



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Liccardo
Councilmembers Jimenez,
Peralez, Davis, and Arenas

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 23, 2018

Approved

Sergio Jimenez

Date

02/23/2018

SUBJECT: CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSÉ PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Climate Smart San José with the following recommendations:

1. Direct the City Manager to ensure organizational commitment to implement Climate Smart San José (CSSJ) to meet our sustainability goals.
2. Develop CSSJ work plans, with an emphasis on priority items, and report progress on CSSJ to the City Council semi-annually.
3. Direct City Clerk to update Council memo template to include an alignment with CSSJ.
4. Where the following priorities have “green light” for staff capacity, prioritize the following items for the next 9 months:
 - a. Launch San José Clean Energy (SJCE) and stabilize the program fiscally;
 - b. Aggressively identify options for financing access to solar and energy-efficiency measures that provide benefits broadly — with a particular emphasis on providing access to low- and modest-income households — in collaboration with state, regional, non-profit, and private-sector partners. Return to Council with options within 6 months that specifically address the limitations and opportunities of PACE financing and power-purchase agreements, while exploring other tools and resources, including future SJCE revenues;
 - c. Create innovative policies and programs to spur commercial building energy-efficiency initiatives through the grant-funded City Energy Project;
 - d. Develop an electric vehicle (EV) strategy to advance public and private charging infrastructure. The strategy should focus, in part, on fully exploring and leveraging opportunities for external funding – e.g., through PG&E, the Volkswagen settlement, the cap-and-trade program, and the Air Resources Board – to accelerate EV adoption as well as access to EV shared mobility options. Return to Council with a proposed strategy in the Fall of 2018, with specific numerical targets for public and private chargers;

- e. Develop a community engagement plan to build awareness and to activate San José residents and businesses to provide feedback as we move toward implementing CSSJ. Engage council offices on community engagement plan, and report on this effort to the Transportation and Environment Committee in the first 6 months.
5. Direct staff to work with the State of California, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, and other potential funding partners to agree upon a defined scope, and funding plan, for a Climate Smart San José Phase II spatially explicit analysis of the Plan area and incorporation of natural and working lands that addresses carbon sequestration on those lands as well as other ways that building on those lands can impact carbon emissions. Staff should return through the budget process with funding plan, scope of work, and timeline.
6. Direct staff to report greenhouse gas emissions for the City through the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories, or other similar reporting protocol.
7. Direct staff to collaborate with foundations, NGOs, universities, and agencies to advance CSSJ, including, in the short term, identifying funding opportunities and partners to develop data collection tools and an online dashboard to track continued progress on CSSJ. This work should leverage Smart City data efforts.
8. Direct staff to convene technical experts annually to inform and help adaptively manage CSSJ. This group should draw on industry, labor, environmental NGOs, and academia to assist in this effort.

BACKGROUND

On June 1, 2017, President Trump took the first step in withdrawing from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Paris Agreement, an agreement that called for keeping global temperature increase below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

This triggered a clarion call for local leadership across the US. In San José, where we had already embarked on crafting a Paris-aligned sustainability plan, our Council unanimously adopted the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement. Staying within the 2°C threshold of temperature increase will require San José to act proactively to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at a rate of 6.5 percent year-over-year until 2050. This ambitious trajectory will require all of our attention and effort, but we will not do this important work alone. This work is supported by a coalition of US and international cities, businesses, and institutions through initiatives like America's Pledge and the Sustainable Cities Initiative, and groups like Climate Mayors, C40, the US Conference of Mayors, and Bloomberg Philanthropies that together, signal our collective commitment to preserve our planet. The City has also signaled, since 2015, its commitment to align sustainability efforts along the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Peralez' participation in these, and other organizations, has helped to build a bridge for collective learning, and in the years ahead, we'll engage externally across the entire organization with national organizations and local partners.

Reaching our ambitious goals of Climate Smart San José will require doubling down on our climate action immediately. Focusing our early efforts on the successful launch of San José Clean Energy, commercial building energy-efficiency initiatives through the City Energy Project, solar and energy-efficiency improvements accessible to people of all incomes, and the development of an electric vehicle (EV) strategy will provide initial momentum towards our ambitious goals. It is critical that staff develop more comprehensive work plans and report progress to the City Council semi-annually.

Climate Smart San José is a plan for our diverse community in San José. As we begin implementation of the Plan, staff should ensure that campaigns are culturally inclusive and targeted for our diverse communities. Programs like the State's Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program, that use cap-and-trade funds to install solar on multi-family housing in disadvantaged communities, could help us bring solar energy to our communities as we aggressively advance the City's ambitious solar goals. There are also partnerships to be had with non-profits like Grid Alternatives that are already delivering solar to low-income families in San José. In addition, there are opportunities to advance and encourage multi-family retrofits, and EV charging in low-income communities, both of which are supported by programs offered through PG&E. Reaching low-income communities, communities of color, children, and seniors will be critical for the adoption of Climate Smart San José by our community, and the ultimate success of this Plan.

Collaborations with foundations, NGOs, universities, and government agencies are important to advance Climate Smart San José. This includes identifying funding opportunities for the development of data collection tools and an online dashboard to track continued progress, in line with the City's Smart City data efforts. Data streams and dashboards raise community awareness of baseline metrics and progress on the plan, and can be used to support the City's progress on other goals, including the City's work with Stanford University on meeting the SDGs. In addition to these data collection tools, staff should report GHG emissions through the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories, or similar reporting protocol to join with other cities that daylight community efforts and emissions data.

Within City Hall, the successful implementation of the Plan will require working across departments, and outside of silos. It will require organizational commitment to the goals and objectives of Climate Smart San José, and a concerted effort to convene and catalyze community actions and conduct outreach to ensure community awareness. We also need to call upon the technical expertise of our community to accelerate progress on the Plan. San José is surrounded by some of the leading experts in energy, water, mobility, and environmental protection, and we must reach outside of City Hall to gain their valuable input. A technical working group of local experts can provide feedback to ensure the long-term success of Climate Smart San José.

Community input has helped refine the current Plan, and there is an opportunity to continue to build on the feedback we received from residents and open space advocates. Questions of carbon sequestration value, avoided VMT, and energy intensity of build out of open space and natural working lands requires additional analysis. Staff should work with the State of California, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, and other potential funding partners to identify a scope and funding plan for a Climate Smart San José Phase II spatially explicit analysis of natural and working lands. This work can inform City decision making and future Plan updates.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved in developing Climate Smart San José. City staff, the team from PwC, and members of the technical working groups that have spent countless hours helping define, and refine San José's path to Paris over the next three decades. Most importantly, thank you to the community. Climate Smart San José has been community driven from the beginning. From the 13 community meetings, to the 2,200 survey responses and 1,800 ideas submitted over the course of a year, our residents and community have demonstrated to us why we need to take the lead on making San José a brighter, cleaner, and more inclusive place to live.

The success of Climate Smart San José will rely more heavily on our community – residents, advocates, early adopters, business leaders, NGOs, and faith-based groups – than on City Hall. This is a community plan. We encourage all San Joséans to adopt Climate Smart San José, commit to the important work ahead, and continue to participate in the community discussion.

BROWN ACT

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.