
2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

September 2020

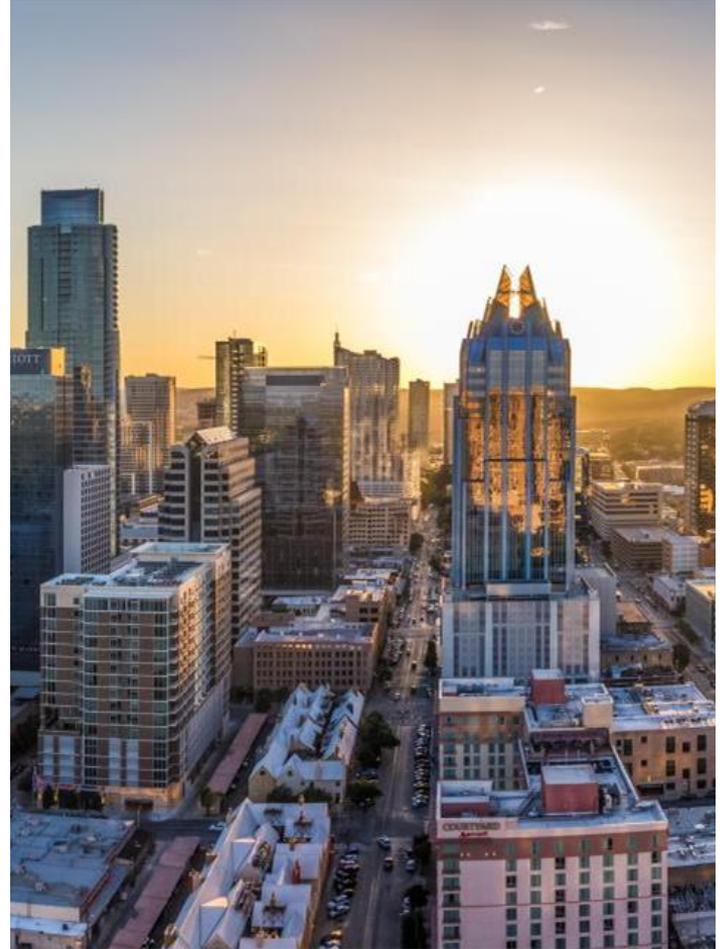


OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Summary

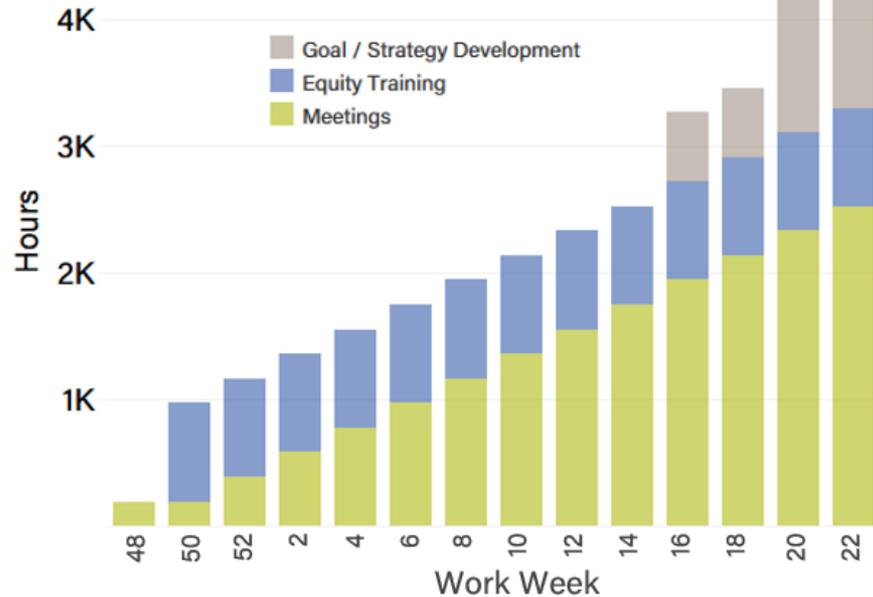
- We've been updating the Community Climate Plan
 - Draft for public comment out until September 30
 - Council likely November 12
- What we're looking for from you:
 - Comments
 - Areas of Interest
 - Pledge of Support



How was this plan update created?

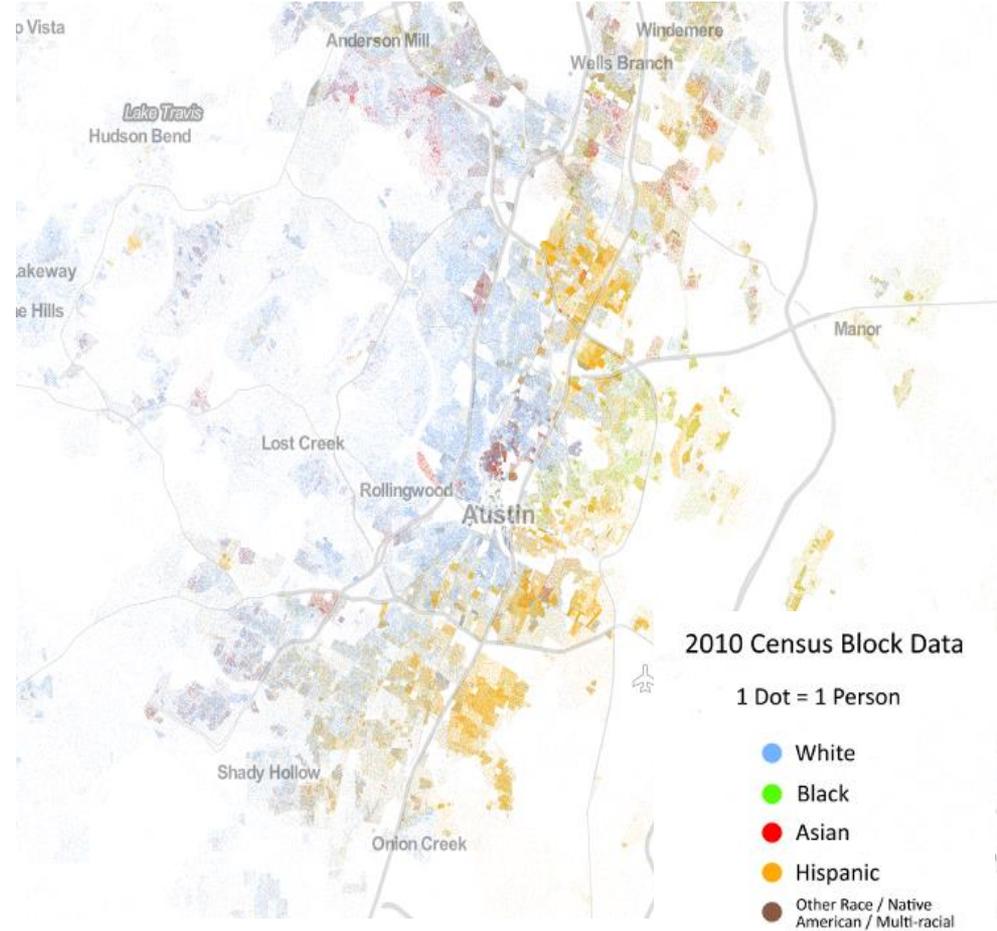
- 24 City Staff
- 120 Community Members
(NGO, Govt., Business)
- 12 Ambassadors
- 4 Equity Trainings
- 5 Community Workshops (over 250 attendees)
- 14 Steering Committee Meetings
- 60+ Advisory Group Meetings
- 50+ Interviews by Ambassadors

Stakeholder Time Commitment

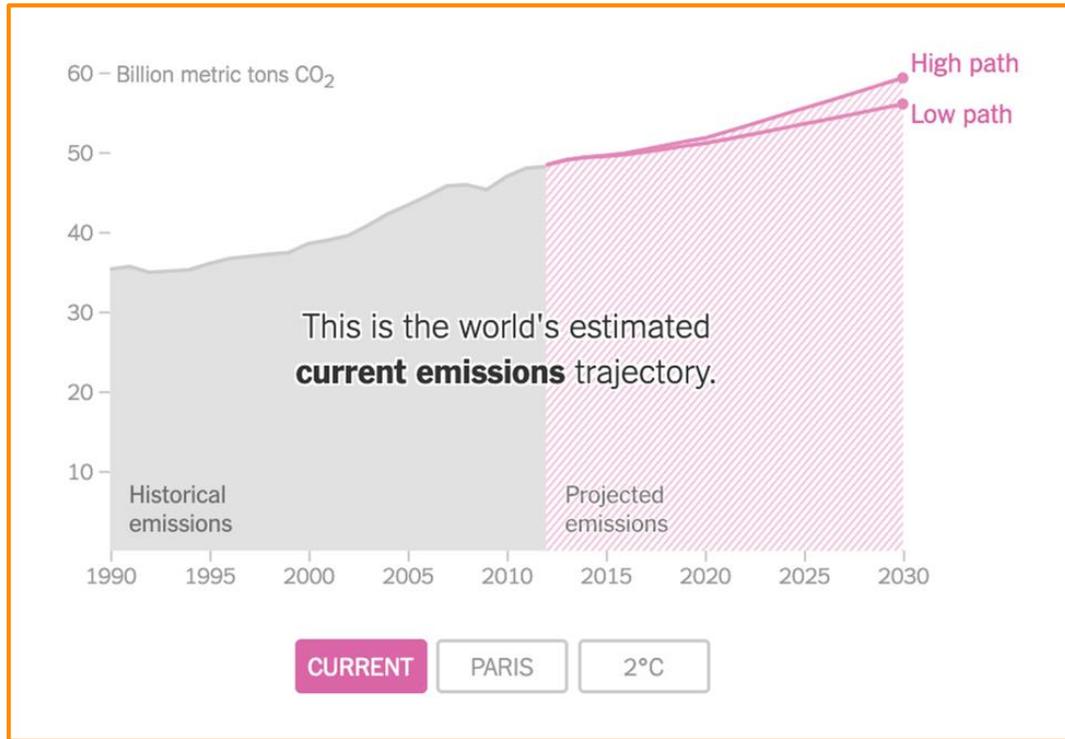


A History of Inequities that Remains Today

- 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

Climate Change

Eliminate the use of fossil fuels for energy & transportation

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Less dependence on cars
- Electric vehicles
- More trees & natural spaces
- Healthier consumer choices

Health

Affordability

Accessibility

Cultural Preservation

Community Capacity

Just Transition

Accountability

Racial Equity

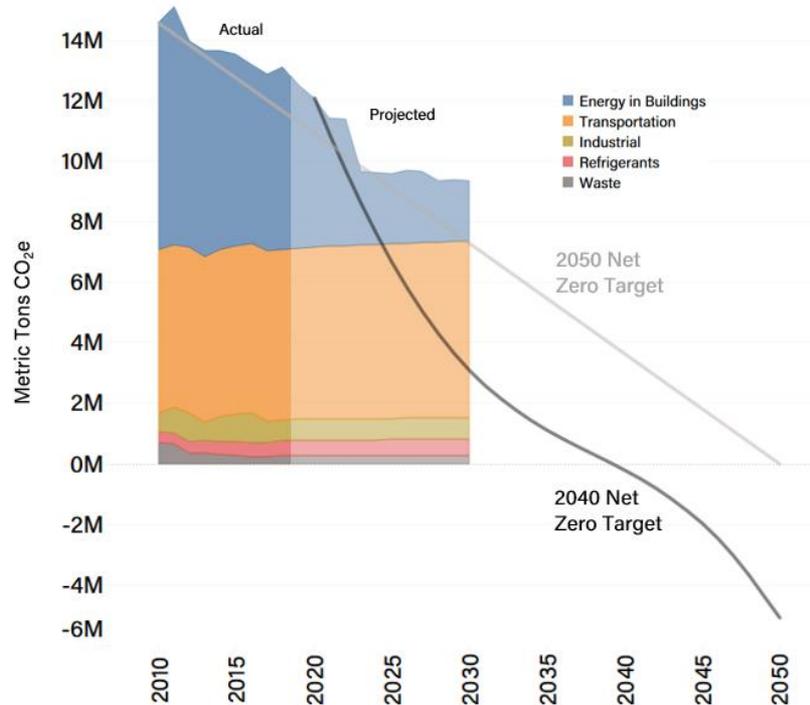
Eliminate disparities that can be predicted by race

- Safety for all at all times
- No disproportionate economic outcomes
- Fair access to services for all
- Inclusive participation in our city
- Positive health outcomes for all
- Embrace culture & difference

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

Net-zero by 2050 → Net-zero by 2040

Austin Community GHG Emissions



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



Equity-focused Engagement

Community Climate Ambassadors



Draft Goals & Strategies

Summary

18 Goals - What needs to be accomplished by 2030 to keep us on track

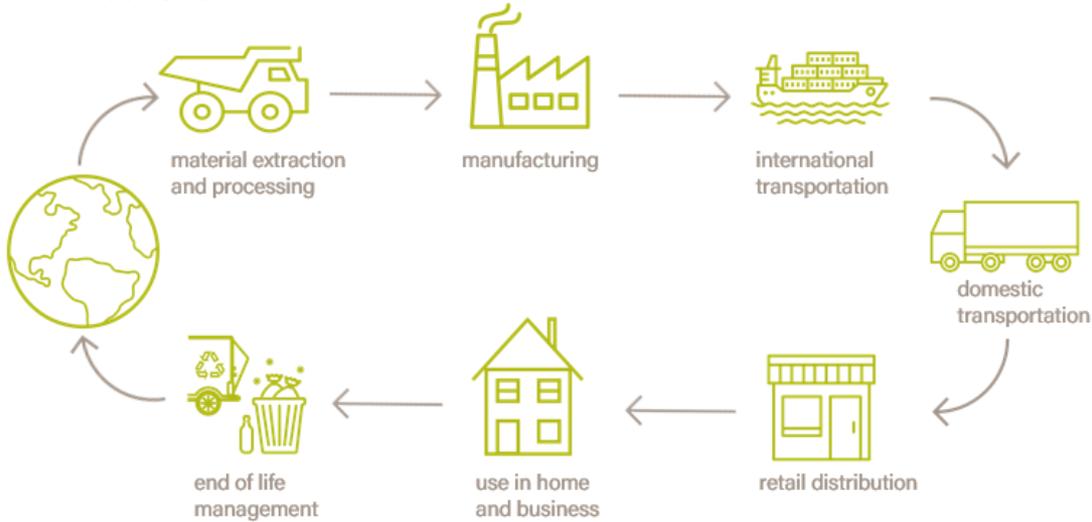
75 Strategies - What should be implemented in the next 5 years to make progress

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

Food and Product Consumption

Production ▶



◀ Consumption

AG participants



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.

Strategies:

- 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

Equity Highlights:

- Focuses on food insecurity and promoting affordable, culturally-relevant food
- Supports local businesses
- Provides employment opportunities for low-income communities and communities of color

Natural Systems



AG participants



TBG

THE
CONSERVATION FUND

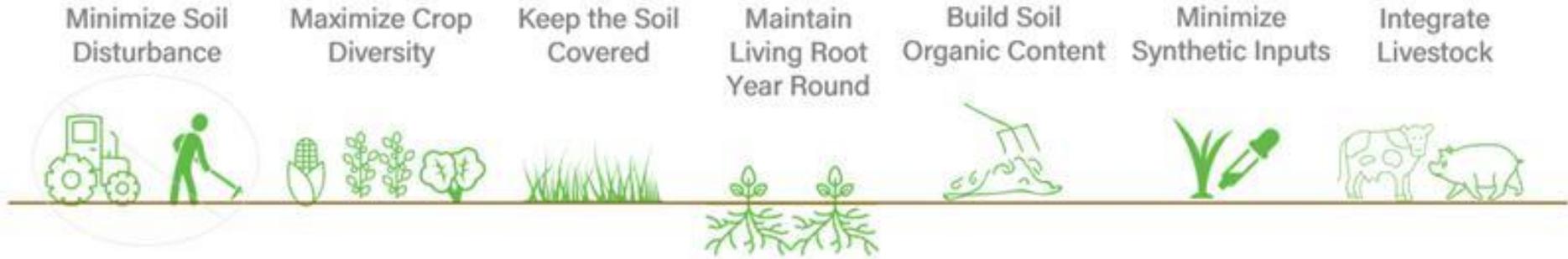


ASAKURA
ROBINSON



Natural Systems

Regenerative Agriculture



Key Outcomes

- Improved soil health and nutrients
- Increased biodiversity
- Economic and climate resilience
- Reduced contaminants in water runoff
- Increased carbon sequestration
- Improved animal, worker, and community well-being

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 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

Thank you!



More information:

- austintexas.gov/climateplan
 - [SpeakUp Austin!](#)
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