

Environmental Commission Accomplishments 2024 & Priorities 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 13, 2024



Agenda

- EC Powers and Duties
- Review CAAP 2022-2025 Plan
- Accomplishments
- EC Workplan 2025
 - Workplan items requiring staff and budget
 - Additional EC priorities **not** requiring staff and budget
 - EC Research items for 2026 workplan **not** requiring staff and budget
- Review and update CAAP actions and priorities
- Recommendations for Council



Powers & Duties of Environmental Commission

As designated by City Council in Chapter 2 of the Los Altos Municipal Code:

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as updates on any relevant environmental policy or programs
- B. Review and provide recommendations for the implementation of the CAAP, including prioritization of CAAP action items. Make annual recommendations for changes or updates to the plan;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council that affect the natural and built environment to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the council.



CAAP Recommended Actions for 2022 - 2025

TRANSPORTATION	ENERGY	RESOURCE CONSERVATION	MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS
Live Near Work/Work From Home policies adopted	Residential fuel switching program launched	Non-essential singleuse plastic ban adopted	Net Zero building standard for new buildings adopted
Parking Management Plan adopted	Solar requirements updated	Deconstruction ordinance passed for buildings	Energy audits of City buildings and facilities conducted
Transit Oriented Development requirements developed	Residential and commercial energy efficiency resources developed	Sustainability Speakers series launched	Sustainable employee commute guidelines developed/updated
Commercial Transportation Demand Management standards passed	City-led Task Force on methane gas fee or penalty formed and program implemented		Virtual City meeting program developed
Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment needs assessment completed	Plan in place to replace residential methane gas appliances upon burnout with electric ones		
Shared bike, ebike and scooter pilots launched			



CAAP Recommended Actions for 2022 - 2025

COMMUNITY	CLIMATE RISK	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	RESILIENT COMMUNITY
Building code updated to incentivize rainwater and greywater harvesting	Heat Risk mapped & studied, solutions identified	Heat Safety & Air Quality Protocols developed, implemented	Resilience Hubs identified and funded
City-wide Urban Forest Master Plan developed	City-wide flood risk re-assessed, capital investments identified	Wildfire warning and evacuation protocols updated	CERT updated to include response to climate hazards
		25% of new public drinking fountains/refillable water stations installed	Outreach and care strategy for vulnerable populations in place



A: Accomplishments 2024

Action	Goal	Status
Dark Skies Bird Safety (CAAP Item 2.1)	Increase residential and commercial building energy efficiency, reduce light pollution, and protect wildlife.	Research and public outreach done Ordinance being finalized To be presented to Council?
Single Use Plastics Ordinance (CAAP Item 3.1B)	Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion by eliminating non-essential single-use plastics.	Research and public outreach done Ordinance developed and presented to Council Adopted 11/29/2024
Accelerate Building Electrification (CAAP Item 2.1)	Reduce GHG emissions coming from residential and commercial buildings	List of proposals to accelerate electrification in the absence of REACH Codes presented to Council Budgeted to hire electrification partner for implementation
EV Fair (CAAP Item 1.4A)	Reduce air pollution through education and awareness of EV resources and incentive programs.	2nd Annual EV Fair held on 3/23/2024 Included EV display, ebike test ride, 10 organization booths Added building electrification resources Developed partnership with local groups to reduce staff burden



B: CAAP Implementation Workplan 2025

Focus Area	Goal	Action	Proposed Workplan
Transportation	A walkable and bikeable City	1.1 A	Collaborate with CSC and staff to prioritize CSMP projects that reduce VMT
		1.1 B	Develop guidelines and proposals to promote a "15 min city"
	Shared Mobility	1.3 A	Develop electric shuttle program as alternative to SOV
		1.3 D	Work with LASD and MVLA to reduce VMT
	Communitywide EV Adoption	1.4 A	Incentivize EV Adaption
		1.4 B	
Phaseout SOREs	1.6 A	Develop incentive programs to help replace gas powered landscape equipment	
Energy	Energy Conservation	2.1 A	Provide resources to support energy audits
		2.1 B	Develop actionable proposals to promote energy reduction
	Reduce Methane	2.3	Develop and implement outreach and incentivization plan



B: CAAP Implementation Workplan 2025

Focus Area	Goal	Action	Proposed Workplan
Green and Resilient Community	Green infrastructure Sequester carbon Water resilience Soil health Reduce flood risk	5.2 A B D 6.1 B C 6.2 A C 3.2 A	Develop a comprehensive Urban Forest and Ecosystem Restoration Masterplan
Adaptation	Resilience hubs Safety during extreme climate events	7.1A 7.2A 8.1A 8.3A	Partner with Resilient Los Altos, and community groups update alert systems, develop a resiliency Hub Map
	Protect vulnerable populations	8.1A 8.2A 8.3A	Develop Emergency plan, improve infrastructure Identify vulnerable population, update communication methods



B: Additional EC Activities 2025

Focus Area	Goal	Action	Proposed Commissioner Activity
Resource Conservation	Reduce Consumption and Waste	3.1 C	Develop proposal to require deconstruction instead of demolition for new construction and major remodels
	Sustainable food choices	3.3A	Partner with orgs and food facilities and restaurants to develop and promote sustainable food choice recommendations
Green Community	Green Infrastructure	5.1	Ban Artificial turf
	Lehigh Quarry Rehabilitation	5.2B	Monitor City of Cupertino plans and reclamation actions, research successful quarry reclamation projects



B: Recommendations for Updates to CAAP

Focus Area	Goal	Action	Proposed Commissioner Activity
Resource Conservation	Reduce Consumption and Waste	Add 3.1D	Add CAAP goal to reduce total waste (organic, recycle and landfill) by X%
Green Community	Green Infrastructure	Add 5.1C	Replace hardscape or artificial surface with permeable, green ones



B: Research and Prepare for 2026

Focus Area	Goal	Action	Proposed Workplan
Transportation	Shared Mobility	1.3	Research County and neighboring city activity, develop a list of proposals to work on in 2026 Collaborate with Planning Commission
	Smart Growth Strategies	1.2	
Energy	All electric new buildings and major retrofits	2.2	Proactively evaluate local cities actions and State building code updates Propose Smart Building incentives and standards Prepare for an electrification ordinance
	Energy Conservation	2.1	



C: Recommendations to Council

Focus Area	Goal	Proposed Commissioner Activity
Green Community	Tree City USA	Arbor Day celebration proposal + Application Submitted
CAAP Implementation	Assign budget for CAAP	Develop a multi year budget plan for CAAP Implementation
	Appoint a staff task force	Empower Sustainability coordinator to lead CAAP implementation improve awareness of city wide plans and projects Ensure CAAP guidelines are prioritized in all city plans and projects

