

INFORMATION CALENDAR
[Meeting Date (Month Day, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Environment and Climate Commission (ECC)
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, ECC
Subject: Environment and Climate Commission 2023 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Environment and Climate Commission (ECC) is responsible for advising the City Council on matters related to environmental sustainability and climate change. The commission's scope includes work to advance the goals of: advancing green buildings and resource efficiency; decarbonizing buildings and transportation; engaging and educating the community; addressing the impacts and welfare of all species, including animals, insects, and plants; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; reducing toxics and preventing pollution; and supporting environmental justice. The commission works closely with the Office of Energy & Sustainable Development (OESD).

First established in 2022, ECC was formed by merging the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) and the Energy Commission (EC). ECC commissioners bring a wide range of expertise, with backgrounds in government, academia, nonprofit, and private sector environmental work. These backgrounds inform ECC's work and help it to consider diverse and equitable approaches to addressing the City's environmental challenges.

This work plan is intended to provide a guide to the work ECC plans to take on in 2022. As additional items or issues arise, or are referred to the Commission from Council, ECC will adjust this plan accordingly.

SUMMARY *[This section, included only if report exceeds three pages, replaces the introductory paragraph described above.]*

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The ECC has a broad scope and a responsibility to support and work closely with Office of Energy and Sustainable Development staff. The following projects are the current efforts underway by the ECC:

Project	Status	Description
Transportation Public Space Re-allocation & VMT Targets	In Committee	Re-allocate public street space away from auto-centric uses towards pedestrians, bicyclists, and buses, even more than currently envisioned in the bicycle and pedestrian master plans. Consider setting specific, measurable VMT reduction targets and identify and implement strategies to achieve them.
Zoning Changes to Encourage EV Charging / Discourage Gas Stations	In Committee	Considering zoning changes to remove gas stations as permitted use, encourage alternative uses focused on current gas station sites, and/or encourage EV charging.
Banning gas-powered delivery vehicles / encouraging cargo bike deliveries	In Committee	Considering proposal to phase out gas-powered delivery vehicles and/or encourage e-bike deliveries to & by businesses.
Native Plants and Pest Reduction	In Committee	Identify opportunities & strategies to support native plants & avoid pesticides.
OESD input & support	Ongoing	Support OSED staff with feedback on programs, standards, and other initiatives, including BESO, BEBES, Climate Equity Fund, Climate Action planning, etc.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

ECC is considering the following potential additional efforts:

Project	Status	Description
Green New Deal policies	Conceptual	Develop & support Green New Deal policies for Berkeley.
Electrification Information Campaign	Conceptual	Making it easier for homeowners & renters who are interested in electrification (building + vehicle) to get information & be excited. Give people positive feelings about induction & electrification. Create checklist / resources / what

		you might do / should think about for people who are not doing major remodel or buying home, etc. Support renters with feasible, affordable technologies.
Expanded OESD Support – events	Conceptual	Provide additional support at public events where OESD is staffing tables or otherwise engaging with the public.
Resiliency centers / hubs & renewable-powered warming centers	Conceptual	Explore feasibility of resiliency centers / hubs & renewable-powered warming centers.
Water conservation, recycling, & reuse; stormwater management	Conceptual	Explore opportunities for policies & initiatives around water conservation, recycling, & reuse; stormwater management.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

ECC’s initiatives will improve environmental sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support a just transition.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Future action items that ECC may send to City Council could require staff time to develop, finalize, and/or implement. ECC strives to ensure proposals provide significant net triple bottom line benefits to the City when evaluating total costs and benefits across environmental, social, and economic impacts.

CONTACT PERSON

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