

**Austin Travis County Public
Health Commission &
Austin Joint Sustainability
Committee**

February 7, 2024



Joint Sustainability Committee Purpose

To 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](#)

Joint Sustainability Committee Membership

Currently composed of 18 members:

- Austin Travis County Food Policy Board
- Community Development Commission
- Economic Prosperity Commission
- Electric Utility Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Parks and Recreation Board
- One city council appointee and five mayoral nominees
- Planning Commission
- Resource Management Commission
- Urban Transportation Commission
- Water and Wastewater Commission
- Zero Waste Advisory Commission
- Design Commission

Recommendation

Include a member of the Austin Travis County Public Health Commission on the Joint Sustainability Committee.



JSC voted unanimously to amend its bylaws to include PHC on 1/24/2024.

Climate Change Is A Public Health Issue

- Poor **air quality** from ground-level ozone and wildfire smoke are linked to higher rates of **asthma and lung cancer**
- **Extreme heat** can be deadly for seniors, outdoor workers, unhoused people and people suffering from mental illnesses
- Severe storms can cause power outages and **disrupt critical infrastructure**
- Low-income and **communities of color** are the most impacted by the worst effects of climate change



Time commitment

- JSC meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 6pm
- Members may serve on working groups related to the Austin Climate Equity Plan sections, 1-2 meetings per month
 - Sustainable Buildings
 - Transportation Electrification
 - Transportation & Land Use
 - Natural Systems
 - Food and Product Consumption



Next Steps*

- JSC votes to amend bylaws (complete)
- Audit & Finance Committee approves JSC bylaws amendments
- City Council approves JSC bylaws amendments
- PHC nominates representative to JSC
- City Council approves PHC nomination
- PHC appointee completes certification
- PHC appointee begins serving on JSC

**Not an exhaustive list; subject to committee, board and council schedules, agendas, and approvals*



“The climate crisis is a health issue, a physical issue, and a mental health issue.”

–Dr. Robert Bullard, Founding Director of the
Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate
Justice

Thank you