



# City of Sebastopol Climate Action Framework

Community Meeting  
February 2nd, 2022 6 - 7:30pm

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming to the kickoff meeting for Sebastopol's Climate Action Framework. My name is Phoebe Goulden and I'm Sebastopol's CivicSpark Fellow leading the development of the Framework with the City's Climate Action Committee. We're joined tonight by Mayor Slayter, Councilmember Gurney, Planning Director Kari Svanstrom, and several members of the Climate Action Committee who will be helping facilitate tonight: co-chairs Josho Somine and Kenna Lee, Dena Allen, Woody Hastings, and Lisa Pierce. Thank you all for being here and supporting this initiative.



## Agenda

- 6:00 pm - 6:05 pm Welcome!
- 6:05 pm - 6:30 pm Introducing the Climate Action Framework
- 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Share Your Climate Concerns and Priorities
- 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Next Steps and Closeout

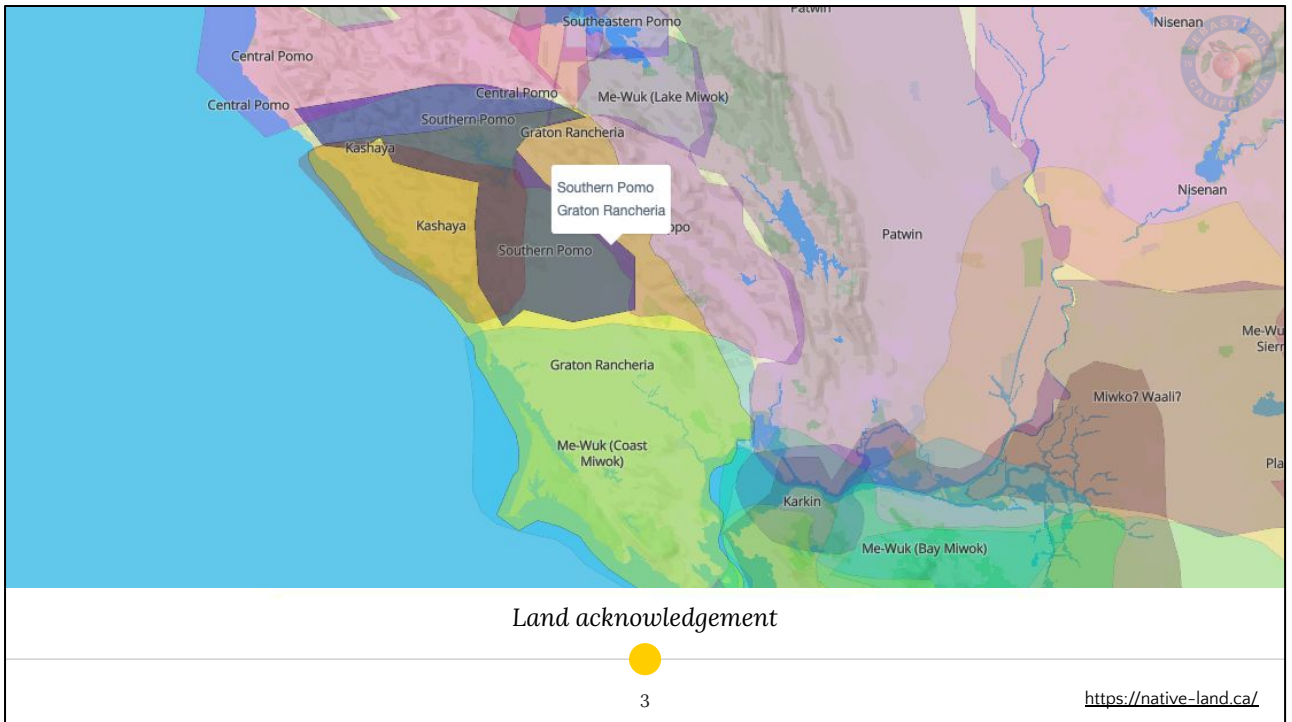
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To give you an idea of the schedule for this evening, we'll start with a presentation giving some background for the Framework, have a brief Q&A to answer any questions you might have, and then move into breakout rooms where the Committee members here will help facilitate a conversation about your climate concerns and priorities, which is really the goal for this evening - to hear from you all. After the breakout rooms, we'll come back as a whole group to share some next steps and we'll probably wrap up a little before 7:30, depending on how much discussion there is.

We really hope you can stay for the whole time, but if you do need to leave early, the meeting recording and slides will be posted on the City website after the meeting and you can share your input through the survey, which I'll put in the chat now.

Are there any questions before we get started?

Survey: <https://bit.ly/Seb-ClimateSurvey>



I'll turn it over to Woody to start us off with a land acknowledgement:

The town of Sebastopol is located midway between the north boundary of historical Coast Miwok territory and the southern edge of Southern Pomo territory. These native groups lost their homelands during the process of European colonization in North America, and have worked continuously for centuries to protect and restore their language, cultural and political identities, and territory. We acknowledge that our community is built on unceded ancestral lands of these native people. Their needs, priorities, and insights are essential to climate action planning.



# Introducing the Climate Action Framework



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Thank you Woody. So let's get in to why Sebastopol is developing a Climate Action Framework.



## Sebastopol values its community and natural environment

Sebastopol**READY**  
neighbors helping neighbors



The Framework is building on the many actions that Sebastopol has taken in the past to protect the health and well being of community members and the environment. This includes:

- In 2013, being the second city in nation to require solar on new buildings, reducing its dependence on polluting fossil fuels
- Also in 2013, Sebastopol was the third Sonoma County City to join Sonoma Clean Power, our locally-controlled electricity provider that provides significantly greener energy than PG&E.
- Sebastopol debuted first electric bus in Sonoma County in 2018 and subsidizes that bus route to promote public transit.
- And most recently Sebastopol was first city in Bay Area to enroll in the Water Upgrades Save program from the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), which helps customers switch to more water efficient equipment while reducing bills. This is important because we're in a drought, and also because pumping, treating, and heating water uses 20 percent of electricity and 30 percent of natural gas demand in California.

And plenty of other actions that have reduced emissions and made Sebastopol a healthier place to live.



Photo credits: Josh Edelson, AFP Via Getty Images and Beth Schlanker, The Press Democrat

These actions are really important because we know what alternative looks like. Sebastopol is already experiencing some of the impacts of climate change. On one hand we have a longer and more intense fire season, bringing evacuations, public safety power shutoffs, and poor air quality. As well as the other extreme, heavy rain events causing flooding and property damage. While events like these have occurred historically in the area, they're becoming more frequent, more intense, less predictable with the changing climate.



## Climate Impacts in Sebastopol



Hotter temperatures



Longer and more frequent droughts



Greater frequency and intensity of wildfires



Bigger and more frequent floods

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When we talk about climate change, we're talking about these long-term shifts in the average weather pattern that are driven by human emissions from burning fossil fuels. In addition to wildfire and flood impacts, the other main changes that are projected to worsen in Sebastopol if we don't act now are:

- Hotter temperatures, leading to increased heat related illness & death, and strain on the electric grid causing power shutoffs.
- Longer and more frequent droughts, leading to higher prices for water and food, and possible depletion of groundwater resources.

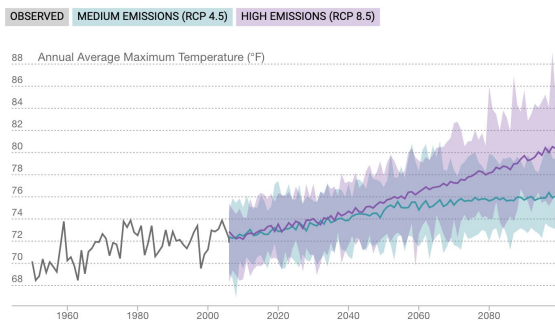
These changes have drastic impacts for human health, are massively expensive, and they are changing the natural ecosystems we depend on to provide us with clean air and water.

Sources: Sebastopol Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and RCPA 2014 [Climate Ready Sonoma County](#)

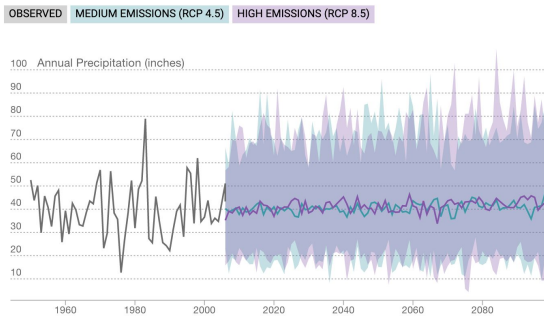


# Climate predictions for Sebastopol

## Temperature



## Precipitation



<https://cal-adapt.org/tools/local-climate-change-snapshot/> 8

While we're already starting to experience many of these changes, our actions now can have a big impact to reduce their severity. That's particularly clear in this graph of predicted annual average maximum temperatures, where there could be up to a 10 degree difference in average maximum temperatures between medium (aqua) and high emission (purple) scenarios. The average yearly rainfall in Sebastopol is likely to remain about the same, but in higher emission scenarios we can expect to see greater year-to-year variations in precipitation, with wet years becoming wetter and dry years becoming drier. Since we know our current emissions will determine our future climate, let's take a look at what the main sources of emissions in Sebastopol are.





## Emissions in Sebastopol

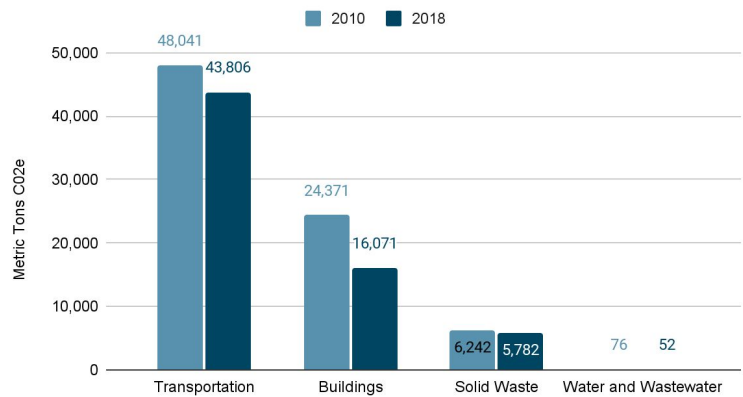


#1 Transportation



#2 Buildings

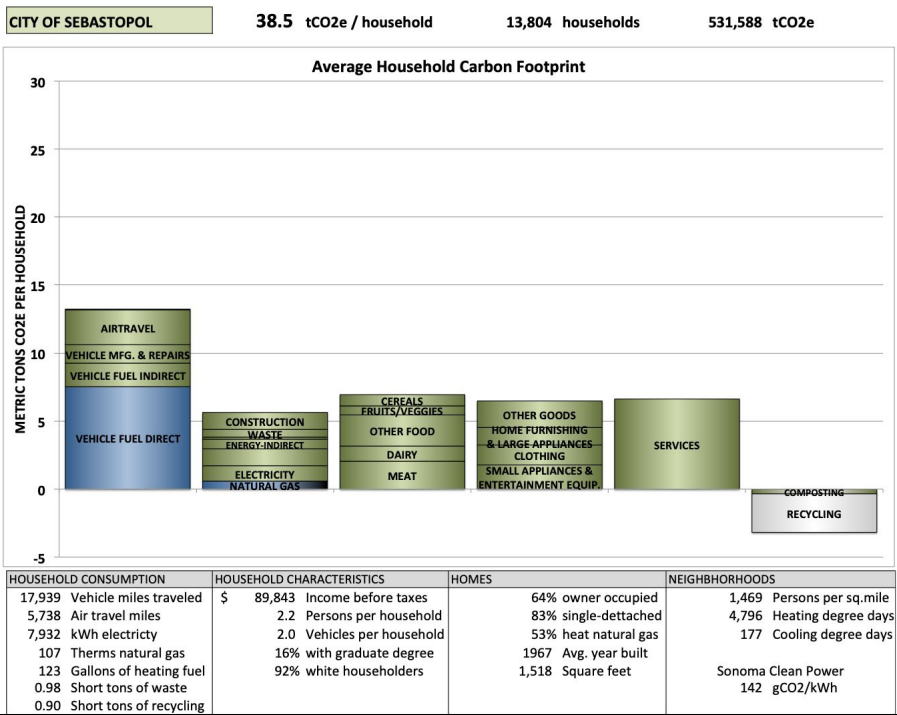
Sebastopol Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Source: RCPA 9

About 2/3 of Sebastopol's emissions come from transportation, mostly driving gas-powered cars. Another quarter of emissions comes from building energy use, primarily from gas water and home-heating systems, as well as gas stoves and other appliances. Since 1990, Sebastopol has reduced its overall emissions by about 8%.

This graph shows an activity, or sector-based, inventory that captures the largest sources of emissions within Sebastopol that can most easily be reduced through local government action.



Source: CoolClimate Network 2015 10

Another way of looking at GHG emissions is what's called a consumption-based inventory. This type of inventory looks at emissions at the household level, and it is usually higher than the activity-based inventory because it captures more sources of emissions. Looking at this chart, which shows the average carbon footprint of a Sebastopol household, you again see that transportation is the largest source of emissions, like we saw on the previous slide. However, this image also includes emissions from food choices and the goods and services you purchase. This consumption-based inventory yields a total emission calculation nearly 2x higher than the activity-based inventory: about 126,000 (125,625) metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent compared to 66,000 (65,711) metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in the activity based inventory. [Note: In 2018 there were 3,263 households in Sebastopol, not 13,804 as the graphic states].

The reason that many local governments focus on the activity based inventory I showed previously is that many of the sources of emissions listed here are harder for local governments to reduce. For example, the City doesn't have the authority to regulate air travel, or residents food choices. So reducing many of these emissions requires individual actions, and many Sebastopol residents are already making more sustainable choices. We know this because this study by a group at UC Berkeley found that the average California household emits 45.7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, compared to 38.5 tons per average Sebastopol household. This means that Sebastopol residents are already successfully reducing emissions. And as we saw previously the City as a whole has already reduced its emissions, so we know it's possible - we just need to do more and faster.



## December 3, 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution

## January 7, 2020 Climate Action Committee created

### Resolution Number 6274-2019

#### CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND COMMITTING TO ON-GOING ACTIONS TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

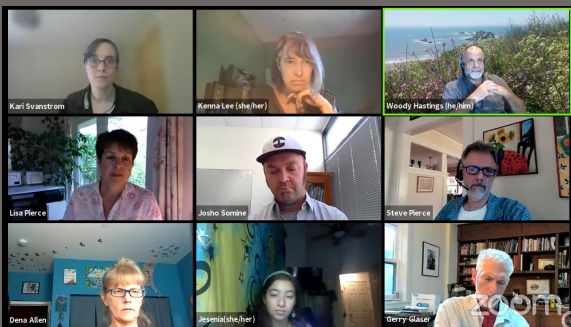
WHEREAS, all the nations of the world have signed the 2015 Paris Agreement which has a stated objective of "...keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5° Celsius;" and

WHEREAS, in October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the largest collaborative, consensus-based effort among the world's scientific community, released a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C2, stating that "Human activities are estimated to have [already] caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;" and

WHEREAS an increase in global average surface temperatures results in numerous secondary effects, including: rapidly rising sea levels, decreased snowpack, accelerating melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, accelerated melting of Arctic permafrost, increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, etc., increasing incidence and intensity of wildfires, spread of diseases, and more; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C states that the nations of the world must limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial averages in order to maintain environmental conditions on earth that are compatible with life as it has evolved; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C states that in order to have a 2-in 3 chance of limiting global warming to 1.5° C, our remaining 'carbon budget' is equal to 10 years of current greenhouse gas emissions; and

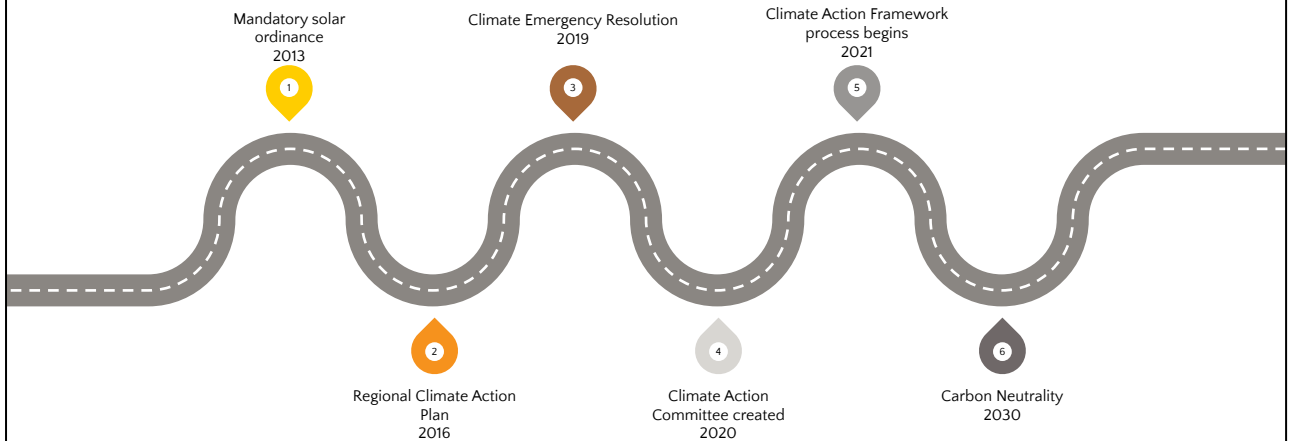


- 13 members from various backgrounds
- Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays on Zoom

The City of Sebastopol has recognized the need to act. In December 2019 the City Council adopted a Resolution declaring a climate emergency and committing to ongoing actions to restore a safe environment, including setting the goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2030. Following that resolution, the City Council created the Climate Action Committee to carry forward these climate efforts, which began meeting Jan. 2021. The Committee is made up of 13 members of the Sebastopol community, many of whom are here tonight, who volunteer their time twice a month or more to advise the City Council on climate issues.

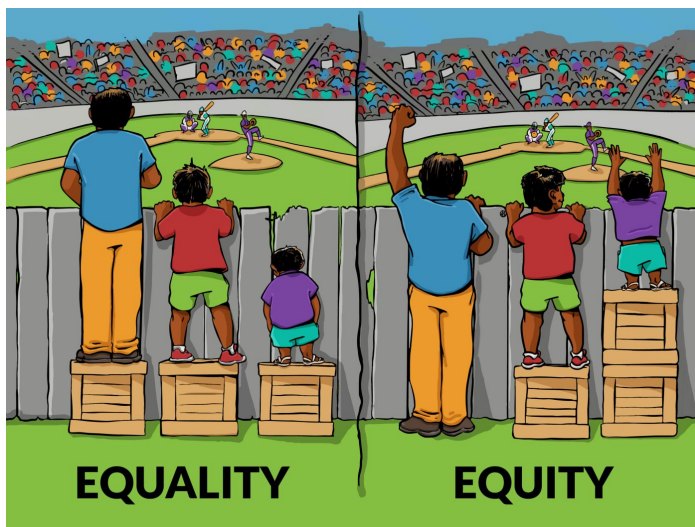


## The Climate Action Framework will be a Roadmap



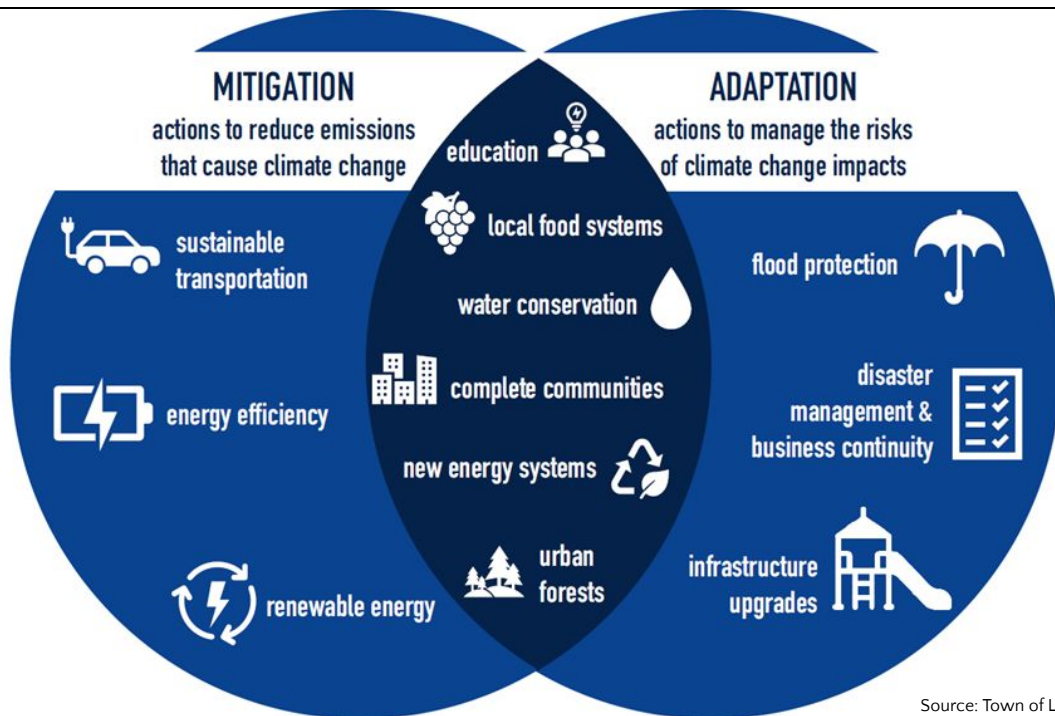
The Climate Action Framework is next step in addressing climate emergency. The goal of framework is to identify equitable, effective, and affordable climate policies that the City can adopt to reach carbon neutrality and prepare for climate impacts that City is already beginning to experience. For those who aren't familiar with the term, carbon neutrality means reducing our use of fossil fuels to the point where plants and trees can absorb all the greenhouse gases we emit, resulting in net zero emissions. The Framework will set the path to carbon neutrality by 2030 while preparing for climate impacts that can't be avoided. In addition to determining actions the City can take, it's also a call to action for the whole community, because we need everyone to participate in order to get there, as we saw looking at those household level emissions.

## Centering equity



Source: [interactioninstitute.org](http://interactioninstitute.org),  
[madewithangus.com](http://madewithangus.com) 13

Importantly, we want to approach this process by putting equity first. This means recognizing that historically underserved communities are already experiencing a disproportionately higher impact from climate disruptions and have fewer resources available with which to address those impacts. Those least capable of bearing the burdens of climate impacts should not be expected to pay the same costs as those more able to absorb the burden. There is a moral imperative to prioritize actions and policies that promote social, racial, environmental, economic, disability, and public health justice.



Source: Town of Lincoln

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To get a little more specific about what might be included in the framework, here are two general categories. The Framework will include mitigation strategies, which are actions to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, as well as adaptation strategies, or actions that help us manage the impacts of climate change, like increased flooding and wildfires. Some example mitigation strategies that the City might consider are:

- An electric reach code to require use of efficient electric appliances in buildings instead of natural gas.
- Supporting public transportation and more electric vehicle charging stations to reduce emissions from driving.

Some example adaptation strategies:

- Prioritize building in areas that aren't prone to fire/flooding.
- Preparing existing infrastructure for impacts.

There's plenty of overlap between these two categories. For example,

- Education is important for both reducing emissions and preparing for climate impacts.
- Urban forests are an example of sequestration: trees and plants breathe in CO<sub>2</sub>, so prevent it from going into atmosphere. They also provide shade, which helps cool the City and keep us safe from extreme heat impacts.



## Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy

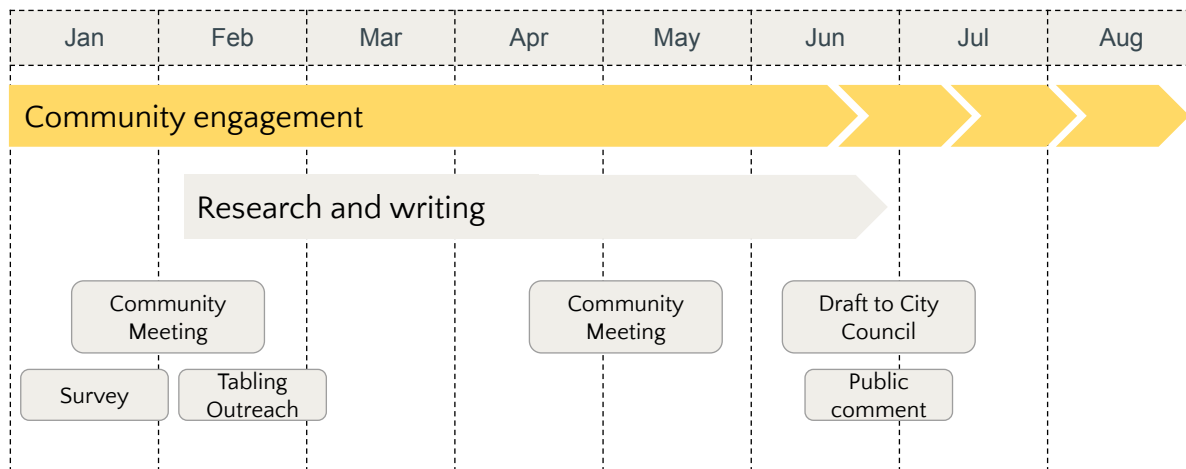
Initiative	Sector	Strategy
Decarbonization	Building Energy	1. All-Electric Buildings Campaign 2. Carbon-Free Electricity
	Transportation	3. Drive Less Sonoma County Campaign 4. EV Access for All Partnership 5. Sonoma County Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Bank
	Solid Waste	6. Zero Waste by 2030
Sequestration and Ecosystem Services		7. Protect Existing Carbon Stocks 8. Increase Carbon Stocks 9. Scale Up Infrastructure for Sequestration
Resilience and Adaptation		10. Energy Grid for the Future 11. Climate Resilient Sonoma County
Equity and Community Engagement		12. Engage, Educate, and Empower for Equitable Climate Action 13. Equity and Climate in All Policies

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I want to emphasize that we have great models and resources out there. Sonoma County has a Regional Climate Protection Authority, the RCPA, which has mapped out a path to reduce emissions called the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, summary shown here. There are also many other cities and organizations working on climate action, with lots of great policies and solutions that we can consider. We aren't starting from scratch in the Framework process, we're being resourceful and focusing on prioritizing actions that Sebastopol can take.



## Timeline



That is where you all come in: we want to hear from you about how you think Sebastopol should approach the climate emergency. The Framework development process is going to be unfolding over the next 7 months or so. It's launching today with your input, as I mentioned we also have a survey out to get input that way and we've been tabling at the Farmers Market. We'll be using all that input to set priorities for the research and drafting of the Framework, with the goal of having a draft this summer to share with you all.





# Share Your Climate Concerns and Priorities

Any **questions?**



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Next we will move into breakout rooms to hear from you all about what's most important to you. First, are there any questions about anything I've covered so far?

Survey link: <https://bit.ly/Seb-ClimateSurvey>



## What is your vision for a carbon neutral, resilient Sebastopol?

- What climate change impacts are you facing or most concerned about?
- How do you think we should prepare for these climate change impacts?
- What do you think the City and/or residents should do to reduce our emissions?
- How can we make sure that all Sebastopol community members are included in and benefit from these efforts?

So now we're going to move into breakout rooms to discuss these questions. There will be a Climate Action Committee member in each room to help facilitate the conversation. We're going to be using a tool called Jamboard to capture your thoughts - it's a digital version of a board with sticky notes. I'll give a brief demo. Don't worry if you're not able to use it, the Committee member in your room will take notes for you if you can't get it to work. We'll come back to main room in about 30 minutes, feel free to come back earlier if your group finishes sooner.



# Next Steps and Closeout





## Opportunities to get more involved



Share project information and take the survey



Sign up to receive project updates and event information



Host a presentation



Attend Climate Action Committee meetings

Again, thank you all for coming tonight, we hope you'll share about the Framework with your friends and neighbors to help get more people involved. Take the survey and share it with your networks as well. Sign up for the City Newsletter if you have not already or follow City on Facebook to receive project updates. If you're part of an organization or group that interested in learning more about the Framework, you can contact the Committee for a presentation. There will be regular updates on the Framework process at Climate Action Committee meetings, which are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:30pm via Zoom. If you are signed up for our email list, we'll send you updates when there's a specific topic up for discussion by the Committee. All of this information is also on the web page for the Framework, which I'll put in the chat now, so you can also keep checking back there for updates.

Framework web page: <https://bit.ly/ClimateActionFramework>

Survey: <https://bit.ly/Seb-ClimateSurvey>



## Actions you can take now

- Drive less
- Switch to an electric vehicle
- Consider heat pump technology for your next water heater or HVAC system
- Choose electric appliances
- Upgrade to EverGreen
- Rethink your waste: compost, reuse, reduce

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Finally, I want to leave you with some personal actions that you can take to reduce your emissions and resources to do so:

- As we saw earlier, driving gas-powered vehicles is the biggest source of emissions in Sebastopol, so driving less is an impactful way to reduce your carbon footprint. Taking public transport, biking or walking, or working from home if possible are all ways to drive less and save money.
- If you have to drive, electric vehicles are a greener choice. There are now models with hundreds of miles of range as well as options with prices under \$30,000.
- Within the home, water and home heating systems are often the biggest users of natural gas. Heat pumps are an alternative that runs on electricity. They are more efficient, require less maintenance, and promote better air quality than traditional gas-powered heating systems.
- Stoves and ovens are another big user of natural gas within the home, so switching to electric appliances is another change you can make to reduce household emissions.
- When switching to electric, it's also important to consider where your electricity comes from. As I mentioned earlier, Sebastopol's electricity provider is Sonoma Clean Power.
  - SCP's standard service is 93% carbon free and 49% comes from renewable sources.
  - EverGreen Program is 100% renewable with energy coming from

- geothermal and solar sources within Sonoma and Marin counties. For the average user, the additional cost of the program is about \$13 a month. Besides reducing your emissions from electricity, switching to EverGreen helps fund new local renewable energy projects.
- Rethink your waste:
  - Put organic matter (kitchen scraps, meat bones, yard debris) in green bin to keep out of landfill where it will rot and create greenhouse gasses.
  - Use reusables (water bottles, utensils, bulk buy & leftover containers, produce bags, shopping bags) to cut down on single use items.
  - Share, swap, join buy nothing groups so you can shop less.
  - Choose items with less packaging when shopping.
  - Keep what you have by mending and fixing.

This is not an exhaustive list of everything you can do to reduce your emissions, just a few of the most impactful ones.



## Resources

- Calculate your carbon footprint: <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>
- Take action: <https://regeneration.org/>
- Electrify your home: <https://www.switchison.org/>
- Switch to EverGreen: <https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/evergreen>

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To learn more, check out these resources:

Calculate your carbon footprint:

<https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>

Take action:

<https://regeneration.org/>

Electrify your home with local incentives from Sonoma Clean Power, BayREN, and more:

<https://www.switchison.org/foreveryone>

Learn more about efficient appliances:

<https://ecoblock.berkeley.edu/resources/>

Switch to EverGreen:

<https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/evergreen>

Learn about the Regional Climate Protection Authority's Climate Mobilization Strategy:

<https://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/sonoma-climate-mobilization/>



# Thank you!

## Any **questions?**



[ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org)



<https://bit.ly/ClimateActionFramework>



<https://bit.ly/Seb-ClimateSurvey>

Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#) 23

Thank you all for coming tonight, we really appreciate your input and engagement on this topic. We hope you'll stay involved, whether that's telling your friends and family, taking the survey, or signing up for email updates. We'll stick around for a few more minutes if there are any more questions, otherwise have a good evening. Feel free to email us with any further comments/questions as well.

Email us: [ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org)  
Framework web page: <https://bit.ly/ClimateActionFramework>  
Survey: <https://bit.ly/Seb-ClimateSurvey>