



DATE: September 13, 2021

TO: Council Sustainability Committee

FROM: Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Roadmap to Meet 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emission Target

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Sustainability Committee (CSC) reviews and comments on this report.

SUMMARY

The City of Hayward has been working to address global climate change for more than a decade, adopting its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2009. The CAP was amended and incorporated into the General Plan in 2014 and includes a suite of actions necessary to meet Hayward's 2020 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 20% below the 2005 baseline. The City achieved and exceeded the 2020 GHG reduction target in 2018, with a 21.6% reduction. In June 2020, Council adopted new reduction targets of 30% by 2025, 55% by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2045. In July 2021, Council authorized a contract with Rincon Consultants to prepare a CAP update, which will include the development of a comprehensive, defensible, and innovative plan that identifies GHG reduction strategies, policies, and measures to further reduce GHG emissions and achieve the 2030 GHG target through an inclusive and equitable planning process. Staff is seeking comments from the CSC regarding the overall approach for the CAP update and associated outreach.

BACKGROUND

The City has been working to address global climate change for more than a decade. In 2009, Hayward adopted its first CAP, which included aggressive goals for reducing GHG emissions. The CAP was amended and incorporated into the General Plan in 2014 and it includes a suite of actions necessary to meet Hayward's 2020 GHG reduction target (20% below 2005 levels by 2020). The current CAP includes policies and programs in the Land Use, Mobility, Natural Resources, Economic Development, Education, Community Health, and Public Facilities elements of the General Plan. The full web-based *2040 General Plan* is available online¹.

¹ <https://www.hayward2040generalplan.com/>

Hayward's 2020 target was achieved two years early. Hayward's 2018 emissions inventory showed that community-wide emissions were reduced by 21.6% from 2005 to 2018. On January 11, 2021², staff presented to the CSC Hayward's 2019 GHG inventory showing that emissions had been reduced by 25.7% since 2005.

On January 28, 2020³, Council adopted the *City of Hayward Three-Year Strategic Roadmap* for FY21 through FY23. Both the original Roadmap and the updated version adopted by Council on June 1, 2021⁴, include "Combat Climate Change" as a priority and one of the key projects identified to support the priority is to "Create 2030 GHG goal and roadmap." On June 16, 2020⁵, Council adopted new reduction targets of 30% by 2025, 55% by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2045.

On July 20, 2021⁶, Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Rincon Consultants to prepare General Plan amendments related to the Housing Element, Climate Action Plan, Environmental Justice Element, and the Safety Element.

On September 2, 2021, the Homelessness/Housing Task Force reviewed the planned approach for updating the Housing Element and other elements of the *2040 General Plan*. Staff will provide a summary of this meeting during the CSC meeting.

DISCUSSION

The CAP update is needed to identify the policies and programs necessary to achieve the 2030 GHG reduction target and put Hayward on a path to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The CAP update is being combined with the Housing Element update effort because issues of housing, environmental justice, safety and hazard planning, and climate change are inextricably linked. Conducting outreach, planning, and environmental review for all the General Plan amendments simultaneously will result in a more comprehensive and holistic approach to these issues and will result in cost and time efficiencies.

The strategy for the CAP update will include the development of a comprehensive, defensible, and innovative plan through an inclusive and equitable planning process that further reduces GHG emissions and improves Hayward's quality of life. Rincon's scope of work is attached as Attachment II. The CAP update scope is on pages 38 – 48 and includes:

- Conduct GHG Forecasting Analysis
- Four City Staff Workshops (virtual)
- Four Community Workshops (virtual)
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies (as a part of the Safety Element update)

² <https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4747797&GUID=2B1F0C6F-B961-4AA3-9553-240ACE74B4B1&Options=&Search=>

³ <https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4315589&GUID=1F328D58-C3FC-41E5-8BF7-A17E4E09DDCB&Options=&Search=>

⁴ <https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4968961&GUID=22D0F57F-B982-4566-8DA6-CE2854247AB0&Options=&Search=>

⁵ <https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=789252&GUID=31184D90-F8E3-4A07-ADB8-6290332C3B3E&Options=info&Search=>

⁶ <https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5034289&GUID=A1DD2D35-7B4A-42C8-9284-7DEB78AAD470&Options=&Search=>

- Identify GHG Reduction Strategies, Policies, and Programs
- Analyze and Project GHG Emission Reductions from the potential Strategies, Policies, and Programs
- Quantify Costs Associated with potential programs
- Prepare Funding and Financing Strategy for potential programs
- Prepare CAP update document and General Plan GHG Policies update
- Provide CAP Update Implementation Tracking Instruments
- Conduct Environmental Review (allows CAP update to be a “qualified GHG reduction plan” as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines)
- CEQA GHG Streamlining Checklist and GHG Thresholds (allows development projects within the City to tier from the programmatic CAP CEQA analysis for project-level GHG emissions analyses in order to demonstrate consistency with the State and City reduction targets and CEQA Guidelines)

Equitable Outreach Plan: A priority of this project is to address racial equity and include a robust community outreach and engagement plan that will extend throughout the project timeframe. Staff will work with the consultant team to conduct community engagement and outreach that prioritizes hard to reach populations and will collaborate with and empower the community throughout the project. Some of Rincon’s strategies to address equity issues are to establish “guardrails” through which all programs and policies would be vetted and a commitment to creating a flexible and far-reaching outreach program by creating small grants for local community groups that can conduct outreach using tool kits to organize and run meetings. Staff anticipates presenting a draft outreach plan on September 28, 2021 at a joint work session of the Planning Commission and Council.

Environmental Justice Element: In 2016, SB1000 was signed into law, which requires cities and counties to incorporate environmental justice policies and programs into their General Plan. The Environmental Justice Element requirement is aimed to address inequitable distribution of pollution and its associated health risks specifically in low-income communities and communities of color. Pursuant to SB 1000, this element will address pollution exposure, provision of public facilities, food access, residential safety, and opportunities for physical activity. In addition, this element will offer goals and policies on promoting meaningful community engagement among disadvantaged communities and recommendations to improve existing programs that promote equity and inclusiveness in the decision-making process. The Environmental Justice Element may be prepared as a separate chapter of the General Plan or the environmental justice policies could be integrated into existing elements as was done for the CAP in 2014.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Climate change is expected to negatively impact national and local economies. Updating Hayward’s climate action plan policies and programs could help make Hayward’s economy more resilient to climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT

Council approved a total budget of \$720,000 for the General Plan updates, which will not impact the City's General Fund. The project will be funded by a Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Development Services Department's Planning Policy Fund, and the Public Works and Utilities Department's Recycling, Water, and Sewer Funds.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

This agenda item supports the Strategic Priority to Combat Climate Change. Specifically, this item is related to implementation of the following project:

- Project 4, Adopt & Implement 2030 GHG Goal & Roadmap

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Meeting GHG reduction goals is the primary objective of the City's CAP. Meeting the goals will require reducing emissions in every sector of Hayward's economy and will entail improving energy efficiency in buildings, decarbonizing existing buildings, increasing the use of renewable energy, and reducing vehicle-related emissions. All these actions will result in cleaner air for Hayward residents and for the region.

NEXT STEPS

On September 28, 2021, staff will present the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the Housing Element update and a draft outreach plan for the overall General Plan update process during a joint work session of the Planning Commission and City Council. The RHNA will help inform growth projections, which will be factored into the GHG emissions forecasts. Staff will continue to work with the consultant team to develop an outreach plan and update the CAP. Staff will provide regular updates to the CSC during the course of the project, which will be completed in December 2022.

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