

Climate Adaptation

Joint Sustainability Committee Update
March 2021

Climate Adaptation Activities Timeline

CAMPO Extreme Weather
vulnerability assessment of
regional transportation

Resolution 20131121-060
passed by Council,
directs staff to identify
climate change impacts.

**Austin Community Climate
Plan**
adopted by Council

Global Covenant of Mayors
signed by Mayor Adler

**City Council Policy
Workshop** on Resilience

Rockefeller Foundation
holds Climate Adaptation
Workshop

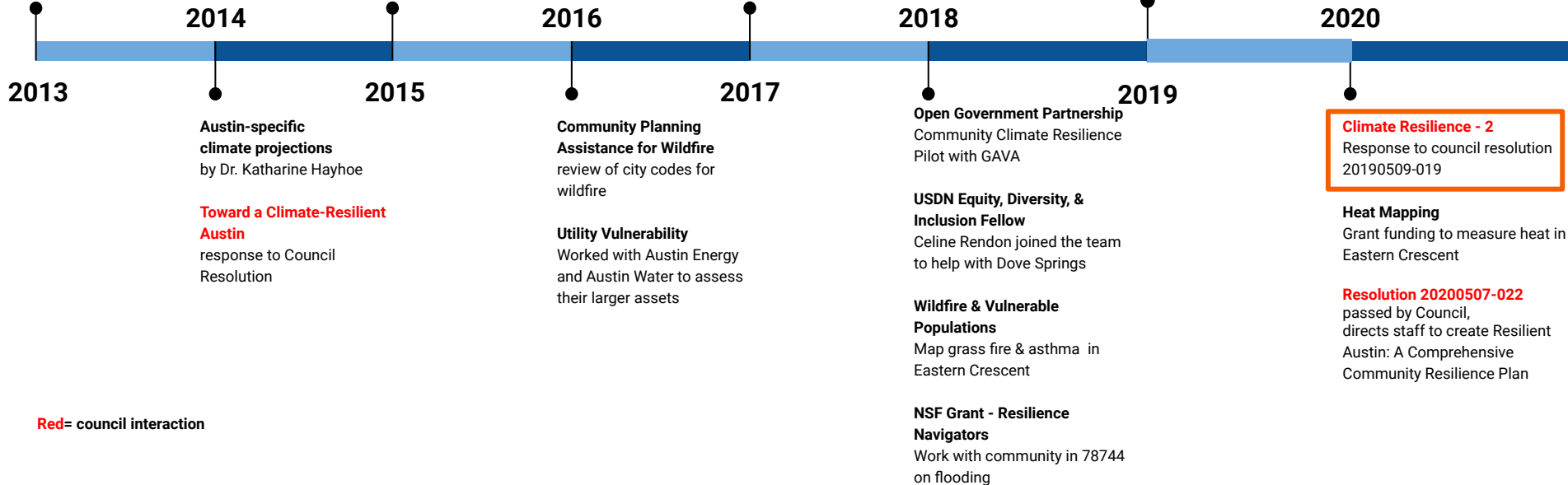
Climate Resilience Action Plan
for City assets and operations

Resolution 20190509-019
passed by Council,
directs staff for climate resilience
recommendations

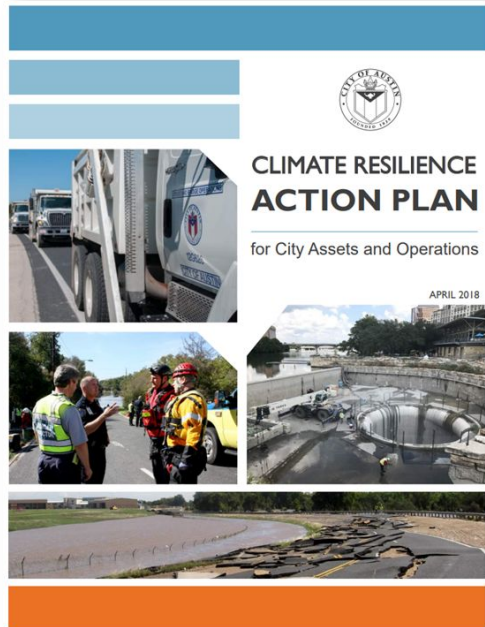
Climate Resilience -1
Response to council resolution
20190509-019

Community Climate Navigators
Initiate the program with GAVA w/
GTOP grant + UT

Smoke Map Prototype
Worked with USDN, Alameda County
CA & CTM to create a real-time smoke
map pilot



Climate Resilience Action Plan - City Assets & Operations



01

Emergency Response

- Emergency Procedures
- Safe Emergency & Evacuation Routes
- Disaster Response Resources

02

Staff Safety

- Field Staff & Workplace Safety
- Hazard Training

03

Existing Facilities & Infrastructure

- Critical Infrastructure
- Building Efficiency & Redundancy
- Telecommunications

04

New Facilities & Infrastructure

- Design for Adaptation
- Plan for Resilient Infrastructure

Resolution No. 20190509-019

Resilience Planning

- *“perform a literature review of climate resilience plans of peer cities...”*
- *“explore available, potential partnerships (such as the 100 Resilient Cities model)...”*
- *“recommendations for creating a comprehensive, community-wide climate resilience plan that is fair, just, and equitable...”*

Chief Resilience Officer

Recommendations should include funding options, such as grants or other revenue sources, to ...

- 1) fund a position for a Chief Resilience Officer and staff necessary to produce a resilience plan; or*
- 2) hire a consultant to draft or assist city staff with drafting a comprehensive resilience plan; or*
- 3) other recommendations for achieving this objective.*

2019 Resolution Response - Efforts Currently Underway

	Effort	Status	Department
1	Create digital atlas mapping locations and populations most impacted by climate change	Completed	OoS + AFD, APH, HSEM, WPD, etc.
2	Create an integrated Green Infrastructure Plan.	Started	OoS + AW, DSD, PARD, HPD, WPD, etc.
3	Implement Water Forward, Austin's 100-Year Water Plan.	Ongoing	AW + HPD, WPD, AE, ARR, DSD, Innovation, OoS, PARD, etc.
4	Reduce wildfire risk with fuel (vegetation) mitigation strategies,	Ongoing	AFD + ARR, AW, AE, etc
5	Creek flooding mitigation planning.	Ongoing	WPD + HPD, AW, etc.
6	Investigate impact of heat at 3 Elementary Schools. (Barrington, Cook, and Odom)	Completed	PARD
7	Implement recommendations from October 2018 Flood Event Engineering Review.	Started	AW + APH, DSD, HSEM, etc.
8	Continue implementing Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets and Operations	Ongoing	AE, AW, APH, DSD, HSEM, PARD, WPD + OoS
9	Air Quality Assessment Pilot	Started	OoS + ATD, PARD, APH, Equity, etc.

2019 Resolution Response - New Options

	Option	Status	Departments
1	Hire a Climate Resilience Officer	Completed: Alba Sereno selected. Reports to Deputy City Manager.	CMO
2	Place Community Emergency Response Teams in three pilot neighborhoods.	Started: Residents, GAVA, launched the Community Resilience Navigator program in Dove Springs w/ UT & COA	HSEM + AFD, APH, OoS, Equity, etc.
3	Help small businesses prepare for and recover from climate-related disasters.	Ongoing: COA providing resources, grants and loans to help businesses recover from COVID-19	ED
4	Conduct a City-wide Emergency Preparedness campaign.	Not started	HSEM
5	Assess critical community facilities for energy and water needs per the Colorado River Flooding After-Action Report.	Ongoing: Staff making progress on strategies - focused on AW operations.	HSEM + AEGB, APH, OoS, PARD, AW, etc.
6	Perform wildfire evacuation assessment	Started - In 2019, Travis County conducted a Fire Evacuation Simulation with City departments	AFD + APD, ATD, EMS, CAMPO, etc.
7	Evaluate Austin's resilience to food shortages.	Started - OoS worked w/ communities on COVID/Extreme weather food availability	ED & OoS
8	Install neighborhood Resilience Kiosks	Not started - Existing Kiosk in select areas but no new kiosks	OoS + PARD, APH, APL, AEGB, HSEM, etc.
9	Conduct Resilience Hub Assessment and prepare an Action Plan.	Started - Some internal efforts but no community outreach	OoS + PARD, APH, APL, AEGB, HSEM, etc.

What are Resilience Hubs & why do we need them?

Climate change

- Intense and frequent events (heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires)
- Health impacts
- Uncertainty
- Cascading impacts

Recent events highlighted need for

- Accessible community spaces
- Distribution centers (water, food, medicine, etc.)
- Back-up power & water
- Sheltering during events
- Community information

Resilience Hubs are

- Physical & programmatic
- Community informed
- Community facilities
- Tools for empowerment



What makes a Resilience Hub?

Minimum functions:

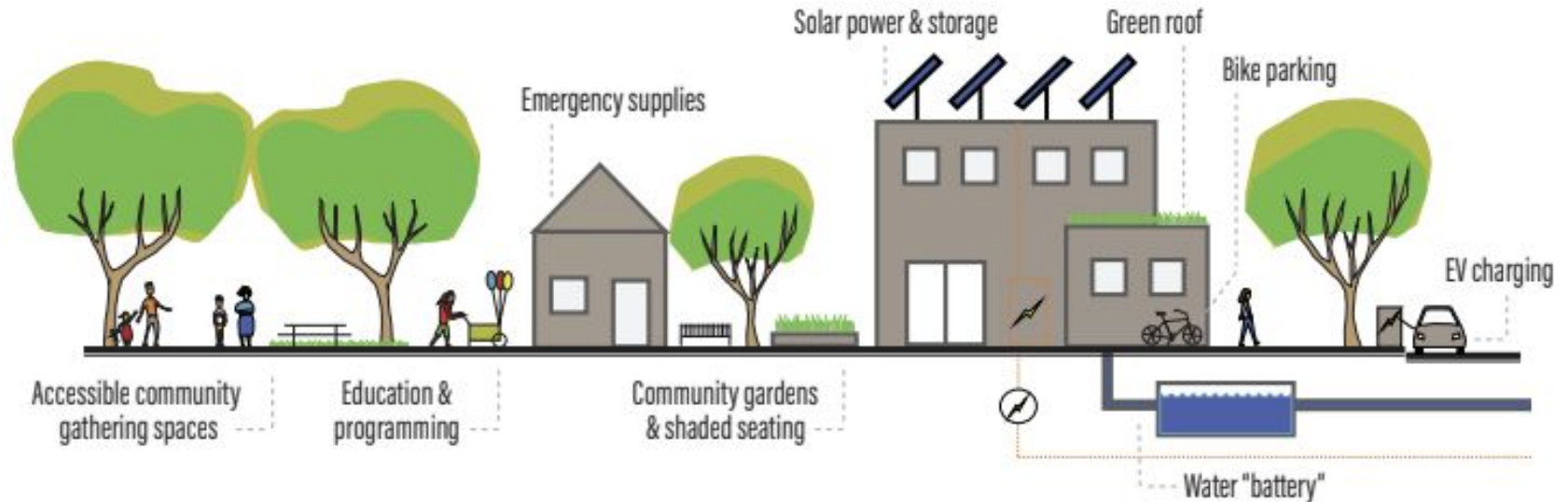
- Engaged community
- Accessible physical location
- Outreach & programs on disaster preparedness

Intermediate functions, minimum plus:

- Backup power, water, and communication systems
- Stores of food, drinking water, medicine and medical supplies

Advanced functions, intermediate plus:

- Can function as a shelter



Recent Activities related to Resilience Hubs

Year	Topic	Dept
2018	Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets & Operations	OoS, AE, APH, APL, PARD, AEGB, AW, HSEM, AFD
	University of Texas School of Architecture Graduate Vertical Studio - Resilience Hub	OoS
	Austin Convention Center Warehouse and Marshalling Yard Workshop	OoS, APH, PARD, AEGB, AW, HSEM
	Austin Parks & Recreation Department EDF Climate Corps fellow - Resilience Hubs	PARD
2019	AEGB Climate Resilience Innovation Credit	OoS, APH, AFD, PARD, AEGB, AWU, HSEM, AISD, EMS
2020	Response to Climate Resilience Resolution 20190509-019 (includes Resilience Hub strategy recommendation)	OoS, APH, APL, PARD, AEGB, AW, HSEM, AFD

Draft Council Resolution

Agenda - Item 64: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2021/20210325-reg.htm#064>

Draft Council Resilience Hubs: <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=356517>

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

*“...engage...relevant departments as well as the Austin Independent School District and Travis County, to work with communities to **conduct a resilience hub assessment** to identify potential locations throughout the City to serve as resilience hubs...”*

*“...**explore options for ‘passive survivability’**... independently and reliably, capable of sustaining operations during an extended power outage.”*

*“...facilities in **meeting existing departmental and community goals**”*

*“...return to Council no later than **June 2021 with budget recommendations** and funding strategies sufficient to design and equip hubs for disasters,*

*“...ensure that each potential resilience hub be **located within a 15-minute walkshed of each neighborhood within Austin** or within a 15-minute walkshed of an activity center, activity corridor, or the transit priority network.”*

Questions?