



Palo Alto's Climate Action Plan Summary of High Level Strategies

Palo Alto has a comprehensive Climate Action Plan to decarbonize our community by 80% by 2030. A set of high level climate-focused strategies forms the plan's backbone. This summary augments the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) [report](#) and is intended to be a concise statement of the strategies to be shared across the City Staff, Council, and the Community at large.

It's important that we all be on the same page with respect to this plan. All City departments should strive to align their priorities with this plan. Community alignment will be an ongoing challenge, but can only happen by developing a shared understanding.

Successful execution of the Climate Action Plan involves substantial and ongoing financial investments from both public and private entities and it's important to align these investments rather than have them work at cross purposes. To that end, it's crucial that the strategies below be broadly communicated to the public now and in forms that are suitable for timely general consumption. It's also essential to indicate that these strategies are not static and will evolve over time.

General Strategies. The City will:

- Steadily transition its current energy infrastructure to an all-electric infrastructure to meet our future transportation and building requirements. This transition will provide significant health and safety benefits while meeting our critical climate goals.
- Make system-wide investments to expand, modernize, and assure the capacity, reliability and resiliency of the in-city electricity infrastructure, including the use of distributed generation and storage.
- Focus on funding mechanisms that will leverage resources and on approaches that reduce the costs associated with this transition.
- Provide equitable solutions for low- and moderate-income community members.
- Encourage best practices for the deployment of all new electrical equipment by electric utility customers with a goal of reducing costs, and maintaining overall system reliability. This includes use of low-wattage appliances, smart technologies, and reducing grid demand during peak load periods.
- Focus on the use of electric rate design to encourage electrification.
- Pursue cost-effective strategies to achieve 24/7 carbon neutrality without the use of carbon offsets or renewable energy certificates.

Building Strategies. The City will:

- Focus on preventing the installation of new fossil fuel devices in residential and commercial buildings. The strategy is common sense, easy to communicate and needed, but is not alone sufficient to meet the city's 80/30 goal. It is a gradual process that will not overstress the grid while avoiding the installation of long-lived devices that would be difficult to replace in the future - i.e., it avoids stranded assets.
- Pursue replacing gas devices with highly-efficient electric devices based primarily on heat pump technology via a planned end-of-life replacement approach.

Transportation Strategies. The City will:

- Encourage the broad adoption of EVs and will assure access to charging equipment for all residents, workers, visitors, and commercial vehicles.
- Encourage best practices for EV charging to reduce grid stress, including optimal times to charge and low-amperage charging.
- Support and incentivize the increased use of transit, micro-mobility and other transportation demand management measures as attractive transportation alternatives that will also reduce congestion and parking demands.

