

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING - CANCELED AGENDA

7:00 PM - Monday, October 17, 2022

Telephone/Video Conference only

This meeting was canceled due to a meeting link issue, to be rescheduled for 10/24/22

###

Please Note: Per California Executive Order N-29-20, the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission will meet via teleconference only. Members of the Public may call (669) 444-9171 to participate in the conference call (Meeting ID: 878 1780 5234, Passcode: 663730), or <https://losaltosca.gov.zoom.us/j/87817805234pwd=R2FidFF6cFdjM0pZd3ZFaHpEWkZYUT09&from=addon>

Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments.

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Chair and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the meeting to ECpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov. Emails received prior to the beginning of the meeting will be included in the public record.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS A AND B - SEE ATTACHED

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. **Environmental Commission Minutes**

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2022.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. **Introduction: New Sustainability Coordinators**

Introduction to Tania Katbi and Casey Leedom, the new Sustainability Coordinators for the Environmental Services and Utilities Department.

3. Update: State and Federal Climate Action

Presentation on recent State and Federal climate action by Ken Branson, Policy Advisor to Senator Josh Becker.

4. Environmental Commission Work Plan

a. Reach Codes

Status update by staff.

b. Tree Protection Ordinance

Status update by staff.

c. Single Use Plastics

Status update by staff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan (Continued)

d. EV Fair

Discuss City staff role and next steps for the EV Fair per Goal 1.4A of the CAAP

CITY STAFF UPDATES

6. City Staff Updates

Receive information and announcements from City staff.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports, and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the interment at https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For further questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.

From: [lothar.kleiner](#)
To: [Public Comment - EC](#)
Subject: It's All About Safety
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 8:17:34 PM

Dear Environmental Commission Members,

I wanted to attend in person, so I looked on the web site and saw that the meeting is at the Los Altos Community Chambers at City Hall. I did not realize that all meetings were still with Zoom. So below is the statement I have stated in person:

Regarding the mandates that are coming for electrification of homes and phase out of natural gas, have you put into consideration: "then what?"

We all know how fragile the CA electric power grid is, so if there is a hot spell or a freezing spell, demand for power will go up and the probability of rolling black outs will be high. Therefore:

1. No AC, if too hot or heat, if too cold; seniors will suffer the most
2. No charging of EVs for transportation to job or urgent care emergencies
3. No backup generators that run on natural gas
4. No refrigerator - spoiled food

These are a few and probably many more. Consider that natural gas is a clean fuel that emits only water and carbon dioxide (which is a plant fertilizer) during combustion. The rise in carbon dioxide has caused our planet to green. It is also sustainable if derived from plants and animal waste. The vast mineral mining operations required for so called green energy (lithium, rare earth metals, nickel, etc) have destroyed the environment where it is done, mainly in China, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo (think child labor), Australia and Russia because the footprint for getting these resources is very high as opposed to the small footprint for harvesting natural gas.

Please think this policy through carefully. I do believe in climate change because that represents the history of our planet. I also believe in being good stewards and not polluting. I am a scientist who has studied the science for many years. I absolutely will not knowingly post anything that is incorrect.

The only way I might support the complete **electrification of homes is when CA has an absolutely reliable power grid and/or allows a natural gas-powered whole house generator..**

Thank you for reading this and I welcome any questions that you may have either in person or via e-mail.

Lothar Kleiner, Ph.D.

Mobile: 650-492-9400

Mobile: 650-492-9400

From: [Jim Wing](#)
To: [Public Comment - EC](#)
Subject: Public Comment not on agenda EC 10/17/2022 meeting
Date: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:06:27 PM

EC Chair Delagneau and Distinguished Commission Members

EC 10/17/2022 Meeting Public Comment Item Not on Agenda

I recommend you schedule future agenda item for review of Shoulder Improvement Policy SU20-ABC to make it more environmental and user friendly.

In 2018, Environmental Commission developed and Council approved Shoulder Improvement Policy SU20-ABC. It is time to review use of this policy and recommend improvements based on resident, Design Commission, and staff feedback. Following are recommend elements of review:

- Visit residential homes who have installed SU20-ABC and get their feedback?
- How many months of supplemental “rain garden” watering is required? Packard Foundation uses supplemental “rain garden” watering 6 to 8 months per year. Los Altos Maintenance Staff appears to do the same with Foothill Expressway / El Monte three “rain gardens”.
- What is additional homeowner gardener cost for hand maintenance of rain gardens?
- Review with Design Commission Members on how SU20-ABC is used in their review / approval of new single-family homes. What exceptions have they allowed? New home drawings do not show details of SU20-ABC.
- Review with Los Altos Engineering staff on how SU20-ABC is applied in their single-family home detail drawing review? What exceptions have they allowed?
- Are exceptions allowed to not install pavement base water barrier when it interferes with underground utilities? Exceptions to not install water barrier in zones that do not include “rain garden”?

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AT 7:00
P.M. TELECONFERENCE**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Delagneau, Vice Chair Hecht, Commissioners Teksler, van Reis Commissioner Humayun (arrived 7:03 p.m.), Commissioner Lu (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
 ABSENT: Commissioner Weiden
 ATTENDEES: Council Member (Council Liaison) Fligor, Director (Environmental Services and Utilities) Aida Fairman, Director (Development Services) Nick Zornes, Roopak Kandasamy, Roberta Philips, Monia Waldman, Jon Saunders, Dashiell Leeds, Gary Hedden, Jonathan Weinberg, Ken Branson, Aarathi.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comments were provided by Roberta Phillips and Gary Hedden.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes

Approved minutes of regular meeting of August 8, 2022
Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Teksler, seconded by Vice Chair Hecht, the Environmental Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2022. The motion was approved (6-0-1) by the following vote:
 AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Humayun, Lu, Teksler, van Reis
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Weiden
 ABSTAIN: None

2. Environmental Commission Meetings Schedule

Chair Delagneau proposed changing the regular Environmental Commission meeting schedule to second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., followed by input by the Commissioners regarding their availability for the proposed schedule.
Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Hecht, seconded by Commissioner van Reis, the Environmental Commission approved maintaining the regular meeting schedule of the Environmental Commission on second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
 The motion was approved (6-0-0) by the following vote:
 AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Humayun, Lu, Teksler, van Reis.
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Weiden
 ABSTAIN: None

Public Comment: None

3. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GPLB) Ban

The Commission discussed a statement of support for the citizen group (GreenTown Los Altos Clean Air Advocates) to be presented to the Council by them to include homeowners in the GPLB enforcement ban. The Commission approved the statement with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Lu to include additional education and outreach.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Hecht, seconded by Commissioner Teksler, the Environmental Commission approved the statement of support including Commissioner Lu's friendly amendment.

The motion was approved (5-0-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Lu, Teksler, van Reis.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Weiden

ABSTAIN: Humayun

Public Comments:

Monica Waldman stated her support for the ban on selling new GLPB (AB 1346) in Los Altos but indicated that the list of Cities included in the statement of support attached to the item (pg. 7 of the Agenda packet) was erroneous. She also expressed her opposition to including homeowners in the GPLB enforcement ban in Los Altos. Roberta Philips stated her support for the comment by Monica Waldman.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**4. Electrification Services**

Roopak Kandasamy of BlocPower, a climate and energy start up, updated the commission on their electrification services with specific references to work currently ongoing or planned in other jurisdictions. This was followed by questions and discussion by the Commissioners.

Public Comment:

Monica Waldman expressed her support for BlocPower services with concern regarding their capacity to undertake additional work and sought clarification on a service item.

5. Reach Codes

Commissioner Teksler provided an update on the Reach Codes Subcommittee's presentation to the City Council followed by supplemental information by Staff.

Public Comment:

Dashiell Leeds, Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, expressed support for the Draft Reach Codes proposed by the Environmental Commission and provided information on additional measures that could be explored by the Commission.

6. Tree Protection Ordinance

Commissioner van Reis, member, Urban Forest Management subcommittee, made a presentation on the work of the Subcommittee on the Tree Protection Ordinance with input from Commissioner Lu, member, Urban Forest Management subcommittee. Director Aida Fairman provided clarification regarding the City Council Direction on the scope of the work

to be performed by the Commission. This was followed by questions, comments and discussion by the Commission on the Urban Forest Management Subcommittee's presentation. Director Nick Zornes provided additional input and clarification on the Commission's scope of work and the discussion items.

Public Comment:

Gary Hedden, GreenTown, expressed support for the work by the Urban Forest Management Subcommittee and provided information on the Arbor Day participation by Los Altos and other cities.

7. Environmental Commission Work Plan

The Commission received information from the subcommittees and discussed the Work Plan items.

8. City Staff Updates

Director Aida Fairman provided an update on the Compost Giveaway Event at Municipal Service Center on August 6 and on the status of the new sustainability coordinator.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chair Delagneau and Vice Chair Hecht reported on the August 23 and September 6 City Council meetings, respectively. Commissioner Laura Teksler announced and provided information on the Ion Battery Recycling event at Almond School, Los Altos and Green at Home tour in Palo Alto. Chair Delagneau reported on his attendance at a meeting on empowering residents to take climate action.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation by GreenTown on heat pumps (for November Environmental Commission)

Updates by GreenTown on EV Fair (for November Environmental Commission)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Delagneau adjourned the meeting at 9:04 P.M.



MEETING DATE: October 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Recent State and Federal Climate Action Presentation by Ken Branson

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

Congress recently passed more aggressive clean energy and climate legislation that center around decarbonizing electricity, transportation, and buildings. Such measures include requirements and timelines on economy-wide net zero targets and net-zero for state governments.

DISCUSSION

Ken Branson will present on new State environmental legislation and how it can potentially help Los Altos implement actions in the 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Mr. Branson will also discuss relevant Federal new laws.

Recent State (& Federal) Climate Action

How It Can Help Local Efforts to Achieve Climate Action Plans

Ken Branson

Policy Advisor to Senator Josh Becker
Climate, Energy, and Environmental Issues

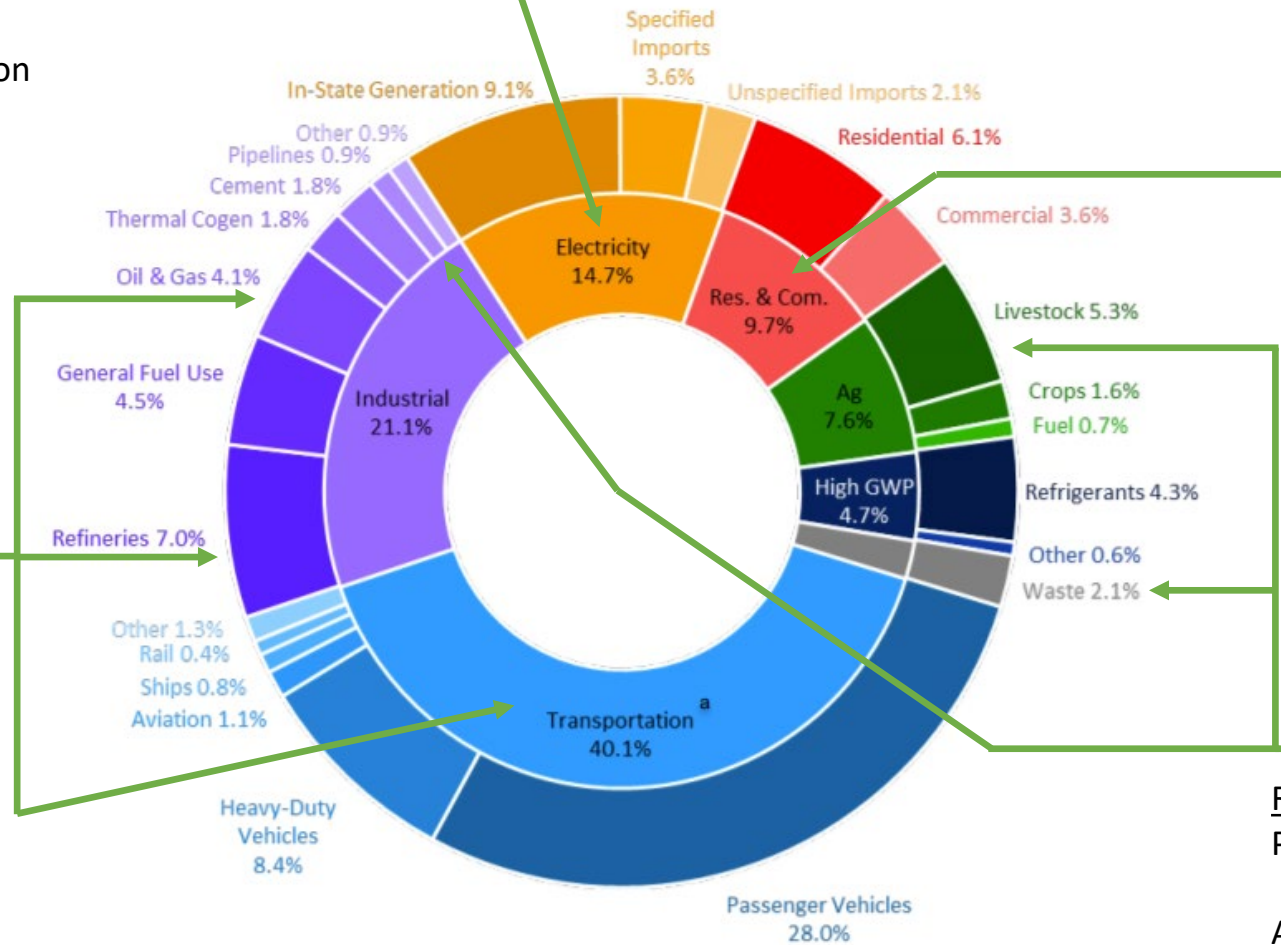
Getting to Zero – State-level View

100% Clean Electricity
 Renewable & zero-carbon generation
 Energy storage
 Dispatchable clean energy
 Better integration of distributed energy resources

100% Clean Transportation
 ZEV adoption
 Charging infrastructure
 Low carbon fuels
 Reduced VMT

100% Clean Homes & Buildings
 All-electric new construction
 Electric-ready when remodeling
 Electric appliances on replacement
 Low GWP refrigerants

Reduce Methane Emissions
 Pipelines: in-state leaks + huge (uncounted) out-of-state emissions
 Agriculture: livestock
 Waste: landfills, water treatment



California GHG Inventory

Getting to Zero – City GHG Inventories

Los Altos GHG Inventory (excluding city government)

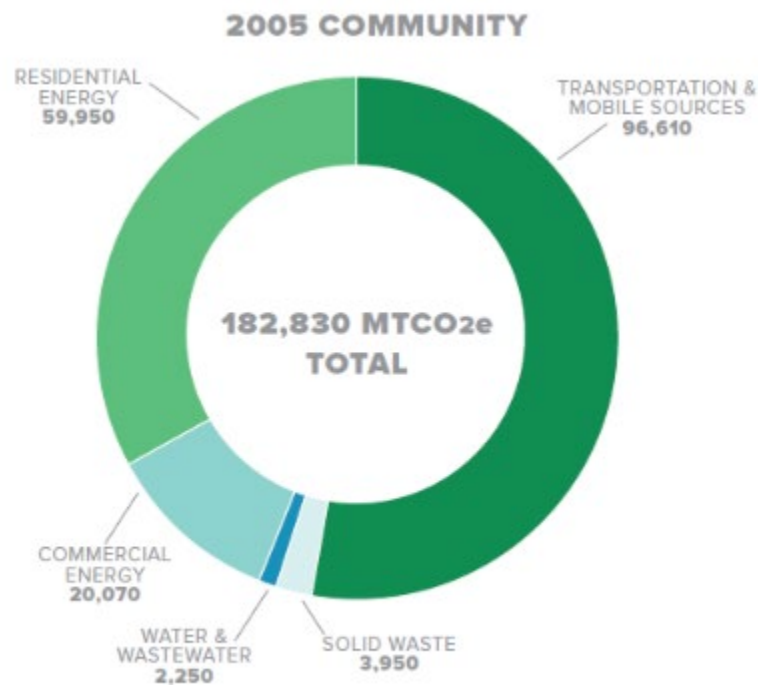


Figure 6 2005 Community emissions sources

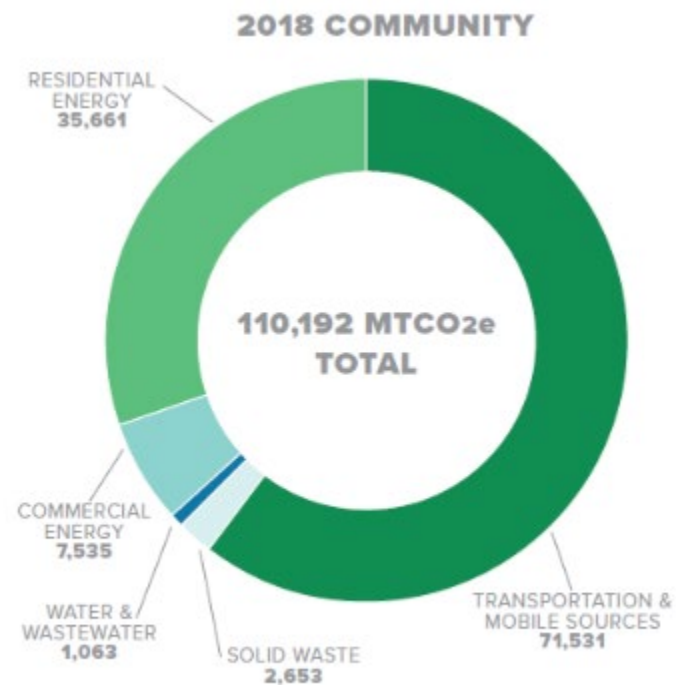


Figure 8 2018 Community emissions sources

Cross-sector Efforts

Economy-wide net-zero target

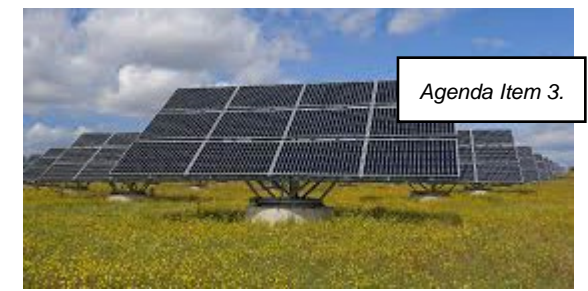
- AB 1279 codified net-zero by 2045, with at least 85% emissions reductions
- Solidifies CARB's authority past existing 40% by 2030 target

Net-zero for state government

- SB 1203 requires state government agencies to create plans for achieving net-zero within their own operations by 2035
- Focus will be on electricity, buildings, transportation, and negative emissions offsets for residual emissions



Decarbonizing Electricity



Interim Targets

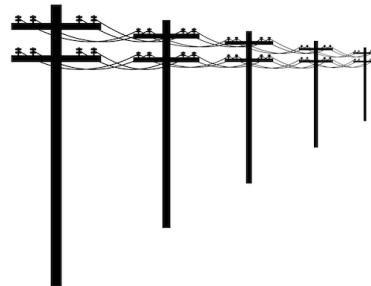
24/7 Carbon Free Energy Reporting

Resource Adequacy (RA) Reforms

Diablo Canyon Extension

Demand Flexibility Improvements

Transmission Expansion



- SB 100 (2018) set a target of 100% of retail sales of by 2045
- SB 1020 set targets for 90% by 2035, 95% by 2040, & 100% of electricity used by state agencies by 2035
- SB 1158 requires utilities to measure the % of electricity met from clean sources hourly (rather than annually)
- Will fix incentives and encourage procurement of the types of resources needed to run the grid on clean energy 24/7
- New “slice-of-day” approach will improve reliability and add to incentives for 24/7 clean energy procurement
- 5-year extension, mostly for reliability reasons
- Provides ~6% of state’s total electricity (carbon-free)
- New statewide Demand Side Grid Support program
- Pilots to pay for energy efficiency upgrades based on metered load reductions
- SB 887 requires a longer term approach to planning
- Agency efforts to expedite interconnections near term

Decarbonizing Transportation



Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandates

Advanced Clean Cars II

- Mandates on car manufacturers to sell % of ZEV cars: 35% by 2026, 68% by 2030, 100% by 2035

Advanced Clean Trucks

- Similar rules for sales of new trucks, with slower ramp
- 40-75% of ZEV sales by 2045 (targets vary by class of truck)

Advanced Clean Fleets

- Regulations in development to require fleet owners (gov and private fleets > 50 trucks) to transition to ZEVs
- Drayage and delivery trucks 100% by 2035

Clean Miles

- Will require ride-hailing companies to achieve % of electric vehicle miles traveled (eVMT): 50% by 2027, 90% by 2030

Decarbonizing Transportation



Financial Incentives

Tax credits

- Inflation Reduction Act: \$7500 (new), \$4000 (used); no caps

Rebates & Grants for Light Duty

- Several state programs: [Clean Cars for All](#), [CVRP](#), [CA Clean Fuel Reward](#), [Clean Vehicle Assistance Program](#)
- [CVRP for Fleets](#) provides rebates for local government fleets

Rebates & Grants for Med/Heavy Duty

- [Clean Truck and Bus Vouchers](#) (CARB)
- [Clean Transportation Program](#) (CEC funding for vehicles and charging/fueling infrastructure)

Increasing fuel costs

- Programs like Cap & Trade and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Decarbonizing Transportation

Charging / Fueling Infrastructure

Building codes



- 2022 EV reqs for Multi-family (MFD): 30% of spaces ready for use
- 18 month interim: propose 50% ready for use
- AB 1738 calls for building codes to add EV charging requirements for existing buildings, triggered by alterations
- [Clean Transportation Program](#) (funding for vehicles and charging/fueling infrastructure)
- Targets for ~1.4M public/shared chargers by 2030
- IJJA funding for nationwide EV charging & H₂ refueling
- AB 2061 requires uptime reporting for public EV chargers, aimed at improving reliability

Funding for public charging & fleets

Charger Reliability

Other

Reducing VMT

- AB 2097 eliminates parking space minimums for buildings within 0.5 miles of transit

Decarbonizing Buildings



Financial Incentives

Tax credits & rebates

- [Extensive tax credits & rebates](#) (low-income only) in IRA. Covers appliances, wiring, panels, weatherization...
- ~\$300M in state budget for appliance rebates

Financing

- [GoGreen](#) credit-enhanced private loans
- On-bill Financing (OBF) pilot programs

Direct installation programs

- ~\$630M in state budget for low-income direct installation
- [ESA](#) and [LIWP](#) programs for efficiency and GHG improvements

Discouraging new gas hook-ups

- PUC eliminated the gas utility-funded allowances for new hook-ups

Decarbonizing Buildings



Mandates

Building codes (& reach codes!)

Performance standards

Appliance Standards

- 2022 code uses all-electric baseline, strongly encourages electric space/water heating in new construction
- NYC, DC, CO, WA have passed Building Performance Standards to require improvements to existing (large) buildings
- Governor signed on to national BPS coalition
- Working on a BPS bill for 2023
- BAAQMD considering a zero-emissions appliance standard starting in 2027 (“replace on burn-out” requirement)
- CARB has proposed similar rules statewide starting in 2030

Other Barriers

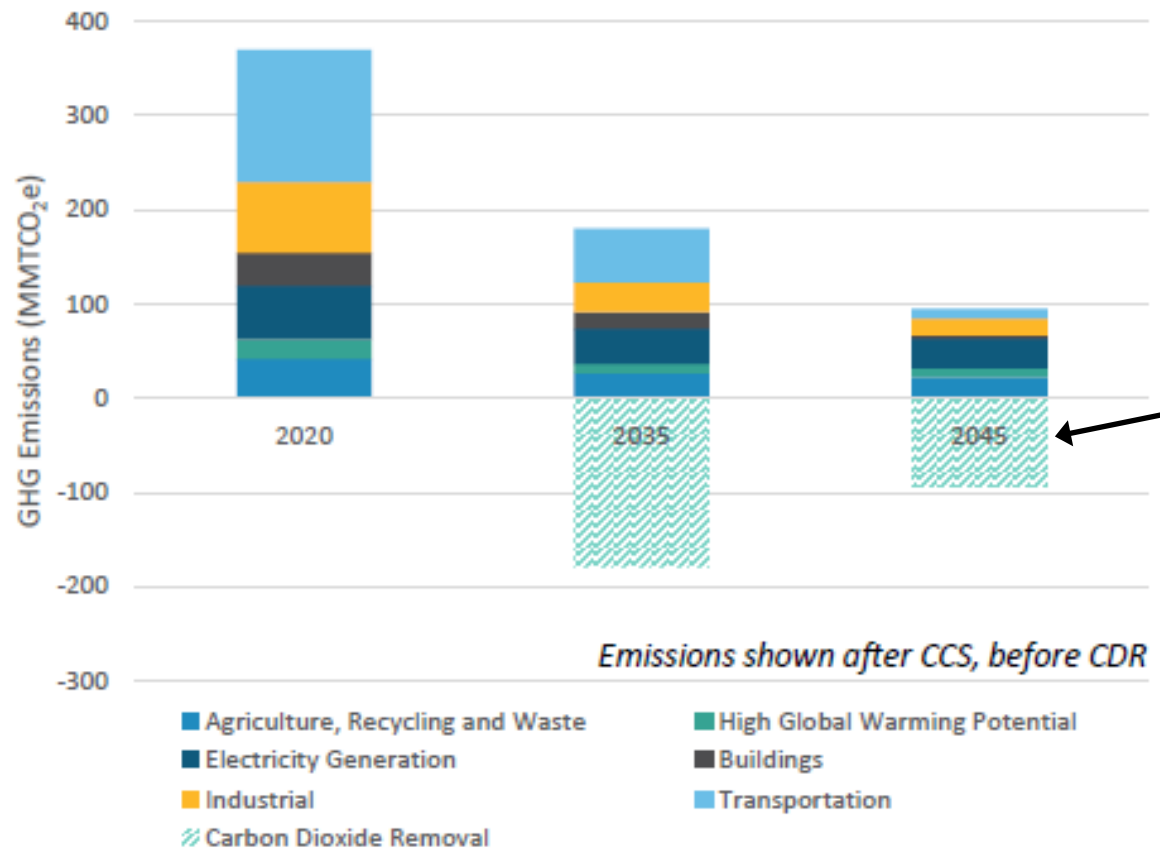
Lack of familiarity



- SB 68 requires CEC to publish best practices for consumers, contractors, and local governments

Getting to *Net Zero*

Figure 2-5: Residual emissions in 2020, 2035, and 2045 and potential carbon dioxide removal in 2035, and 2045 for the Proposed Scenario



Estimates needing almost 100 MMT/year of negative emissions in 2045 to offset remaining emissions

Growing Negative Emissions

Targets



- Scoping plan calls for 1-2 MMT/year by 2030
- AB 1757 requires state to set targets for natural carbon sequestration by 2030, 2038, 2045

Mandates / Incentives



- Working on a bill to require polluters to purchase negative emissions credits for a growing % of emissions, 100% in 2045
- Tighter rules to ensure high quality: additionality, permanence



MEETING DATE: October 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Status Update - Reach Codes

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission Reach Code Subcommittee completed their work regarding Reach Codes when they went to City Council on September 6, 2022. The City Council directed staff to implement the four recommendations listed in the staff report shown below:

1. Staff recommends the completion of a cost effectiveness study based on the recommendations of the Environmental Commission on Reach Codes to determine or quantify any fiscal impacts associated with Code Compliance.
2. Staff recommends the City Council refer the recommended Codes to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for comment.
3. Staff recommends the City Council affirm or re-adopt the current Reach Codes to continue after 12/31/2022, should the CEC review or cost effectiveness study not be completed by this date. The State Codes will pre-empt local ordinances that are not adopted again after this date.
4. Staff recommends the City Council direct staff to review what other peer and local agencies have adopted with regards to Reach Codes after the new State Codes take effect on 1/1/2023.

DISCUSSION

Staff will continue to work on the City Council directives above in FY 22-23 and will provide updates to the commission as needed. They will go to City Council on item three on November 15, 2022.



MEETING DATE: October 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Status Update – Tree Protection Ordinance

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

On May 24, 2022, City Council directed the Environmental Commission to work with City staff to evaluate the City’s Tree Protection Ordinance and recommend changes as needed. The City recently hired a new Sustainability Coordinator in mid-September and another in mid-October, who are familiarizing themselves with the CAAP, City protocols, and Environmental Commission priorities as aligned with City Council direction. The Tree Protection Ordinance is the second priority in the Environmental Commission workplan.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainability Coordinators are in the process of meeting internally with the Development Services Department staff who are responsible for processing tree removal permits, to gather information on current processes. Staff will bring recommendations to the Environmental Commission Subcommittee in the near future.



MEETING DATE: October 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Status Update – Single Use Plastics

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

On October 5, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (“AB”) 1276 (Carillo) into law to prohibit a food facility from providing any single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment to a consumer unless requested by the consumer. AB 1276 requires the City to authorize an enforcement agency to enforce the new requirements. This assembly bill requires the City to adopt an ordinance in accordance with the state law as it is currently written. It may be possible to amend it in the future.

AB 1276 Summary:

- AB 1276 is designed to reduce excess packaging and undesired condiments by prohibiting a food facility to provide single-use accessories to consumers only upon request and for ready-to-eat food.
- The law prohibits single-use foodware accessories from being bundled or packaged, which prohibits the customer from taking only the item desired.
- It authorizes a food facility to ask a drive-through customer if the customer wants a single-use foodware accessory in specified circumstances.
- The law requires a food facility using a third-party food delivery platform to list on its menu the available single-use accessory or condiment and only provide the item when requested.
- The law excludes from these requirements correctional institutions, health care facilities, residential care facilities, and public and private school cafeterias.

DISCUSSION

At the November 15, 2022, City Council meeting, Staff will recommend that the City conduct a public hearing, waive the reading, and adopt the ordinance prohibiting a food facility from providing any single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment unless requested by the consumer and authorizing City enforcement and penalties.



MEETING DATE: October 17, 2022

SUBJECT: EV Fair

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

Goal 1.4A of the Climate Action and Adaptation (CAAP) Plan recommends for the following:

- Develop a yearly EV fair with participation from local dealerships and owners.
- Develop a map of the city charging network and available dedicated parking spaces.
- Create a webinar series on EV ownership.
- Promote all available incentive programs and encourage their use.

The goal is to increase education and awareness of available EV resources and incentive programs.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainability Coordinators will work together to lead the implementation of the EV Fair based on the CAAP guidelines under goal 1.4A. They will be attending meetings relating to this item and request support on various tasks from the Environment Commission in collaboration with GreenTown.