

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

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A bold vision for Sacramento and West Sacramento: carbon zero by 2045

The Mayors' Commission on Climate Change finalizes its recommendations to Sacramento and West Sacramento mayors for achieving carbon zero by 2045

SACRAMENTO - The Mayors' Commission on Climate Change unanimously adopted [a report to achieve carbon zero by 2045 in Sacramento and West Sacramento](#) at its final meeting on Monday. The Commission, which launched November 2018, engaged hundreds of technical experts, community members, business leaders, and youth to inform its recommendations.

Recognizing the urgent need to address climate change and prepare for its impacts, Sacramento Mayor Steinberg and West Sacramento Mayor Cabaldon launched the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change to inform the cities' climate action plan updates. The Commission was composed of nineteen local and regional leaders representing public agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, and academia. After 18 months of deliberations, the Commission adopted its final report that details recommendations for achieving carbon zero in the two cities.

"The actions proposed in this report are ambitious," said Anne Stausboll, Chair of the Commission. "Meaningful implementation will require bold city leadership, as well as broad engagement and support from business and civic leaders. The unanimous vote for the report reflects a strong cross-sector commitment by government, business, non-profits, community leaders, and academic institutions to address climate change in a meaningful way."

To guide the cities in ensuring equitable outcomes and avoiding unintended harm to marginalized communities, the Commission's recommendations include a set of strategies focused on operationalizing equity, inclusively engaging marginalized communities, and expanding the capacity of cultural brokers. These equity recommendations, along with the Commission's foundational principles of urgency, advocacy, accountability, education, and financial and economic sustainability, are intended to underpin all of the Commission's recommendations.

"It was important that the Commission adopt an equity imperative to ensure that the communities that bear the greatest burden of the effects of climate change be given priority," said Commissioner Stephanie Bray, President and CEO of United Way California Capital Region. "Our hope is that this imperative will guide the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento as they develop implementation plans based on the recommendations in the report."

The carbon zero strategies recommended by the Commission bring together both technical and practical solutions to reduce emissions and enable communities to participate in the cities' transition to a carbon-free economy.

The Commission prioritized strategies to achieve deep reductions in GHG emissions, including clean mobility measures such as electrifying vehicles and significantly increasing trips by bike, walking, transit and shared mobility.

"The gasoline-powered transportation sector is the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in our region and the adopted report recognizes the urgent need to reduce emissions while promoting our shared goals for equitable mobility and sustainable communities," said Commissioner and SacRT GM/CEO Henry Li. "SacRT is a committed partner and will work diligently to increase transit and shared mobility mode share, while reducing our region's dependence on single occupancy vehicles."

The Commission also prioritized electrification of buildings, denser land use, expanding green space and tree canopies, enhancing food security through sourcing locally and reducing food waste and building networks to increase community adaptation to climate change extremes.

"The recommendations in the Mayors' Climate Commission Report represent an important step towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all our neighborhoods," said Arlen Orchard, CEO of Sacramento Municipal Utility District. "I am especially pleased that the Report lays out impactful strategies for building and transportation electrification and increased tree canopies while ensuring that no community is left behind in the process."

To build momentum and maintain community engagement around these strategies, it is critical for the cities to pursue pilots and initiatives that demonstrate tangible results. As such, the Commission's recommendations include a set of near-term projects that can be started in the first year of implementation.

The Commissioners also recognize the significant challenges both cities have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent severe economic implications. Many members of the Commission made their own commitments at Monday's meeting to help move the region towards a carbon zero future, which include commitments from key regional agencies such as [Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District](#), [Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#), [Sacramento Regional Transit](#), and [Sacramento Area Council of Governments](#).

The Mayors' Commission on Climate Change was administered by the [Local Government Commission](#), a Sacramento-based nonprofit organization focused on cultivating local leadership and building livable communities throughout California, and sponsored by the City of Sacramento, [Resources Legacy Fund](#), [Ford Foundation](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [NextGen Policy](#), [Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District](#), [Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#), [Sacramento Regional Transit](#), [Parkwest Casinos](#), and [Western Dental & Orthodontics](#).

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