

7/13/2020

item 1



City Council

Item #20-359 : Overview of Sustainability Program and Feedback on Program Priorities

RTC # 20-359

July 13, 2020

1




Sustainability
A Balancing Act

PEOPLE
Social variables dealing with community, education, equity, social resources, health, well-being, and quality of life

PLANET
Environmental variables relating to natural resources, water & air quality, energy conservation & land use

PROFIT
Economic variables dealing with the bottom line & cash flow

BEARABLE **EQUITABLE**

SUSTAINABLE

VIABLE

2



Sustainability, COVID 19, Equity

Challenges and Unknowns

- Environmental momentum to come
- Economic investment in climate and sustainability
- Public priorities moving ahead
- Focus on long-term priority setting and include all voices



3

3



Strategically Addressing Fragility

Equity, Climate, Economy, COVID 19

- Consider at all to solve any - intersectionality
- Develop long term strategies that:
 - Minimize compounding crises
 - Build systems that address equity gaps
 - Maintain hard won environmental momentum
 - Serve tomorrow's residents and businesses as well as today's



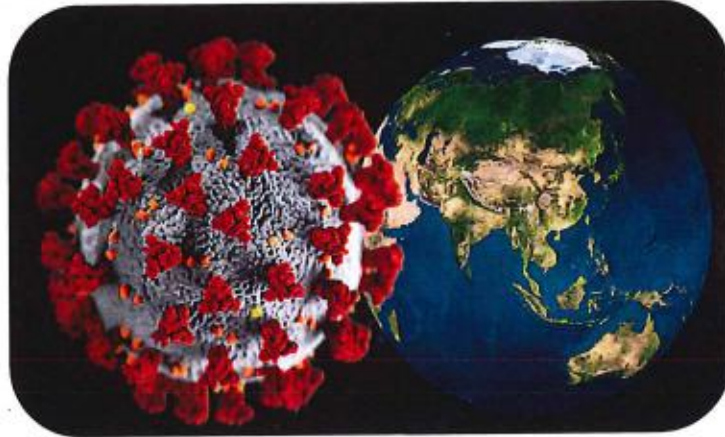
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Climate and COVID 19

Similarities, Differences, Lessons



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5



Equity, Climate, COVID 19

Similarities

	Equity	Climate	Pandemic
Global impact	X	X	X
Crisis grows exponentially after certain thresholds	X	X	X
Physical crisis with data based backing	X	X	X
Disproportionately impacts vulnerable, low income, people of color	X	X	X
Under acceptance of gravity affects ability to solve it	X	X	X
Long term solutions key to building resilience	X	X	X
Communities are leading the way in change	X	X	X

6

6



Sustainability/Climate & COVID 19 Differences

COVID 19 Crisis – Survival Response	Climate Crisis – Planning Response
Danger is tangible and immediate	Danger is gradual and cumulative
Likely singular solution	Multifaceted solution
Short term response is critical	Short/long term response key
Impacts should lessen over time	Impacts last longer/permanently
Prevention threatens livelihoods	Prevention can create jobs

7

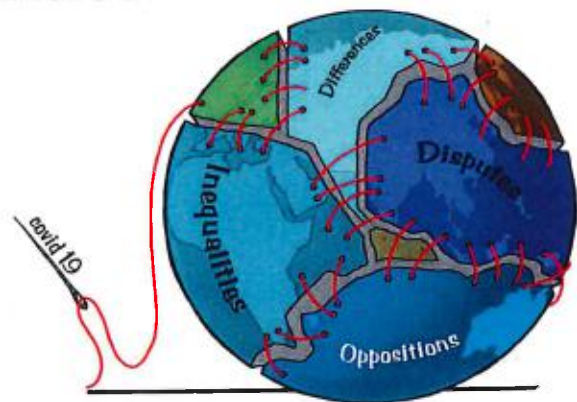
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Sustainability/Climate and COVID 19

Transferrable Lessons

- Highlights need for:
 - Science-based decisions
 - Clear policy
 - Preparedness
 - Resiliency planning
- Unprecedented global response to universal threat
- Local governments play critical role in worldwide roadmaps 8



8



Sustainability After COVID 19

Opportunities Moving Forward

- Smart recovery = embedding sustainability/equity in policy, programs, legislation
 - Green jobs, workplace models, tech focus
 - Minimize compounding crises
- Public engagement and ownership of solutions



Silicon Valley Transportation Data

COVID 19 Impacts on Air Quality and GHG

- GHG Emissions/Air Quality (BAAQMD estimates)
 - 20-30% traffic emissions reductions
 - Improved air and health in communities next to major roadways





Silicon Valley Transportation Data

COVID 19 Impacts on Transportation

LOCATION	REDUCTIONS	2020 DATES
Silicon Valley Freeway VMT	52%	April - Lowest in 17 year dataset
Santa Clara County "all road" VMT	75%	Jan – May
Silicon Valley Freeway Traffic Delays	94%	Feb – April
Bay Area Transportation Related Injury Crashes	69%	May

Data from Joint Ventures Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

11

11



Sustainable Santa Clara

Where We Are
Where We Want to Be
When We Need to Get There
How We Get There - Building a Roadmap Together

12

12



Where We Are Now

Strong Sustainability Baseline



13



Where We Want to Be

Meet Environmental Targets
Support a Healthy Santa Clara
Minimize Future Compounding Crises



- Build sustainability lens into operations and programs
- Establish unified City goals, strategies, advanced planning
- Advance and support sustainability policies and legislation

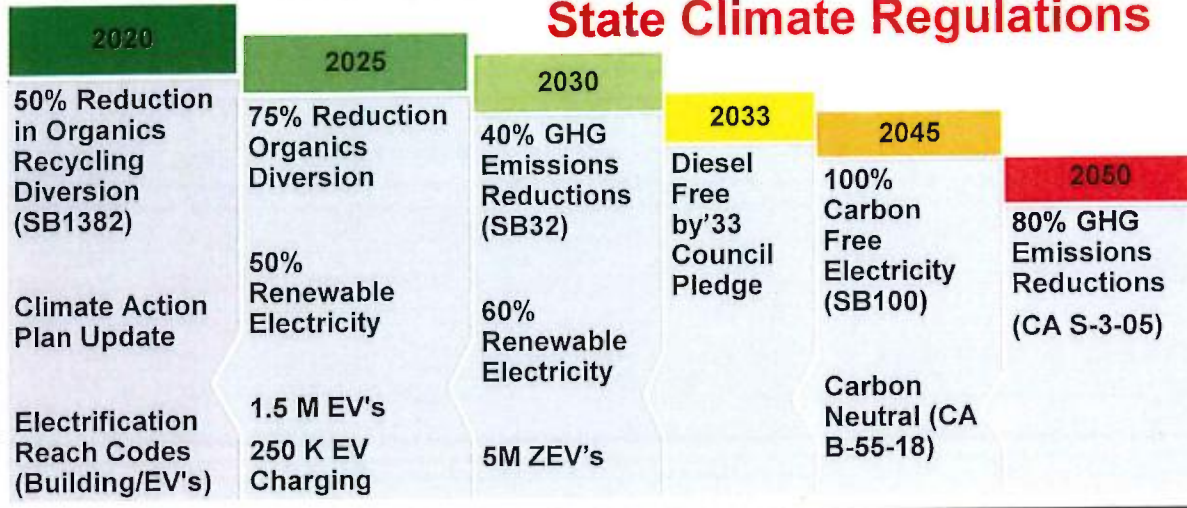
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14



When We Need to Get There

State Climate Regulations



15



How We'll Get There

Integration

Innovation

Collaboration and Connection

16

16



How We'll Get There

Integration Priorities

- Update to, and implementation of, Climate Action Plan
- Explore and develop sustainability advancement strategies in:
 - Water, wastewater, solid waste, parks and open space
- Align City practices/operational policies with sustainability
 - Green purchasing practices/policies
 - Fleet greening - EV and diesel free fleet expansion
 - Facility greening –generators, lighting, custodial, etc.

17

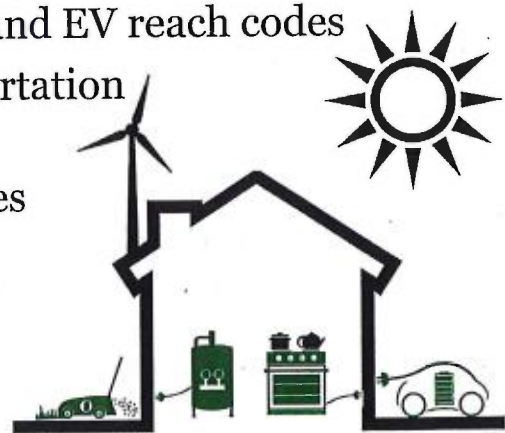
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How We'll Get There

Innovation Priorities

- Establish building electrification and EV reach codes
- Establish climate forward transportation policies/programs
- Diversify energy incentives/rebates



18

18



How We'll Get There

Collaboration and Connection Priorities

- Staff Sustainability Team
- Community outreach/feedback/engagement
 - Ex: CAP public survey, Reach Codes, programs, website
- Explore partnerships to expand reach and impact
 - Empower our community (residents, business, and industry)
 - Build our sustainability network (local, regional, and national)
 - Explore climate forward Legislative Advocacy Positions



19

19



Sustainability Pillar Review

Council Priorities Identified in January 2020

- ✓ Continue the Climate Action Plan, ensuring the right mix of outside consultants and internal staff
- ✓ Consider infusing sustainability into all City decisions and operations (e.g. assess or rate the sustainability level of a project)
- ✓ Consider expanding recycled water
- ✓ Consider creating incentives for “green” proposals (e.g. EV charging stations)
- ✓ Consider hiring a sustainability manager

20

20



Recommendation

Title: Sustainability Program Update

Staff Recommendation:

- Note and File Sustainability Program Update and Provide Feedback on Program Priorities