Inc.
Pooja Sethi, Sethi Law
Darien Clary, AISD
Alberta Phillips, Joint Sustainability Committee, ECHO

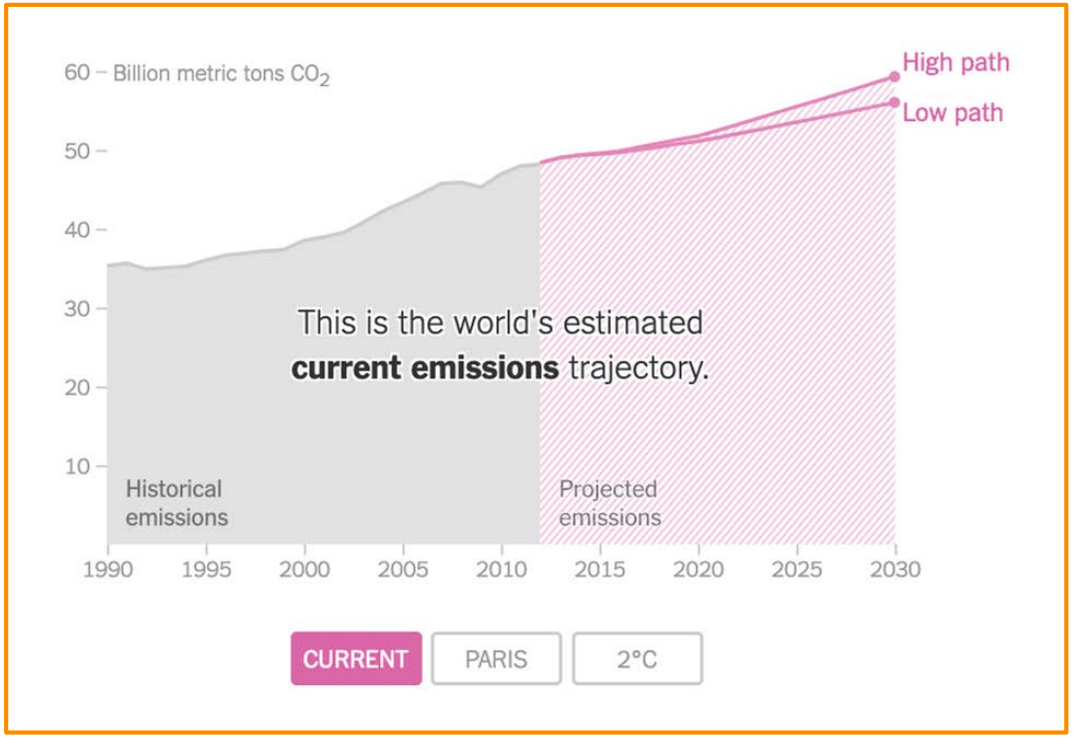
AG Representatives: Nakia Winfield, Brandi Clark Burton, Karen Magid, Kurt Stogdill, and Nick Kincaid

A History of Inequities that Remains Today

- The Austin 1928 Master Plan divided the city along racial lines, forcibly displacing Black residents into specific, undesirable areas.
- The Tank Farm fuel storage facility, Eastside Landfill, and the Holly Power Plant exposed people of color to toxic pollution in East Austin neighborhoods.
- Gentrification is taking place in parts of the city where low-income people and people of color have been forced to live, the African-American share of the Austin population declined from 12% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2010.
- As of 2015, 52% of white Austin residents were homeowners, only 27% of African-American and 32% of Hispanic/Latinx residents owned homes.
- Cases of COVID-19, hospitalization and mortality rates are disproportionately affecting Latinx and Black communities



We are Changing the Earth's Climate

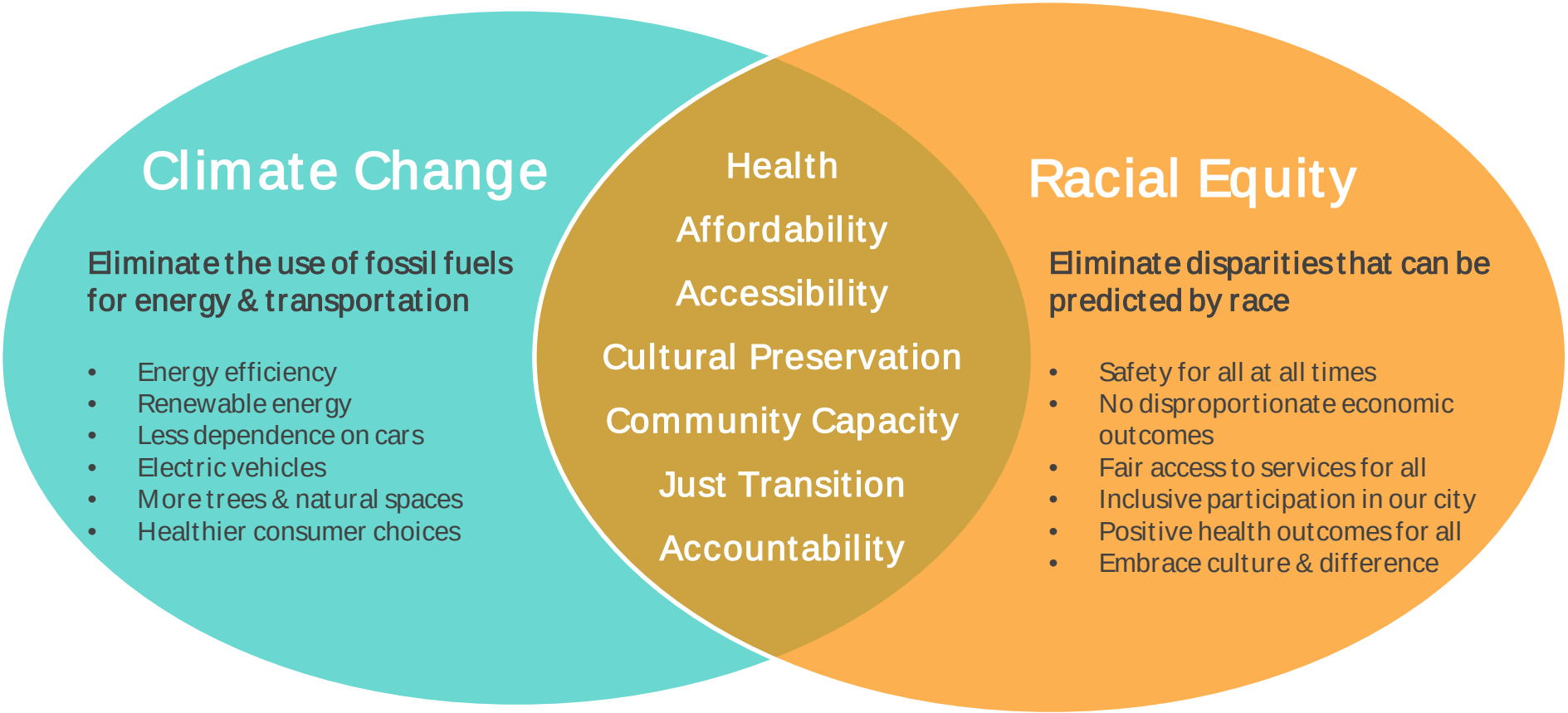


Warming over 2°C could be catastrophic to life on earth

Climate Projections for Austin

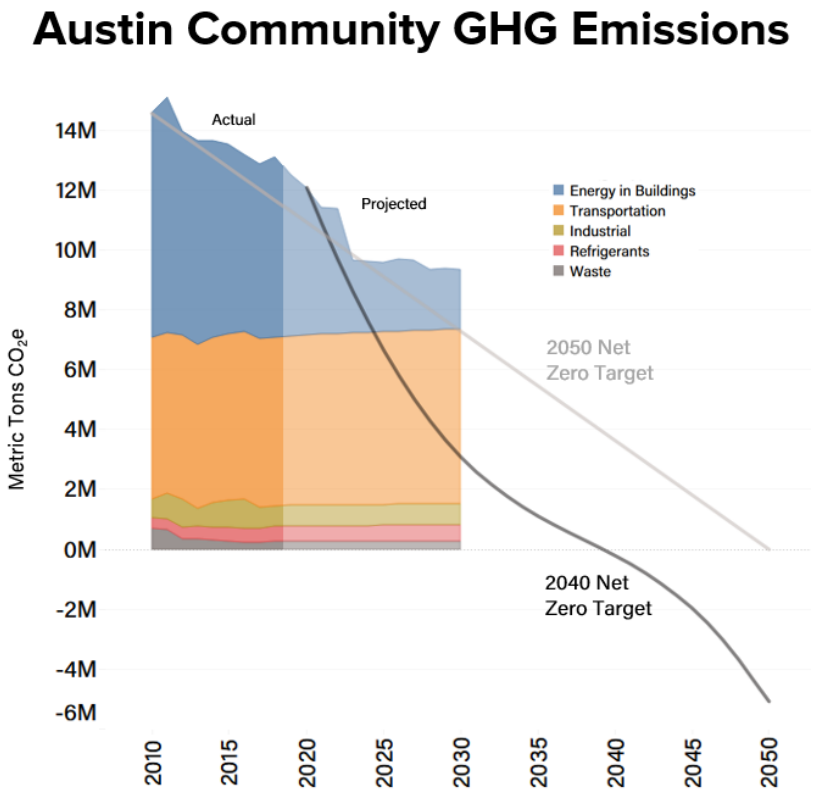
- Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate hazards
  - Experience climate shocks on top of existing economic stressors
  - Have less resources to bounce back from event
  - Suffer long-term impacts to mental and physical health

Our Commitment to Climate Equity



If we're not proactively addressing equity, we're perpetuating injustice.

Net-zero by 2050 → Net-zero by 2040



The updated Net-zero by 2040 target has a more aggressive emissions reduction target than the previous Net-zero by 2050 target

A Plan Among Plans

5 Plan Sections:

- Sustainable Buildings
- Transportation Electrification
- Transportation & Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Consumption

Equity Process for Advisory Groups

Evaluating Equity

Our strategies must prioritize low-income communities and communities of color in these ways:

Health — Improving mental and physical health.

Affordability — Lowering and stabilizing living costs.

Accessibility — Increasing access to opportunities, transportation and a healthy environment.

Just Transition — Ensuring that benefits reach these communities first.

Community Capacity — Elevating and strengthening community skills, abilities and resources.

Cultural Preservation — Deliberately honoring cultural history to maintain past and present heritage.

Accountability — Ensuring government and institutional accountability for equitable implementation.

Community Climate Ambassadors

Draft Goals & Strategies

Summary

18 Goals - What needs to be accomplished by 2030 to keep us on track
75 Strategies - What should be implemented in the next 5 years to make progress

Centered on Equity Throughout

- Prioritize incentives and target communications towards low-income communities and communities of color
- Specific focus on anti-displacement
- Focus on a just transition (training and jobs) for new industries and technology
- Prioritize health and other benefits for the Eastern Crescent
- Center communities of color in ongoing learning and studies

	ISSUE	CLIMATE CONNECTION	PLAN RESPONSE
HEALTH 	CLEAN AIR AND WATER	Climate change will impact the ability of trees and natural areas to deliver these ecosystem services.	Support more robust tree canopy and natural areas combined with resilient management.
	AIR POLLUTION	Cars are one of Austin's main contributors to air pollution and GHG emissions.	Integrate more transit, improved human-powered transportation networks, and more electric. vehicles
	HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES	Food choices can impact upstream GHG emissions and may negatively impact health.	Ensure 100% equitable access to pro-health, pro-climate food.
	LOCAL AND FRESH FOOD CHOICES	Climate change may affect agricultural productivity and food costs.	Protect farmland, promote regenerative farming practices and provide farmer assistance.
	SAFETY	Car-centric design decreases pedestrian and bicycle safety, which can limit the use and adoption of these modes.	Prioritize bicycle, sidewalk and urban trail networks and infrastructure with a focus on safe crossings and accessibility.
	OUTDOOR SPACE FOR RECREATION	Climate change can affect the availability of healthy green spaces.	Provide more accessible, high-quality green spaces that are managed for resilience and carbon neutrality.
	INDOOR AIR POLLUTANTS	On-site fossil fuel use, toxic materials and extreme heat can worsen indoor air quality.	Improve indoor air quality through green materials, cleaner running appliances and higher building codes.
HOUSING & AFFFORDABILITY 	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Increasing the number and intensity of climate hazards will amplify and compound affordable housing crises.	Increase availability of affordable housing that is safe, healthy and efficient.
	HOMELESSNESS	People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to extreme weather and climate hazards.	Promote environmental justice and safe, healthy and efficient housing for everyone.
	DISPLACEMENT	Suburbanization of poverty increases sprawl, leading to more car dependency and increased transportation costs and emissions.	Conduct robust city-wide planning with investment in affordable housing and displacement mitigation.
	GENTRIFICATION	Many climate mitigation solutions lead to investment in communities that can stimulate or exacerbate gentrification.	Center community-based decision making and co-creation of solutions that respect community needs and values.
	TRANSPORTATION COSTS	Cars are one of Austin's main contributors to GHG emissions and a major strain on household spending.	Support alternatives to car ownership and promote "complete communities" with services, amenities and jobs near housing.
	UTILITY COSTS	Increased extreme heat means increased use of water and energy and increased utility costs.	Lower utility use and cost through highly efficient buildings.
	FOOD COSTS	Climate change may affect agricultural productivity, causing food shortages and increases food costs.	Support local food production, address food insecurity along with pro-health, pro-climate food policies.

Cross-cutting Strategies

Strategy 1: Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Create Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship opportunities that advance the goals of this plan, create economic opportunity and build agency and decision-making power in low-income communities and communities of color.

Strategy 2: Regional Collaboration

Create a Texas Climate Collaborative linking elected officials and City staff who are working to implement recently adopted climate plans in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Austin. Bring in neighboring cities in the Central Texas region as well as the five-county governments.

Strategy 3: Carbon Dioxide Removal

To fully address the historical carbon pollution emitted in Austin that remains in the atmosphere, we should start exploring how Austin can support and implement negative emissions via Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) strategies.

2030 RESOURCE GENERATION PLAN

AUSTIN ENERGY

Customer Driven. Community Focused.℠

- 93% carbon-free generation by 2030, 100% by 2035
- 1,200 MW of conservation, including 225MW of peak capacity
- 1% of retail sales per year in energy efficiency savings, at least 25,000 customer participants annually, 25% limited income
- 375 MW of local solar, 200 MW of customer-sited
- 40 MW of local thermal storage
- REACH – market based approach for short term carbon reduction
- No new Austin Energy carbon generating assets
- Retire Decker Steam Units in 2020, 2021
- Close Austin Energy's share of Fayette at the end of 2022
- Commitment to equity evaluation for programs

Sustainable Buildings

AG participants

AUSTIN Independent School District

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES

SPEER
The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

Austin Revitalization Authority
RESPECT. RESTORE. REVITALIZE.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL CHAPTER TEXAS

Austin Area Urban League

walter p moore

Perkins&Will

TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

LA RAZA

Texas Gas Service
A Division of ONE Gas

TEPRI
Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute

INTEGRAL

positive energy

ENCOTECH

Sustainable Buildings

GOAL 1: By 2030, decarbonize buildings and reduce energy burden by achieving net-zero carbon* for 100% of new and 25% of existing buildings, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas sector by 50% in Austin.

- Ensure benefits flow to low income communities and communities of color
- Enhance understanding of energy consumption
- Decarbonize buildings
- Ensure equitable workforce development for emerging technologies

GOAL 2: By 2030, reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerant leakage by 25%.

- Capture and destroy old refrigerants
- Improve building codes to encourage cleaner refrigerants
- Create incentives for leak detection and repair
- Awareness and training for HVAC service providers
- Reduce the volume of refrigerants

GOAL 3: By 2030, reduce the embodied carbon footprint of building materials used in local construction by 40% from a 2020 baseline.

- Lead by example through design and construction standards
- Incentivize lower-carbon materials
- Educate stakeholders on materials best practices

GOAL 4: By 2030, equitably achieve a community-wide water demand of 152,000 acre-feet per year.

- Engage residents in technological transitions and conservation programs
- Evaluate program participation criteria
- Reduce emissions at the water-energy nexus

Transportation and Land Use

AG participants

METRO

COMMUNITY POWERED WORKSHOP

CAMPO
CAPITAL AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PODER

movability

ACCO

The University of Texas at Austin
Dell Medical School

TRAVISCOUNTYTX GOV

Transportation and Land Use

Goal 1: By 2030, 80% of new non-residential development is located within the city's growth centers and corridors

- Plan for Complete Communities
- Work with employers on location and amenities
- Create mobility hubs
- Phase out free parking

Goal 2: By 2030, 70% of new housing units are located within the city's growth centers and corridors while preserving 10,000 deeply affordable housing units and producing 1,000 deeply affordable units.

- Offer Immediate Affordable Housing Assistance
- Fund Affordable Housing
- Enhance community engagement for affordable housing

Goal 3: By 2030, Public Transit will make up 5% (up from .3% in 2018) of distance traveled for all trips in Austin.

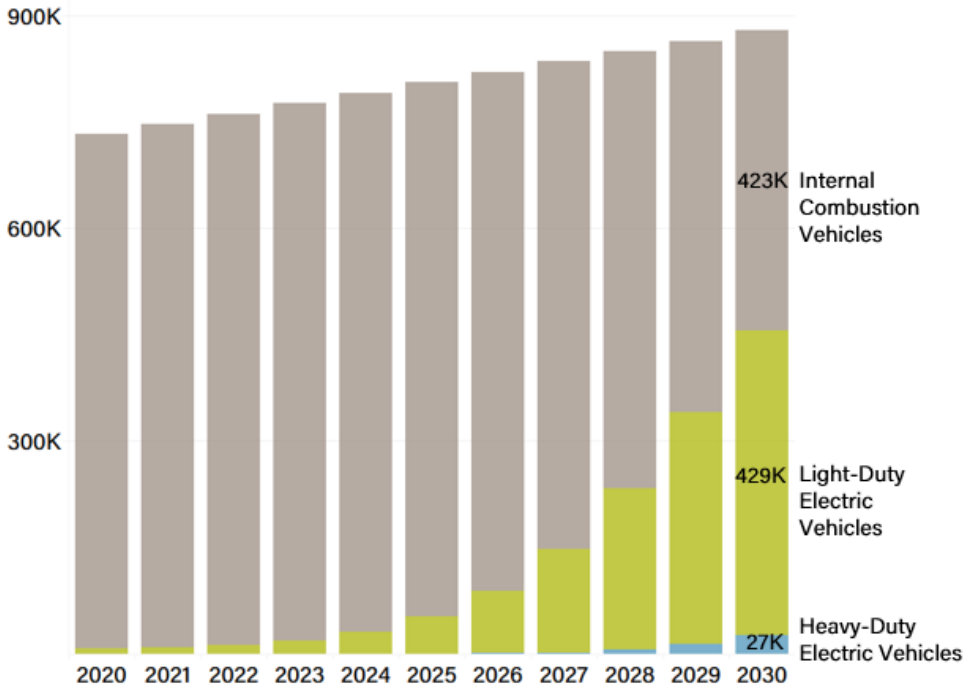
- Expand and Improve Public Transportation
- Promote Free Transportation Options
- Transit Stations and Stops

Goal 4: By 2030, people-powered transportation (bicycle, walking, wheelchairs, strollers, etc.) will make up 4% of distance traveled for all trips in Austin.

- Prioritize Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Education and Training
- Sidewalks, Urban Trails and Crossings

Transportation Electrification

Projected On-Road Vehicles In Austin



AG participants

AUSTIN Independent School District

CAPCOG Capital Area Council of Governments 50th Anniversary

PECAN STREET

ENERGY FOUNDATION

METRO

Smart Charge America

Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance

The University of Texas at Austin Energy Institute

Transportation Electrification

Goal 1: By 2030, 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the City of Austin are electrified and electric vehicle ownership is diverse culturally, geographically and economically. This translates to approximately 460,000 electric vehicles on the road.

- Conduct an EV Community Needs Assessment
- Create Equitable Incentives for Buying and Leasing EVs
- Reduce Tolls for EV's in the Eastern Crescent
- Launch an e-Bike + Electric Car Sharing Program
- Electrify Public Sector Fleet Vehicles
- Electrify Private Sector Fleet Vehicles

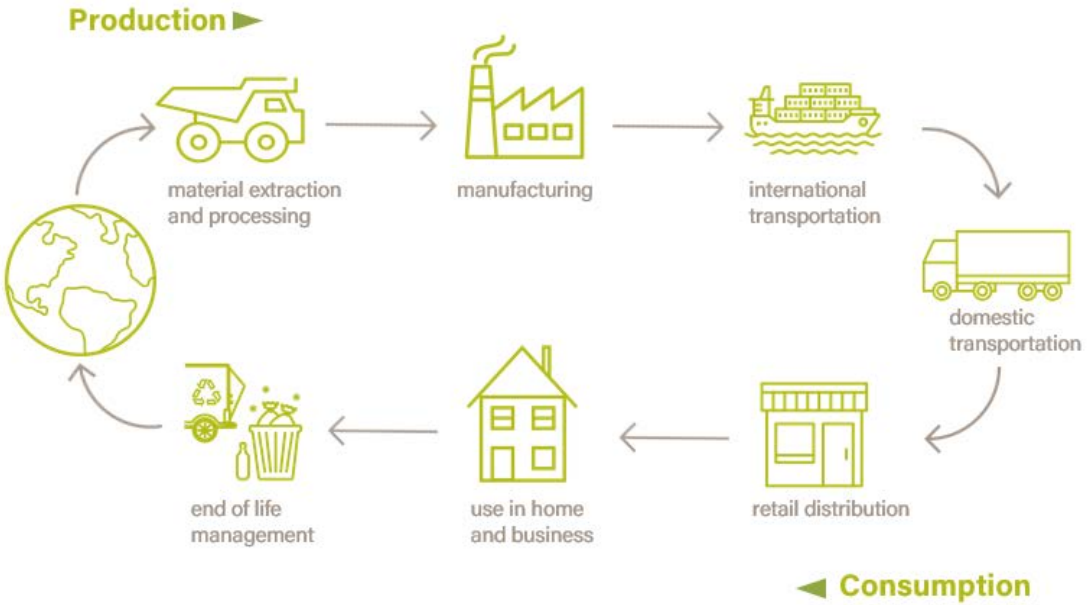
Goal 2: By 2030, Austin has compelling and equitably-distributed charging infrastructure that is a mix of level 1, 2, and DC fast charging to accommodate 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the city. This translates to 226 megawatts of electrical load and could mean over 37,000 charging ports.

- Create a Network of Low-cost, Accessible Charging Stations
- Incentivize Internet-Connected Smart Charging
- Adopt New Energy and Building Codes
- Expand Outreach to Underserved Groups

Goal 3: The Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA will be a global leader in transportation electrification by adopting policies and technologies that maximize the economic and health benefits for all while evolving with and defining the growth of this emerging industry.

- Create a Regional Coalition to Support EV's
- Pilot and Adopt New Technology
- Prioritize a Just Transition
- Expand the EV-related Business Ecosystem

Food and Product Consumption



AG participants

AUSTIN Independent School District

The University of Texas at Austin

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

lifeworks

SFC SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

re/GENERATE SUSTAINABLE FASHION AGENCY

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

ECHO

amala FOUNDATION

CENTRAL HEALTH

can Community Advancement Network

SUNRISE MOVEMENT

County of Travis, State of Texas

Keep Austin Fed

THE AUSTIN COMMON

Food and Product Consumption

Goal 1: **By 2030, ensure 100% of Austinites, with a focus on the food insecure, can access a pro-climate, pro-health food system that is community-driven, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-based over animal-based foods and minimizes food waste.**

- Support institutional food purchasing
- Promote and fund community-driven food retail programs
- Incentivize pro-health, pro-climate food choices
- Conduct a food waste root cause analysis

Goal 2: **By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing by at least 50%.**

- Measure institutional lifecycle emissions
- Strengthen the City's sustainable purchasing program
- Strengthen non-City institutional purchasing programs
- Expand the City's Circular Economy Program

Goal 3: **Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting and recycling to achieve a new overall zero waste goal pending adoption of a new Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Plan. The new community-wide per capita disposal rate goal will be added as an amendment to the Climate Equity Plan by June 2021.**

- Promote Reuse
- Create Eco-Hubs
- Create a workforce development program for the circular economy
- Offer incentives for products that have lower negative environmental and social impact
- Retool the bulk pick-up collection program

Natural Systems

AG participants

LIVING CITY ATX

TREEFOLKS

The Nature Conservancy

TBG

THE CONSERVATION FUND

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

COUNTY OF TRAVIS STATE OF TEXAS

SIERRA CLUB

ASAKURA ROBINSON

Ecology Action 50 YEARS

TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

Natural Systems

Goal 1: By 2030, legally ***protect an additional 20,000 acres*** of carbon pools on natural lands and ***manage all new and existing natural areas*** (approximately 70,000 acres total) with a focus on resilience.

Strategies:

- Protect additional natural lands
- Manage natural lands for resilience
- Increase community access and positive perceptions of public land
- Protect water sources

Equity Highlights:

- Provides community and health benefits to communities of color and low-income communities.
- Promotes physical accessibility and welcoming/safe spaces that are more culturally inclusive

Natural Systems

Goal 2: By 2030, ***protect 500,000 acres of farmland*** in the 5-county region through legal protections and/or regenerative agriculture programs.

Strategies:

- Protect working lands
- Reform agricultural tax appraisals
- Support farmers through financial assistance
- Provide farmers with resources
- Expand composting
- Offer workforce development for farmers

Equity Highlights:

- Improves health outcomes and benefits low-income communities in and around agricultural lands by removing pollutants through use of regenerative practices
- Supports social and economic community resilience through local food production

Natural Systems

Goal 3: Achieve at least ***50% citywide tree canopy cover*** by 2050, with a focus on increasing canopy cover equitably.

Strategies:

- Protect canopy cover on city lands
- Promote tree protections and landscape regulations
- Increase community tree planting
- Promote tree health and resilience on private and non-City public lands

Equity Highlights:

- Prioritizes new tree planting in communities with below-average canopy cover
- Increases tree canopy, which benefits community health

Natural Systems

Goal 4: By 2030, include ***all City-owned lands under a management plan*** that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community co-benefits.

Strategies:

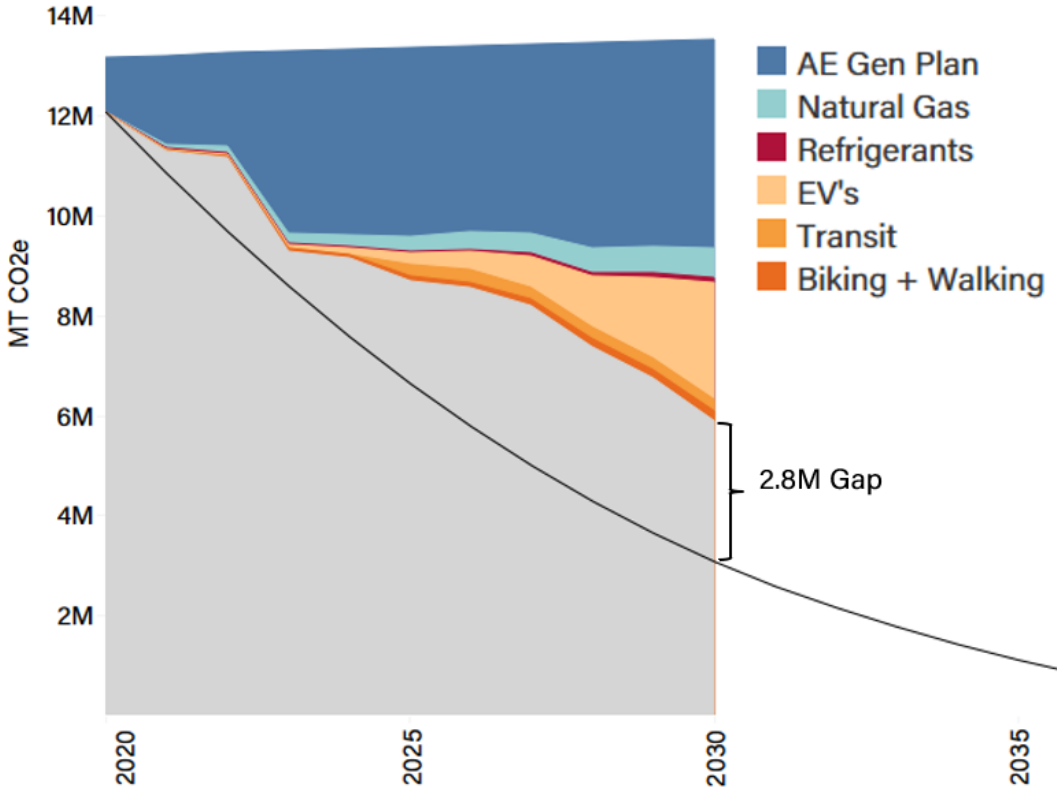
- Prioritize carbon neutrality for public lands
- Reclaim public space
- Promote community stewardship
- Promote carbon farming

Equity Highlights:

- Provides health and cultural benefits through access to green space
- Increases cultural relevancy of green spaces
- Offers programs that allow community members to benefit from stewardship of public lands and centers community values

Meeting the 2030 Target

GHG Emissions Reductions From Climate and Equity Plan Strategies



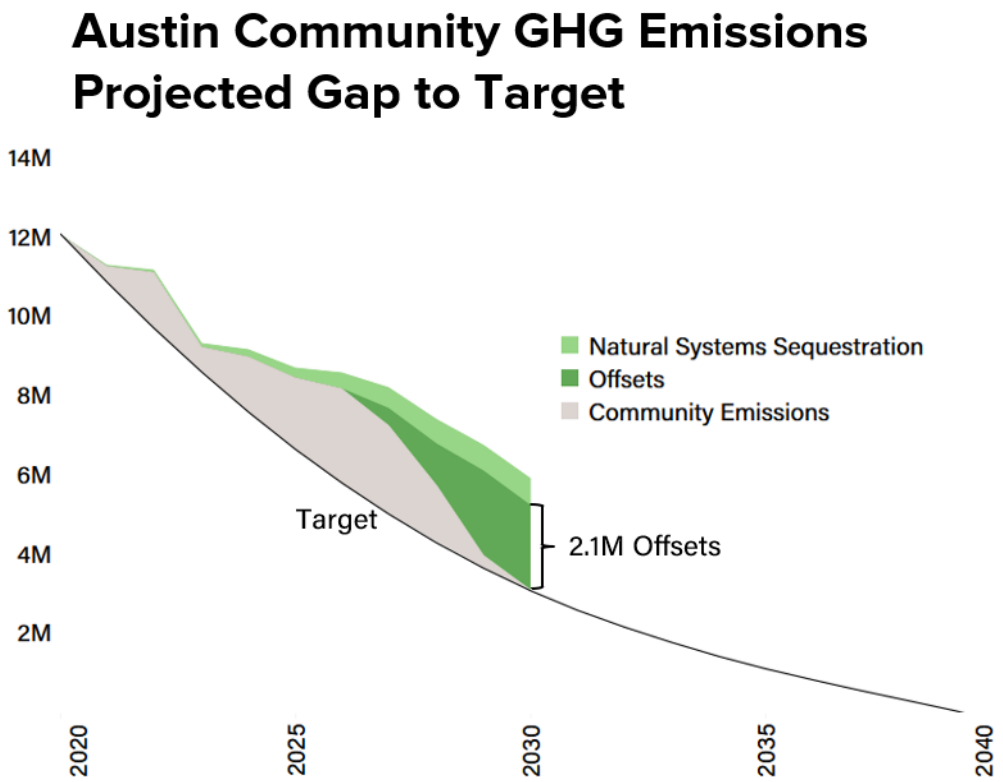
Buildings

Measure	Current	Goal
Natural Gas Emissions	-	-50%
Refrigerant Leaks	-	-25%

Transportation

Measure	Current	Goal
Electric Vehicle Miles Traveled	1%	40%
Transit % of Distance Travelled	0.3%	5%
Walking + Biking % of Distance Travelled	0.8%	4%

The Remaining Gap



- Estimated ~700,000 tons per year of sequestration if the Natural Systems goals are met
- Remainder would need to be "offset" from outside our boundary with Avoided or Negative Emissions

Schedule

Sep Public Comment and Revisions

Oct Finalize and Present to Council

Thank you!

More information:

- austintexas.gov/ climateplan
- SpeakUp Austin!

Contact:

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