

Group D

Primary Challenges/How have you addressed them?

4.1.3: Update General Plan/Conservation Element with Climate Policies. Provide energy efficiency framework and data for other people doing planning.

Challenges

1. Timeframes
2. Energy dispersed- no standardized process, no central point of contact/dealing with different departments
3. Consistent plan
4. Budgets
5. Policy gap (community members want to push further without knowledge of the timing of programs etc.)
6. Stakeholder buy-in (public is generally on board but it's about the bottom line, you have to bridge the economic gap).
7. Cities are in different stages (can't take a cookie cutter approach)
8. Council turnover (government politics)
9. Economic development and businesses not necessarily on board
10. More difficult to "lobby" for programs
11. Public programs end too soon
12. Initial upfront costs are high

Solutions

1. Climate action plans create savings
2. Educate staff and council
3. Need staff and council champions (identify and provide support)
4. Work with groups like Joint Venture Silicon Valley who can bring in the smaller cities
5. Engage commercial side/businesses (Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Commissions)- the economy is affecting buy-in, municipalities run off of businesses taxes

4.1.1: Conduct the energy efficiency savings analysis for an annual Greenhouse Gas inventory for the City/County

Most were just beginning

- Municipal implementation team
- Work with PG&E
- 0% financing (commercial)
- Changing of Program Names/Acronyms – i.e. just when people were understanding "Flex", it was no longer available (under that name) creating confusion and frustration

- Fear of Political Fallout (Regarding the results of the Local-Government Inventories)
- Local Government Operations Protocol (not commercial)
- Streamlining energy related projects/zoning clearance
- Budget- cities have gone through the process and money has dried up before they can finish