



## E-Newsletter – May 1, 2018

Interested parties,

The City of Escondido is updating its Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will consist of strategies intended to guide efforts for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). As part of the update process, the City created a e-newsletter to provide timely and informative news about the planning process so that residents, businesses, and community members would know more about project and how to be involved.

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT PLANNING PROCESS**

The State of California has recognized the critical role that regional and local governments play in meeting statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and preparing communities for the impacts of climate change. Local governments also are assessing their community-wide GHG emissions and working on Climate Action Plans (CAPs) or other strategies to reduce emissions. Local CAPs complement California's efforts for reducing GHG emissions. CAPs are utilized to establish policies and programs to reduce GHG emissions from municipal, commercial and residential sectors with specific measures focused on transportation, energy and buildings, waste management, land use, and water conservation.

SANDAG is a Council of Governments (COG) and a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that prepares a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) every four years to outline how the region will meet the targets mandated by the state for reducing GHG emissions from light duty vehicles. SANDAG also provides technical assistance to SANDAG member agencies, such as cities in the region and the County of San Diego. The City of Escondido adopted its CAP in 2013, and was one of the first group of cities in the region to do so. Because a lot has happened since then, the City is undertaking an effort to update its CAP, in collaboration with SANDAG, Ascent Environmental Inc., and EPIC. These services are free to the City, and were made available through SANDAG's Local Government Partnership with SDG&E.

SANDAG's role on the City of Escondido's CAP update is to help facilitate project management and align technical assistance and resources, which includes consultative services from Ascent Environmental Inc. and EPIC. SANDAG' on-call consultant, Ascent Environmental Inc., will help

the City with plan preparation. EPIC is a non-profit academic and research center that provides GHG inventory and climate planning assistance to local jurisdictions in the San Diego region.

Through a multi-stakeholder process, the City will update the existing CAP with updated descriptions of the policies and measures that the City will use to reduce GHG emissions. The updated CAP will include a timeline, a description of potential financing mechanisms, and an assignment of responsibility to departments and staff. In addition to direct GHG reduction measures, the updated CAP will also incorporate public awareness and education efforts. Adoption of the updated CAP will require City Council approval. It is anticipated that the CAP update work program will take 12 months to complete.

### **WHAT'S GENERALLY INSIDE A CAP**

Although many cities and counties have already taken action to address climate change, CAPs address climate change in different ways. That is, cities and counties plan differently. Most CAPs include an introduction to the document, outline the scope and structure of the plan, and establish the purpose for developing a CAP. Like most cities in the region, the City of Escondido will use a five-step process for climate action planning that was modeled after guidance from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). ICLEI's recommended five-step process for climate action planning is summarized as follows, offering a flexible framework that can accommodate varying levels of analysis and effort:

- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory:** Inventory of local GHG emissions, forecasts of future GHG emissions, and target setting for GHG emissions reductions. The inventory and forecasts provide a benchmark against which the City can measure progress.
- **Establish an emissions reduction target and identify reduction measures:** Climate action plans build upon the information gathered by greenhouse gas inventories and generally focus on those activities that can achieve the relatively greatest emission reductions in the most cost effective manner. It's important to note that greenhouse gas reduction goes hand-in-hand with a growing and inclusive economy. Specific emissions reduction strategies are developed that estimate reductions across sectors such as energy, transportation, solid waste, and land use.
- **Develop a CAP and Adaptation Strategies:** Additional strategies planning to respond to potential climate impacts based on the best available science and as appropriate for the jurisdiction.
- **Implementation Program:** These plans typically involve setting GHG emission reduction goals and adopting implementation measures to achieve those goals. An implementation program includes assignment of responsibility, timelines, costs, and financing mechanisms to plan for implementation of reduction strategies. The City will implement

the policies and measures contained in the CAP after the CAP has been adopted by the City Council.

- Monitoring and Evaluation: Develops metrics and indicators to measure progress over time, evaluates the effectiveness of the CAP, and illustrates accountability to stakeholders.

### **WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW**

The City developed a draft Community Outreach Plan (Outreach Plan) to summarize the strategies that are anticipated to be used to engage the public and other interested parties in the preparation of the updated CAP. The draft Outreach Plan summarizes goals and guiding principles for public engagement and outreach, followed by summaries of the specific outreach methods that will be used during the CAP process. The draft Outreach Plan can be viewed online at the following link:

[https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/PDFs/Planning/ClimateActionPlan/CAPUpdate/CommunityOutreachPlan\\_Draft\\_04.25.18.pdf](https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/media/PDFs/Planning/ClimateActionPlan/CAPUpdate/CommunityOutreachPlan_Draft_04.25.18.pdf)

**The tools and strategies set forth in this draft Outreach Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission at their meeting on May 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm.** The primary purpose of this meeting is to help kick-off the overall work program and inform the Planning Commission about the planning process. As part of the kick-off, a similar presentation will be made to the City Council, at future meeting in June. At that point, the Outreach Plan will be finalized and future reference to the Outreach Plan will be made through the City's Project website.

### **STAY INFORMED**

Visit the City's Project website at <https://www.escondido.org/climate-action-plan-documents.aspx> for more information about the CAP update process. This is an online source to review all project related documents as they become available.

For all project related questions, please contact Mike Strong, Assistant Planning Director, at [mstrong@escondido.org](mailto:mstrong@escondido.org)