

Joint Sustainability Committee

RECOMMENDATION 20250226-XXX



Date: February 26, 2025

Subject: Comprehensive Climate Implementation Program

Motioned By:

Seconded By:

Recommendation

The Austin Climate Equity Plan sets the goal that Austin will achieve net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, and more action is urgently needed to meet this goal.

The Joint Sustainability Committee recommends including any appropriate policy changes that align with the goals and strategies of the Austin Climate Equity Plan in the Comprehensive Climate Implementation Program action list before finalizing it. Some policies that the commission recommends including are:

1. Waive permitting fees for food vendors that serve mostly a pro-climate/pro-health, plant-based, high fiber menu.
2. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) should institute policy changes to increase use of recycling and composting and reduce contamination for ARR customers and those subject to the URO. For example, contamination fees (which ARR has already researched) are a useful tool.
3. Adopt a policy to require all events on city property (including streets) to provide co-located composting, recycling and landfill trash receptacles, with staff to assist event participants.

4. Adopt a pro-climate/pro-health and plant-based food default policy for all City of Austin food purchasing.

Furthermore, the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends the following edits and additions to the Comprehensive Climate Implementation Program action list.

1. “Rebates for electrical upgrades” should include enhanced/increased rebates for LMI customers.