

AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN



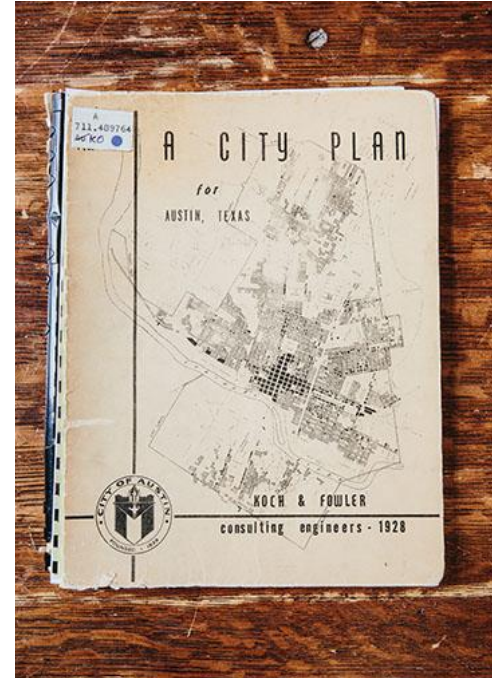
Austin Climate Equity Plan

Rohan Lilauwala,
Office of Sustainability

March 2023

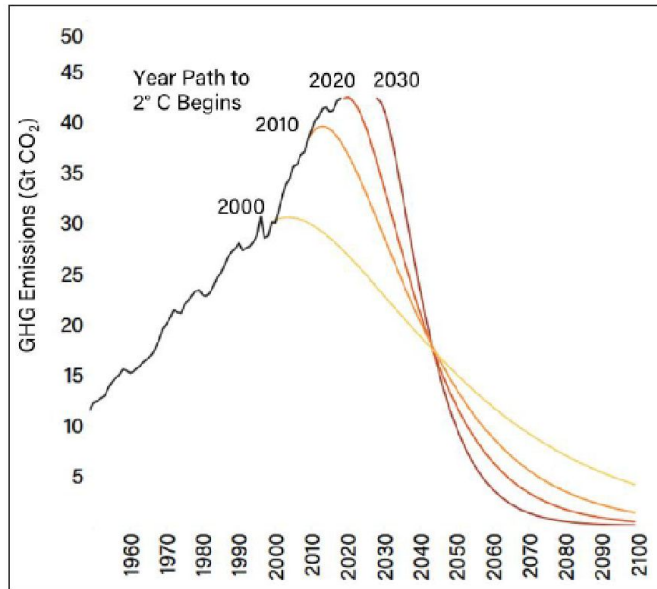
Understanding History

- The Austin 1928 Master Plan divided the city along racial lines, **forcibly displacing Black residents into specific, undesirable areas.**
- Under the 1957 Industrial Development Plan, **property in East Austin was zoned as “industrial,”** including existing single-family residential 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.**
- Local Environmental Justice and Community-based organizations have examined the impact of the City of Austin’s historical land use and planning policies and how they have **harmed residents in East Austin.**
- **Gentrification is happening** in areas of the city where low-income people and people of color have been forced to live, and **the African-American share of the Austin population is declining,** from 12% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2010.



We are Changing the Earth's Climate

Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Paths to Limit Warming to 3.6°F (2°C)



The longer we wait to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the more immediate and drastic the reductions must be to stay below 3.6°F (2°C).

Source: Center for International Climate Research

Warming over 2°C could be catastrophic to life on earth

Austin Climate Projections



HIGHER TEMPERATURES



EXTENDED PERIODS OF DROUGHT



INCREASED RISK OF WILDFIRE



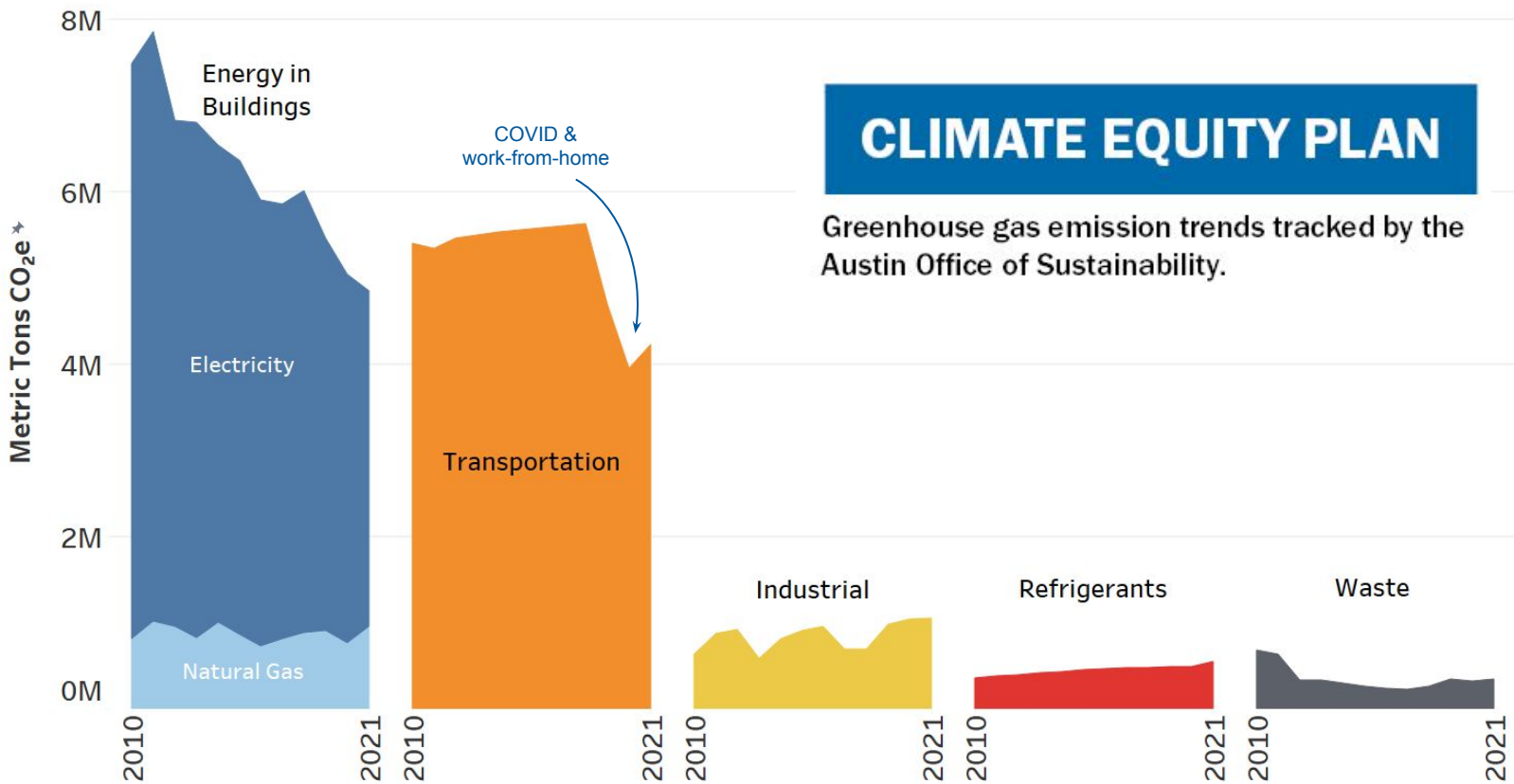
INTENSE RAIN AND FLOODING

- 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

Austin Community-wide Carbon Footprint

CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN

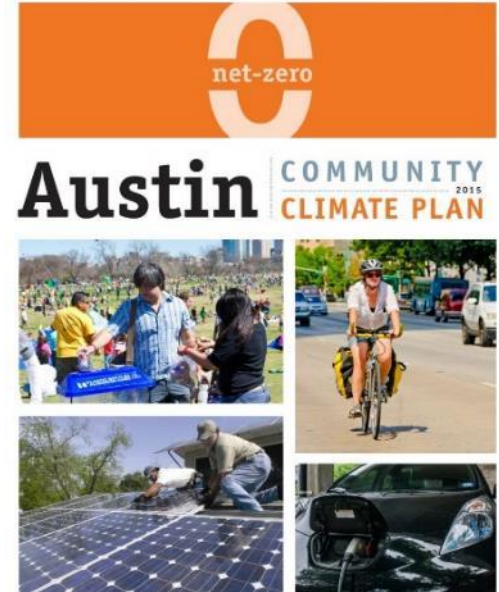
Greenhouse gas emission trends tracked by the Austin Office of Sustainability.





Climate Planning Timeline

- January 2007 First Goals established by City Council
- June 2015 First Plan adopted by Council
- November 2019 5-year Update Process Begins
- 2019-2021 Plan Development Process
- September 2021 Formally Adopted by City Council



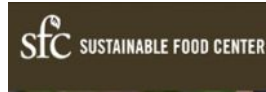
Participating Stakeholder Organizations



TBG



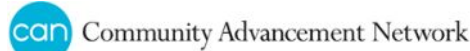
CENTRAL
HEALTH



THE
CONSERVATION FUND



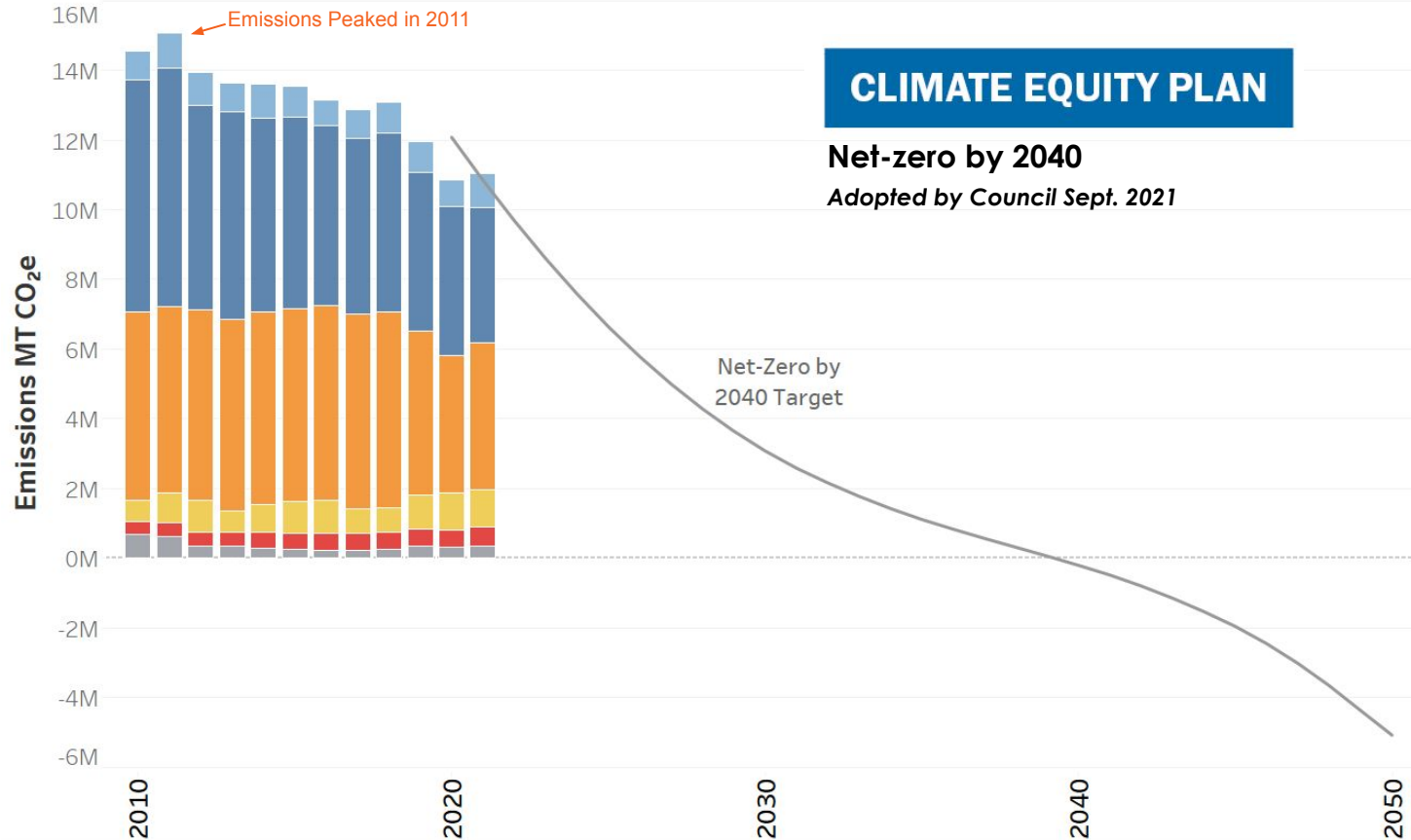
Texas Electric Transportation
Resources Alliance



Perkins & Will



New Community-Wide Goal



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 11 MMT in 2021). Per capita emissions decreased 39% over same time period (18.5 tpp in 2010 to 11.4 tpp in 2021).

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





Sustainable Buildings

Foundation Communities Lakeline Learning Center

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

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

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

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



The Bull Creek Preserve

Natural Systems

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

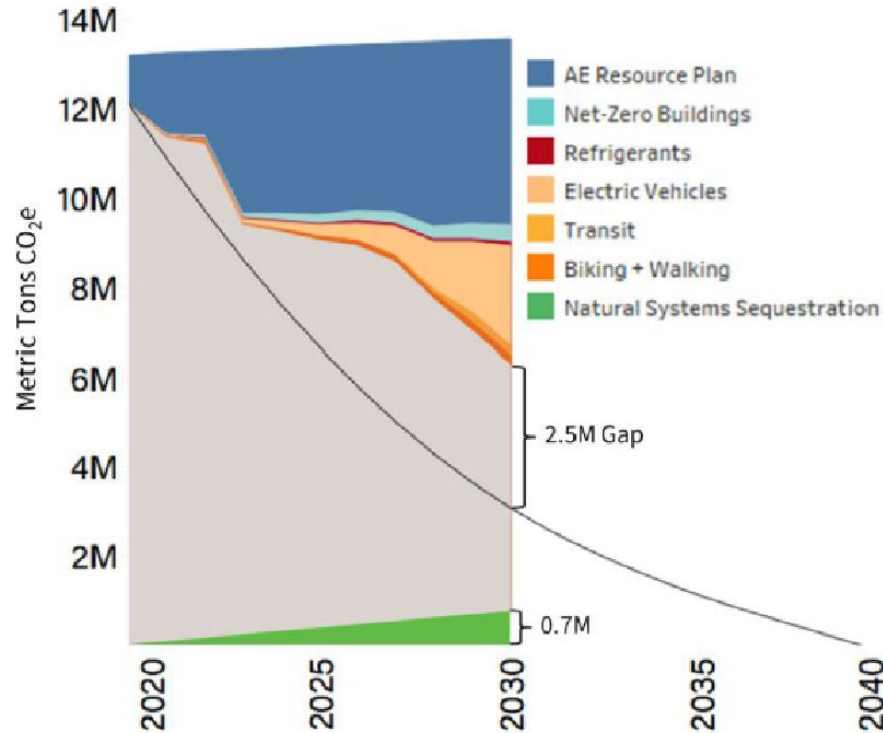
3: Achieve 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050, with a focus on increasing canopy cover in areas where coverage is lower than average.

- 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

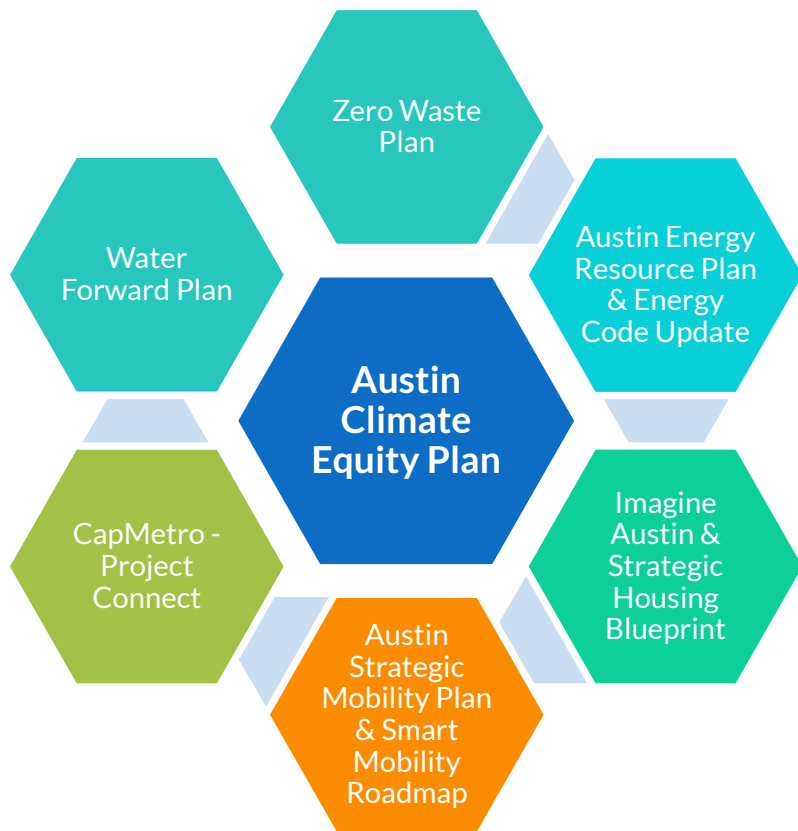
Impact of this Plan on Meeting our Goals



Emissions Reduction Strategies

Buildings	Current	Goal
Carbon Free % of AE Customer Load	63%	93%
Net-Zero Carbon Buildings	<1%	25%
Refrigerant Leaks	-	-25%
Transportation	Current	Goal
Electric Vehicle Miles Traveled	1%	40%
% of Trips on Public Transit, Biking, or Walking	20%	50%

A Plan Among Plans

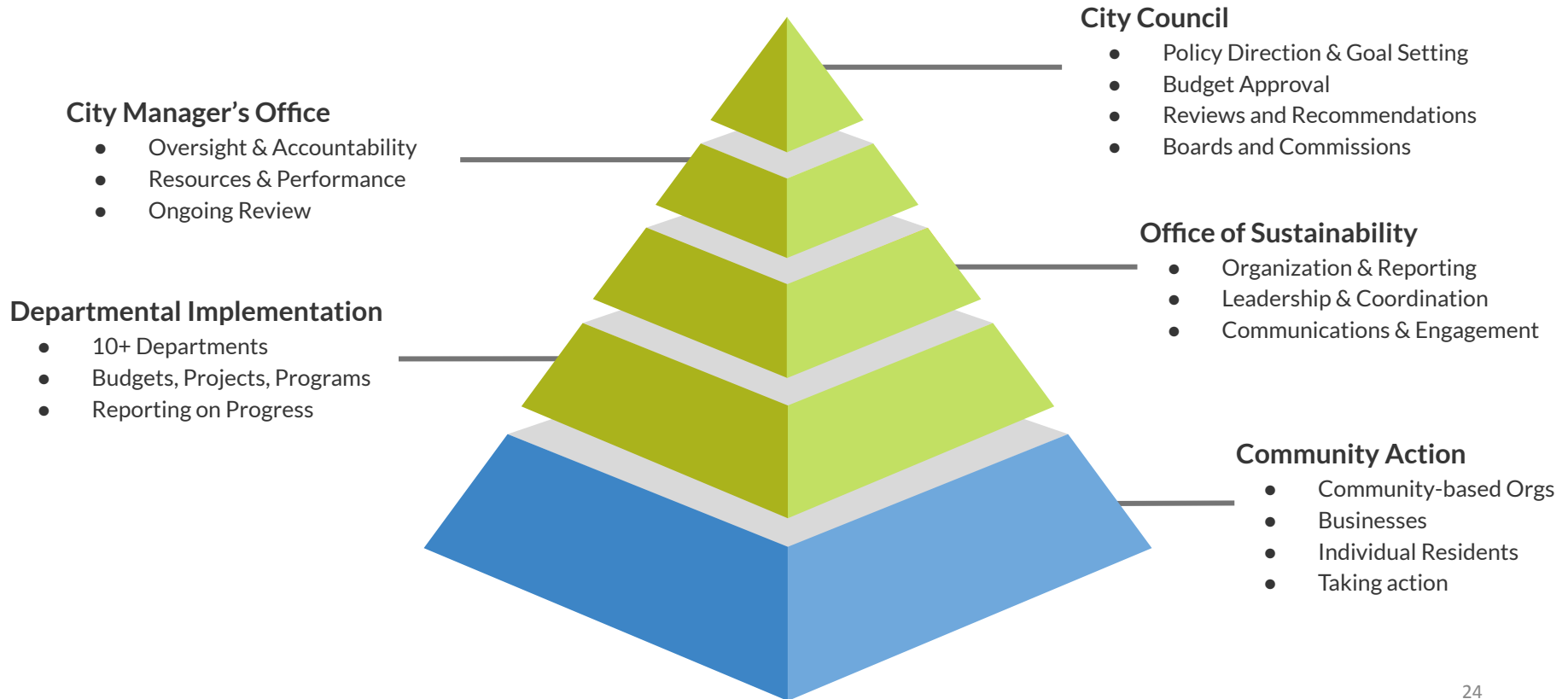


Climate Equity Plan

5 Plan Sections

- Sustainable Buildings
- Transportation Electrification
- Transportation & Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Consumption

Implementation Overview



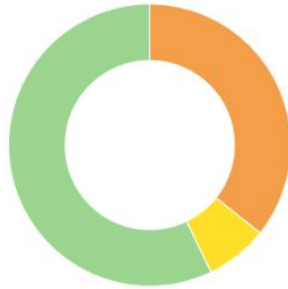
Implementation Dashboard

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>

Austin Climate Equity Plan

Building a healthy and equitable Austin, together.

Office of Sustainability

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a16c5def2fef4a2285be0737e2efdeb0>



What's Next

- Implementation workshops with departments
- Joint Sustainability Committee oversight
- Pursuing Inflation Reduction Act and other funding

Questions? Contact Me

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Thank you!

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