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# Joint Sustainability Committee

## Strategic Planning Meeting

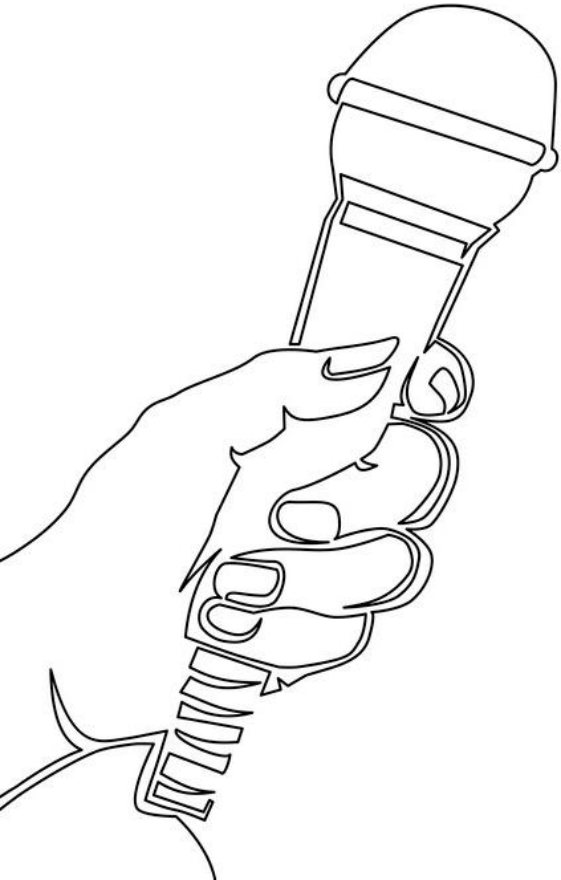
1/25/2023

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# Agenda

- 6:00-6:05**      **Welcome & Introductions**
- 6:05-6:45**      **JSC Purpose & Theory of Change**
- 6:45-7:15**      **Austin Climate Equity Plan Overview & Discussion**
- 7:15-7:40**      **JSC Overview & Discussion**
- 7:40-8:25**      **2023 Climate Plan Implementation Brainstorm**
- 8:25-8:30**      **Closing**

# JSC Purpose & Theory of Change



- 1) What do YOU think the purpose of the JSC is?
- 2) What do YOU want to accomplish by serving on the JSC?

# JSC Bylaws

The joint committee shall **advise the council on matters related to conservation and sustainability**; and

- **review City policies and procedures relevant to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan**, including planning, implementation, community engagement, goal setting, and progress monitoring;
- **promote close cooperation** between the council, City management, City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with the politics, procedures, and implementation of the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan, with the **goal of coordinating all similar activities within the City and the community** in order to secure the greatest public benefit; and forward to the city manager all advisory material that the joint committee provides to the council, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, or City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.

The joint committee may:

- **advise** the council, the city manager, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, and City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces on policy matters related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan;
- **ask the city manager for information** related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan;
- **make recommendations to the council** on relevant policies or procedures; and
- **establish advisory groups or working groups** related to the Austin Community Climate Plan and the Austin Climate Equity Plan.

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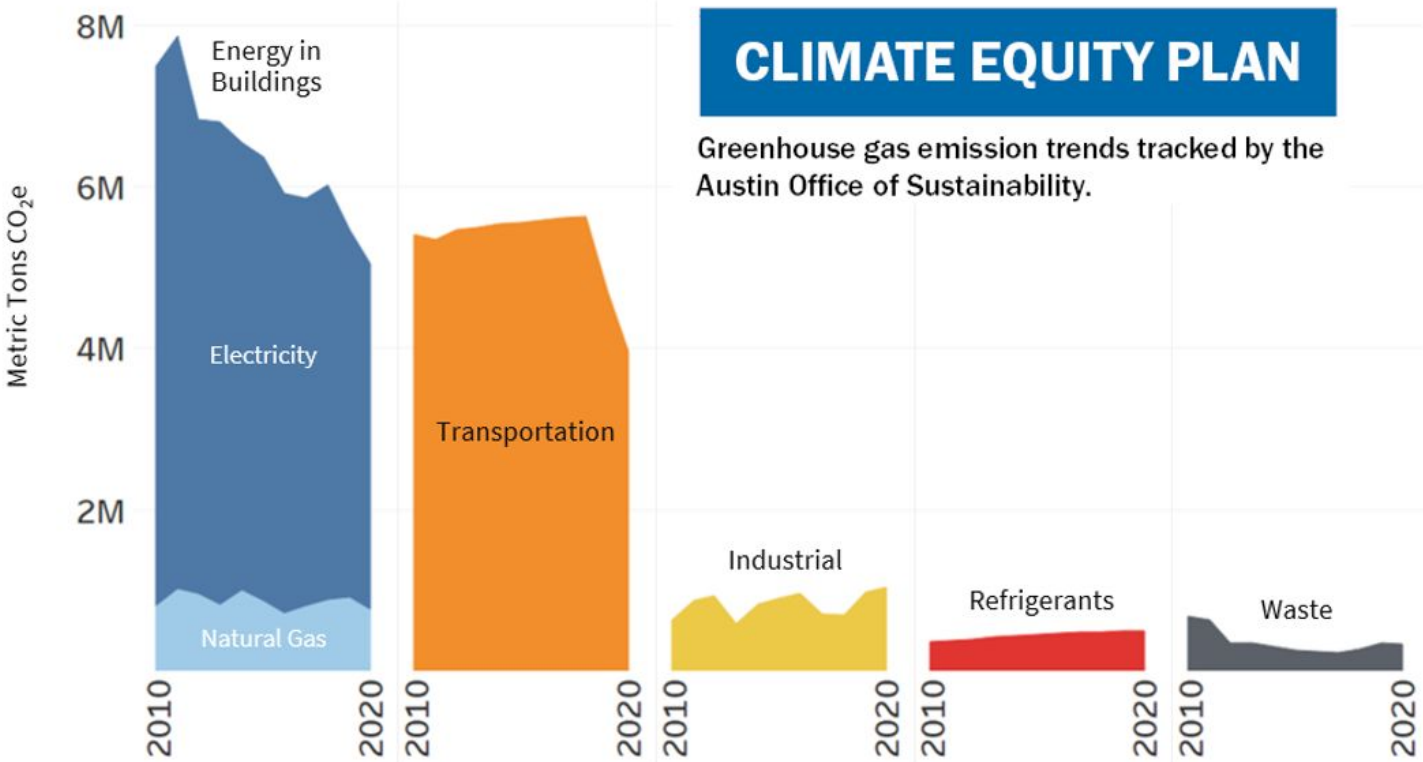
# Austin Climate Equity Plan

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# Austin is a National Leader in Climate Action

- Austin is 1 of 4 Major US Cities (+ Denver, Kansas City, San Francisco) that have adopted the most aggressive GHG Reduction goal — **Net Zero by 2040**.
- Austin is 1 of 5 Major US Cities (+ DC, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle) that have **put equity at the center** of their climate initiatives.
- The Austin Energy Goal of **100% Carbon Free electricity generation by 2035** is in the top echelon of utility goals in the US, very few are more aggressive.
- Austin community-wide GHG emissions **decreased 25% over 10 years** (14.5MMT in 2010 to 10.9MMT in 2020). Per capita emissions decreased 39% over same time period (18.5 tpp in 2010 to 11.3 tpp in 2020).

# Austin Community-wide Carbon Footprint



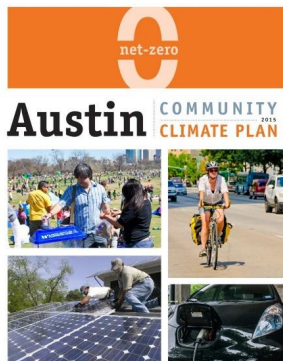
Source: COA Office of Sustainability Community-wide GHG Inventory

# Climate Policy Directives (pre-2019)

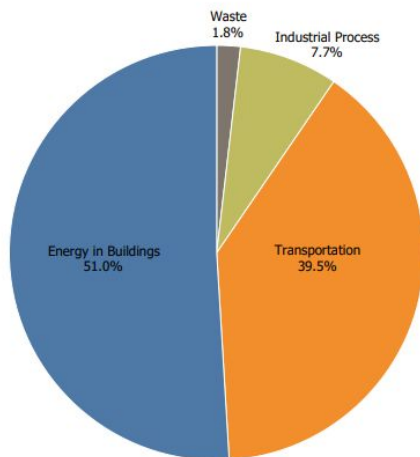


- **2007** – [Resolution 2007215-023](#) establishes municipal operations carbon-neutral goal by 2020 and lays foundation for community action towards net-zero carbon
- **2014** – [Resolution 20140410-024](#) adopts community-wide net-zero carbon goal by 2050
- **2015** – [Resolution 20150604-048](#) adopts ACCP, **establishes the JSC**, and establishes 5 year revision cycle





# 2015 Community Climate Plan



**2017 Travis County Carbon Footprint**  
12.5 million metric tons carbon dioxide-equivalent

## Electricity and Natural Gas

- Buildings and Integrated Efficiency
- Promote Behavior Change
- Resource Technologies

## Transportation and Land Use

- Infrastructure and Service
- Land Use
- Demand Management
- Policy and Planning
- Vehicles and Fuel Efficiency
- Economic and Pricing Solutions

## Materials and Waste Management

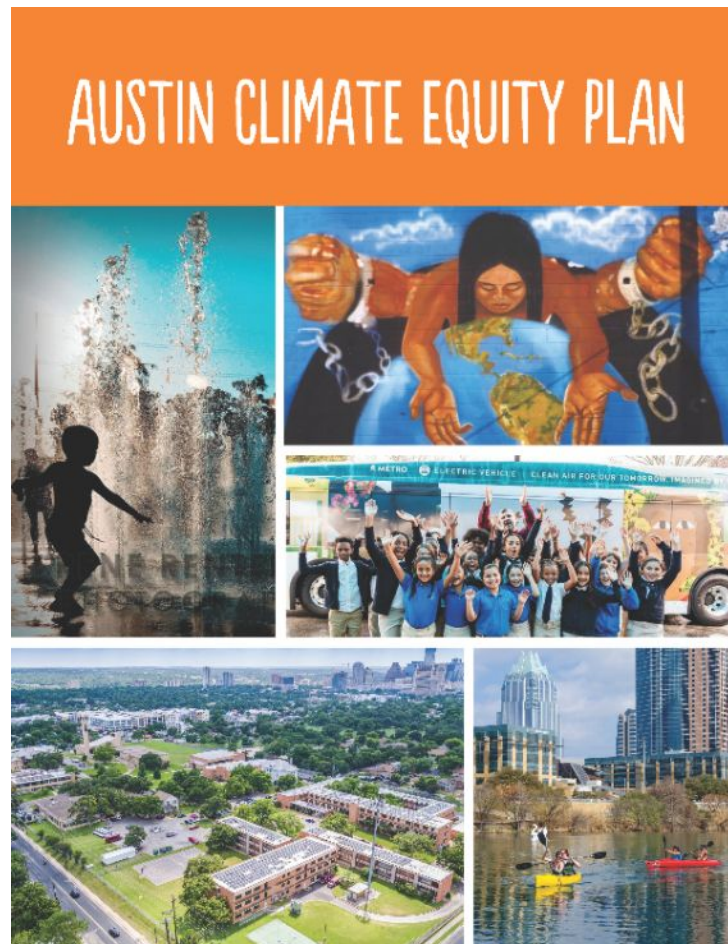
- Organics Diversion
- Purchasing
- Methane Management
- Recycle / Reduce / Reuse

## Industrial Process

- Fuel Switching
- Process Optimization
- Capture and Destruction
- Local Offsets

# Austin Climate Equity Plan

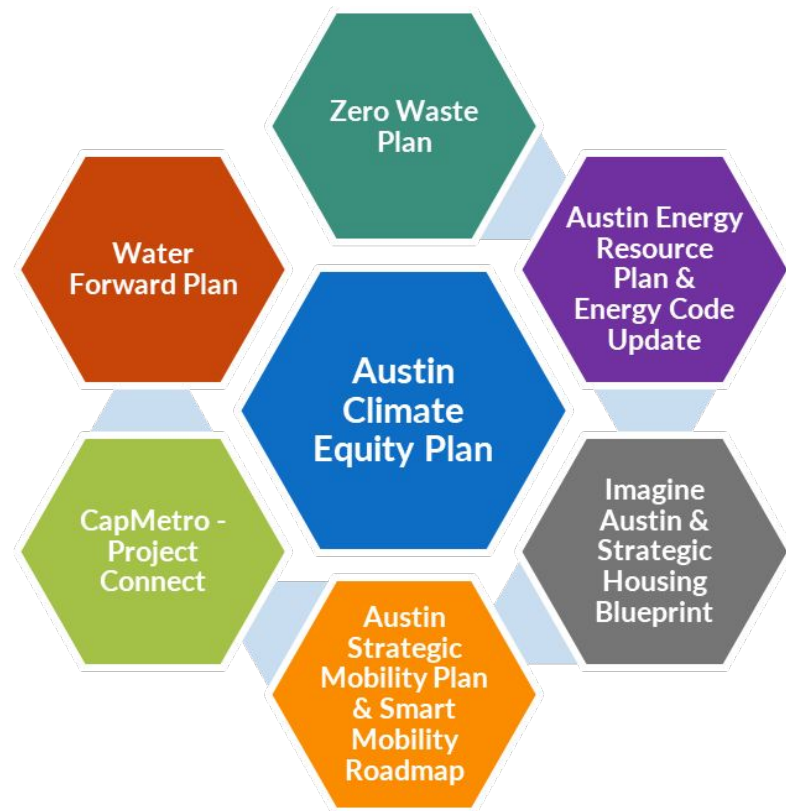
- Co-created with community between Fall 2019-Summer 2021
- The Austin Climate equity Plan was adopted in September 2021
- Our Council Adopted climate goal is to reach net-zero community-wide emissions by 2040, equitably



# Climate Equity Plan Summary

**17 Goals** – What needs to be accomplished **by 2030** to keep us on track

**74 Strategies** – What should be implemented in **next 5 years** to make progress



# Climate Equity Plan Summary – Overarching Strategies

1

## Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Create green jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities that expand economic opportunity and inclusion, and build agency and decision-making power in low-income communities and communities of color.

2

## Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

Prioritize and support existing community-led organizations, businesses, and programs while working to build a green and just economy and culture.

3

## Regional Collaboration

Foster regional collaboration by creating a Texas Climate Collaborative, which will link neighboring counties and peer cities from across the state to share best practices and climate strategies.

4

## Carbon Offsets and Carbon Dioxide Removal

Establish clear support and prioritization for local greenhouse gas reduction and carbon removal projects, carbon dioxide removal, and carbon offsets when necessary.

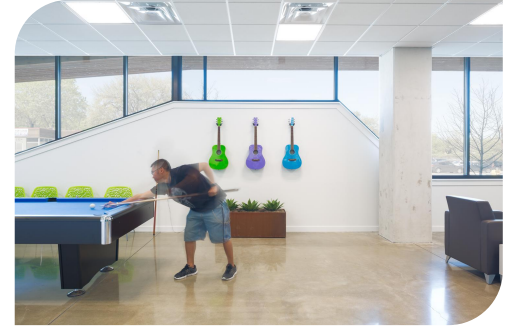
# Climate Equity Plan Summary – Plan Focus Areas

## 5 Goal Areas

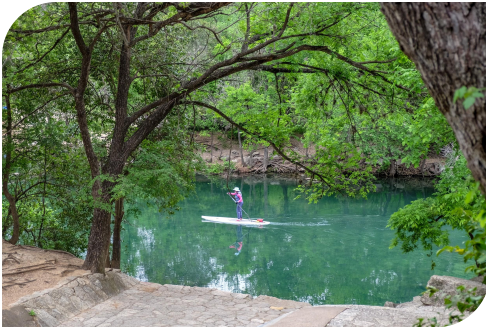
### 1 Consumption of Goods



### 2 Sustainable Buildings



### 3 Natural Systems



### 4 Transportation & Land Use



### 5 Transportation Electrification



# Sustainable Buildings – 4 Goals to be achieved by 2030

**1: Achieve net-zero carbon for all new buildings and reduce emissions by 25% for existing buildings, while lowering all natural gas related emissions by 30%.**

- Ensure benefits flow to low income communities and communities of color
- Enhance understanding of energy consumption
- Energy efficiency net zero carbon buildings
- Ensure equitable workforce development for emerging technologies

**2: 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

**3: 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
- Stimulate decarbonization with local producers

**4: 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 – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

**1: 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

**2: Preserve and produce 135,000 housing units, including 60,000 affordable housing units with 75% of new housing located within ½ mile of activity centers and corridors.**

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

**3: 50% of trips in Austin are made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home.**

- Expand and Improve Public Transportation
- Promote Free Transportation Options
- Transit Stations and Stops
- Prioritize Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Education and Training
- Sidewalks, Urban Trails and Crossings

# Transportation Electrification – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

**1: 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the City of Austin are electrified and electric vehicle ownership is diverse culturally, geographically and economically.**

- 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

**2: 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.**

- 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

**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 – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

**1: Ensure all Austinites can access a food system that is community-driven, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-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

**2: 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

**3: Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting and recycling to achieve a new zero waste goal when the new Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Plan is adopted.**

- 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 – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030, 1 by 2050

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

- Protect Natural Lands
- Manage Natural Lands for Resilience
- Increase Community Access and Positive Perception of Public Land
- Protect Water Sources

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

- Protect of Working Lands
- Reform Agricultural Tax Appraisals
- Support Farmers through Financial Assistance
- Provide Farmers with Resources
- Expand Composting
- Workforce Development for Farmers

**3: Achieve 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050, with a focus on increasing canopy cover in areas where coverage is lower than average.**

- Protect Canopy Cover on City Lands
- Tree Protections and Landscape Regulations
- Community Tree Planting
- Promote Tree Health and Resilience on Private Properties

**4: Include all City-owned lands under a management plan that result in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximize community co-benefits.**

- Prioritize Carbon Neutrality for Public Lands
- Reclaiming Public Space
- Community Stewardship
- Carbon Farming

# ACEP Adoption on September 30, 2021

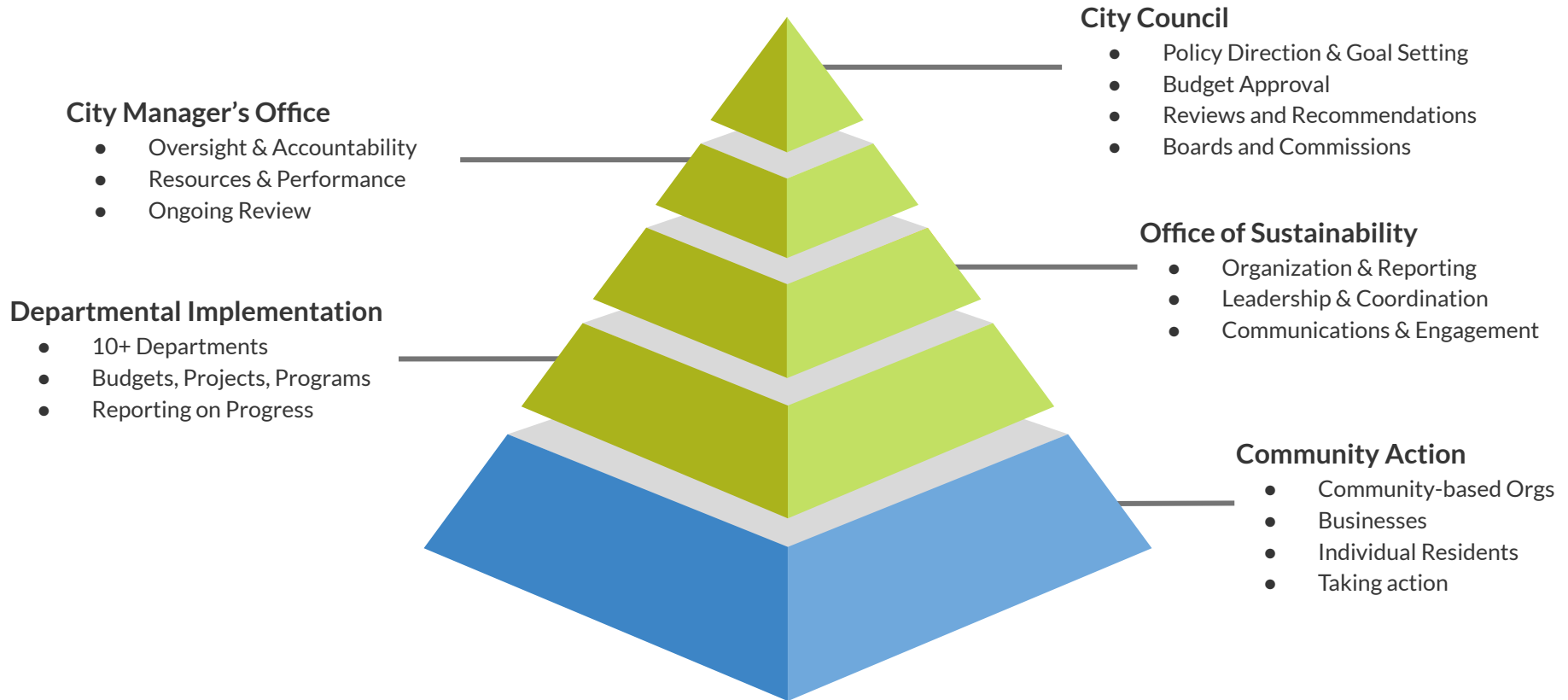
## Resolution 99

- Adopted the Austin Climate Equity Plan, including a new community-wide goal of equitably reaching **net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040**

## Resolution 110

- Funding, near term, in the budget, in the future
- Leadership and Reporting
- Dashboard, Climate Ambassadors, Green Jobs
- Near-term council priorities (airport, natural gas, carbon capture)

# Implementation Overview



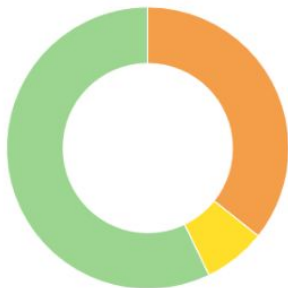
# The Implementation Dashboard is LIVE

## Work Status Summary

### Transportation Electrification

Status available for  
**14 of 14**  
strategies.

<< Scroll on mobile >>



### Number of Strategies

Status Coming Soon

Not Yet Started

5

Starting Soon

1

Underway / Ongoing

8

Complete

## Strategy 1: Create a network with more low-cost, accessible charging stations

Continue to incentivize the installation of EV charging infrastructure by the City, businesses, auto manufacturers, and third-party charging companies to create a compelling (convenient, reliable, and low-cost) network accessible to all.

### Work status



### Goal 1

By 2030, 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in Austin are electrified, and EV ownership is culturally, geographically, and economically diverse.

[Read strategy updates.](#)

### Goal 2

By 2030, Austin has an equitably distributed mix of level 1, 2, and DC fast-charging stations to support more EVs on the road.

[Read strategy updates.](#)

### Goal 3

The Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos area is a leader in transportation electrification through policies and technologies that support the growth of this emerging industry by 2030.

[Read strategy updates.](#)

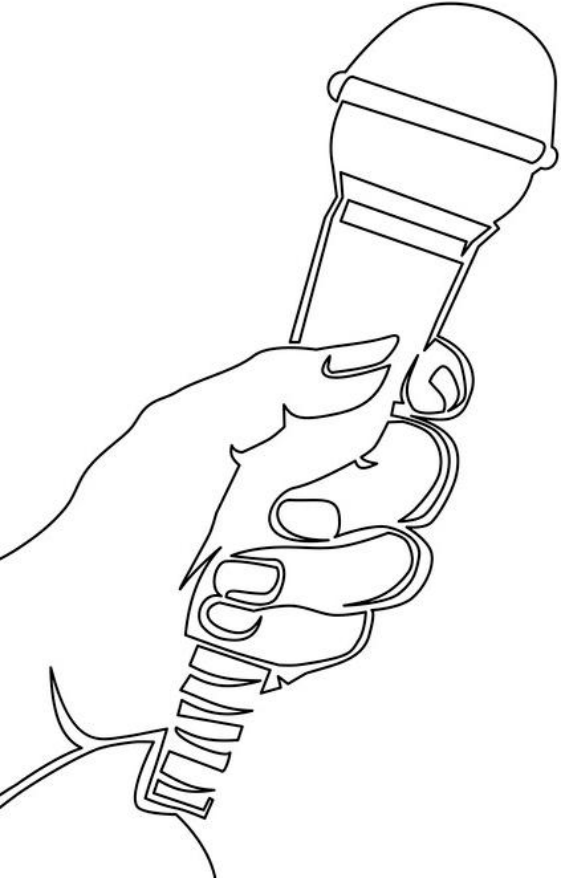


**LINK:** <https://bit.ly/ACEP-Dashboard>

# Where we are now

- We're currently working to implement the Climate Equity Plan
  - OOS has no dedicated budget or “power” to implement the plan
  - We coordinate, lead, organize, and report on progress
- Resolution 110 directed the addition of 5 new members to the JSC
- Over the last year, we've had challenges meeting quorum
- We've been inviting departments to present on their climate equity plan aligned activities for the past year, members Q&A
- We've had a lot of back and forth about working groups / community task forces, with no resolution
- The JSC occasionally passes resolutions adopted by other commissions (in support of their work)
- The strategic planning session on January 25th will set the direction for the JSC in 2023

# Austin Climate Equity Plan Key Successes & Opportunities



- 1) What has been your experience with the Austin Climate Equity Plan?
- 2) What do you see as key successes and opportunities with the plan?

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# **Joint Sustainability Committee**

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# What is the JSC?

The council creates the Joint Sustainability Committee of the:

Community Development Commission; Design Commission; Economic Prosperity Commission; Electric Utility Commission; Environmental Commission; Parks and Recreation Board; Planning Commission; Resource Management Commission; Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board; Urban Transportation Commission; Water and Wastewater Commission; and Zero Waste Advisory Commission. (12 commissions)

- + 1 Social Service Committee Nominee
- + 5 Mayoral Nominees

**18 total members, quorum = 10**

**4-year terms**

*The council intends that the joint committee members represent a broad diversity of community stakeholders including: large companies and employers; small businesses owners and non-profit leaders; renters; central city residents and families; and suburban residents and families.*

## Meetings

- Typically meet monthly
- In-Person and Webex options

## Attendance

- Seat is vacated if a member misses three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular meetings in a rolling 12-month period (except for illness or injury)

## Communications

- JSC website
- City BC email
- Text

## Mechanisms for Action

- Educational presentations
- Policy and budget recommendations
- Advisory/working groups
- Adopting resolutions from other committees

## WORKING

- “...the JSC brings a **unique opportunity for various disciplines to convene to develop broader perspective**, and identify ways we can **align our piece with the city’s broader goal of equitable sustainability**”
- “We have a **good group of people** serving on the commission.”
- “We have received some **good presentations**.”

## NOT WORKING

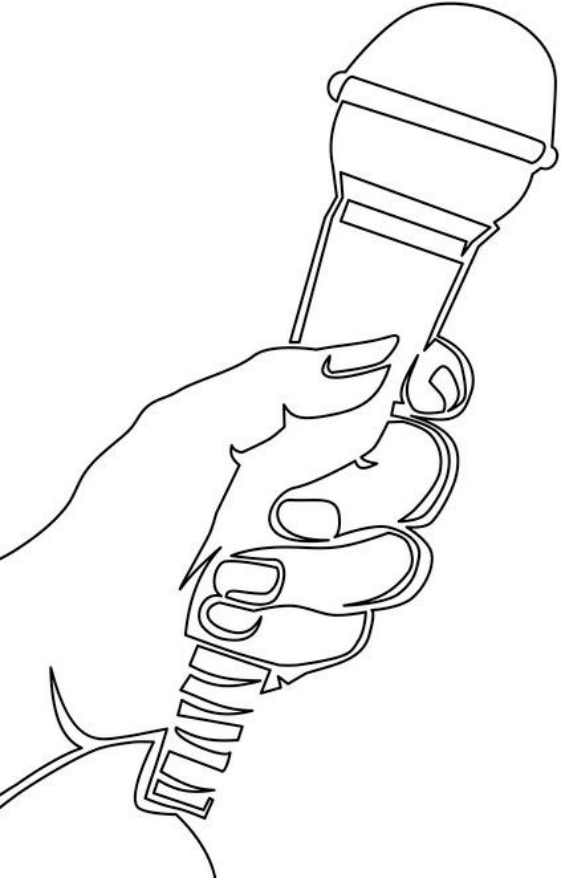
- “There are times JSC seems to **lack focus**...”
- “...sometimes seems to be a commission **in search of a purpose**...Initially I understood the ‘mission’ to be ongoing review and revision of the Climate Plan, but I’m not sure if that’s still the primary purpose.”
- “I would prefer if the JSC stuck to a **specific, timed agenda** and were able to **do its business in just a couple hours**.”
- “We **aren’t taking much action**.”
- “We aren’t digging into the city’s policies and programs and **making recommendations for what to do next**.”
- “We should have **more two-way flow of recommendations** between the JSC and the various home commissions.”
- “We also need **more JSC members reaching out to the city council members** who appointed them to urge them to take action when we make recommendations.”

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# **Climate Equity Plan Implementation Brainstorm**

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# JSC Purpose & Theory of Change



To put Austin on a solid path to equitably achieving net-zero community-wide GHG emissions by 2040, **what ONE strategy or structural change could the JSC employ this year?**

## **Rating Scale (1 to 5)**

- 1 = very low effectiveness/actionability
- 2 = somewhat low effectiveness/actionability
- 3 = neutral (try not to use)
- 4 = somewhat high effectiveness/actionability
- 5 = very high effectiveness/actionability



THANK YOU

### Next Steps:

- Draft brief 2023 action plan based on discussion
- Review action plan and seek JSC member commitments at next meeting

**Save the Date:** **ADD NEXT JSC MEETING DATE**