



Energy Commission

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

May 11, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Energy Commission  
Submitted by: Janet Stromberg, Chairperson, Energy Commission  
Subject: Berkeley Energy Commission Work Plan for 2021-2022

### INTRODUCTION

The Berkeley Energy Commission is charged with advising the City Council on matters related to energy conservation and alternative energy development in the City of Berkeley. To fulfill this mission, the Energy Commission proposes taking action in the following strategic areas over the next year:

1. Reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions
2. Promote greenhouse gas emission reductions in the built environment
3. Promote and support City wide greenhouse gas reduction and funding plans

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The attached work plan outlines the specific activities and deliverables the Energy Commission will work on over the next year. The members of the Energy Commission developed this work plan in consultation with City staff to ensure alignment of priorities and gives priority to existing referrals to the Commission from the City Council.

At its meeting March 24, 2021 the Energy Commission voted to approve the attached work plan and send it to the City Council as follows: Motion/second (Leger, Gil). The motion carried 7-0-0-0; Ayes: Zuckerman, Gil, O'Hare, Leger, Schlachter, Paulos, Stromberg. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

### BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City Council directed all commissions to submit annual work plans to the City Council at the beginning of each fiscal year.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Energy Commission's Work Plan helps advance energy efficiency, clean energy, and the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The projects contemplated in the attached work plan could result in recommended actions which, if subsequently adopted by the City Council, would entail a variety of costs and benefits.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

To be determined.

CONTACT PERSON

Billi Romain, Commission Secretary, 510-981-7432

Attachments:

1: Berkeley Energy Commission's 2021-22 Work Plan

**Berkeley Energy Commission 2021-2022 Work Plan****MISSION**

The Berkeley Energy Commission advises the City Council on climate protection, energy conservation, and renewable energy transition, prioritizing diverse leadership and ensuring marginalized and underrepresented communities have equitable access to clean energy resources and technology.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

The Energy Commission will work on the following Objectives over the next year:

1. Reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions
2. Promote greenhouse gas emission reductions in the built environment
3. Promote and support City wide greenhouse gas reduction and funding plans

**ACTIVITIES**

To advance each of these objectives, the Commission will focus on the following specific activities over the next year.

**Objective 1. Reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions****1. Track and advance Electric Mobility Roadmap**

- *Deliverables:*
  - Review and provide input Electric Mobility Roadmap implementation.
  - Support City efforts to rapidly build out dockless bike shares, a protected bike lane network, EV charging stations, and bidirectional EV hookups for resilient power.
  - Investigate incentives for electrification of cars.
- *Lead Commissioner:* TBD
- *Timing:* Ongoing

**2. Support active transit and alternative transportation technologies and infrastructure issues that could reduce fossil fuel vehicle use**

- *Deliverables:*
  - Create a standing liaison with the Transportation Commission.
  - Support City efforts to build out alternative and emerging technology.
  - Support expansion of public transport.
- *Lead Commissioner:* TBD

- *Timing:* Ongoing

3. Track Impact of Pandemic on Transportation

Social transformation is underway as residents change their behavior in response to the ongoing pandemic. This response is especially remarkable as many people who can work from home choose to do so rather than to commute, and employers abandon thousands of centralized office spaces. Public transportation, e.g., BART, and AC Transit, as well as taxis, ride-sharing services and micromobility have been particularly impacted. Traffic, parking, and revenue related to parking and transportation have likewise been impacted as have energy resources: reduced gasoline consumption and increased use of home heating and lighting. These impacts will likely further transform as the spread of coronavirus is brought under control and the pandemic recedes.

- Deliverable:
  - Report to Council about what we know and what we can predict based on trends. We anticipate impact on budgets, equity, and how the City will need to collaborate with regional and state partners.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Schlachter and Stromberg
- *Timing:* New initiative

**Objective 2. Promote greenhouse gas emission reductions in the built environment**

1. Advance Berkeley's codes, policies, and programs for promoting building energy efficiency, electrification, reduced embodied energy, and green building practices as outlined in Berkeley Deep Green Building.

- *Deliverables:*
  - Review and provide input on the Existing Building Electrification Strategies, including the equity pilot program, and renovation reach codes.
  - Track Building Energy Savings Ordinance performance and suggest improvements during current review and evaluation process including development of transfer tax program for energy efficiency and electrification upgrades.
  - Track and comment on other relevant City Council and staff initiatives.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Leger and O'Hare
- *Timing:* Ongoing

2. Support municipal building electrification and energy efficiency upgrades and development of municipal green building programs.

- *Deliverables:*
  - Track municipal building remodels.

- Advance adoption of municipal green building standards, including low toxic, low embodied carbon building materials.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Leger and O’Hare
- *Timing:* Ongoing

**Objective 3. Promote and support City wide greenhouse gas reduction plans**

**1. Advance Berkeley’s Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency goals.**

- *Deliverables:*
  - Track Berkeley progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions.
  - Review and provide input on staff’s annual report to the City Council on Climate Action Plan progress and recommend further actions.
  - Consider creating a public dashboard to track key metrics related to emissions in Berkeley, in collaboration with staff working on the Climate Action Plan.
  - Review the city’s progress toward the objectives of the Fossil Free Berkeley Report and recommend follow-up actions and updates.
- *Lead Commissioner:* Zuckerman
- *Timing:* Ongoing

**2. Recommend ways to implement the Climate Equity Action Fund, such as through a pilot project.**

- *Deliverables:*
  - Solicit input from experts and the public on effective local funding mechanisms for climate action.
  - Explore options to split the collection of the Utility Users Tax to make it possible to charge separate rates for natural gas and electricity.
  - Make recommendations to the Council on potential city ballot measures in 2022 related to energy and climate change.
- *Lead Commissioner:* Paulos
- *Timing:* Ongoing

**3. Promote the use of clean, renewable energy**

- *Deliverables:*
  - Support efforts to deploy clean, renewable energy to provide resiliency and backup power in Berkeley, including microgrids, battery storage, and inverters with islanding capability.

- Collaborate with Staff and make recommendations to the Council to ensure the City is engaging effectively with EBCE on its clean energy programs and product offerings, including electricity mix options, distributed generation and energy storage for critical facilities, and rebates for energy efficiency and electrification.
- *Lead Commissioners:* TBD
- *Timing:* Ongoing

4. Improve cooperation and collaboration with other City Commissions, and ensure that the Commission weighs in where appropriate on City Council actions related to energy and climate change.

- *Deliverables:*
  - Monitor upcoming City Council actions related to energy or climate change and make timely recommendations on relevant items.
  - Assign Commissioners to serve as formal liaisons to Public Works and Transportation Commissions, and other Commissions as needed, which will involve tracking their agendas and attending meetings.
  - Convene joint meetings with other Commissions on specific topics of mutual interest, intended to lead to joint recommendations to Council.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Stromberg and TBD
- *Timing:* Ongoing

**IMPACTS**

1-3 years: Accelerated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, so that Berkeley, at the very least, achieves its 2020 Climate Action Plan goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 33% below 2000 levels while avoiding unintended side effects.

4-6 years: Accelerated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions so that Berkeley is on track, at the very least, to achieve its 2050 Climate Action Plan goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2000 levels while avoiding unintended side effects.