

REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

2017 – 2020 UPDATE

DRAFT ACTIONS LIST

The Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan is a short-term plan with a variety of voluntary local government strategies with flexible implementation levels to help move the region toward achieving the regional GHG emission reduction goals. The update underway will be the 3rd edition of the Action Plan, focusing on implementation and outcomes for 2017-2020. The following table is the first draft of actions and anticipated local government implementation levels for stakeholder review.

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION		%
Increase Efficiency of Public Facilities and Operations		
1	Prepare GHG emission inventories and reduction plans for government operations.	100%
2	Regularly track/benchmark and publicly disclose energy performance at all government facilities.	100%
3	Prepare an energy for local government facilities and operations.	100%
4	Perform walk-through energy audits of local government facilities and implement recommendations.	100%
5	Implement employee challenges and education programs on energy and sustainability policies and practices at work and home.	100%
Facilitate Increased Efficiency in the Community		
6	Adopt a community-wide GHG emission reduction plan (could also be framed as a climate action plan, energy plan, sustainability plan, etc.).	100%
7	Incorporate community energy infrastructure needs, goals, and strategies in master plans, comprehensive plans, and small area plans.	50%
8	Increase level of compliance for existing energy building codes. Support increased efficiency in codes at national, state, or local levels (only feasible where local jurisdiction has authority).	75%
9	Implement mandatory energy benchmarking requirements or promote voluntary benchmarking. Provide training or technical assistance.	50%
10	Offer innovative financing solutions for residential and commercial sectors (i.e. green bank, PACE, loan loss reserves, etc.).	75%
11	Provide local energy efficiency incentives to residents and businesses or promote federal, state, and utility incentives. Target opportunities to underserved communities.	100%
12	Expand low-income housing retrofits for energy and water savings.	50%
13	Deploy energy efficient outdoor lighting requirements or initiatives (for streets, parking lots, parks, or signage).	75%
14	Implement residential and commercial engagement programs (i.e. green business or home challenges, awards, etc.) to encourage energy efficiency.	100%
15	Analyze feasibility of deploying combined heat and power, district energy, and microgrid systems. Reduce barriers to and incentivize community deployment.	25%

INCREASE RENEWABLES		
1	Adopt a net zero energy plan, policies, or initiatives.	25%
2	Install renewable energy systems on local government property.	100%
3	Achieve and maintain EPA Green Power Partnership for government operations.	75%
4	Work with the community to achieve and maintain EPA Green Power Community Partnership.	50%
5	Adopt solar access, solar-ready, and similar ordinances to help facilitate local solar deployment.	75%
6	Provide or promote incentives for building-level renewable technologies and energy storage systems. Target opportunities to underserved communities.	100%
7	Facilitate and support establishment of cooperative community renewable systems and cooperative renewable energy purchasing.	75%
8	Increase public education and outreach on renewable technologies.	100%
9	Continue to support strong state-level renewable portfolio standards.	75%
10	Support expanded renewable energy incentives and financing mechanisms at utility, state, and national levels.	75%
ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL MOBILITY		
Increase Efficiency of Public Sector Fleets		
1	Adopt a green fleet policy or fleet management plan aimed at reducing emissions of GHGs and other pollutants.	100%
2	Add alternative fuel and charging equipment (e.g. natural gas, biofuel, electric, hydrogen) to public fueling facilities. Retrofit garages and refueling facilities, as needed.	75%
3	Offer car sharing and bike sharing programs for employees as an alternative to expanding fleet.	50%
4	Adopt anti-idling policies for public fleets and off-road equipment.	75%
5	Provide staff education and training for efficient use of and maintenance on all vehicle types in the fleet with a particular focus on alternative fuel vehicles.	50%
6	Implement innovative pilot initiatives to advance new technologies (e.g. vehicle-to-grid, solar powered charging stations, etc.).	25%
Improve Local Fuel Economy		
7	Comprehensive, small area, and development plans guide EV and other AFV infrastructure development.	50%
8	Invest in a system of publically accessible EV charging stations and other AFV fueling stations.	75%
9	Actively promote and enforce community-wide anti-idling regulations (adopted locally or by state).	75%
10	Require new buildings to install EV charging stations or require them to be EV-Ready.	25%
11	Require space for bicycle and car sharing in development plans.	25%
12	Provide or promote incentives for electric vehicles and charging stations.	50%
13	Provide outreach and education on the benefits and availability of EVs.	25%

14	Support state and national incentives for low-emitting, efficient vehicles, infrastructure, and technology.	75%
Mobility Management		
15	Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian plan.	100%
16	Achieve a Bike Friendly or Walk Friendly Community Designation.	25%
17	Expand park and ride facilities to meet anticipated increase in rideshare and transit demand.	50%
18	Implement transit enhancements to increase capacity and improve services (e.g. enhanced commuter bus service, real-time bus schedule information, bus rapid transit, etc.). Place emphasis on increasing accessibility and expanded transit options to underserved communities.	50%
19	Enhance system operational performance of roadways (e.g. signal retiming, intersection efficiency improvements, etc.).	50%
20	Adopt a complete streets policy.	75%
21	Offer a commute options program for government employees (telework, flex-time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, or financial incentive).	100%
22	Provide or promote travel demand management programs (e.g. Commuter Connections) to encourage citizens to take alternative commute options and to help employers offer alternative commute options to their employees.	100%
23	Implement transit fare reductions to targeted audiences.	50%
INCREASE SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
Facilitate Sustainable Development Patterns		
1	Update comprehensive and small area land use plans, zoning, and urban design guidelines to allow for greater concentration of growth in activity centers.	100%
2	Develop neighborhood stabilization strategies to preserve neighborhood identity in underserved communities.	50%
3	Implement pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements to accommodate growth around rail stations and other activity centers. Place emphasis on increasing connectivity in underserved communities.	75%
4	Incentivize development in activity centers that are walkable, higher density, mixed use, mixed income, and transit-oriented. Identify, promote, and incentivize the redevelopment or innovative uses of vacant, underutilized, or brownfield sites.	50%
Increase Number of High Performance Buildings		
5	Incorporate high performance building goals and strategies in master plans, comprehensive land use plans, and small area plans.	50%
6	Implement an affordable housing green rehabilitation program.	50%
7	Enhance green building policies to require higher level of green construction standards (e.g. LEED Gold instead of LEED Silver).	50%
8	Offer incentives for commercial and residential buildings certified by a high efficiency building/green rating system (LEED, ENERGY STAR, Passive House, EarthCraft, Living Building Challenge, Net Zero, Well Standard, etc.).	50%
9	Provide education and training on new and advanced green construction standards (Living Building, Net Zero, WELL Standard, etc.).	50%

Reduce Loss of Resource Lands, Canopy, and Vegetation from Development		
10	Implement plan(s) to preserve and enhance ecologically valuable green spaces (such as forests, wetlands, stream buffers) in urban, suburban and rural areas (e.g. green infrastructure plan, natural resource management plan, or green space plan).	100%
11	Increase access to greenspaces for underserved communities.	50%
12	Adopt a tree canopy/forest cover goal.	100%
13	Obtain and maintain Tree City USA designation. Designation requirements include having a tree board or department, tree care ordinance, an Arbor Day observance or proclamation, and a \$2 per capita budget for public tree plantings and care.	100%
14	Promote planting, care of trees, and engage the community on tree planting.	100%
15	Adopt green streets plan, policies, or initiatives.	50%
12	Expand urban heat island mitigation programs.	100%
13	Require green infrastructure and tree canopy for new development and retrofits as part of the development review process. Expand the responsibility of developers to plant or maintain trees over an extended period of time.	50%
14	Provide or promote green infrastructure incentives (i.e. private property tree plantings, green roofs, paved surface reduction, etc.).	50%
15	Install green roof(s) on government property.	75%
16	Utilize zoning, development and permitting regulations, and other tools to support local food production, processing, and distribution in urban, suburban, and rural communities (i.e. farmers' markets, community gardens, on-farm processing, agritourism, etc.).	50%
18	Provide support or incentives for urban agriculture (e.g. edible landscaping, school and community gardens, urban farming).	75%
MOVE TOWARD ZERO WASTE		
1	Adopt a zero waste plan, policies, or initiatives.	25%
2	Develop framework for organics collections at residential and commercial sites, including food composting and recovery initiatives.	100%
3	Implement solutions for disposal of household hazardous waste and pharmaceuticals.	100%
4	Expand diversion solutions in public spaces (such as installing solar compactors for landfill waste and recycling, and displaying signage with proper waste disposal techniques).	100%
5	Determine needed upgrades of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) and collection systems to optimize operating efficiency.	25%
6	Adopt and enforce recycling requirements for businesses.	100%
7	Adopt a construction and demolition recycling policy.	100%
8	Provide incentives for residential on-site composting.	75%
9	Expand education and outreach initiatives to encourage sustainable consumption, increased recycling, and composting.	100%
10	Support siting of renewables at landfills.	50%

BUILD REGIONAL RESILIENCE		
1	Assess community vulnerability (social, environmental, economic) to climate impacts.	50%
2	Assess vulnerability of critical infrastructure for transportation, communication, energy utility, water and wastewater utility systems assets.	25%
3	Adopt climate adaptation/resiliency plan, policies or initiatives.	50%
4	Update plans (comprehensive, small area, hazard mitigation, emergency response and recovery, public health, etc.) to address climate impacts and preparedness.	25%
5	Incorporate climate resilience strategies into capital improvement plans and projects.	25%
6	Update zoning, building codes, ordinances, and the development review process to ensure new development is more resilient to local climate impacts.	25%
7	Implement local government energy assurance planning initiatives.	50%
8	Design new public buildings to be more resilient to climate impacts and to continue operations during extended power outages.	25%
9	Implement energy, flood, and heat protection measures at vulnerable critical facilities and infrastructure sites.	50%
10	Revise infrastructure design standards to be more resilient to heat, flooding, and other climate impacts.	25%
11	Direct assistance (technical and financial) and innovative solutions to vulnerable and underserved communities.	25%
12	Implement public education campaign on preparedness for citizens, commercial property owners, and small businesses.	50%
13	Restore and manage natural ecosystem functions to increase capacity to adapt to a changing climate.	25%
GROW THE REGIONAL CLEAN ECONOMY		
1	Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies that facilitates government procurement of goods and services that reduce impact on human health and environment.	100%
2	Increase government spend on environmentally-friendly products or services.	100%
3	Encourage government vendors and businesses in the community to minimize the carbon intensity of their supply chain.	25%
4	Commit to divest in fossil fuels over the long-term.	25%
5	Update economic development workforce plans/strategies to incorporate strategies to support emerging green or clean tech industries.	25%
6	Develop a cleantech branding and marketing strategy.	25%
7	Provide shared space and develop incentives for green/clean tech businesses to locate within the jurisdiction.	25%
8	Expand opportunities for minority and women owned businesses to participate in green and clean economy initiatives.	25%
9	Support innovative technology deployment to address current community challenges and needs.	25%
10	Support state and federal incentive programs for green and clean tech activities.	25%

PROTECT EQUITY AND HEALTH

1	Identify the community's priorities for equitable environmental improvements. Provide data and resources to support decision-making of priorities.	25%
2	Conduct cumulative environmental and health impact assessments in underserved communities.	25%
3	Integrate equity and health considerations and strategies into all local government policies, plans, and programs. Identify impacts of policies and programs to underserved populations and communities and how to maximize positive impacts and minimize negative impacts.	25%
4	Develop a healthy food access or food security plan.	25%
5	Adopt a precautionary principle as the underlying policy standard when it comes to reducing environmental hazards and risks.	25%
6	Direct environmental incentives towards vulnerable and underserved populations.	25%
7	Provide training to local government staff on successful public engagement techniques, equity and diversity.	25%
8	Support community environmental monitoring programs to increase community participation in gathering and accessing community data (e.g. Citizen Science).	25%
9	Provide meaningful engagement forums and community leadership development opportunities to enhance citizen's knowledge on the local environmental planning process, how to influence environmental decision-making, and how to access data, technical assistance, and resources.	50%

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