

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:July 14, 2022From:Adrienne Etherton, Sustainability ManagerSubject:Climate Emergency Declaration - First Annual Report

Community Goal/Result

Ecological Sustainability - Brisbane will be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations that promote ecological sustainability

Purpose

To receive a presentation on the status of Climate Emergency goals and progress towards meeting them as directed by Resolution 2021-62.

Recommendation

Accept staff's report and provide input on priorities.

Background

On July 15, 2021 the City Council approved Resolution No. 2021-62 "Declaring a Climate Emergency and Initiating Immediate and Accelerated Action to Address the Climate Crisis and Limit Global Warming to 1.5 Degrees Celsius", also known as the Climate Emergency Declaration (hereinafter "Declaration" or "CED"). The Declaration established the City's ongoing commitment to address climate action and equity, and aspirational goals of 66% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040. It also directed staff to report annually to council on progress towards meeting these goals.

The "aspirational goals" in the CED were established based on a desire to be more ambitious than state targets, including achieving carbon neutrality 5 years prior to the California goal of 2045. The 2030 target was effectively pinpointed along a straight line from the latest (2017) emissions inventory to zero emissions in 2040. This effort did not include the rigorous emissions forecasting, selection of detailed climate measures and estimation of the impact of their implementation that would be part of a complete Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Declaration commits to undertaking such effort, which will proceed when data from the Baylands Specific Plan and its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are available to be incorporated.

Discussion

In preparation for this first annual report, staff engaged the countywide RICAPS (Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite) program's new consulting team, Rincon Consultants. Rincon's SPARQ (Scenario Planning And Reduction Quantification) tool provides high-level emissions forecasts and estimated reductions based on the most significant potential climate actions. This is not a substitute for the detailed planning required by a CAP, and the figures presented must be understood as rough estimates highly likely to change when that effort proceeds. However, SPARQ enables us to get a sense of the trajectory we are facing and what actions have the greatest impact towards bending the curve. In turn, the City can prioritize efforts that will make the greatest difference, and initiate measures that require long timelines before realizing benefits at scale.

The Open Space and Ecology Committee's CAP Subcommittee worked with staff and consultants to utilize the SPARQ tool and recommend targeted actions; staff will present those results which were also discussed with OSEC at their meeting on April 27.

Fiscal Impact

There is no impact from receiving the presentation. The presentation will propose unspecified future funds and staff resources to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Measure of Success

Direction on City Council priorities towards achieving climate goals.

Adrienne Etherton, Sustainability Manager

Randy Breault, Public Works Director

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