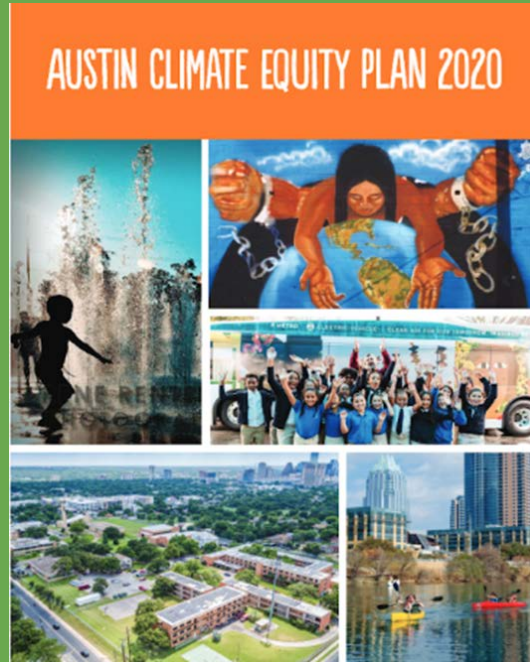

Austin Climate Equity Plan Status Update



March 24, 2021

Recent Events & Response

Events

- City Manager directed moving forward with implementation planning in anticipation of Council adoption in late Spring/early Summer
- Negative letters from several organizations regarding Natural Gas concerns (equity and affordability)
- Winter Storm Uri

Response

- Collecting Implementation Baseline data from departments
- Planning more business engagement
- Re-engaged members of Sustainable Buildings Advisory Group on Extreme Weather Resilience
- Developing an Equity Lessons-Learned White-Paper
- Finalizing a new Draft Final version of the Plan

Plan Summary (reminder)

4 Cross-Cutting Strategies – Big picture themes

17 Goals - Accomplishments by 2030 to keep on track

74 Strategies - Implemented in next 5 years

Centered on Equity Throughout, *particularly in Strategy details*

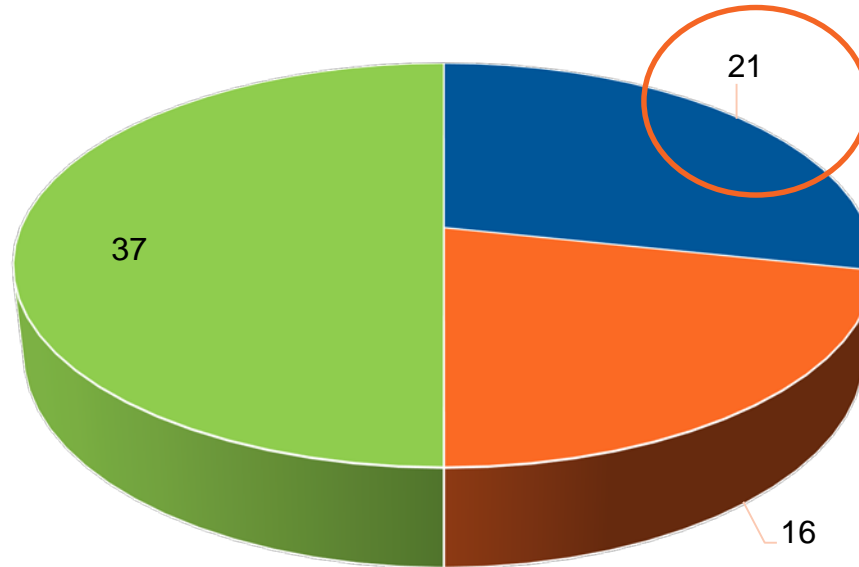
- Prioritize incentives and target communications towards low-income communities / communities of color
- Anti-displacement
- Just transition (training and jobs) for new industries/ technology
- Prioritize Eastern Crescent health + other benefits
- Center communities of color in ongoing learning / studies

Prioritization

- 15+ conversations: proposed strategy status + next steps
- Sorted 74 Strategies into 3 categories:
 - Ready Now if additional funding or resources were available
 - Ease of direct implementation if more funding/focus
 - Immediate + direct Equity Benefits (from Equity Tool and Ambassador Priorities)
 - Capital Intensive Projects requiring sustained commitment
 - Complex projects needing detailed Implementation Plan
- No detailed \$ estimates

Breakdown

Implementation Status



- Ready Now with Extra Funding
- Capital Intensive
- More Complex - Further Out

Sustainable Buildings – Ready Now

- **Goal 1 Strategy 1 - Pursue a comprehensive energy poverty mitigation strategy** by partnering with trusted community organizations, affordable housing developers and schools in equitable outreach and program development. This will ensure that the benefits of repair, energy conservation and renewable energy incentives and programs flow to low-income communities and communities of color.
- **Goal 1 Strategy 2 – Enhance resident and building owner understanding of energy savings opportunities**, benefits and climate impacts of energy consumption. This will be done through direct outreach, culturally relevant communications, expanding benchmarking requirements for all existing buildings and better access to energy and water data.
- **Goal 1 Strategy 4 - Prioritize investment in local emissions reduction and create equitable workforce development and training opportunities for emerging technologies** by partnering with local unions, education and advocacy organizations that serve low-income communities and communities of color. Increasing these opportunities can have a positive economic impact on families, aid in relationship building and support community capacity to drive decision-making in future projects and programs.
- **Goal 2 Strategy 4 - Create an awareness, education and training campaign for local HVAC service providers**, building owners, operators, inspectors and maintenance leads on the importance of refrigerant management and strategies for leak detection, prevention and repair.
- **Goal 3 Strategy 1 – In partnership with other cities and states, develop City of Austin design and construction specifications and purchasing agreements** to result in healthy, low-carbon buildings.

Transportation and Land Use – Ready Now

- **Goal 2 Strategy 3 - Include low-income communities, communities of color and people with disabilities who are directly affected by systemic inequalities in the City's Housing Investment Review Committee activities and when creating anti-displacement programs.** Enhance direct outreach of Housing and Planning Department-subsidized affordable units in gentrifying areas with culturally relevant communication strategies.
- **Goal 3 Strategy 2 - Create comprehensive, user-friendly resources connecting community members with free transportation options.**
- **Goal 3 Strategy 5 - Provide access to free or reduced-priced bicycles and basic bicycle training for communities of color and train police officers on bicycle laws and racial profiling to improve comfort and safety of people of color riding bicycles.**

Transportation Electrification – Ready Now

- **Goal 1 Strategy 1 - Complete an Electric Vehicle Community Needs Assessment** to identify the intersections of mobility challenges, transportation electrification and racial and economic justice. The assessment will inform an EV adoption growth plan that will be supported by enhanced communications efforts and incentives.
- **Goal 2 Strategy 4 - Expand outreach to community groups, professional organizations, unions and property managers with culturally competent information on EV charging incentives and installation.** Collaborate with and learn from existing community and City partnerships.
- **Goal 3 Strategy 3 - Austin will be a leader in the just transition to an electrified regional transportation system by collaborating with community and workforce leadership groups like labor unions, grassroots organizations and businesses.** We will ensure that low-income communities and communities of color are positioned to benefit from the switch to electric transportation.

Natural Systems – Ready Now

- **Goal 1 Strategy 3 - Ensure that natural lands are accessible to and perceived positively by the community.** When more people use and feel a connection to natural areas, they provide more community value. In return, communities are more likely to support conservation and stewardship.
- **Goal 2 Strategy 4 - Support farmers who want to start regenerative agricultural practices** by providing access to land and other necessary resources, specifically prioritizing farmers of color.
- **Goal 2 Strategy 6 - Encourage a fundamental change in the next generation of farmers** by creating and supporting agriculture-specific jobs creation programs and working lands-specific youth programs — especially for aspiring farmers of color.
- **Goal 3 Strategy 3 - Increase City funding for community tree planting programs focused on low-income communities and communities of color.**
- **Goal 4 Strategy 2 - Identify and reclaim mono-use, underused and unconventional public spaces to increase community access and ecological function** — such as utility easements, road rights-of-way, stormwater wet ponds and cemeteries — with a focus on green infrastructure.
- **Goal 4 Strategy 3 - Promote community stewardship and management of neighborhood public lands to ensure higher levels of care and maintenance.**

Consumption – Ready Now

- **Goal 1 Strategy 3 - Develop a variety of community-driven programs and tools to equitably engage and empower the full spectrum of Austin's communities to make affordable and culturally relevant pro-climate, pro-health food choices.**
- **Goal 2 Strategy 4 - Expand the City of Austin's Circular Economy Program** to support City Departments reduce consumption, use available City-owned space and/or leverage partnerships to create rent-subsidized incubation spaces, grants, loans and technical assistance for qualifying circular organizations and engage Austin youth in real-life problem-solving opportunities
- **Goal 3 Strategy 1 - Implement consumer awareness campaigns, such as community reuse challenges, promotion and expansion of Fix-It clinics and the Austin Reuse Directory**, educational campaigns that promote the community benefits of reuse and repair and the waste management hierarchy, which places recycling as a last resort before disposal.
- **Goal 3 Strategy 3 - Offer a workforce development program that includes training for repair and reuse skills, job placement and entrepreneurship in local circular businesses, such as those found in the Austin Circular Economy Storymap.** Prioritize the needs and strengths of low-income communities, youth and communities of color.

Next Steps

- Business Engagement
- Re-engage with Council Members, including 2 new members
- Draft Final Plan Release planned for May, pending State legislative issues
 - Council Committee Presentations
 - RCA to adopt the Plan

Thank you!