

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

October 2020 Update on San Mateo County's Climate Action Plan

The following is an update on the SMC Community Climate Action Plan, which sets goals and strategies to reduce the emissions that cause climate change. Thank you for your interest in and support for the project so far. Below we'll share information about:

- Connections between climate change and the recent wildfires
- Upcoming opportunities for you to get involved
- A summary of public feedback so far
- Next steps for the project

Climate Change & Wildfire

Recent wildfires have devastated our Coastside communities, and climate change makes events like these worse. Many of our residents have directly suffered the impacts of wildfire: homes and historic buildings have been lost, resource conservation projects have been destroyed, and some are still evacuated from their neighborhoods. Poor air quality continues to pose major challenges for everyone, especially children, seniors and people with underlying health concerns such as respiratory and cardiac issues.

The risk of wildfire has become a reality for our residents and for communities across the Western states. According to CalFire, California has experienced a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of wildfires with eight of the largest wildfires since 2000. The SCU Lightning Complex, LNU Lightning Complex, and August Complex have already claimed the 2nd, 3rd and 4th spots respectively for the largest wildfires in California.

Greater wildfire risk can be attributed to several key factors associated with climate change. Warming temperatures, specifically in the spring and summer seasons, along with increased water evaporation from soils, leads to the reduction of moisture in living plants and trees plus dead fuel sources for fires as they brown over the summer. In addition, with California experiencing droughts more frequently, water scarcity weakens trees and increases the likelihood they'll succumb to bark beetle infestation and become dry fuel. These factors contribute to the increased fuel loads that make forested areas more likely to catch fire and burn hotter.

Climate change is a present reality, but we can still work together to reduce pollution and build a better future for everyone. If you haven't already please join us at an upcoming community workshop or take our survey to share your input and shape this important plan.

Upcoming Opportunities

Join us at a workshop to share your ideas and priorities. Your input will directly inform plans that will shape our future.

SMC & Half Moon Bay
(English y Español)

OCTOBER 15, 2020 | 6 PM

Youth Climate Ambassadors & Heirs to Our Oceans (English)

OCTOBER 17, 2020 | 6 PM

Senior Coastsiders (English)

OCTOBER 21, 2020 | 4 PM

ALAS (en Español)

OCTOBER 22 | 6 PM

OCTOBER 29 | 6PM

Sustainable Pescadero

OCTOBER 27 | 7PM

[REGISTER](#)

<https://bit.ly/CoastClimateAction>

Can't attend but still want to share your input? Please scan this QR code and [take our survey!](#)

(also linked [here](#))





What we heard from you...

Even though COVID significantly challenged our plans for doing in-person outreach, since February 2020, we managed to reach more than 220 residents on the Bayside (focusing on unincorporated areas) through online workshops, surveys and pop up events. We learned that residents are most concerned with:

- A lack of public transportation options (which exacerbates traffic)
- Affordable housing
- Climate change effects such as heat, sea level rise, wildfire, and extreme weather events

Residents would like to see an overall improvement of public transit infrastructure and accessibility, safe spaces for bicyclists and pedestrians, and improved access to low cost electric vehicles and charging stations. When we discussed transportation, electrification, and renewable energy, residents spoke of how important it is, now more than ever, to create more vibrant and equitable communities that reinforce individual and collective mental and physical health. Community members also articulated the opportunities we have in making investments in local "green" jobs that benefit local workers, and creating programs right here in San Mateo County that will improve our capacity to reduce waste.

We are grateful for residents who were able to spend the time filling out a survey and tuning in to a workshop. This is such valuable feedback for the Plan team and we will incorporate it directly into the measures and narrative.

Interested in getting involved? Check out topical programs & resources below.

PCE's Power On Peninsula (free or low-cost battery back-up power):
www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/pop/

SMC Active Transportation Plan:
<https://walkbikesmc.org/>

Energy and water efficiency programs (free take-home kits!):
www.smcsustainability.org/energy-water/programs/

Workshops at the Sustainability Academy (learning and volunteering opportunities):
www.smcsustainability.org/sustainability-academy/

Waste Reduction Resources and Hotline:
<https://www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/>

What happens next with the Plan...

Timeline / Process Overview



SPRING 2019

SPRING 2021

We're excited to kick off the next round of community engagement on October 15 in partnership with the City of Half Moon Bay, ALAS, Senior Coastsiders, Heirs to Our Oceans, the Youth Climate Ambassadors, and Puente. What an amazing group! If you live on the Coastside, please join us at an upcoming workshop (offered in English and Spanish) or take our survey (listed on page 1 on the right).

After we integrate feedback into the measures, we will:

- Complete a Plan draft for internal staff & County review ~ January 2021
- Make Draft Plan available for public review - February 2021 (we'll send another announcement out letting you know when it's ready)
- Reach final Plan adoption ~ April 2021

As always, check out [our website](#) to stay up to date. Thank you for reading! :)

