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DATE: February 8, 2024

TO: Transit Advisory Committee

FROM: Heather Gurewitz, Senior Planner, Community Development  
Christina Paul, Principal Planner, Community Development

SUBJECT: Presentation on the City of Petaluma Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality

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**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Transit Advisory Committee receive a presentation and provide feedback on the draft Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the City of Petaluma officially recognized a Climate Emergency and formed a Climate Action Commission with the aim of guiding the city towards climate neutrality. Throughout 2020, the commission, in collaboration with city staff, crafted the Climate Emergency Framework (CEF). This framework, endorsed by the Petaluma City Council on January 11, 2021, outlines the city's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2030. It not only presents a vision for Petaluma's future but also establishes fundamental values to steer the city's initiatives in climate planning.

In 2020, the City of Petaluma also launched a General Plan Update, designed to include the development of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Through a competitive Request for Proposal and selection process, Raimi and Associates emerged as the primary consultant for both the General Plan Update and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Recognizing the urgent timeline for achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, the City opted to expedite the creation of a standalone document known as the "Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality" to address greenhouse gas reduction. This precedes the comprehensive General Plan update. The formulation of climate adaptation and resiliency policies and actions are being integrated into the broader General Plan through the applicable policy frameworks which will be available for public review in Spring of 2024.

As the designated advisory board with a climate focus, the CAC has played a crucial role in the development of the Blueprint. CAC ad-hoc committees provided feedback on each of the action plan areas to support the drafting of the Blueprint and will be providing feedback on the public draft for incorporation into a final draft. The CAC will deliberate and make a formal recommendation to the City Council for adoption. The preliminary version of the Blueprint was shared with the Climate Action Commission (CAC) during their meeting on October 12th, offering a comprehensive overview and eliciting initial questions and comments. An Ad-hoc committee was formed to conduct an in-depth review of the plan and to make recommendations to the CAC. The CAC has met to begin reviewing Ad-hoc recommendations and feedback from community groups while other City of Petaluma Committees, Commissions, and Boards (CCBs) have also been reviewing the plan to provide feedback. These include the Recreation, Music, and Parks Committee, Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Tree Advisory Committee.

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the Blueprint for Climate Neutrality is to provide a roadmap for how the City can become carbon neutral by 2030. This includes an ambitious action plan that can be enacted by the City, and also requires a change in the activities and behaviors of the community to be effective. The City of Petaluma's 2018 Greenhouse Gas Emissions were 472,422 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>). The majority (67%) of these emissions are generated by on-road transportation. An additional 24% of emissions are the result of energy (usage).

To reduce emissions, the Blueprint includes seven action plans to address Clean Energy, Buildings, Transportation and Land Use, Resource Consumption, Water, Sequestration, and Municipal Operations. While some actions will result in a more significant reduction than others, all actions are necessary to reduce emissions to the greatest extent feasible. For example, community members and the City purchasing clean energy, electrifying existing buildings, and vehicle electrification will result in the largest reductions in carbon emissions. However, some of these strategies are also the highest in cost, including the electrification of existing buildings and vehicle electrification.

The Blueprint includes strategies specific to Transportation and Land Use including the following:

- *Transportation and Land Use Coordination* - Land use describes the human use of the land. In Petaluma, there are dozens of different types of uses, including housing, parks, shopping, and schools. Land use and neighborhood design impact where people travel, how far people go, and by what vehicle mode, e.g. driving, walking, biking, or taking transit, they make their trips. Compact, mixed-use neighborhoods that offer housing to a range of income levels, support street connectivity, and facilitate high-quality transit access encourage non-auto travel to meet daily needs. Through the City's General Plan and Zoning Code, Petaluma will make sustainable land use practices the norm.
- *Transportation Demand Management* - Transportation demand management (TDM) and parking management seek to reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and shift trips

to walking, biking, scooting, rideshare, and transit. TDM manages transportation resources through pricing, incentives, services, marketing, and other techniques. A key element of a comprehensive trip-reduction strategy is parking management. Strategies like parking maximums, unbundling, and shared parking reduce parking demand, minimize vehicle trips, optimize use of the parking supply, and support walkable neighborhoods. Robust TDM and parking management programs represent some of the largest opportunities to reduce transportation-related emissions in Petaluma and will be implemented the City's General Plan and Zoning Code.

- *Parking Management* - Dynamic parking management often limits the amount of parking available, creating scarcity, and adding inconvenience to trips made by SOVs, thus disincentivizing driving. Reducing the convenience of driving results in a shift to other modes and decreased VMT. Strategies like parking maximums, unbundling or selling/leasing parking spaces separate from the lease of the residential property, and shared parking reduce parking demand, minimize vehicle trips, optimize use of the parking supply, and support walkable neighborhoods. Many of these interventions require updates to the zoning code.
- *Active Transportation and Complete Streets* - Foundational to meeting the City's carbon neutral target is to redesign the City's streets around people rather than vehicles. TDM and parking management programs to shift travel mode from single-occupancy vehicle trips must be accompanied by improvements to the active transportation system that promote the safety and comfort of all individuals. With upgrades to the active transportation network and transit services, such as with new protected bike facilities or Petaluma Transit services, Petaluma will become a community with comfortable, inviting spaces for biking and walking and frequent transit service within a short distance.
- *Transit Service* - Robust regional and local transit service is critical to serving the needs of workers, residents, and visitors in Petaluma. The city is served by the Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART), Sonoma County Transit, Golden Gate Transit, and Petaluma Transit. To reduce the number of overall vehicle trips, there must be an increase in transit service. Future expansion, including the SMART Corona Road Station, and investment in transit and shuttle service must be coordinated with complete street design improvements. Priority for transit on key streets, and strategies for coordination between transit agencies and other travel modes will improve connectivity and access for passengers using transit services.
- *Vehicle Electrification and Electric Mobility* - In conjunction with policies that discourage people from driving, active transportation infrastructure, and transit service improvements, achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 will also require a rapid transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) that run on clean energy provided by Sonoma Clean Power. By 2030, all miles driven in Petaluma need to be zero emission. State policy requires all light-duty vehicles sold in California to be ZEV starting in 2035 and in 2045 for mid- and heavy-duty vehicles. Petaluma will invest in expanding the network of charging infrastructure to promote the transition to zero-emission vehicles and continue transitioning the City's fleet to zero-emission vehicles.

- *ZEV Fleet and Bus Strategy (Municipal Operations Plan)* - Petaluma Transit already has a study and plan from 2019 to convert the bus fleet to electric, develop charging infrastructure, and increase electrical capacity. Currently, all Petaluma Transit vehicles are identified to be replaced with zero-emission vehicles by approximately 2035. Advancing this transition to occur by 2030 will require additional funding and resources. The Petaluma Transit yard (555. N. McDowell Blvd) also requires significant infrastructure upgrades and the installation of multiple high-capacity chargers to accommodate a battery-electric fleet. This strategy includes actions for the City fleet (which will be managed by a Fleet Manager)<sup>41</sup> and the buses (which are under the jurisdiction of Petaluma Transit) to become fully zero-emission.

As part of the public outreach effort, City staff are requesting feedback from Petaluma’s Commissions, Committees, and Boards (CCBs). While some members of the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) may have provided independent feedback through the public comment period, the TAC may wish to provide formal comments as a committee.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The development of the Climate Neutrality Blueprint is the outcome of collaborative endeavors involving Petaluma community members, the Climate Action Commission and other Committees and Commissions, City staff, and consultants. Aligned with the Climate Emergency Framework, the Blueprint is designed to advance the framework's implementation. The Climate Action Commission, through extensive community engagement, played a pivotal role in drafting the Climate Emergency Framework, and this valuable input has significantly shaped the Blueprint. Additionally, ad hoc committees of the Climate Action Commission were solicited to review and offer feedback on early draft sections relevant to their respective focuses.

To ensure community awareness and participation throughout the release, review, and revision phases leading to adoption, the City is adopting a multifaceted approach. This strategy encompasses various outreach initiatives, from the pre-release phase to the proposed public outreach during adoption. This includes the following outreach efforts up to the release of the public draft and including proposed public outreach through adoption:

- **May 2021:** Initiated process with CAC, discussed General Plan integration, and reviewed approach
- **November 2021:** Overview presentation on climate hazards. Discussed climate hazard mitigation and adaptation strategies
- **January 2022:** Overview presentation of community inventory and forecast, municipal inventory, emissions reduction pathways, and draft GHG reduction measures
- **September 2022:** Received “Theory of Change” diagrams from Ad Hoc Committee with their priorities and recommended actions for buildings, natural systems, transportation, and consumption
- **March 2023:** 5 meetings with CAC Ad Hoc Committees to discuss comments and priorities on the GHG Action Plans

- **October 2, 2023:** All community newsletter email with release announcement that the Blueprint will soon be published
- **October 4, 2023:** Boosted social media post and email that contains a link to the feedback form
- **October 10, 2023:** Social media post to remind the community about the feedback form and to attend the open house/CAC meeting on October 12th
- **October 12, 2023:** Community Open House, CAC meeting; reminder to submit feedback through the community update
- **October 23, 2023:** Planned email reminder about the opportunity to provide feedback in the community newsletter
- **October 28, 2023:** Feedback form to close
- **December 5, 2023:** Community Feedback Complete
- **December 7, 2023:** Community newsletter inviting the public to attend the December CAC meeting to recommend the approval of the final draft
- **December 11, 2023:** Social media post to remind community to attend the December CAC meeting
- **December 14, 2023:** CAC members will give their individual feedback to the Ad Hoc
- **January 11, 2024:** CAC Ad Hoc Review Period Closes, CAC discusses comments
- **January 17, 2024:** Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission Review and Feedback
- **February 7, 2024:** Tree Advisory Committee Review and Feedback
- **February 8, 2024:** Transit Advisory Committee
- **February 8, 2024:** CAC Workshop to discuss feedback and recommend edits
- **February 27, 2024:** Planning Commission workshop to provide feedback on the draft Blueprint

The following dates are subject to change:

- **March-May 2024:** Climate Action Commission, Planning Commission and City Council hearings on the Final Draft Blueprint

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

As a workshop item this is not subject to environmental review at this time because no decision is being made. Prior to action to adopt the Blueprint for Climate Neutrality, staff will prepare a recommended CEQA determination in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration by the decision-making body.

## **CITYWIDE GOALS & PRIORITIES**

The proposed actions within the Blueprint support the following FY 21 through FY 23 City Council Goals and Priorities:

- **Goal 46:** Establish and promote a citywide sustainability program leading with exemplary environmental practices.
- **Goal 47:** Adopt a Zero Waste ordinance.
- **Goal 56:** Update Implementing Zoning Ordinance (IZO) to ensure ability to provide full environmental review for all discretionary projects.

- **Goal 60:** Adopt a citywide single-use plastic and polystyrene ban.
- **Goal 64:** Create tool / dashboard that tracks City progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration.
- **Goal 66:** Educate our community and provide sustainability tools for City staff, developers, employers, property owners and all residents.
- **Goal 191:** Develop an initial outreach and engagement plan that the city funds as part of resourcing and educating Petalumans, including outreach campaigns and events to increase knowledge of energy efficiency and building electrification benefits and ensure that local energy providers or businesses that sell home energy equipment provide up-to-date and climate-smart options
- **Goal 193:** Identify funds to support Storm Water program and infrastructure
- **Goal 194:** Adopt a VMT policy that is consistent with the 2030 carbon neutrality goal. In order to meet these targets, prepare policy recommendations for rapidly implementing alternative clean, safe, accessible, and affordable and active and public transportation modes to meet the rising community need for climate-friendly transportation.
- **Goal 196:** Update the City's Integrated Pest Management Plan and formalize a policy of how the City maintains its parks, trails, open spaces, streetscape, creeks, landscape assessment districts, and other City's properties in a more sustainable way that is better for the environment, the community, and the health of the public and staff.
- **Goal 203:** Impose a moratorium on City purchases of fossil fuel powered vehicles, power equipment, and appliances, with limited exceptions for emergency vehicles and equipment where no low climate pollution causing alternatives are reasonably available.

- **Goal 206:** Develop an assessment of climate change impacts by neighborhood and demographic group to assess where and for whom environmental justice and equity work needs to be focused.
- **Goal 42:** Find ways for City operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, decrease waste, and minimize use of fossil fuels and investigate and pursue options for carbon sequestration.
- **Goal 49:** Install solar panels on city-owned properties where appropriate and work with Sonoma Clean Power on a solar program for potential revenue generation.
- **Goal 50:** Engage the Regional Climate Protection Agency, City Council, staff, and community members in the development of a city-wide Climate Action Plan.
- **Goal 52:** Develop a framework to move the city and transit vehicle fleet from fossil-fuel based to hybrid, renewable compressed natural gas, and/or electric vehicles and continue pursuing grant funding opportunities for electric vehicles.
- **Goal 71:** Revisit flood plain management practices to address climate change and sea level rise.
- **Goal 192:** Ensure equitable new development, including affordable housing and shelters, by revising the General Plan, building and development codes, and other relevant City policies to apply climate-action equity priorities fairly across the board.
- **Goal 197:** Inform and invite local California Native peoples into our ongoing dialogue as part of cultivating respectful and collaborative relationships with indigenous communities with the intention to understand, highlight, and integrate their community needs, climate action priorities, and ecological insight and values into our climate actions
- **Goal 200:** Use the Climate Emergency Framework as a foundation for the new General Plan update, including all guiding principles.
- **Goal 201:** Integrate climate action, environmental justice and public health improvements throughout the General Plan document and include elements and/or extensive discussion (including community and expert discussion) and metrics for Environmental Justice, Climate and Healthy Communities so that all planning and land use related CEF goals and objectives are fully developed and embodied in the General Plan. As part of the General Plan process develop and adopt a Climate Action Plan that contains the actions the City shall take and ask the community to undertake over the life of the General Plan towards meeting the CEF goals. Ensure equitable new development by revising building and development codes, and other relevant City policies to apply climate-action equity priorities fairly across the board concurrently or in advance of the General Plan update process.
- **Goal 204:** Evaluate the process to divest from all fossil-fuel investments including pension funds and the costs/benefits of developing a new carbon neutral and green economy investment portfolio.
- **Goal 207:** Adopt a natural gas ban for new construction and adopt a policy to phase in building energy retrofits for existing buildings to meet climate targets. Provide resources

and programs to ensure retrofits are available and affordable to low-income residents and do not cause rent increases for tenants over and above monthly savings on utility bills from the upgrades and include tenant protections to avoid displacement and eviction.

The proposed actions within this plan support the following FY 23/24 City Council Top Ten Goals and Priorities:

- Citywide Electrification Plan
- Pest Management Plan
- Tree Preservation Ordinance

### **CLIMATE ACTION/ SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**

The Blueprint for Climate Neutrality sets forth a plan of action for the city and municipality of Petaluma to work towards climate neutrality through greenhouse gas emission reductions. Additional aspects of citywide sustainability and climate resilience will be addressed as part of the ongoing General Plan update process.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A. NONE

Note: Please visit: <https://www.planpetaluma.org/blueprint-for-carbon-neutrality> to view the complete Blue Print for Carbon Neutrality.

[https://www.planpetaluma.org/s/PGPU\\_PubDraft\\_2023\\_0929.pdf](https://www.planpetaluma.org/s/PGPU_PubDraft_2023_0929.pdf)