

AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN



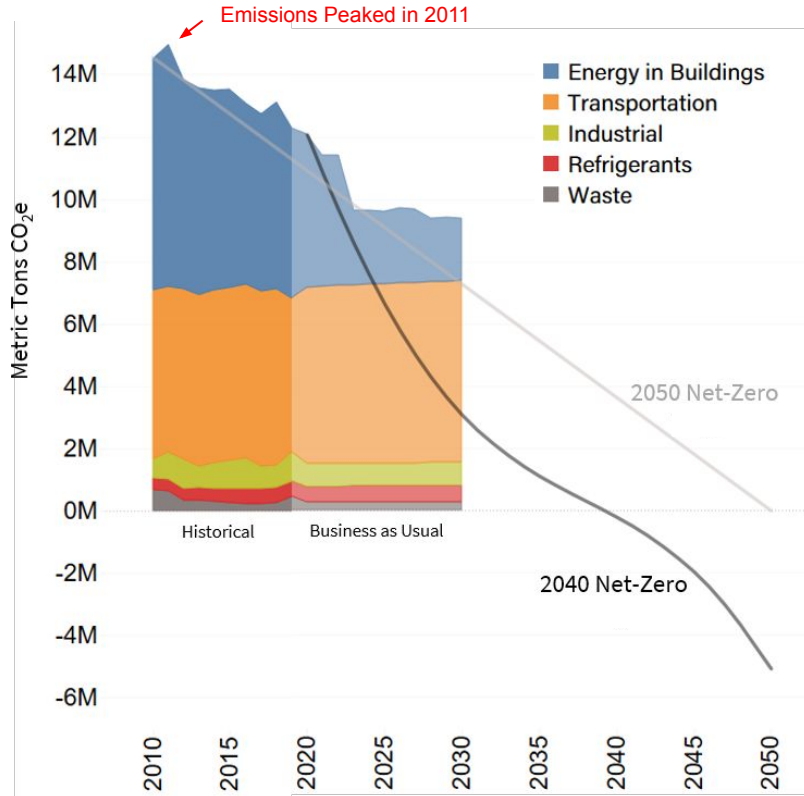
Austin Climate Equity Plan



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

New Proposed Community-Wide Goal



Previous Goal: Net-zero by 2050
(Adopted by Council)

New Proposed Goal: Net-zero by 2040
(Staff recommendation - requested by Council)

Plan Overview

4 Cross-Cutting Strategies - Big picture **themes**

17 Goals – To be accomplished **by 2030** to keep on track

74 Strategies - Progress in next **5 years**

Equity Throughout, particularly in *Strategies*

- Prioritize **incentives** + target communications towards **low-income & communities of color**
- Anti-displacement focus
- Just transition **to green jobs** for new industries & technology
- Prioritize health + other benefits for **Eastern Crescent**
- **Center communities of color** in ongoing learning

Final Goals and Strategies

Cross-cutting Strategies

Strategy 1: Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Strategy 2: Prioritize Local Community Initiatives

Strategy 3: Regional Collaboration

Strategy 4: Local Carbon Reduction Projects, Carbon Offsets and Carbon Dioxide Removal





Sustainable Buildings

Foundation Communities Lakeline Learning Center

Sustainable Buildings – 4 Goals to be achieved by 2030

1: Achieve net-zero carbon for all new buildings and reduce emissions by 25% for existing buildings while lowering all natural gas related emissions by 30%.

- Ensure benefits flow to low income communities and communities of color
- Enhance understanding of energy consumption
- Energy efficiency net zero carbon buildings
- Ensure equitable workforce development for emerging technologies

2: Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerant leakage by 25%.

- Capture and destroy old refrigerants
- Improve building codes to encourage cleaner refrigerants
- Create incentives for leak detection and repair
- Awareness and training for HVAC service providers
- Reduce the volume of refrigerants

3: Reduce the embodied carbon footprint of building materials used in local construction by 40%.

- Lead by example through design and construction standards
- Incentivize lower-carbon materials
- Educate stakeholders on materials best practices
- Stimulate decarbonization with local producers

4: Equitably achieve a community-wide water demand of 152,000 acre-feet per year.

- Engage residents in technological transitions and conservation programs
- Evaluate program participation criteria
- Reduce emissions at the water-energy nexus



Transportation and Land Use

Transportation and Land Use – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

1: 80% of new non-residential development is located within the city's activity centers and corridors.

- Plan for Complete Communities
- Work with employers on location and amenities
- Create mobility hubs
- Phase out free parking

2: Preserve and produce 135,000 housing units, including 60,000 affordable housing units, with 75% of new housing located within ½ mile of activity centers and corridors.

- Offer Immediate Affordable Housing Assistance
- Fund Affordable Housing
- Enhance community engagement for affordable housing

3: 50% of trips in Austin are made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home.

- Expand and Improve Public Transportation
- Promote Free Transportation Options
- Transit Stations and Stops
- Prioritize Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Education and Training
- Sidewalks, Urban Trails and Crossings



Transportation Electrification

Electric Drive, Seaholm EcoDistrict

Transportation Electrification – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

1: 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in Austin are electrified, and electric vehicle ownership is culturally, geographically and economically diverse.

- Conduct an EV Community Needs Assessment
- Create Equitable Incentives for Buying and Leasing EVs
- Reduce Tolls for EV's in the Eastern Crescent
- Launch an e-Bike + Electric Car Sharing Program
- Electrify Public Sector Fleet Vehicles
- Electrify Private Sector Fleet Vehicles

2: Austin has a compelling and equitably distributed mix of level 1, 2, and DC fast charging to accommodate 40% of total vehicle miles traveled in the city.

- Create a Network of Low-cost, Accessible Charging Stations
- Incentivize Internet-Connected Smart Charging
- Adopt New Energy and Building Codes
- Expand Outreach to Underserved Groups

3: The Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos areas is a leader in transportation electrification by adopting policies and technologies that maximize economic and health benefits while supporting the growth of this emerging industry.

- Create a Regional Coalition to Support EV's
- Pilot and Adopt New Technology
- Prioritize a Just Transition
- Expand the EV-related Business Ecosystem



Hecho en Mexico, Montopolis Drive

Food and Product Consumption

Food and Product Consumption – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030

1: Ensure all Austinites can access a food system that is community-driven, addresses food insecurity, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-based foods, and minimizes food waste.

- Support institutional food purchasing
- Promote and fund community-driven food retail programs
- Incentivize pro-health, pro-climate food choices
- Conduct a food waste root cause analysis

2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing by at least 50%.

- Measure institutional lifecycle emissions
- Strengthen the City's sustainable purchasing program
- Strengthen non-City institutional purchasing programs
- Expand the City's Circular Economy Program

3: Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting, and recycling to achieve a new zero-waste goal when the new Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Plan is adopted.

- Promote Reuse
- Create Eco-Hubs
- Create a workforce development program for the circular economy
- Offer incentives for products that have lower negative environmental and social impact
- Retool the bulk pick-up collection program



Bull Creek Preserve

Natural Systems

Natural Systems – 3 Goals to be achieved by 2030, 1 by 2050

1: Legally protect an additional 20,000 acres of carbon pools on natural lands and manage all new and existing natural areas (approx. 70,000 acres total), focusing on resilience.

- Protect Natural Lands
- Manage Natural Lands for Resilience
- Increase Community Access and Positive Perception of Public Land
- Protect Water Sources

2: Protect 500,000 acres of farmland from development in the 5-county region through legal protections and regenerative agriculture programs.

- Protect of Working Lands
- Reform Agricultural Tax Appraisals
- Support Farmers through Financial Assistance
- Provide Farmers with Resources
- Expand Composting
- Workforce Development for Farmers

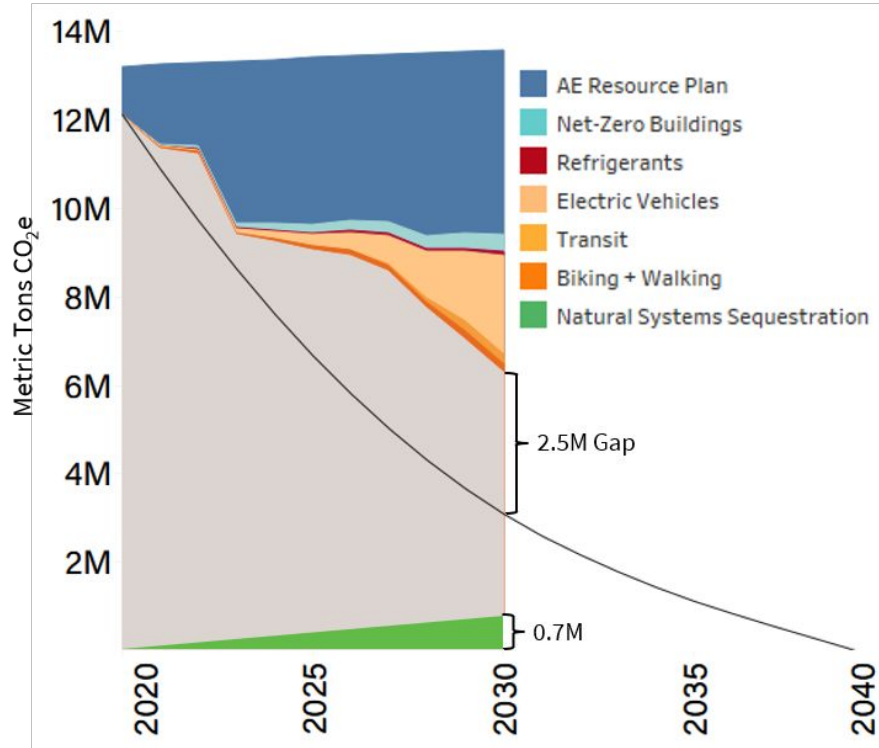
3: Achieve at least 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050, focusing on increasing canopy equitably.

- Protect Canopy Cover on City Lands
- Tree Protections and Landscape Regulations
- Community Tree Planting
- Promote Tree Health and Resilience on Private Properties

4: Include all City-owned lands under a management plan that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community benefits.

- Prioritize Carbon Neutrality for Public Lands
- Reclaiming Public Space
- Community Stewardship
- Carbon Farming

2030 Projected Emissions Reductions



Emissions Reduction Strategies

Buildings	Current	Goal
Carbon Free % of AE Customer Load	63%	93%
Net-Zero Carbon Buildings	<1%	25%
Refrigerant Leaks	-	-25%
Transportation	Current	Goal
Electric Vehicle Miles Traveled	1%	40%
% of Trips on Public Transit, Biking or Walking	20%	50%

Implementation

Council Resolution on Implementation

Key takeaways:

- Identify and clearly define leadership responsibilities over the implementation of the plan
- Provide quarterly updates during work sessions
- Identify current and mid-year opportunities at different budget levels, and a proposed budget for future projects
- Create a public-facing dashboard for tracking
- Provide accessible community engagement, look into expanding climate ambassadors program
- Expanding Joint Sustainability Committee

Ongoing staff activity

- Cross-departmental Climate and Environment Leadership team will be the primary internal mechanism to provide leadership and management support to implementation of the plan
- OoS staff will be organizing meetings with departmental staff aligned with each Advisory Group to evaluate details of strategies based on the following categories
 - Those that are underway
 - Those that have a plan and just need more funding
 - Those that are ready and need a new work plan
 - Those that are longer term initiatives that need more long-term development
- Collaboration with Equity Office around an Equity Implementation tool
- Planning to involve businesses / NGOs in work plan development on a project by project basis
- Will be releasing a ArcGIS StoryMap overview of the climate plan

Supporting the ACEP

- Help spread awareness of Austin Climate Equity Plan goals
- Advocate for your organization's commitment to strategies
- Get involved in future COTE embodied carbon mentorship opportunities
- Participate in advocating for accountability in implementation
- Stay in touch! phoebe.romero@austintexas.gov



AUSTIN YOUTH CLIMATE EQUITY COUNCIL

APPLY BY OCT. 8TH



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Equity Evaluation

Priorities & concerns



Priorities & concerns

Ambassadors helped identify these high-level community concerns, which will be detailed further in the next section.



Equity Process for Advisory Groups



Evaluating Equity

Our strategies must prioritize low income communities and communities of color in these ways:

Health — Improving mental and physical health.

Affordability — Lowering and stabilizing living costs.

Accessibility — Increasing access to opportunities, transportation and a healthy environment.

Just Transition — Ensuring that benefits reach these communities first.

Community Capacity — Elevating and strengthening community skills, abilities and resources.

Cultural Preservation — Deliberately honoring cultural history to maintain past and present heritage.

Accountability — Ensuring government and institutional accountability for equitable implementation.

Theme 1: Health Strategy improves health (physical and mental) outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color. The strategy upholds the fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, transportation, safety, and housing.	Impact		
	Harm -1	Neutral or N/A	Benefit +1
Does the proposed action reduce air pollution (Ozone, VOC, NOx, etc.) and reduce asthma and other respiratory-related hospital visits?			
Does the proposed action extend expected longevity and/or quality of life for populations experiencing health disparities?			
Does the proposed action reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, i.e. improve mental health?			
Does the proposed action help restore or protect ecosystem health (air, land, water, soil)?			

Overall response to these questions with justification:

Thank you!
