



## **Davis 2020-2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Questions from Natural Resources Commission Presentation July 26, 2021**

The July 26 Natural Resources Commission meeting included a detailed presentation of the Action Selection and Prioritization (ASAP) tool by the City's Sacramento-based consultant, AECOM. Following the presentation, NRC commissioners, liaisons from other City commissions and members of the public asked questions. Many of these questions were answered during the meeting, however, all questions and answers are included here. More information can be found at the CAAP webpage:

<https://www.cityofdavis.org/sustainability/2020-climate-action-and-adaptation-plan-caap>

**1. Is it possible to evaluate the environmental impacts of various actions? For example, if one action generates more waste than another, is that factored in?**

Yes, there is enough flexibility in ASAP tool to address this as one of the evaluation criteria. However, there is a very broad potential list of environmental issues for all the actions. Considering the potential ramifications of each action can be, in some cases, a complicated task, so the ASAP tool tries to incorporate analysis to the extent possible. In the case of the Davis CAAP, one of the three co-benefits included for analysis is 'Environmental Stewardship', so these impacts can be factored in here.

**2. What is the source of recommended actions and data being used to create the list of potential actions? Basing the list of actions on community surveys, workshops and other input may include a very small number of Davis stakeholders. Is the project management team confident that these actions represent the interests and values of the full Davis community?**

The list of actions in the plan is being driven heavily by community and stakeholder input, however we are also including input from the City's internal team, the consultant team (including subconsultants), and addressing actions identified in other regional efforts. We are confident that the content is representative because we have and will be sharing the content through the website, the workshops and commissions.

**3. A large number of previous City projects and studies have addressed climate action goals. For example, the Downtown Plan identified many sustainability actions. Have these been incorporated?**

This question gets at how do we include deep and meaningful content from other work completed by the City and the community. Staff and the consultant have

reviewed City documents, including the Downtown Plan, to make sure that we've included these actions in the list.

**4. Where is the quantification of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction being considered in ASAP tool? Does the tool address more than co-benefits and feasibility? Are you considering local governance, which is an important issue to evaluate?**

The ASAP tool evaluates actions on four criteria—1) GHG reduction potential (a qualitative evaluation from expert analysis and best practices); 2) addressing impacts from climate risk (identified in the Vulnerability Assessment); 3) Co-benefit ratings (for Davis, these include Equity and Inclusion; Air Quality and Public Health; and Environmental Stewardship); and 4) Feasibility (Local Control; Capital Outlay; and Public Support). Local governance is included in the feasibility analysis within the Local Control feasibility criterion. The ratings for each of these areas was included in the presentation—most have a five-point scale, and are addressed from a high-level viewpoint for the purpose of action comparison.

Having said that, this tool is not a GHG analysis tool nor an economic tool, for example, and is used more for comparison among different alternative actions. Economic cost analysis is a major cost, so it doesn't make sense to include it in the analysis and prioritization step for all actions, but once the top actions are identified, further analysis and more accurate and nuanced tools to evaluate GHG, costs or other factors can be used.

**5. We should consider the possibility of lobbying the state government to change state law to address options for local government control.**

Addressing state lobbying for change in local actions is not an evaluation criterion in the ASAP tool, however this is an optional approach that the City or the region can choose to undertake in parallel efforts to the prioritized actions that will be included in the CAAP and are in local control.

**6. The ASAP tool seems very accessible. Can the NRC look at the tool after it's populated with values?**

Yes, the ASAP tool with values inserted will be linked on the CAAP website. The City project management team and the consultant are working together to provide input into the ASAP tool.

**7. Is there a way to weigh the actions that have a multi-benefit score, in other words, how do we measure 'bang for the buck'?**

The ASAP tool gives a higher priority to actions that address both adaptation and mitigation. Beyond that, the tool does not provide 'answers' or sum up the scores in all areas. The reason for this is that the tool is meant to provide context for making decisions, not have automatic answers for actions to be selected.

**8. Can the City consider more than 25 CAAP prioritized actions in order to meet the goal of carbon neutrality by 2040?**

Yes, the number of prioritized actions selected is at the discretion of the project management team, and based on community priorities. Also note that all 100 draft actions that will be evaluated in the ASAP tool will be included in the CAAP; the approximately 25 actions identified as priorities will have more detail and analysis provided, and are considered to be the initial actions to be implemented. However, there will still be short-term and long-term actions within the 25 or so prioritized actions identified.

City of Davis is committed to updating the CAAP on a regular basis—most likely every five years, which will be included in the adopted CAAP document. Additionally, the GHG inventory, last completed in 2020 (as a Yolo County regional effort with baseline year 2016), can be updated annually or bi-annually to provide accurate monitoring and metrics of GHG emissions, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), energy use, waste generation and water consumption, etc. The CAAP project will include a ‘dashboard’ on the website, which will allow monitored metrics to be accessible. This will provide information on implementation and impact of the actions identified in the CAAP. If, based on the metrics, we are not trending in the desired direction toward community carbon neutrality by 2040, we can assess what actions need to be modified or added to reach the goal.

**9. When assessing feasibility, can we address precedent in other communities? We shouldn't dismiss ideas if we don't know if there are ways to address.**

The feasibility criteria allow for actions that require new policy in Davis, and therefore can address actions that have been completed in other communities.

**10. Who is weighing in on the rankings of the ASAP tool? Will we be able to see the long list of potential actions (the original list of up to 1,000), the 100 actions evaluated and the resulting prioritized actions?**

The city/consultant team are working together to provide input into the ASAP tool and we are reviewing the actions with the internal staff team. We are not having the community participate in developing criteria for the tool, however the information will be accessible and transparent. Community members and commissioners can view the ASAP tool on the website. We will be able to provide to the NRC the long list of +/-1,000 actions that were winnowed down to 100 actions to evaluate in the ASAP tool. The list of 100 actions (not all prioritized) and the top +/- 25 actions will all be included for discussion in the community outreach process between now and completion of the Draft CAAP, and will all be part of the CAAP. The Community Workshop to discuss these results is now scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 at 5 p.m.