

STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 12, 2021

TO: City Commissions

FROM: Dianna Jensen, City Engineer, CAAP Project Director
Kerry Loux, Sustainability Coordinator, CAAP Project Manager

SUBJECT: 2020-2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update, July 2021

Recommendation

1. Informational
2. Requesting Commissioner engagement and participation in the 2020-2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) by providing input on your subject area expertise, attending July workshops, and completing online survey, available by July 16, 2021.

Davis
CALIFORNIA

TAKE CLIMATE ACTION!

Pre-register for two workshops
www.cityofdavis.org

- **Mobility & Public Spaces**
July 14, 5:00pm / July 16, 10:00am
- **Buildings, Waste and Water**
July 28, 5:00pm / July 30, 10:00am

SCAN ME

Attend to WIN A RAFFLE PRIZE!

CAAP Progress Report

Information related to the CAAP process is available at <https://www.cityofdavis.org/sustainability/2020-climate-action-and-adaptation-plan-caap>. You can sign up for eNotifications with the link provided, in order to receive all CAAP emails.

The 2020-2040 CAAP will identify a roadmap to measurable, enforceable, equitable and implementable community actions, and will also bring Davis into compliance with state legislation related to climate action and General Plan requirements. Additionally, in the short term, the CAAP will identify maximum efforts to implement carbon reduction actions by 2030, in alignment with state goals.

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By identifying municipal and community greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction actions and responses to climate risk between now and 2040, the CAAP will have impacts and benefits in all areas of community life—mobility, public spaces, energy, waste and water. We are gathering community ideas and input on what is important on these and other topics.

This community engagement and outreach to identify community values is an integral component in developing the CAAP strategies for carbon reduction. Toward that end, a key focus of the Davis CAAP is to fully incorporate equity, inclusion and diversity in the Davis context into the project planning and outreach.

You can pre-register for the July workshops by visiting the webpage linked above.

Following the July workshops, the CAAP team will finalize the proposed actions. A fourth community workshop will occur in October 2021 (possibly Wednesday 10/13 or 10/27 at 5 p.m.) to review these actions, followed by completion of the draft 2020-2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan for public review. We anticipate that the environmental review process (California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA) will be initiated and completed by May /June 2022.

Background

The following article was published in the Davis Enterprise article on Sunday, July 11, 2021:

In March 2019, the City Council adopted a goal of attaining community carbon neutrality by 2040, five years ahead of California’s 2045 target. In January 2021, in response to this aggressive goal, the City of Davis started a robust 2020-2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) update to the existing 2010 CAAP. Information about the 2020-2040 CAAP is available on the City’s webpage at cityofdavis.org (Look for CAAP in the Spotlight section).

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July Workshops and Online Survey

This month, there are virtual workshops and an online survey you can take, which will begin to focus on substantive CAAP implementation actions and priorities to consider. It’s important that community members make sure their ideas are considered and incorporated through these opportunities to engage in the city’s planning process.

Zoom workshops on two topic areas are being offered in the second and fourth weeks of July. Each workshop is offered first on Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. (July 14 and 28), followed by the same materials on Friday morning of the same week at 10 a.m. (July 16 and 30). Community members can choose which time works best for them. Also, the workshops will be recorded and posted on the website for later viewing.

Pre-registration is available on the webpage noted above. It is not necessary, but registering in advance enters attendees into a raffle for a prize at each workshop. Winners will receive a large Davis Farmers Market basket filled with goodies from the

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market such as produce, olive oil and the cookbook by Ann Evans, *The Farmers Market Cookbook*.

This week's workshops on Wednesday, July 14, at 5 p.m. and Friday, July 16 at 10 a.m. will address "Mobility and Public Spaces." Mobility topics include: actions related to reducing use of all cars, increasing opportunities and incentives for using electric vehicles, buses, trains, biking, walking and rolling. Public Spaces topics address issues related to streets, sidewalks, plants, urban forest, parks, open space and habitat.

The workshops at the end of July will focus on "Buildings, Waste and Water." Buildings topics include actions related to increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrifying (reducing natural gas use), green infrastructure and battery storage. Waste and Water topics include actions related to waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, water conservation and other issues.

These topics will also be included in the online survey to be posted on the website soon, and staff is visiting the Farmers Market on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays to talk directly with community members. Look for our booth!

Prior Community Outreach and Issues Identified

The previously completed introductory workshops on April 22 and May 27 and the first online survey provided valuable information about issues important to the Davis community, and identified some priorities related to greenhouse gas reduction, co-benefits and addressing climate risk. Additionally, a May 19 Cool Davis Coalition panel discussion featured the CAAP process. All of these meetings were recorded and are available on the CAAP webpage.

The first virtual introductory CAAP Workshop identified preliminary adaptation actions important to the community, specifically to reduce effects of extreme heat and address better air quality. Some ideas included: expanding and enhancing urban forest canopy and establishing shade corridors on bike and pedestrian routes. Increasing cool roofs, cool pavement and other reflective surfaces will decrease urban heat island impacts.

Actions that the City can take during extreme weather or power outages were identified as enhancing access to cooling centers, weather relief centers or emergency shelters and developing neighborhood support structures and outreach to help vulnerable populations. For example, workshop participants thought an effort to provide N95 masks to residents and improve public transportation during extreme heat and poor air quality events would be useful.

Governance measures could include providing financial incentives for building upgrades, such as insulation, double pane windows, window seals, requiring air filtration and conditioning in rental units or incentivizing residential, low-impact design/stormwater conservation techniques.

Transportation measures could include increasing "micro-mobility" or on-demand transit service, bike facility improvements, disincentives for personal vehicle use or other options.

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The second virtual introductory Community Resilience and Equity CAAP identified some key topic areas on inclusive actions to identify in the CAAP. Two panels with local residents and community activists, moderated by Mayor Gloria Partida and UC Davis Professor Jonathan London, discussed personal life experiences and ways the CAAP can address equity and diversity.

A key theme discussed at the workshop was the relationships among housing, land use and transportation. Also, it is important to address the needs of more vulnerable populations, such as local farmworker/essential workers who may work outside, youth and seniors. Those who are most impacted by climate change may not be those who most contribute to the causes of greenhouse gases.

Other valuable ideas included more access to community gardening spaces, creating rental “libraries” for bikes, trailers, tools or other commonly used items, expanding transit destinations/schedule, and addressing needs of renters and multi-family residential neighborhoods in addition to homeowners. For example, workshop participants offered that a solar panels incentive program could aid low-income families to install solar panels or provide portable solar panels for those with unstable housing.

The first online survey, open during the month of May, provided significant background and introductory information to the team. An example survey question asked about the most important extra benefits beyond carbon reduction and minimizing climate risk. Community members identified improving air quality and environmental stewardship as key values. Other issues that ranked highly were more parks, open space and habitat, water conservation and waste reduction, and public health improvements.

Identification of possible actions for the plan is ongoing; staff are collecting community ideas and beginning to evaluate them. Next steps will be to evaluate the scale of reductions needed per sector (transportation, energy, waste and water, etc.) to reach carbon neutrality. We will analyze and provide different carbon-reduction scenarios for review by the community and ultimately by the City Council; in other words, show what it will take to achieve our carbon-neutrality target, such as X% transportation reduction, Y% buildings, Z% water and waste, etc.

After incorporating community comments and input, staff will initiate environmental review (Environmental Impact Report, EIR) in early 2022, in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Final CAAP adoption is anticipated by June 2022.

Staff are also interested in further study and recommendations for possible implementation of a Local Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Offset Program to establish a mitigation fund for improving the existing built environment, transportation approaches and/or other community sustainability goals.

Davis’ commitment to biking and sustainability, its agricultural industry base and its proximity to the University make Davis unique, and these aspects of our city are being integrated into the CAAP planning. The CAAP will pursue creative and innovative solutions that improve community quality of life and economic opportunity while meeting obligations for climate action and adaptation.

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The CAAP will position the City to incorporate CAAP information into the General Plan Update, including the Safety Element and sustainability issues throughout the General Plan and will provide a robust and defensible plan on which to base future CEQA documents, eliminating need for project-by-project analysis and ad-hoc mitigation.

The CAAP will be developed in close collaboration with other ongoing or recently completed projects, including the Downtown Plan, the update to the General Plan Housing Element, and Reimagine Russell Boulevard just to name a few.

In August 2019, the City Council approved the proposed process for the 2020 CAAP Update and community engagement process, including selecting a CAAP consultant to assist staff, local community partners and experts, and the broader community to develop the 2020 CAAP. The Natural Resources Commission is the lead advisory body to City Council, and other City commissions have appointed liaisons to the NRC to discuss the CAAP progress. In December 2020, the city entered into a contract with AECOM, Inc., a Sacramento-based consultant selected to assist staff with the CAAP process.

Following completion of technical tasks by the CAAP consultant and incorporating all community input, the Draft CAAP will be completed with synthesis of findings and recommendations for robust public review and comment.

You can contact the CAAP project management team, Dianna Jensen, City Engineer and CAAP Project Director, and Kerry Loux, Sustainability Coordinator and CAAP Project Manager, at the dedicated email address, CAAP@cityofdavis.org, with any questions or comments about the project.



Raffle Prize at each July workshop



Community comments, 'Mobility'