

## MEMORANDUM

DATE June 17, 2019

TO Andrea Chow, Sustainability Analyst, City of San Mateo

FROM Tammy Seale, PlaceWorks Project Manager  
Eli Krispi, PlaceWorks, Climate Action Associate

SUBJECT Climate Action Plan Update - Summary of Community Workshop

The City, with support from the PlaceWorks and DNV GL consultant team, hosted a community meeting for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) update on Thursday, June 6, 2019, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the San Mateo Library.

The purpose of this workshop was to provide community members with an overview of the current CAP and the CAP update process, the results of the new and updated GHG inventory, and the new and revised GHG mitigation measures that will be included in the updated CAP. This workshop offered an opportunity to receive feedback on the measures and suggest additional reduction measures for the updated CAP.

City staff and members of the consultant team facilitated the workshop. Approximately 50 community members attended and participated. The workshop included a presentation about the CAP update and a summary of work-to-date, a question and answer period, and an open house that allowed participants to review draft GHG reduction measures, provide input, and engage with staff, consultants, and other community members.

Participant results are attached. The results are organized by poster topic and present the number and type of dots for each measure (green, yellow, or red) and any open comments received on sticky notes and easel pads. No comment cards were submitted during the meeting, although some additional comments were submitted later via email.

The PlaceWorks and DNV GL team will coordinate with City staff and the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission to review input received and update draft GHG reduction measures as applicable. Once the language is confirmed, the project team will prepare estimates of GHG reductions from the new and revised measures.

**San Mateo Climate Action Plan Update  
June 6, 2019 Community Workshop Results**

**Board 1: Renewable Energy**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Yellows</b>	<b>Reds</b>
Measure 1: Continue to support Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) and encourage residents and businesses not already participating in PCE, especially large energy users, to join.	17	1	0
Measure 2: Continue promoting renewable energy systems for new homes and businesses with education and incentives.	12	2	0
Measure 3: Continue to encourage property owners to install renewable energy systems on existing homes and businesses.	12	2	0
Measure 4: Renew San Mateo’s requirement for new buildings to include solar panels, going beyond state requirements.	11	2	1
Measure 5: Promote battery storage systems as a part of renewable energy installations.	8	6	0
Measure 6: Set up microgrid demonstration projects.	5	5	1

**Renewable Energy Open Comments**

**Measure 4:** We need a way to store power from PV to use at night, check out Sandford’s Central Energy Facility’s thermal storage/heat recovery.

**Measure 4:** More infill to reduce VMT.

**Measure 6:** There are a lot of bigger things we can do.

**Measure 5:** Batteries – What level of support will this provide? For whom? How rapidly will today’s batteries become obsolete if the technology is evolving rapidly?

Will microgrid demonstration have a significant impact?

On/Off grid solar installs - reduce fees if install option to supply power when PCE down to house/buildings.

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**Board 2: Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Yellows</b>	<b>Reds</b>
Measure 1: Continue to provide education about energy efficiency retrofits to residents and businesses, including information about financing.	9	2	1
Measure 2: Provide incentives for energy efficiency retrofits.	11	1	0
Measure 3: Establish a program to require home energy assessments at the time of sale.	12	2	0
Measure 4: Provide incentives for all-electric new construction.	7	1	0
Measure 5: Encourage upgrades to existing buildings to support all-electric operations.	9	0	0
Measure 6: New municipal buildings and facilities will be all-electric or will use alternative fuels.	9	1	0
Measure 7: Establish a commercial and multi-family energy conservation benchmarking program and offer low- or no-cost energy audits to rental properties and business.	11	0	0
Measure 8: Continue to conduct energy efficiency retrofits for existing municipal buildings.	7	0	0

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Open Comments**

Require Net Zero on existing homes.

Cut energy use everywhere else in the US that is hotter and/or colder than San Mateo: urban infill.

Urge people to wear sweaters etc.

Incentivize cleaner emission leaf blowers (continuing the work sustainability commission started in 2018 then halted).

Make a contest, who can reduce their emissions? Or compare vs. an average.

Require by law, plus shift housing to the public sector.

Prioritize PCE 100 – how does it compare to home retrofits?

Ban military recruiters so our citizens don't participate in the world's worst institutional emitter: the US military.

Incentivize won't save us. If we want to stop Armageddon, we must require sustainable to its fullest extent, right now!

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**Board 3: Alternative Transportation**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Yellows</b>	<b>Reds</b>
Measure 1: Expand the public shuttle system in San Mateo, including using microtransit to provide first-mile and last-mile connections.	23	0	0
Measure 2: Continue to support reduction of commuter-related vehicle trips through the City’s Transportation Demand Management program and other employer-focused programs.	11	1	0
Measure 3: Expand carpool options for San Mateo residents and commuters.	3	4	1
Measure 4: Implement the Bicycle Master Plan and continue to support additional shared mobility options.	22	0	1
Measure 5: Continue to make walking a safe and easy way to get around San Mateo.	27	0	0
Measure 6: Increase transit-oriented developments along El Camino Real and near Caltrain stations.	22	3	0
Measure 7: Support new rapid bus transit routes.	14	1	0
Measure 8: Improve the frequency of Caltrain services, particularly to the Hayward Park station.	17	1	0

**Alternative Transportation Open Comments**

Increase penalty for stealing bicycles.

Encourage mixed-use development to reduce SOV.

Close B Street to car traffic and institute shuttle to encourage less driving in City core.

Help change mindset of Peninsula re: BART/Bus Service.

Spend more on GHG Reduction than road maintenance and more truck free roads (weight and potholes) and more car free walking streets.

Eliminate traffic deaths for pedestrians and bicyclists with Vision Zero. New York City is good example.

Sierra Club recommends dividend account parking.

San Mateo needs to be much more bike friendly. 1) more dedicated lanes, 2) lights triggered by bike, 3) Require businesses like Safeway to have bike racks. (1 green)

Citywide mobility targets: Portland does it with target mode share (1 green)

Increase buses and vans use. Incentivize use, increases status of transit use.

More east-west transit opportunities shuttles, scooter, etc.!

Increase bike boulevards and bike infrastructure.

Work from home!!

Need bus-only lanes and transit signal priority. (2 greens)

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**Alternative Transportation Open Comments (continued)**

Bike Streets work North/South (Claremont, Edinburg, Flores).

Create bus routes that allow access to natural public spaces like Laurelwood park and Purisima Creek. This will create love for nature and drive action.

Ridesharing kills public transit, congest streets, and abuses workers. The City must impose a heavy cap on Uber & Lyft vehicles to save our streets.

Light intersections that are triggered by bikes.

Educate residents and visitors on their impacts while driving.

What can the City do to reduce people idling in their cars? (1 green)

Affordable housing = reduced GHGs (2 greens)

Fewer cars, more public transit! Increased frequency in bus service, other non-car modes.

Affordable housing for workers = fewer trip = lower GHG where is housing in the CAP?

Change the topic/sector name – alternative to what?

**Board 4: Alternative Fuels**

Measure	Greens	Yellows	Reds
Measure 1: Require all new buildings to have EV charging infrastructure.	15	5	0
Measure 2: Continue to encourage EV charging infrastructure in existing homes and businesses.	8	0	1
Measure 3: Continue to install EV charging infrastructure in public parking lots and garages.	17	0	1
Measure 4: Transition San Mateo’s municipal fleet to electric and other clean-energy vehicles.	15	1	0
Measure 5: Continue to educate community members about the availability of hybrid and clean-fuel landscaping equipment.	13	4	4
Measure 6: Buy hybrid and clean-fuel landscaping equipment for municipal use as options are available.	11	0	0

**Alternative Fuels Open Comments**

**Measure 3:** Battery Ready

**Measure 5:** Very low hanging fruit compared to something as important as diet, which is not even mentioned so far. Topic 4, Measure 5

**Measure 5:** Start with large properties like churches, help them through issues like extension cord length limits (if they exist).

**Measure 5:** Go beyond education. Need a competitive “green yard” program for homeowners. Need to incentivize or network commercial properties and churches to transitions them ASAP. The landowners already have equipment for Menlo Park and Atherton!

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**Alternative Fuels Open Comments (continued)**

**Measure 5:** Ordinance to restrict gas landscape equipment.

EVs are great but often not affordable could there be financial incentives and subsidy?

More community charging stations are needed. Will Measure 1 create charging stations that can be shared by the public? Even by registering them with the building or something?

**Measure 2:** Provide incentives!!

**Measure 5:** This will work as well as abstinence-only sex ED

Biodiesel incentives? Can reduce net carbon emissions and use waste oil.

You always mention El. Cars = No!!! Go hydrogen!

Change the topic/sector name – alternative to what?

**Board 5: Solid Waste**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Yellows</b>	<b>Reds</b>
Measure 1: Continue to expand San Mateo’s composting program to businesses and multi-family homes.	25	0	0
Measure 2: Accept new types of materials in recycling bins as economics allow.	8	5	0
Measure 3: Create a materials reuse program and educate community members about ways to make unwanted items available for reuse.	11	2	1
Measure 4: Explore a ban on single-use plastics.	22	6 (Do it!, Just do it!)	0
Measure 5: Work with waste haulers to reduce contamination of recyclables.	12	1	0

**Solid Waste Open Comments**

Multi-family composting opportunities are a must!! You can also put the collection points in parks and around the community!

If composting in multi-family units is problematic, at least offer compost drop off points through the City!

Recycling info keeps changing. We need way better educations.

Create a mass distribution program for reusable bottle, paid for through business tax hikes.

My condo association will be charged if we get composting so we don’t compost.

Solid waste = 3% of the GHG. These programs are good but please do not use a lot of \$\$.

More guidance is needed about good vs. poor recycling habits. (what plastics are good)

Be able to recycle black plastic or don’t allow it to be used. (1 green)

I wish we could get more compost delivered to our houses.

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**Solid Waste Open Comments (continued)**

Biweekly recycling and garbage pickup instead of weekly? Other cities have tried this. Since San Francisco/Recology has one of the best recycling/zero waste programs in the USA, why not excel at it here in San Mateo! If pickups were fewer, folks might be motivated (or forced) to decrease their waste. Fewer pickups also means less fuel/energy wasted by the trucks.

Tax consumers for clamshells in packaging – like plastic bags.

**Measure 4:** reusable bags require more energy to produce... causing more production.

Stop selling chemicals – pass an ordinance.

People are either uneducated or lazy/noncompliant RE putting items in the correct bins. Adding different/more bins won't work because of this. (2 greens)

Work with Trader Joes, Safeway, etc. to reduce clamshell packaging.

New accurate recycle bin labels for everyone.

Offer better rates for very low trash creation. Smaller waste cans? Alternate week collection?

Reduce uses at the source, require take back of packaging (3 greens)

Be able to recycle plastic bags that have the recycle symbol.

Encourage reduce purchases consumption. (1 green)

Encourage stores like Costco to put (business + social) pressure on their vendors to use recyclable packaging (not plastics). When vendors figure out recyclable packaging, they should let their customers know about the efforts they have made to solve a problem that affects everyone. Make it a win-win-win situation.

**Board 6: Water and Wastewater**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Yellows</b>	<b>Reds</b>
Measure 1: Continue to work with water providers and regional agencies to encourage water-efficient retrofits of existing buildings.	21	2	0
Measure 2: Require new developments to meet higher water efficiency standards.	19	1	0

**Water and Wastewater Open Comments**

The current CAP should be renamed “Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan”

The CAP should include water and waste conservation, recycle, reduction mechanisms. (1 green)

Green lawn/yard competition among homeowners.

We need a water committee to implement best practices.

Is there local support for existing greywater systems?

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**Water and Wastewater Open Comments (continued)**

I wish that there was information to have domestic greywater. (Help in putting it in) (5 greens)

Recycle water from treatment plant. (4 greens)

Can the City investigate rainwater collection for use by City and residents?

Are there incentives for lawn replacement/xeriscaping/use of native landscaping?

Lawns are a huge source of water use. They should be abolished!

Large lots and sprawl leads to wasted water for irrigation.

Ban green lawns. (1 green, 1 yellow)

Provide realistic incentives for homeowners to get rid of lawns. Too expensive right now. (1 green)

Can the wastewater treatment plant be run on a schedule that helps address duck curve?

Educate people with sprinklers to not water the sidewalks!

Looks like real problem is behavior of individuals free will.

Follow best practices from more arid places (landscaping water, recycle water, flow meters on faucets, fix leaks)

Eliminate garbage disposals in new construction and retrofits.

Incentivize water reuse, especially in new development and public buildings (Use SFPUC model). (1 green).

Adopt better water demand management, including conservation, like SFPUC's programs. Reduce outdoor irrigation by 70%.

Aim for 5% reduced imported water by 2024.

**Board 7: What's Your Big Idea?**

**Open comments**

Plant more trees.

Plant trees and gardens, every \$1 in trees returns \$2.5 in value to the community. California Billion Tree Initiative. (10 greens)

Build housing here and plant trees elsewhere. (1 green)

Increase the urban tree canopy where possible. (2 greens)

Do not allow wood burnings in fireplaces or building FP in new buildings. (1 green)

Explore rainwater collection for use by city and residents.

To reduce traffic and auto emissions on Hillside Ave, employ The Boring Company to put a tunnel under Hillside Avenue (2 greens, 5 reds)



## **San Mateo Climate Action Plan Update June 6, 2019 Community Workshop Results**

### **Board 7: What's Your Big Idea?**

#### **Open comments (continued)**

Local public free telecommuting centers, reduce VMTs from commuters, keep people and money in San Mateo.

Affordable housing reduced worker trips where is that in CAP? (1 green)

More communication/educations on climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Allow for micro units and affordable housing.

Don't let people cut and trim existing trees and shrubs for view.

Require more from residents (instead of "encourage"). (2 greens)

Bring back recycling stations at Safeway.

The US Military is one of the largest institutional GHG emitters worldwide. Ban military recruiters from San Mateo and stop the rolling war machine in our City.

Include a program for carbon sequestration and offsets.

Ban leaf blowers and gas-powered landscape equipment. (3 greens, 1 red)

- Need a way to transition this would hurt all the gardeners.

No Amazon infrastructure in San Mateo.

Annual reporting of GHG: Mountain View does this and allocates \$10k/year. Sectors can be adjusted for compliance.

Promote the local "I heart rakes and brooms" campaign.

Send a link to all San Mateo residents that helps them calculate their carbon footprint.

Encourage competition among homeowners to use electric lawn equipment to "lose your lawn", to practice permaculture/plant native plants/use IPM methods. Create a City competition!

Determine San Mateo's "earth overshoot" day to raise awareness.

Public housing for all! (With solar panels) (1 green)

City government should fund clothing and farming co-ops in our community to reduce reliance on global trade.

Encourage cooperative businesses (worker owned). Expansion isn't profit seeking drive our crisis and must stop.

Please design new housing near transit centers to have at most car space. Maybe happening already.

Count on per capita basis and not a total basis.

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### **Board 7: What's Your Big Idea?**

#### **Open comments (continued)**

To avoid 2 degree C temperature rise, there must be a robust system of carbon capture by 2030! (1 green)

Raise the height limit on buildings. (5 greens)

Take advantage of our volunteer hours needed by master composter participants – 40 hours each.

Urban infill: UC Berkeley rates urban infill in the City of San Mateo #1 among all rated measures visit: [coolclimate.berkeley.edu/ca-scenarios/index.html](http://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/ca-scenarios/index.html). (2 greens)

When we add jobs but not housing, we should count 100% of those commute emissions.

Make GHG's info public => competitions in neighborhoods to retrofit/reduce fossil energy use? Smart Meters?

Charge new businesses setting up shop in San Mateo a "sustainability" tax to fund all these projects. (1 green)

Pedestrian overpass at Hillsdale/Highway 101. (3 greens)

More density causes miserable traffic. (1 red)

San Mateo to provide water barrels at cost and volunteer installers too much water is lost.

According to many studies, reaching greenhouse reduction goals without the world adapting a plant-based diet is impossible. Many people in San Mateo are not aware that they can contribute greatly to GHG lowering by modifying their diet. San Mateo should encourage diet change. (3 greens, 1 red)

Increased densities in SFH and transit-oriented areas. Infill housing helps to reduce VMTs. (3 greens)

Implement UN Agenda 21.

Please ban leaf blowers!! Exhaust + PM in the air! (1 green)

Encourage infill development instead of greenfield development.

Figure how to encourage plant-based diet education? (w/ groceries, schools, etc.) Taxes on meat? Don't just say we have no control over that. (2 greens)

Meatless Monday or eating 1x per day instead of twice. Could this be worked into schools or civic buildings?

Composting toilets save water, reduce methane, turn waste into resources. Make legal, they don't stink!

To reduce commutes and traffic, subsidize ADUs in neighborhoods w/ larger lots, houses and parking available. (1 green)

Way more outreach to non-English speakers. (1 green)

Make sure to do outreach to non-English speakers and people not on City email lists.