

Preliminary Recommendations to the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change

Community Health & Resiliency Technical Advisory Committee

#1 Urban Greening & Forestry

Draft Recommended Strategy

Expand green infrastructure to provide a park or green space within a quarter mile of all residences by 2030 and eliminate tree canopy disparity by ensuring that all neighborhoods have a baseline canopy of 25% by 2030 and 35% by 2045, starting with historically marginalized communities and tree-deficient neighborhoods.

Implementation Tactics

1. Maintain the health of the existing tree canopy by supporting mature tree management, care, and removal in underserved communities, promoting and expanding community stewardship programs and providing water bill rebates for tree maintenance.
2. Plant 550,000 trees in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045, of which 100,000 will be front yard and street trees, prioritizing marginalized communities and leveraging grants, partnerships, volunteers and workforce development programs, such as community college urban forestry programs. Prioritize tree planting based on recommendations from the Capital Region Heat Pollution Reduction Plan to maximize urban cooling benefits and in partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation.
3. Adopt ordinances and update design guidelines to enforce robust green infrastructure standards for residential and commercial buildings, built infrastructure, and land use projects to decrease existing impermeable surfaces from 65% to 50% in 5 years and to require permeable surfaces for new pavements by 2022. Pursue measures to expand green and permeable space, such as by purchasing or utilizing blighted lands to implement bioswales, pocket parks, community gardens, microparks, retrofitted parking lots, green roofs, and vegetative barriers.
4. Expand Complete Streets Policies and implement Urgent Action Road Diets to increase space for street trees and shrubs to shade roads, transit stops, and active transportation corridors. Prioritize locations based on Vision Zero efforts and the Capital Region Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan. Amend parking lot ordinances to enforce existing tree shading requirements.
5. Develop or expand cash-for-grass incentives for residents and landscapers and establish citywide sustainable landscaping programs to convert 40% of existing household turf to native perennial, regenerative and pollinator-friendly plants and to reduce urban water use, working with local retailers to promote native species. Promote zero-emission landscaping equipment to reduce emissions and public health risks associated with localized air pollution from gas-fueled equipment and transition city-owned and contractor landscaping care equipment to all-electric or hand tools by 2022.
6. Collaborate with regional agencies to create and adopt a Regional Open Space and Biodiversity Plan that establishes shared goals for local government agencies to preserve, restore, expand, and maintain open space to maximize carbon sequestration potential while avoiding additional GHG emissions by 2025.

Draft Recommended Strategy

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food transport and waste by creating a circular, local, sustainable, regenerative food system and increasing the accessibility and affordability of healthy organic food for all communities by sourcing 25% of food locally by 2030 and 40% by 2045, and reducing 50% of aggregate food waste by 2025 and 75% by 2030.

Implementation Tactics

1. Work with local organizations and businesses to promote plant-based eating by partnering with schools and restaurants to add plant-based options to their offerings and organizing cooking classes, demonstrations, and other community events.
2. Adopt ordinances to enable urban agriculture and carbon farming techniques that enhance local food system productivity and discourage the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Through incentives, maximize space for food production on small farms, vacant lots, lawns, rooftops, and community parks. Promote new farmers markets and increased access to local, healthy, culturally appropriate foods.
3. Implement citywide food waste collection and composting programs for all businesses and residents to designate up to 20% of the cities' organic waste resources to return to communities and improve soil health and water retention. Establish a "food recovery to food insecurity" network with restaurants, catering companies, convention spaces, event producers and local food banks.
4. Partner with community organizations to pilot 1 community food hub in each city by 2022, prioritizing the cities' most historically marginalized communities and food deserts, to expand food-related local business development opportunities and to provide fresh locally grown food, fix-it cafes, tool and seed libraries, garden and cooking demos, and education on composting.
5. Improve local food procurement processes to minimize food waste and the emissions associated with food waste, prioritizing institutional buyers, particularly schools and hospitals.
6. Collaborate with county departments to develop a food system impact assessment that includes evaluation of emissions tied to the food system and a socio-economic risk assessment of climate change impacts to the food system

#3 Community Climate Resilience

Draft Recommended Strategy

Develop and adopt a plan to reduce exposure to climate change impacts by 2022 to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the greatest threats to public health and safety, including extreme heat, drought, flooding, and wildfires.

Implementation Tactics

1. Utilize recommendations from the Capital Region Urban Heat Pollution Reduction Plan to create targeted protection plans by 2021 to address health, energy and water needs for frontline communities with the highest exposure to extreme heat.
2. Adopt reach codes and update design guidelines by 2022 to require low-carbon, climate-resilient materials and techniques in all new construction and developments/infrastructure undergoing major retrofits, such as fire-resistant materials, cool and permeable pavements, cool walls and roofs, bioswales, gray water collection, building materials with low embodied carbon and other low-impact development measures where appropriate.
3. Partner with community groups to establish or upgrade 5 existing community centers to serve as resilience/health hubs by 2025. Hubs to provide cooling, clean air, internet service, living infrastructure, resilience skills training and other resources to build adaptive capacity. Train at least 30,000 residents in climate resilience and disaster response skills by 2030.
4. Implement microgrid and storage solutions at these and other critical facilities to prepare for deenergization events. Lower the temperature and air quality thresholds that determines hours of operations for community centers to increase accessibility. Prioritize residential battery storage and/or solar incentives for households with medical home health care needs and households at or below 300% of the federal poverty line.
5. Eliminate racial and other health disparities for key chronic diseases and other negative health outcomes exacerbated by climate change (such as asthma, heart disease, low birth weight, and mental health disorders) through community-based health system interventions modeled after the successful Black Child Legacy campaign, Contra Costa's tool to connect medically vulnerable residents with energy efficiency services, and other programs that have demonstrated success.