



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:** CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE  
UPDATE

**FROM:** Kerrie Romanow

**DATE:** October 24, 2018

Approved

*D. DSYL*

Date

*10/25/18*

## SUPPLEMENTAL

### REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL

The purpose of this supplemental memorandum is to inform the City Council that San José has been selected as a winning city in the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge and to provide a summary of the initiative.

### BACKGROUND

The American Cities Climate Challenge is a new initiative through Bloomberg Philanthropies that aims to accelerate and deepen US cities' efforts combat climate change and promote a sustainable future for residents. The City of San José is one of 20 ambitious cities selected. Others include Seattle, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Portland, San Diego, Boston, Washington D.C, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, with an additional 10 cities not yet announced.

The American Cities Climate Challenge is a two-year acceleration program that provides resources and technical support for San José valued at \$2,500,000 to implement Climate Smart San José. These resources include a philanthropy-funded staff to facilitate the development and passage of high-impact policies, training for senior leadership to assist with implementation of Climate Smart San José plans and citizen engagement and support to maximize community buy-in as well as rapid response grants to accelerate impact.

The American Cities Climate Challenge program is designed to support cities in making meaningful progress on their climate goals in the near term, and San José will focus on transportation mode shift, vehicle electrification, energy efficiency and the elimination of natural gas. The program is organized around three categories of action that will produce impact by 2020: foundational, ambitious and moonshot. Foundational actions are those that experts believe should be standard practice in cities seriously committed to reducing carbon pollution. It is expected that all cities have completed or will work on the following foundational items:

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- Energy efficiency retrofits and retrocommissioning of municipal facilities
- Meeting municipal electricity demand with renewable energy (on-site, utility-supplied, or contracted)
- Electric vehicle charging in municipally owned parking lots
- Energy code enforcement
- Workforce development programs
- Improving public transit speed, reliability, and user experience (e.g., bus-only lanes, all-door boarding, real-time arrival information, mobility apps)
- Commuter incentives
- Electrifying city fleets and buses

Ambitious actions are far more challenging, yet critical for Leadership Cities to undertake in order to deliver longer-term impact. Moonshot actions are those next-generation, bold actions that take carbon pollution reduction efforts to the next level. San José will work with Bloomberg Philanthropies and its partners to implement ambitious and moonshot actions as our “high-impact policies.” Following are the selected priority areas of Climate Smart San José that will form the core of the American Cities Climate Challenge work plan:

- Energy reduction programs and policies for commercial businesses (includes private-sector challenge programs, benchmarking and transparency programs, and performance standards)
- Implementing high-priority improvements in the walking and bicycling network to create safe and inviting routes for all, including those using transit
- Encouraging new mobility options (e.g., bike share, electric bike share)
- Parking management and pricing
- Electric vehicle education and incentives
- Shared Electric vehicle strategy
- Electric vehicle - and solar-readiness or installation requirements
- Road map for eliminating natural gas in residential housing by 2030

/s/

KERRIE ROMANOW

Director, Environmental Services

For questions, please contact Kerrie Romanow, Director of Environmental Services, at (408) 535-8552.