

City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Overview

The City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides a responsible roadmap for the City to reduce carbon emissions in a cost-effective manner that balances the needs of the environment with those of the economy. As drafted, the Plan includes provisions that protect local businesses, safeguard local jobs and encourage innovation – all of which will help bolster the local economy. It allows the flexibility necessary for the City to take advantage of emerging technologies and includes cost-benefit analyses to ensure actions are prioritized that maximize taxpayer investment as we work to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future.

After years of extensive studies and public input, as well as the development of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the draft CAP is anticipated to go before the San Diego City Council for final approval before the end of 2015.

Goal

The City of San Diego's draft CAP has one specific goal – to reduce local GHG emissions by approximately 50 percent below the 2010 levels by 2035. By doing so, the Plan sets the City on a path to meet the State of California's requirement to reduce emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Strategies

To accomplish this goal and achieve the desired GHG reduction targets, the City's draft Climate Action Plan outlines five strategies.

1. Energy and Water Efficient Buildings: Reduce residential building energy consumption, municipal energy consumption and daily per capita water consumption.
2. Clean and Renewable Energy: Achieve 100 percent renewable energy on the City-wide electrical grid by 2035.
3. Bicycling, Walk, Transit and Land Use: Increase City-owned zero-emissions vehicles, convert City waste collection trucks to low-emission fuels, increase the use of mass transit, increase commuter walking and bicycling opportunities, reduce fuel consumption and promote effective land use to promote alternative transportation choices.
4. Zero Waste: Divert solid waste and capture landfill and wastewater treatment methane gas emissions.
5. Climate Resiliency: Increase the number of trees in urban areas.

Implementation

The City has identified 17 proposed actions to accomplish the five strategies of the Plan. These actions will be implemented in three phases – 1.) early actions (2016-2017), 2.) mid-term actions (2018-2020) and 3.) longer-term actions (2021-2035).

Action #	Description	Phase
Strategy 1: Energy and Water Efficient Buildings		
1	1.1 Present to City Council for consideration a residential Energy Conservation and Disclosure Ordinance.	1
2	1.2 Present to City Council for consideration a Municipal Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan.	1
3	1.3 Support water rate structures that provide pricing signals that encourage water conservation and reuse, including greywater use, within the limits established by Propositions 218 and 26.	2
4	1.4 Present to City Council for consideration a Water Conservation and Disclosure Ordinance.	1
5	1.5 Implement an Outdoor Landscaping Ordinance that requires use of weather-based irrigation controllers.	1
Strategy 2: Clean and Renewable Energy		
6	2.1 Present to City Council for consideration a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) or another program that increases the renewable energy supply on the electrical grid.	2
7	2.2 Present to City Council for consideration an update to City Administrative Regulation 90.73 to increase the number of municipal zero emissions vehicles.	1
8	2.3 Present to City Council for consideration a Municipal Alternative Fuel Policy.	1
Strategy 3: Bicycling, Walk, Transit and Land Use		
9	3.1 Implement the General Plan's Mobility Element and the City of Villages Strategy in Transit Priority Areas to increase the use of transit.	1, 2 & 3
10	3.2 Implement pedestrian improvements in Transit Priority Areas to increase commuter walking opportunities.	1, 2 & 3
11	3.3 Implement the City of San Diego's Bicycle Master Plan to increase commuter bicycling opportunities.	1, 2 & 3
12	3.4 Implement a Traffic Signal Master Plan to retime traffic signals to reduce vehicle fuel consumption.	2
13	3.5 Implement a Roundabouts Master Plan to install roundabouts to reduce vehicle fuel consumption.	2
14	3.6 Implement transit-oriented development within Transit Priority Areas.	1, 2 & 3
Strategy 4: Zero Waste		
15	4.1 Enact the City's Zero Waste Plan, and implement landfill gas collection operational procedures in compliance with the California Air Resources Board's Landfill Methane Capture regulations.	1
16	4.2 Implement operational procedures to capture methane gas from wastewater treatment.	2
Strategy 5: Climate Resiliency		
17	5.1 Present to City Council for consideration a city-wide Urban Tree Planting Program. The program shall include water conservation measures to minimize the water use for tree plantings. The measures should include planting drought-tolerant and native trees, and prioritizing tree plantings in areas with recycled water and greywater infrastructure.	2