

**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.



# 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 (City Hall; hybrid format)
- 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 approves amendments to bylaws
- 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

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Thank you