

sacramento | 2040

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PHASE 1 NEWSLETTER

Planning Today for Sacramento's Tomorrow



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Community members discussing what makes their neighborhoods special at the North Sacramento Community Plan Area meeting.

Welcome to the first Sacramento 2040 newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to share with you what the Sacramento 2040 team has accomplished since beginning the General Plan Update (GPU) and Climate Action Plan effort in March 2019.

Message from the Sacramento 2040 Team



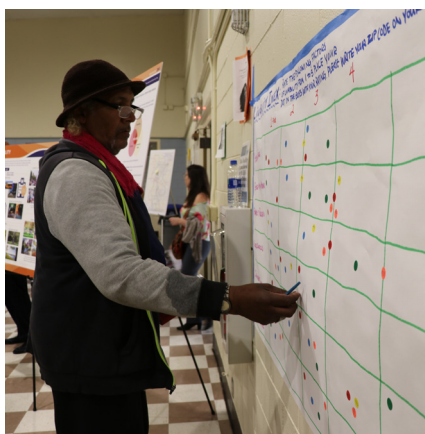
Remi Mendoza, City of Sacramento and Greg Sandlund, City of Sacramento discussing Sacramento 2040 with community members at citywide workshops.

In case you are new to Sacramento 2040 – or are just looking to refresh your memory – the General Plan Update will determine how and where Sacramento will grow over the next 20 years. It serves as the “constitution” for urban development and preservation in the city, and specifies locations for various land uses, transportation improvements, new parks and open spaces, and other public infrastructure.

The Sacramento 2040 team is also taking steps to combat climate change through

a Climate Action Plan. The plan will include a list of actionable steps that can be implemented over the next five years to make it possible for the City to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Before putting any pen to paper, the Sacramento 2040 team began the planning effort by listening to the community.

This newsletter recaps the first phase of the outreach process, which helped the team develop an understanding of existing conditions and identify issues and opportunities throughout the city.



Citywide Workshops

To kick off the planning process, the City hosted three citywide workshops, which helped to build awareness about Sacramento 2040 and launched a dialogue about ideas and visions for the city's future.



Environmental Justice Working Group

Environmental justice is a critical component of Sacramento 2040. The planning team convened an Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG), which includes more than 25 representatives from community-based organizations, public agencies and other participants who are working to achieve equity within our community. These key partners are working with the Sacramento 2040 team throughout the planning process. The team has held five EJWG meetings and two listening sessions to better understand how historic practices have placed a disproportionate environmental burden on low income and minority communities and ways to address these issues.



Youth Engagement

A 20-year planning horizon requires input from the community members who will inherit our future environment. The planning team developed and implemented a youth engagement program during the first phase of the planning to process. The program consisted of representatives between the ages of 15-20 years old who developed an [informational video](#) and [community questionnaire](#) about strategies to combat climate change. The findings from their successful community outreach program is helping inform the Climate Action Plan.

In addition to these outreach efforts, the Sacramento 2040 team also launched Meeting-in-a-Box, which gave every community member an opportunity to host their own meetings at a convenient time and location to share their ideas and proposals for the future of the city.

A series of pop-up workshops allowed the team to engage with hard-to-reach communities by going to local events in our neighborhoods, from a Movie Night & Resource Fair in Little Saigon to a Taste of North Sacramento in, you guessed it, North Sacramento.

Lastly, from June through August, the team held 10 Community Plan Area meetings to update the existing Community Plans, which will supplement the General Plan and address more specific, local issues and opportunities across the City's 10 community plan areas.

So what's next?

The community input gathered from these community engagement efforts helped to inform the plan's [Vision and Guiding Principles](#) and will be used to inform draft policies for Phase II of the project.

During the second phase of this process, the Sacramento 2040 team will be working with the community in developing the Plan's policies. Please stay tuned as we continue this effort!

From top to bottom: A family participating in a pop-up workshop at the HOPE Center's Health and Resource Fair; a community member's feedback for what they would like to see more of in Sacramento; a small group discussion at the Central City Community Plan Area meeting.





Clockwise from the top left: Local poet Khaya Osborne performing a spoken word piece as part of a Citywide Workshop presentation; children sharing what they like about Sacramento; Gladys Cornell with AIM Consulting facilitating a small group discussion at a Community Plan Area Meeting; and local artist Emilie Rudd engaging with citywide workshop attendees to create a mural representative of the community's visions for livability, climate change, mobility, and environmental justice.

Citywide Engagement for Citywide Planning

Planning for the future of Sacramento is no easy feat. Before creating policies that will help guide how the city will grow over the next 20 years, the Sacramento 2040 team had to first ask our community for their priorities and ideas for the future.

More than 340 community members participated in a citywide workshop series from April through May 2019. The workshop series took place in north, south, and central locations across Sacramento to build awareness and inform the whole Sacramento community about the General Plan Update. The Sacramento 2040 team hosted six stations at each workshop, centered on key elements of the General Plan including environmental justice, livability, mobility and climate change.

In addition to providing participants with specific technical data for each of these elements, the team asked participants to comment on community values, the vision for Sacramento's future, and critical issues and opportunities. This important feedback helped inform the Sacramento 2040 team as they developed the plan's [Vision Statement and Guiding Principles](#) (adopted by City Council on November 12th) which will provide a guiding framework for the development of draft policies.

What We Heard

The graphs on the following page provide a sample of the findings the Sacramento 2040 team received from workshop participants for each of the plan's key elements. A comprehensive summary of all feedback obtained through these workshops is available on the [plan website](#).

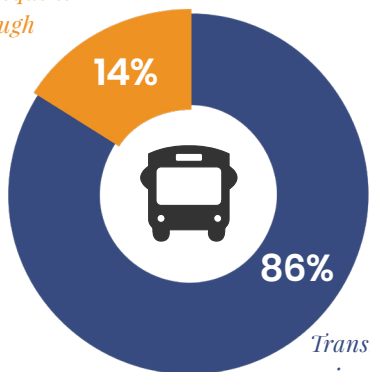
Garrett Perkins, local poet, performing a spoken word piece at the beginning of the first citywide workshop at the Hagginwood Community Center Auditorium.



Mobility

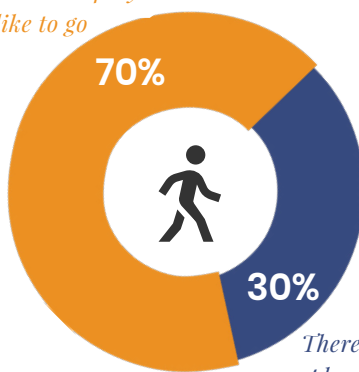
The team asked community members to rate their experiences taking transit, biking, and walking in Sacramento. Workshop participants consistently expressed a desire for better transit, safer bike lanes, and more walkability.

Transit service is frequent enough



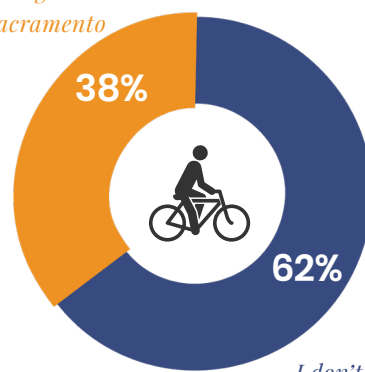
Transit service is not frequent enough

There are places in walking distance of my home where I like to go



There are no places in walking distance of my home where I like to go

I feel safe biking in Sacramento



I don't feel safe biking in Sacramento

Livability

Workshop participants were asked to share what they thought makes a community truly livable.

Their responses were diverse, but encapsulated several key themes including: a surrounding environment that feels healthy and is supportive of an active lifestyle; an engaged and supportive community spirit; easy access to key shops, jobs, and services so that car trips are largely unnecessary; a wide variety of public venues and event options that appeal or offer services to all members of the community; and a sense of safety and security.

an environment that feels healthy

ample access to a variety of public spaces suitable for residents of all ages

a sense of safety and security

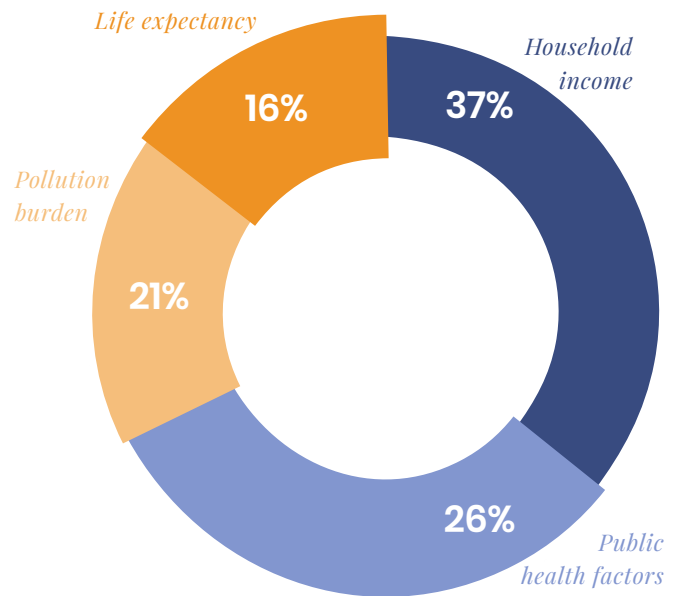
living among neighbors who are friendly, supportive, and take pride in their community

a community where walking and biking is easy

Environmental Justice

The Sacramento 2040 team also asked workshop participants what they saw as the most significant disparities between neighborhoods in Sacramento.

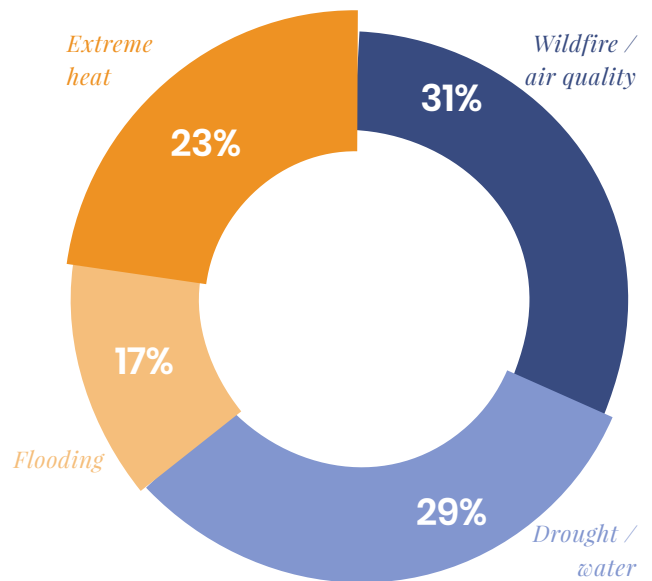
In addition to income, public health, pollution, and life expectancy, participants noted disparities with access to fresh, healthy food, access to jobs and educational opportunities, quality public transit options and walkability, and relationships between the community and local police.



Climate Change

The team asked community members to share what their biggest concern is regarding climate change impacts in the city.

Workshop participants showed a strong, pressing concern about climate change and a desire for the City to take action on climate; only one resident in all of the Citywide workshops expressed “no concern” about climate change impacts.



Putting Pen to Paper

The City is currently developing draft policies for the General Plan Update based upon the input received at these citywide workshops and other engagement opportunities throughout the first phase of outreach – in addition to technical analysis and best practices in urban planning.

Join us for the second phase of outreach beginning in early 2020!

For the Future: Youth Engagement Program

To plan for the future, the City of Sacramento needs to hear from those who will be inheriting it.

From July through September 2019, the Sacramento 2040 team implemented a Youth Engagement Program with five youth ambassadors from La Familia Counseling Center, Green Tech Education and Employment, and Asian Resources, Inc. (ARI). The program was designed to educate the youth ambassadors about climate change and its impacts, and provide them with the tools and mentorship to develop and implement their own outreach program focused on potential climate change solutions.

The Sacramento 2040 team launched the program with a two-day kick-off. On the first day, Ryan Gardner, a Climate Action Program Manager at Rincon Consultants and the lead consultant for the General Plan's Climate Action Plan, gave a presentation about the science of climate change, the leading contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, and potential solutions. The ambassadors also learned about public engagement from Gladys Cornell, President of AIM Consulting and Outreach Manager for the General Plan Update. On the second day, the youth ambassadors met with Sacramento 2040 team members to brainstorm and develop a strategic outreach plan that would help them engage in discussions around climate change with other Sacramento youth and community members. Following the kick-off meetings, the ambassadors jumped into action.



Youth ambassadors brainstorming their project.



Video interview training with the youth ambassadors.



Youth ambassadors interviewing Ryan Gardner, Rincon Consultants.

After receiving training from the Sacramento 2040 public outreach team, the five youth ambassadors filmed, edited, and produced an [informational video](#) designed to educate their peers on the issues and solutions around climate change. The video features interviews with Sacramento elected officials and subject matter experts including:

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
City of Sacramento

Councilmember Jay Schenirer
City of Sacramento, District 5

Jose Bodipo-Memba
*Director of Sustainable
Communities at SMUD*

Ryan Moore, Interim Director
City of Sacramento Public Works

Jennifer Donlon-Wyant
*Transportation Planning Manager
City of Sacramento Public Works*

Ryan Gardener
*Environmental Project Manager at
Rincon Consultants*

Paul Trudeau
*Program Manager
Green Tech Education & Employment*



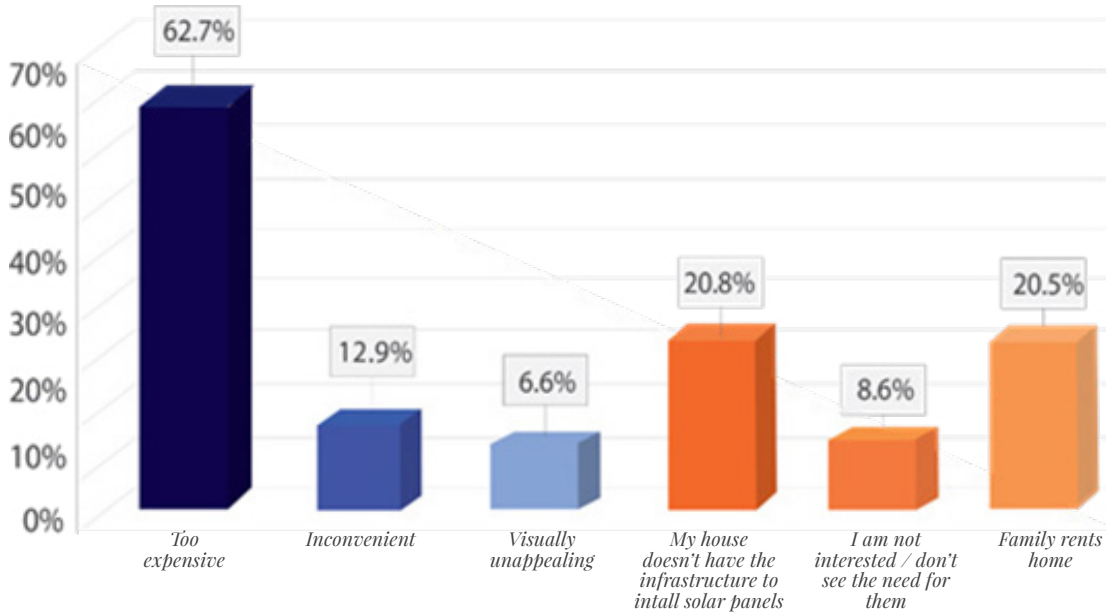
From left to right:
An informational flier the youth ambassadors developed to spread the word about their online questionnaire; Mayor Darrell Steinberg's interview in the informational video.

In conjunction with the informational video, the ambassadors developed an online questionnaire to obtain informed input from their peers and community about what keeps them – and other Sacramento residents – from choosing more environment friendly mobility and energy alternatives.

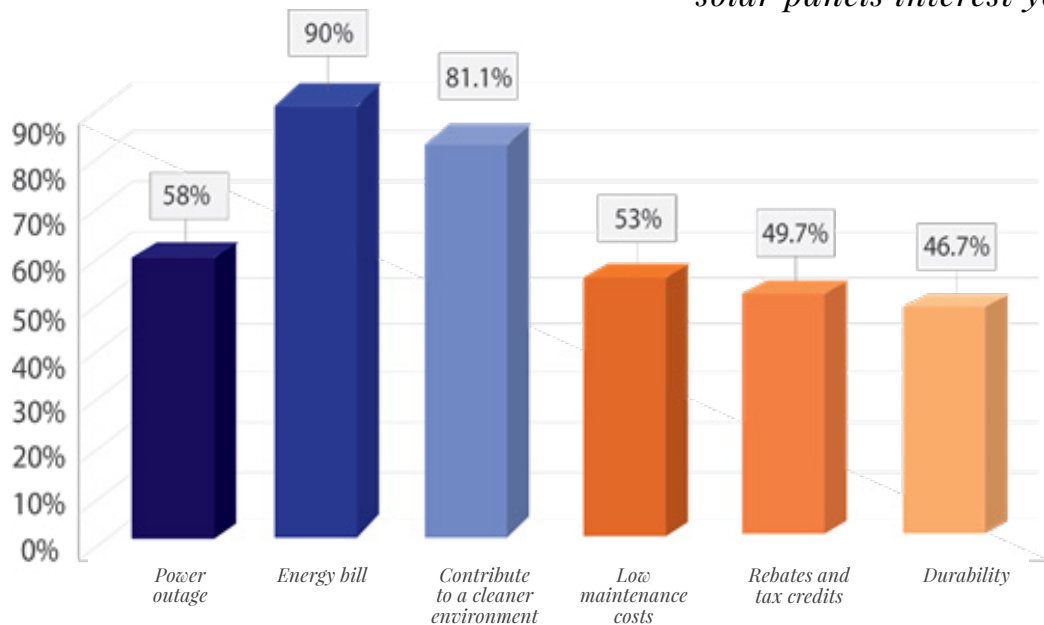
The questionnaire garnered more than 300 responses from community members over the course of two weeks. The youth ambassadors compiled all their findings into a [comprehensive report](#), and this input will go on to inform the creation of the 2040 Climate Action Plan.

Below are some key findings as a result of the questionnaire. A full report of all the responses to the questionnaire is available on the [General Plan website](#).

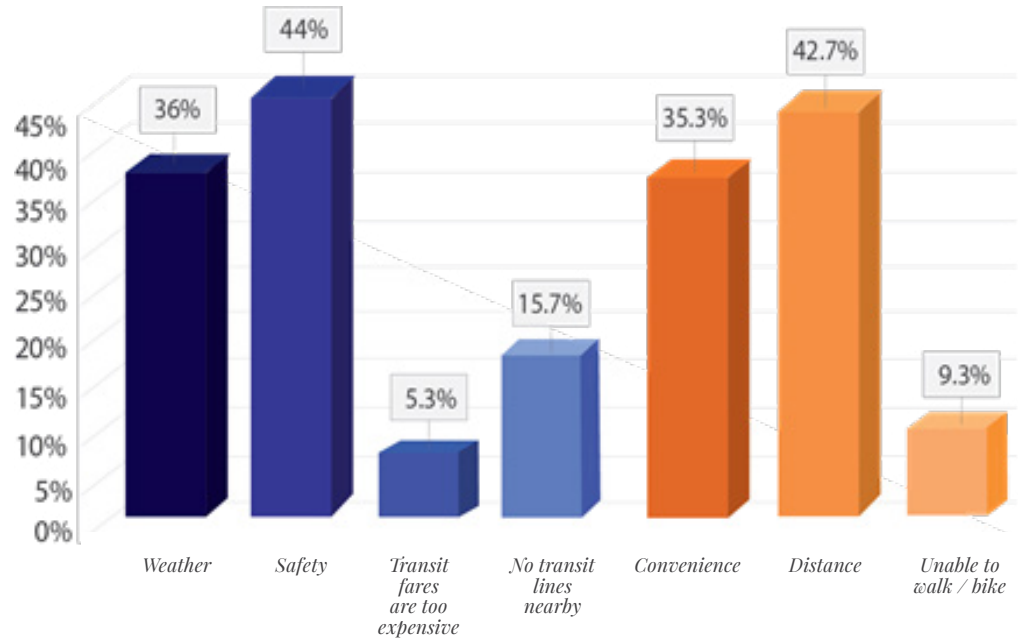
What keeps you from installing solar panels or switching to electric appliances in your home?"



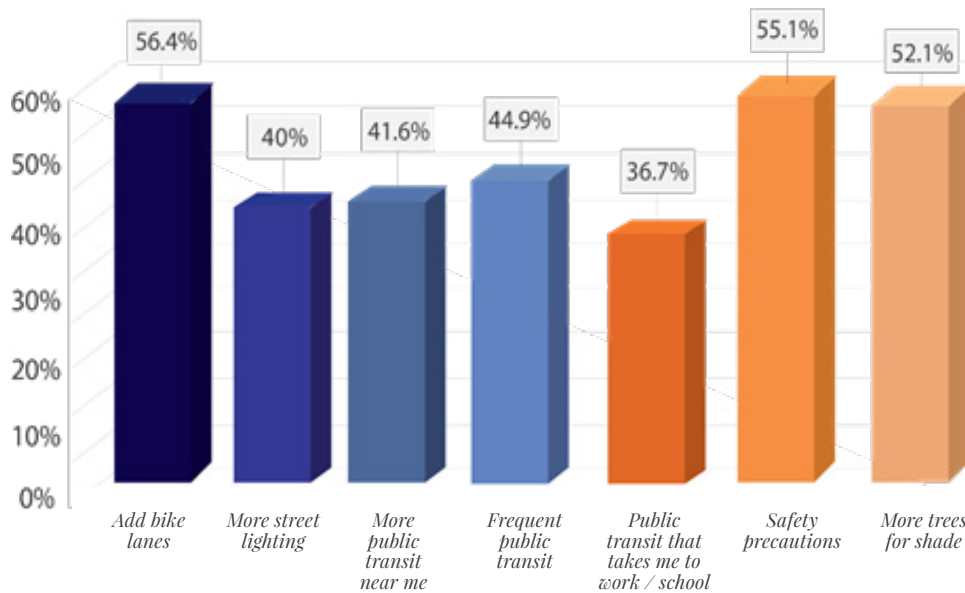
Which of the following benefits of having solar panels interest you?



What keeps you from riding your bike, walking, or taking public transit to work / school?



How can the City make it easier to bike, walk, and take public transit?



The General Plan Update team is proud to have worked with such dedicated young leaders who have both helped their community and improved their future.

Planning for Healthy Communities



Community members participating in a City of Sacramento listening session.

Did you know? In Sacramento, areas with the highest concentration of low-income families are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, they experience higher rates of health-related issues.

Sacramento is not alone in this regard; across the state of California, cities and counties have been tasked with addressing the disproportionate environmental burden placed on their most marginalized communities.

The Sacramento 2040 team is taking a large step towards addressing these historic injustices, by being the first major California city to develop a new Environmental Justice Element which will be incorporated in the City's General Plan Update.

Environmental Justice Working Group

To help inform the plan, in March 2019 the team established an Environmental Justice Working Group tasked with advising on outreach and policy response to underserved communities in order to promote equity and public health. The EJ Working Group has since met four times to develop a common understanding of environmental justice and the City's role; provide their input on the plan's community outreach approach and strategies regarding equity and Environmental Justice; and discuss identified Disadvantaged Community Areas throughout the city and the factors that went into defining them as such.

“Doing Environmental Justice”

The Sacramento 2040 team recognizes that they are not the only public agency in the state tasked with incorporating a prioritization of equity into their planning efforts. In July, the team held a “Doing Environmental Justice” Design Thinking workshop to facilitate a discussion on what this effort might look like from a regional perspective.

More than 20 equity and environmental justice advocates, agency representatives, and local community partners met for a day of environmental justice education. The workshop included a panel discussion with the California Environmental Justice Alliance, the California Department of Justice, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Environmental Health Coalition and two local Environmental Justice advocates. The panel identified shared language around equity, authentic community engagement practices, clarity in prioritization efforts, and opportunities to align with partner agencies.

At the conclusion of the event, workshop participants agreed in a large group discussion that there is a deep desire, and opportunity, for all involved to find a collaborative process that will allow for a more comprehensive approach to how the city lifts up the most disadvantaged communities.

This shared perspective can serve as an environmental justice lens for the Sacramento 2040 team to use as it assesses draft General Plan policies and continues to engage communities in an equitable manner.



Taking Action on Climate Change

Sacramento is serious about addressing climate change. That's why the Sacramento 2040 team has embarked on not one, but two significant climate action projects.

Mayor's Commission on Climate Change

The mayors of Sacramento and West Sacramento have convened the [Mayors' Commission on Climate Change](#). The Commission is tasked with developing a common vision and set of priority strategies for the two cities to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045. Led by retired CalPERS chief Anne Stausboll, the Commission includes a diverse set of 19 public agency, business, and community leaders committed to making the vision a reality.

A keystone to the Mayors' Commission efforts has been soliciting suggestions in an extensive community and stakeholder engagement process, which began in November 2018. The Sacramento 2040 team has been an active participant in this process, which has included four public meetings and several Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) focused on mobility, the built environment, finance, and community health & resiliency.

The Commission will issue its final Recommendations Report in Spring 2020, which will outline the high-level strategies required for the two cities to reach carbon neutrality. You can learn more about Sacramento's vision for a carbon neutral future on the Mayors' Climate Commission [website](#).



Climate Action Plan

While it's critical to have vision and policies on climate change, it's even more important to take action. That's why the Sacramento 2040 team is building upon the Mayors' Commission to update the 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Through the CAP process, the Sacramento 2040 team will refine the Commission's strategies into a plan of actionable steps that can be implemented over the next five years. For example, a CAP can provide incentives to make electric vehicles more affordable, build bike lanes to make bicycling a more accessible and safe mode of transportation, ban natural gas infrastructure in new buildings, or provide composting services to multifamily homes. It is these types of steps that will help Sacramento achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and continue to be a sustainable place to live.

Information regarding the CAP update will be available online on the General Plan Update [webpage](#), including details regarding future community engagement events.



Matt Hertel, City of Sacramento, and a citywide workshop participant at the Oak Park Community Center.

Where There's a Vision, There's a Way

When it comes to the Sacramento 2040 General Plan Update (GPU), its vision and guiding principles are anything but general.

The policies contained in the GPU will position the City to capitalize on opportunities and respond to challenges over the next two decades. These policies are not developed in a bubble, though – they are drafted based upon a set of Vision and Guiding Principles.

From transportation to housing, jobs, public safety, and climate change – you name the topic, and there's most likely a guiding principle for it.

So how do these guiding principles get developed?

Public input obtained through the extensive first phase of outreach in 2019 reaffirmed many major themes that came up in the previous General Plan Update. Overall, six key themes emerged:

- Sustainable and Responsible Growth;
- Resiliency and Climate Action;
- Safe, Equitable and Inclusive;
- Regional Economic Hub;
- Livability and Sense of Place; and
- An Interconnected and Accessible City.

This feedback helped the Sacramento 2040 team develop a [Vision Statement and Guiding Principles](#) document.

The team is currently developing and evaluating options and strategies with a Guiding Principles “lens” to incorporate into the General Plan and Climate Action Plan.

For example, if a guiding principle is to reduce greenhouse gases, then you can expect to see future policies that encourage solar energy and land uses that support walking and biking.

Turning Visions into Reality

These draft options and strategies will be presented to the public through a second phase of outreach beginning March 2020.

Stay tuned to see how you can continue to be involved through another series of citywide workshops, community plan area meetings, and more!



Community members discussing their neighborhood's future mobility needs.



Greta Soos, City of Sacramento, helping a community member provide input



Nguyen Nguyen, City of Sacramento, with a Community Plan Area meeting participant.

Thank you for being an active part of our city's future.



Community members participating in pop-up workshops across Sacramento.