



Environment & Climate Commission

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024
6:00 PM**

**North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley’s residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley’s incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

vacant	Mayor	Mayor
Ranney, Sarah	Kesarwani	District 1
LaBonte, Alison	Taplin	District 2
McGuire, Brianna	Bartlett	District 3
Tahara, Daniel	Tregub	District 4
Allen, Shannon	Hahn	District 5
Guliasi, Les	Wengraf	District 6
Kessleman, Misha	Lunaparra	District 7
vacant	Humbert	District 8
Athanasiou, Mabel	Youth Commissioner	
Syed, Shanza	Youth Commissioner	

2. **Public Comment:** Comments on subjects not included on the agenda (3-minute limit per individual)
3. **Approval of Minutes:** [Approval of Minutes from last meeting \(May 22, 2024\)](#)
4. **Agenda Check:** Commissioners may rearrange items on the agenda
5. **Update from Chair** (Brianna McGuire)
6. **Update from Staff** (Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

7. **Discussion:** [General Plan Update: Disaster Preparedness and Safety, Environmental Justice, and Climate Metrics](#) (Ashley James)
8. **Discussion & Action:** Consider action on joint City Council item with the Zero Waste Commission requesting support for Berkeley High reusable tableware program (Sarah Ranney & Mabel Athanasiou)
9. **Discussion:** [Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (Sarah Moore)
 - a. [Executive Summary and Actions](#)
10. **Discussion:** Cesar Chavez landfill greenhouse gas management (Sarah Moore)
 - a. New information: May 24, 2024 Off-Agenda memo providing an [Update on Environmental Testing at former City landfill](#)
11. **Commission Liaison Reports**
 - a. Planning Commission (Alison LaBonte)
 - b. Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (Shannon Allen)
 - c. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (vacant)
 - d. Zero Waste Commission (Sarah Ranney and Mabel Athanasiou)
 - e. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Les Guliasi)
 - f. Housing Advisory Commission (vacant)
 - g. Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)

12. Workplan Subcommittee Updates

- a. Electrification Equity and Access (LaBonte, Kesselman, Tahara, Guliasi)
- b. Water Conservation and Management (Ranney, Allen, Syed)

13. Potential Items for Future Agenda

- a. Electric Mobility Roadmap – July 24
- b. Transfer Station

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. Communications

- a. [Clifford Fred – Wood Smoke](#)

15. Announcements from Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

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*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Sarah Moore, 510-981-7494, [smoore@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:smoore@berkeleyca.gov).*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Planning Department located at 1947 Center Street.*



**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City Commission on Commissions was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website.
Sarah Moore, Commission Secretary



Environment & Climate Commission

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Tregub, Igor	Mayor	Mayor
Ranney, Sarah	Kesarwani	District 1
LaBonte, Alison	Taplin	District 2
McGuire, Brianna	Bartlett	District 3
Tahara, Daniel	vacant	District 4
Allen, Shannon	Hahn	District 5
Guliasi, Les	Wengraf	District 6
Kesselman, Misha	Lunaparra	District 7
vacant	Humbert	District 8
Athanasiou, Mabel	Youth Commissioner	
Syed, Shanza	Youth Commissioner	

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

Commissioners Present: Tregub, Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Kesselman, Syed

Commissioner Leave of Absence:

Commissioner Absent: Athanasiou

Staff: Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken, David Lopez

2. Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items):

0 member(s) of the Public

0 comment(s)

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion/second to approve the April 24, 2024 Minutes (LaBonte, Allen). The motion carried: 8-0-1-1; **Ayes:** Tregub, Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Syed.

Noes: None. **Abstain:** Kesselman. **Absent:** Athanasiou

4. Agenda Check

5. Update from Chair

6. Update from Staff

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

7. **Discussion:** Update on the May 7, 2024 Council item: [Re-adoption of the Berkeley Building Codes, including Local Amendments to the 2022 California Building Standards Code](#). City Council adopted first reading of the Ordinance and Resolution without provisions related to the proposed Zero NOx Emission Building amendment for new construction. Zero NOx provisions have been referred to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Policy Committee for review and a recommendation to Council. Discussion of Zero NOx and alternatives with the Environment and Climate Commission to inform the Policy Committee review (Sarah Moore, David Lopez) [Public Comments: 0]
8. **Discussion:** [Discuss joint City Council item with the Zero Waste Commission requesting support for Berkeley High reusable tableware program](#) (Sarah Ranney, Shanza Syed, Joshua Swift-Rawal, Sophie Horvath) [Public Comments: 0]
9. **Discussion:** Cesar Chavez landfill greenhouse gas management. See [History and update on former Berkeley landfill environmental compliance](#). (Sarah Moore) [Public Comments: 0]
10. **Action:** Elect new Chair to fill vacancy filled by former Commissioner Lunaparra. Elect new Vice Chair if applicable. [Public Comments: 0]

Motion/second to elect Brianna McGuire to serve as Chair (Allen, Ranney). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Tregub, Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Kesselman, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Athanasiou

Motion/second to elect Shannon Allen to serve as Vice Chair (LaBonte, Ranney). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Tregub, Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Kesselman, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Athanasiou

11. **Action:** Review Subcommittees for continuation. Chair to appoint subcommittee members and subcommittee chairs with the approval of the Commission. [Public Comments: 0]

Motion/second to appoint subcommittee members as noted below (Tregub, Allen). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Tregub, Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Kesselman, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Athanasiou

- Electrification Equity and Access (Tregub, LaBonte, Kesselman, Tahara, Guliasi)
- Water Conservation and Management (Ranney, Allen, Syed)

12. Reports from Commission Liaisons

- Planning Commission (Alison LaBonte)
- Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (Shannon Allen)
- Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (vacant)
- Zero Waste Commission (Sarah Ranney and Mabel Athanasiou)
- Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Les Guliasi)
- Housing Advisory Commission (vacant)
- Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)

13. Workplan Subcommittee Updates

- Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction (Tregub, Ranney, Tahara) - disbanded
- Native Plants (Ranney, McGuire, Allen) - disbanded
- Electrification Equity and Access (Tregub, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Guliasi) – Commissioner McGuire to be replaced by Commissioner Kesselman
- Water Conservation and Management (Ranney, Allen, Syed)

14. Items for Future Agenda

- Joint action with Zero Waste Commission in support of funding for Berkeley High School reusables
- Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure (EVSE) municipal and community; update on Electric Mobility Roadmap
- Cesar Chavez Landfill Environmental Compliance
- Transfer Station remodel
[Public Comments: 0]

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. Communications

16. Announcements from Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 8:14 pm (Kesselman, Tahara)

Minutes Approved:

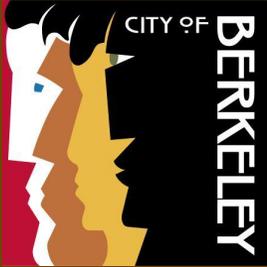
/S/ Sarah Moore, Berkeley Environment & Climate Commission Secretary

Internal

Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley for All

Environment & Climate Commission

June 2024



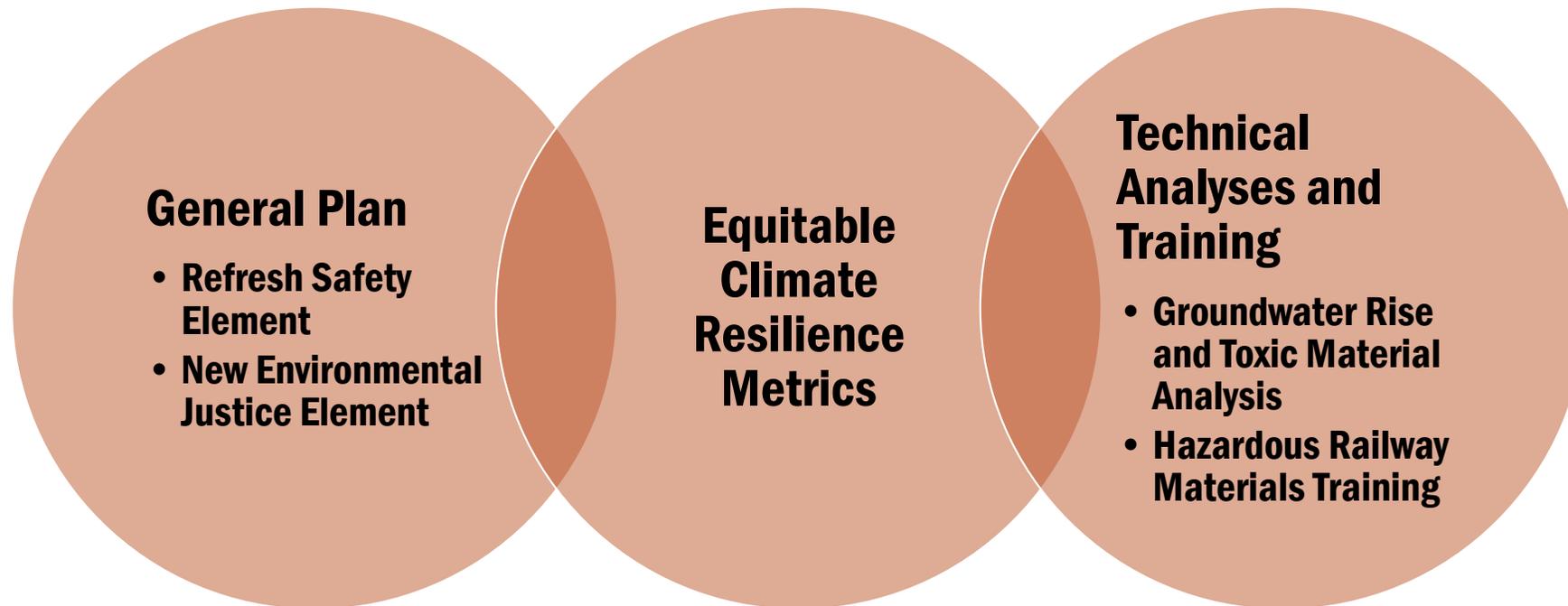
Internal

Agenda

1. The Berkeley General Plan and Climate Action Plan
2. Project Summary
3. Project Team and Sponsor
4. General Plan Update
 - a. Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element
 - b. Environmental Justice Element
5. Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics
6. Timeline & How to Participate
7. Related Planning Efforts
8. Discussion

Internal

Project Summary – Climate Resilience, Disaster Preparedness, Safety and Environmental Justice



Internal

Project Team and Partners



The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years.

All land use approvals and decisions must be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan.

The Berkeley General Plan contains the following “Elements”:

1. Land Use
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. **Disaster Preparedness and Safety** ← Updates
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Environmental Management
7. Economic Development and Employment
8. Urban Design and Preservation
9. Citizen Participation
10. **Environmental Justice** ← NEW

Internal

Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

Identify and Reduce Risk from Hazards

- **Natural**
- **Human-Made**

Emergency Preparedness

Disaster Response

- **Future Recovery Efforts**



Internal

Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

**Seismic and
Geological
Hazards**

Fire

**Hydrology and
Flooding**

**Human-made
Hazards**

**Emergency
Preparedness and
Response**

Air Quality

Utility Interruption

**Climate Change-
Related**

Evacuation Routes



Internal

New Environmental Justice Element

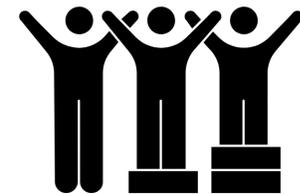
What is environmental justice (EJ)?

Promote social equity, align with public health, and involve affected communities in the decisions that impact their lives.

(Planning for Healthy Communities Act (SB 1000, 2016))

“the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

(Government Code § 65040.12(e)).



Created by claretta
from Noun Project

Internal

New Environmental Justice Element

Identify EJ Communities

Reduce Harmful Pollutants and Health Risk

Promote Transparency and Engagement

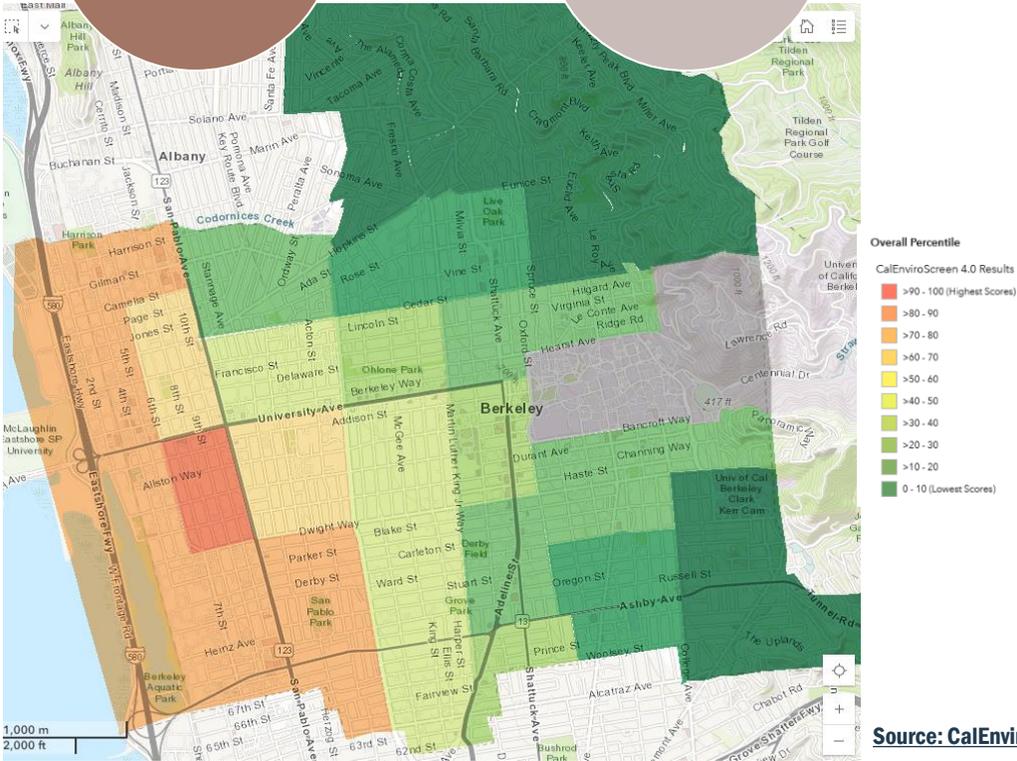
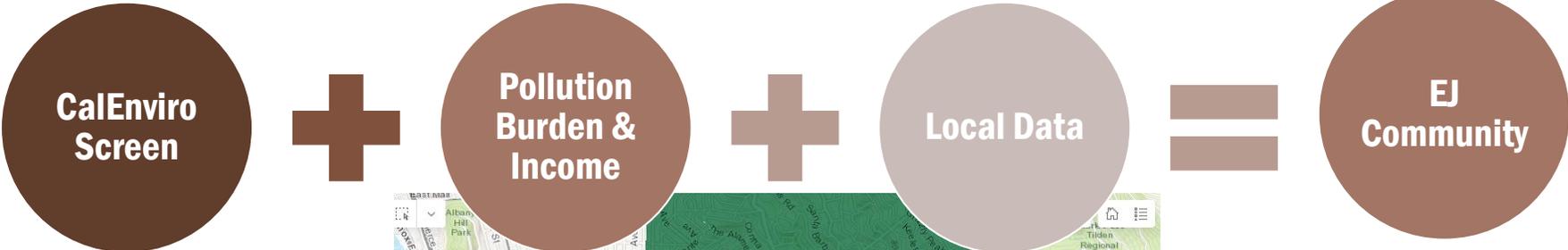
Promote Equitable Access to Health-inducing Benefits

- **Food Access**
- **Housing**
- **Public Facilities**
- **Recreation**



Internal

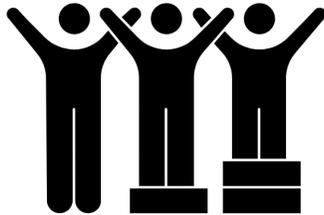
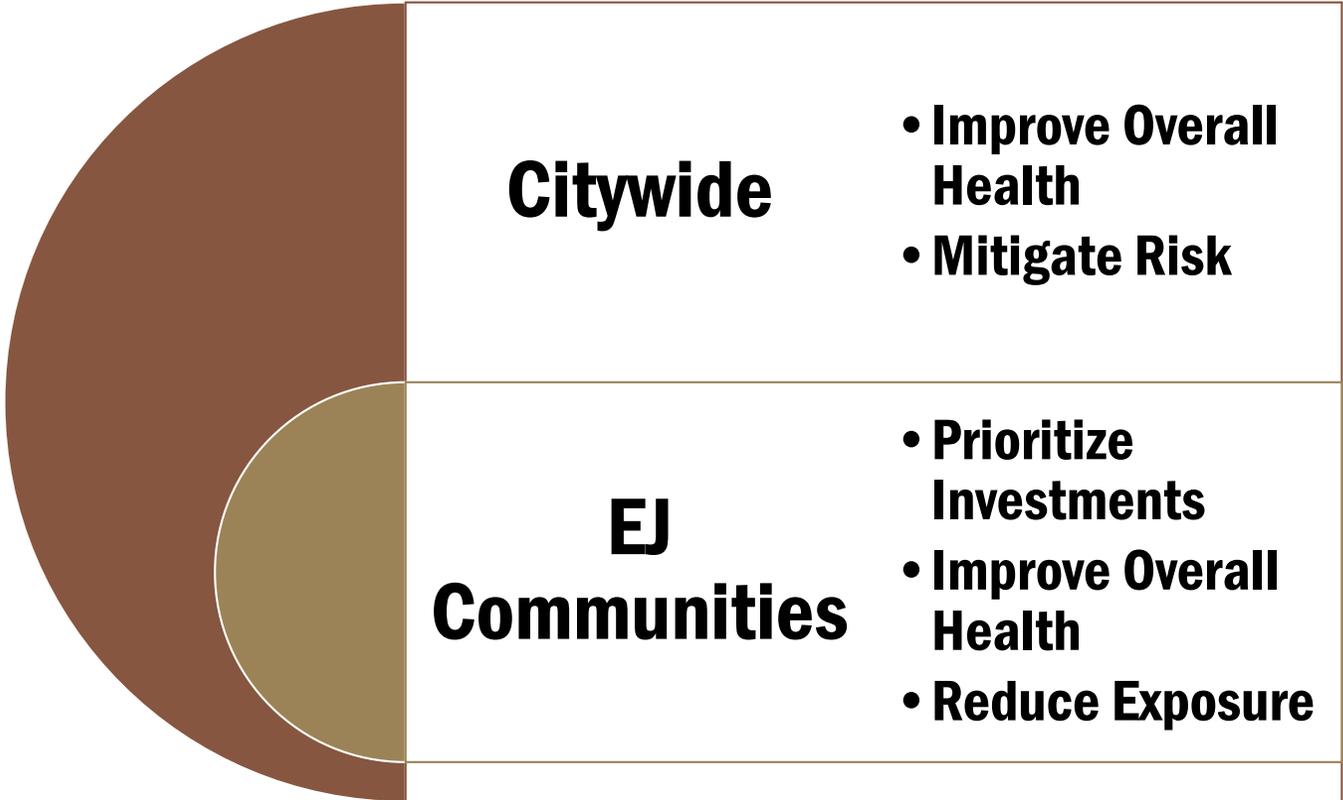
New Environmental Justice Element



Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 | OEHHA

Internal

New Environmental Justice Element



Created by claretta from Noun Project



The Berkeley Climate Action Plan sets forth a vision of a more sustainable, livable, equitable, and economically vibrant community.

The City uses performance metrics to measure progress toward meeting climate action goals in the Plan.



The Berkeley Climate Action Plan contains strategies across six areas:

- 1. Equity**
- 2. Transportation**
- 3. Buildings**
- 4. Waste**
- 5. Community Outreach & Empowerment**
- 6. Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience**

Internal

Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics – Emissions Reduction Goals

2009

**Climate Action Plan
Goal –
80% below 2000
levels by 2050**

2018

**“Fossil Fuel-Free City”
Climate Emergency
Declared
Carbon Neutrality by
2045**

2020

**Council emissions
target –
60.5% below 2018
levels by 2030**



Internal

Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics – Current Metrics

Transportation

- % sustainable trips
- % EV adoption
- # of electric chargers

Buildings

- Energy efficiency
- Energy usage from gas combustion

Equity

- Prioritizing advancement of equity outcomes into policies and programs

Community Outreach & Engagement

- Achieving equitable climate action together



Internal

Project Timeline

← Ongoing Community Engagement →



Note This is a general timeline and actual timing may change. **15**

Internal

Related Parallel Planning Efforts

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, *Office of Emergency Services*

Evacuation and Response Time Study, *Office of Emergency Services*

**Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan,
*Health, Housing and Community Services***

Reimagining Public Safety, *Police Department and City Manager Office*

Watershed Management Plan, *Public Works*

Tree Master Plan, *Parks, Recreation & Waterfront*

San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, *Land Use Planning*

Corridors Upzoning, *Land Use Planning*

Internal

Discussion

- **Participate in the planning process:**
 - **Join the email list - [Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley for All | City of Berkeley \(berkeleyca.gov\)](#)**
 - **Interactive polling, maps, surveys**
 - **Public Workshops**
- **Which **community partners** should be included in community engagement, with the goal to engage environmental justice communities?**

5-15-2024

Ms. Moore

Please include attached letter in packet for the May 22 meeting of the Environment & Climate Commission.

Please confirm receipt of this letter.

thank you,

Clifford Fred

May 15, 2024

Clifford Fred

Berkeley, California

To the Berkeley Environment & Climate Commission Hello Commission Members

ALL WOOD & SYNTHETIC LOG BURNING SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY BANNED IN BERKELEY.

BREATHING WOOD SMOKE IS TERRIBLE FOR EVERYONE'S HEALTH; WOOD & SYNTHETIC WOOD SMOKE WEAKENS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM,

PLEASE IMMEDIATELY BAN FIREPLACE, WOOD STOVE & FIRE PIT USE IN BERKELEY:

PLEASE IMMEDIATELY BAN ALL SYNTHETIC LOG PRODUCTS; THEY ARE EVEN MORE HAZARDOUS & CAN CAUSE BREAST CANCER.

Not only in winter, but throughout much of the year, my household is regularly choking on various neighbors' wood smoke and synthetic log smoke from fire places, wood stoves and fire pits, including on official Spare the Air Days. Breathing wood smoke and synthetic log smoke is terrible for one's health and can be fatal.

There has been a surprising upsurge in wood burning in our neighborhood and elsewhere in Berkeley in recent weeks. We are senior citizens, and having endure wood smoke almost every night is terrible for our health.

It is profoundly selfish for people to burn when it's 65 degrees outside.

As Jimmy Carter urged many years ago, just put on a sweater.

According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District – BAAQMD, “during the winter, smoke from residential wood burning is the leading cause of air pollution in the Bay Area.”

Please enact an immediate ban on fireplace, wood stove and fire pit use in Berkeley. Wood and synthetic wood smoke weakens the immune system, thus increasing the likelihood of contracting an infectious disease like the Covid Virus, and increasing the likelihood of dying from Covid if contracted.

WOOD SMOKE CAN TRIGGER ASTHMA ATTACKS

Breathing wood and synthetic log smoke can trigger serious asthma attacks. A serious asthma attack triggered from breathing wood or synthetic log smoke would likely be a death sentence.

There is absolutely no reason to allow wood smoke and synthetic log smoke in a densely populated city, especially a city like Berkeley with a temperate climate.

The following information is from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/wood-smoke-and-your-health> -

“While people have always burned wood, we now know that wood smoke can impact the health of your family and others around you. It contains wood tars, gases, and soot, as well as chemicals like carbon monoxide, dioxins, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and fine particles.

People who frequently breathe wood smoke are at risk for serious adverse health effects. One source of health problems is the fine particles in wood smoke.”

“Wood smoke doesn't stay in one place; particles can travel far, affecting neighbors. Scientists have studied health patterns among people who burn wood in their homes, people who have been exposed to smoke from wildfires, and people who live in developing countries where wood is burned for heat and cooking. “

“Short-term exposure to fine particles in the air can aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and may also increase the risk of respiratory infections. Scientists have also linked short-term exposures to heart attacks and abnormal heartbeats. Over time, breathing fine particles in the air increases the chances of developing chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, or lung cancer.”

“Exposure to wood smoke may also be harmful to respiratory immune responses, leaving people more at risk for infectious lung disease. In high concentrations, wood smoke can permanently damage lung tissue.”

“When burning wood, it is not only your family and those near the fire who may be exposed, but also neighbors in the surrounding area, some of whom may have underlying health problems. Wood smoke particles are so tiny that they remain suspended for long periods of time and easily penetrate into buildings with incoming cold air. Young children, the elderly, and people with asthma, lung, or heart disease are especially vulnerable to wood smoke in the air.”

“Stagnant conditions and winter temperature inversions result in wood smoke staying close to the ground, where it can enter neighbors' homes through tiny cracks, open windows, and vents. Wood smoke often settles into low-lying areas, and can become trapped and build up to unusually high concentrations.”

HEALTH HAZARDS OF SYNTHETIC LOG PRODUCTS

Those horrible duralog & other synthetic log products should be immediately banned in Berkeley. They are nothing but chemicals and are even more harmful than wood burning. The smoke and stench from synthetic logs can engulf an entire neighborhood. Besides making people ill and triggering asthma attacks, breathing this smoke can cause insomnia.

According to a report on the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health web site, synthetic logs are associated with an increased risk of breast cancer -<https://sph.unc.edu/sph-news/burning-synthetic-fireplace-logs-increases-breast-cancer-risk>.

Alexandra White, MSPH, epidemiology doctoral student at the Gillings School, is the author of the study, "Indoor Air Pollution Exposure from Use of Indoor Stoves and Fireplaces in Association with Breast Cancer: A Case-Control Study," published online Dec. 12, 2014 in "Environmental Health."

"Wood and synthetic logs are sources of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which cause mammary cancer in animal experiments. Both contribute to residential air pollution, but researchers found that only the synthetic logs were found to be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer.

"Certainly the burning of real or synthetic logs releases toxic pollutants into the air," White said, "but we found that burning synthetic logs significantly increased the risk of developing breast cancer, whereas burning the wood logs did not."

It is ridiculous to call synthetic log products "eco" just because they don't contain wood. DDT and arsenic don't contain wood either. Are they therefore "eco?" Synthetic logs produce a horrible smell when burned, that can take over an entire city block, and can engulf neighbors' houses even with windows closed.

Why do well connected lobbyists always have to get their way in Berkeley?
Why can't the common good take precedence for once?

Almost all burning in Berkeley is for ambiance, and not because it is someone's only source of heat.

Please keep in mind that the BAAQMD does not respond to wood smoke complaints except on Spare the Air Days, and rarely even then. Very few Spare the Air Days are called each year. Even if the BAAQMD gets a wood smoke complaint on a Spare the Air Day, they are terribly understaffed, and do not work on evenings, nights and weekends, the very time that most burning occurs.

In Davis, California and the entire State of Washington, it is strictly illegal to smoke out your neighbors.

The Davis California police department is charged with investigating nuisance wood smoke and can shut offenders down and issue criminal citations.

Please visit <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/police-department/code-enforcement/nuisance> -burning.

Also in Washington State, state law authorizes local police departments to shut down wood burning that is adversely effecting neighbors. Please refer to the Washington State Puget Sound Clean Air Agency web site - pscleanair.org - Legal Overview - Wood Burning and the Law.

A friend of ours in Washington State with asthma tells us that when a neighbor's wood smoke comes into her house, she calls the police. The police will promptly show up at the neighbor's house and order them to stop burning.

If Davis California and Washington State can make it strictly illegal to smoke out your neighbors, why can't Berkeley? In fact, our winters are milder than those of Davis and Washington State.

Neither the City of Berkeley Police Department nor the Berkeley Fire Department will respond to wood smoke complaints.

On an evening when the air is thick with smoke, people assume that the smoke is from one or more fireplaces and/or wood stoves, when in fact it could be an actual house fire.

Loss of life can result because people would not realize they were smelling was an actual house fire.

It is difficult to understand how the Berkeley City Council can declare a Climate Change Emergency, and yet be indifferent to the terrible health hazards of breathing wood smoke and synthetic log smoke.

Why isn't clean air a progressive value?

Thank you,
Clifford Fred
Berkeley California