Austin Climate Equity Plan

September 2021
Supporters Invited Here Today

**Steering Committee Co-Chairs:**

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

Kurt Stogdill, Austin Energy
Karl Popham, Austin Energy
Erica Leak, Planning and Housing
Liane Conte, Austin Transit Partnership
Caitlin Admire, Planning and Housing
Jen Cregar, American Cities Climate Challenge
Elizabeth Nelson, Austin Resource Recovery
Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager
Celine Rendon, EcoRise
Susana Almanza, PODER
Cavan Merski, Pecan Street, Inc.
Phoebe Romero, Office of Sustainability
Marc Coudert, Office of Sustainability
Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability
Climate Planning Timeline

- June 2015: First Plan adopted by Council
- November 2019: 5 year Update Process Begins
- September 2020: Version 1.0 released for Public Comment
- November 2020: Version 2.0
- December 2020: Process put on hold due to TX Legislature
- January 2021: Version 3.0
- Jan - May 2021: 87th Texas Legislative Session
- August 2021: Version 4.0 DRAFT FINAL complete

City Manager’s Climate & Environment Leadership Team reviewed throughout
Good News & Progress in the Last Year

- **President Biden**
  - Recommitted to Paris Climate Agreement
  - Committed 50% new vehicle sales EV by 2030
  - Push for Civilian Climate Corps

- **American Cities Climate Challenge**
  Austin Drives Electric Dealership Initiative
  Won 3 awards, 80,000+ website visits & thousands of new EVs on road

- **CapMetro** committed to EVs for most new vehicles

- **Project Connect** passed & underway

- **2021 Residential International Energy Code**
  Adopted, will save energy and GHG emissions, removed mandatory NG hookups for residential

- **Austin Civilian Conservation Corps**
  New green jobs focus with equity lens
What This Plan “is” and “is not”

The Austin Climate Equity Plan IS:
- Product of co-creation between staff & over 120 community members/businesses
- Aggressive but realistic approach to reducing emissions, not a resilience plan
- Builds upon existing City plans + chart new visionary goals/actions
- High-level road map: 10-year sector goals + 5-year strategies

The Austin Climate Equity Plan IS NOT:
- The Austin Energy Generation Plan, which has a huge positive impact on reducing emissions. They are complementary.
- Exhaustive of everything needed to address climate change
- Implementation plan with exact costs, benefits, & funding identified
Plan Commitment to Racial Equity

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

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

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

Health
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Cultural Preservation
- Community Capacity
- Just Transition
- Accountability
Plan Development Process

- Diverse participation
- Community ownership approach
- Mandatory Equity training

Staff + Stakeholder Advisory Groups

Joint Sustainability Committee

Steering Committee

Climate and Environment Leadership Team

Transportation Electrification
Transportation and Land Use
Sustainable Buildings
Food and Product Consumption
Natural Systems
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 Leibowitz, Univ. of Texas
Suzanne Russo, Pecan Street Inc.
Pooja Sethi, Sethi Law
Darien Clary, AISD
Alberta Phillips, Joint Sustainability Committee, ECHO

Advisory Group Representatives:
Nakia Winfield, Brandi Clark Burton, Karen Magid, Kurt Stogdill, and Nick Kincaid
Participating Stakeholder Organizations
Participating Departments

- Austin Energy
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Austin Water
- Aviation
- Development Services
- Economic Development
- Equity Office
- Fleet Services
- Housing and Planning
- Parks and Recreation
- Purchasing Office
- Transportation
- Watershed Protection
2019: 12.3 million metric tons CO2e
New Proposed Community-Wide Goal

**Previous Goal: Net-zero by 2050**
(Adopted by Council)

**New Proposed Goal: Net-zero by 2040**
(Staff recommendation - requested by Council)
Projected Emissions Reductions by 2030

Emissions Reduction Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Free % of AE Customer Load</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net-Zero Carbon Buildings</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerant Leaks</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Vehicle Miles Traveled</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Trips on Public Transit,</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking or Walking</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A Plan Among Plans

Climate Equity Plan

5 Plan Sections
- Sustainable Buildings
- Transportation Electrification
- Transportation & Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Consumption
Community Input Mechanisms

Plan Creation Process: inclusive & focused on climate + equity

• Diverse participation in Steering Committee and Advisory Groups
• 5 in-person Public Workshops
• NEW Community Climate Ambassadors Program

Broader Public Feedback

• SpeakUP Austin comment box and Survey
• Virtual Panel Presentations and webinar recordings
  - Including Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Climate Leaders
• 24 Boards and Commissions Presentations with feedback
• Sustainability Office Inbox

Each feedback mechanism has pros and cons & different audiences
Community Climate Ambassadors

- 50% African American/Black
- 25% Latino/Hispanic
- 8% Asian
- 8% Pacific Islander
- 8% Two or more races
- Over 50% under 24 years old
- Over 75% female

Ambassadors helped identify these high-level community concerns, which will be detailed further in the next section.
Online Response Overview

- **Total responses: 1,577**
  - Half topic-specific survey questions
  - Half open-ended comments
- 30% open-ended responses *anti-government / anti-science*
- 79% at least somewhat *concerned about climate change*
- 16% concerns about implementation cost *exacerbating affordability and displacement*
Boards and Commissions Presentations (25)

- Electric Utility Commission
- Resource Management Commission
- LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Pedestrian Advisory Council
- Bicycle Advisory Council
- Economic Prosperity Commission
- Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission
- Design Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Commission on Women
- Community Development Commission
- Planning Commission
- Zoning and Platting Commission
- Commission on Immigrant Affairs
- Zero Waste Advisory Commission
- Commission on Seniors
- Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities
- Joint Sustainability Committee
- Parks Board
- Environmental Commission
- Water and Wastewater Commission
- African American Resource Advisory Commission
- Urban Transportation Commission
- ATC Food Policy Board
50 Signatories - Austin Climate Leaders Pledge

AIA Austin
Alamo Drafthouse
American Youthworks
Applied Materials
Asakura Robinson
Austin FC
Austin Habitat for Humanity
Austin Parks Foundation
Barr Mansion
Black + Vernooy
BEST
Britt Design Group
Capital Metro
Catellus Development
Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems
Citizens Climate Lobby

Climate Buddies
Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
Ecological Estates, LLC
Enotech Engineering Consultants
EcoRise
Environmental Resources Management
Foundation Communities
Great Springs Project
HM Risk Group
Lake | Flato Architects
Landmark Surveying
Stanley Studios
McKinney York Architects
Movability Austin
Patagonia Austin
Pease Park Conservancy
Perkins and Will

Positive Energy
Pure WRX Inc
Save Barton Creek Association
Shademaker Studio, LLC
SPEER
Studio 8 Architects
Studio DWG
Sustainable Food Center
Tesla Gigafactory Texas
The Purple Fig Eco Cleaning Company
The Trail Foundation
The VORTEX
Tree Folks
USG BS, Texas Chapter
Walter P Moore
Travis Audubon
United Way, Greater Austin
Plan Overview

4 Cross-Cutting Strategies - Big picture themes
17 Goals - To be accomplished by 2030 to keep on track
74 Strategies - Progress in next 5 years

Equity Throughout, particularly in Strategies
• Prioritize incentives + target communications towards low-income & communities of color
• Just transition to green jobs for new industries & technology
• Prioritize health + other benefits for Eastern Crescent
• Center communities of color in ongoing learning
Cross-cutting Strategies

**Strategy 1:** Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship

**Strategy 2:** Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

**Strategy 3:** Regional Collaboration

**Strategy 4:** Local Carbon Reduction Projects, Carbon Offsets and Carbon Dioxide Removal
1 of 3 Goals by 2030:
50% of trips in Austin are made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home.

1 of 3 Goals by 2030:
40% of total vehicle miles traveled in Austin are electrified and electric vehicle ownership is culturally, geographically, and economically diverse.
Sustainable Buildings

1 of 4 goals by 2030:
All new buildings are net-zero carbon, emissions from existing buildings are reduced by 25%, and natural gas-related emissions are reduced by 30%.

Food and Product Consumption

1 of 3 goals by 2030:
Greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing are reduced by at least 50%.

Natural Systems

1 of 4 goals by 2030:
All city-owned lands are included under a management plan that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community benefits.
Thank you!