

## CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: October 7, 2025

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**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Victoria Henkel, Permit Technician  
**Subject:** Climate Action Committee Interviews

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

City Council to conduct interviews for one opening on the Climate Action Committee and consider making appointments later in the agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:***CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 2 YEAR TERM*

The Climate Action Committee promotes initiatives related to climate change issues and makes recommendations to Council. There is currently one opening on the committee. Vacancies are available under the variety of experiences and/or characteristics approved for the Committee makeup at their March 18, 2025, Council meeting.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

The Climate Action Committee is regularly scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Sebastopol City Hall Conference Room at 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA. This appointment is to fill the vacant position with a term ending date of December 31st, 2026.

For terms ending December 31, 2025, a separate recruitment period and appointment will be coming up at a later date.

On March 18, 2025, the City Council reviewed a proposal to reconfigure the makeup of the Committee and directed staff to update the Committee composition to include 7 members from the following backgrounds:

1. One City Councilmember Liaison (at large)
2. Six members with one or more of the following experiences/characteristics:
  - Youth representative
  - Climate Change
  - Sebastopol Business Owner
  - Local Climate Action Group
  - Environmental Justice and Equity
  - Rights of Nature
  - Energy
  - Transportation
  - Zero Waste

Current Climate Action Committee terms/categories are listed below (vacancies are highlighted.)

MEMBERS	CATEGORY	TERM ENDING DATE
Phil Carter	City Council Liaison at large	As assigned
Steven Pierce, Chair	Sebastopol Business Owner, Energy, Transportation, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026

Kenna Lee	Climate Change	December 31, 2025
Liselotte (Lisa) Pierce	Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2025
Emily Ocon	Transportation, Climate Change, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026
Lila Newton	Youth Representative, Climate Change	December 31, 2026
Vacant	One or more of the listed experiences/characteristics	December 31, 2026

15-minute interviews for the applicants are scheduled as follows:

#### CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE INTERVIEW:

Climate Action Committee (Two Seats Open)

Note: Interview times shown below are approximate and may start after the time indicated. The following interviews will start at 6:00 pm:

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Experience/Characteristics</u>
Sunny Galbraith	Zero Waste
Olivia House	Youth Representative

#### STAFF ANALYSIS:

The City received two applications within the time period for the one opening. This item is for the Council to consider these applications for the one available seat. If the seat is unfilled, City staff will re-advertise the vacancy.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

#### RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

Interview the applicants who have applied and consider appointments based on the interview later in the agenda.

#### OPTIONS:

None. Consideration of appointments will be considered later in the agenda

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Applications

#### APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 9/30/2025

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 9/30/2025

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Account Code (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

City Attorney Approval:  
City Manager Approval:

Approval Date: 9/30/2025  
Approval Date: 9/30/2025

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council's priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City's website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk's Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

## APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

### Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC  
Mary Gourley  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
P.O. Box 1776  
Sebastopol, CA 95473  
[Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)

phone: 707-823-1153

fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)

Closed every Friday

### Instructions:

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol's Boards, Committees or Commissions. Please complete the entire form and either print and mail it to the address above, or email your completed application to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org). If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due, to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

**Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for?** Climate Action Committee

Name: Sunny Galbraith

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

☐ Yes ☐ No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] \_\_\_\_\_ If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

yes, several over the past 3 years

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_ but served on Zero Waste which was absorbed into CAC

Present Employer: [REDACTED] \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: Teacher

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Sebastopol Zero Waste Committee, chair

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Zero Waste Sonoma Advisory Board

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

Representative for City of Sebastopol

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Extensive experience with climate action education, zero waste, climate policy education

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

UC San Diego, B.S. in Biology 1996

Sonoma State University, CA single subject teaching credentials in Biology and Math 2001

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Sebastopol Rotary Teacher of the Year  
North Bay Spirit Award, Press Democrat  
Sustainability Award, Association of Community Colleges (for SRJC Climate Action Night)

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

Public engagement with climate mitigation and adaptation actions, public education

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

☒ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about this opening?

Word of mouth

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

See above

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Public engagement

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Considered fully in decision-making



If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

Patience and continued conversation

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

Depends on my analysis of climate implications, not all climate impacts are figured into city policies and standards

What is your involvement with the climate crisis, including ways you have educated yourself and worked to model and promote climate action?

Many years of youth education and community organizing

What is your understanding about the urgency of the climate crisis?

Extremely urgent

What is your experience in working on policy issues – mobilizing public support, changing public consensus, or influencing fellow commissioners, for example?

Successfully helped zero waste legislation pass at city and county levels

Co-chair of annual SRJC Climate Action Night (in 7th year): High school and college students will present proposed California state legislation and local campaigns that will help to solve the climate crisis. Members of the public learn about legislation and local campaigns, then write postcards to and call their local officials. Students attend meetings with elected state representatives to deliver postcards and advocate for passage of legislation.

What is your understanding of the current obstacles to implementing action on Climate Change? How would you suggest overcoming those obstacles?

Lack of political will, harmful federal priorities. requires strong local action as examples and public engagement to build political will

What should be the City's role in addressing climate mitigation, adaptation, drawdown, and environmental justice? Give examples of policies you think the City should enact to address the climate crisis.

Promote active transportation, zero waste, policies that reduce emissions (e.g. promote clean energy)

What does a resilient, carbon-free Sebastopol look like in the future and how might we get there?

Walkable/bikeable streets, sustainable local food systems, distributed, affordable clean energy generation

What do you expect to accomplish as a sub-committee member?

Holding public educational events

In your role as a climate sub-committee member, how will you ensure that actions to address the climate crisis in Sebastopol are equitable?

Use existing CAC equity matrix to evaluate plans

How do you feel the role of a sub-committee member relates to the community?

Embedding local government inside the community is the only legitimate power

☒ I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : Sunny Galbraith Digitally signed by Sunny Galbraith  
Date: 2025.03.27 09:32:41 -07'00'

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Sunny Galbraith

Date: 3/27/25

# **Youth Application Instructions:**

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol's Boards, Committees or Commissions.

Please complete the entire form and either print and mail it to the address above or email your completed application to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org. If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. Interviews may be required by City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I am a minor (your phone number will not be made public)

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I am a minor (your email will not be made public)

Do you live in Sebastopol? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you go to school in Sebastopol? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you make a one-year commitment to participating on this board/commission/committee? ☐Yes ☐No

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously? ☐Yes ☐No

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a job? ☐Yes ☐No

If yes, who is your present employer:  \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list school clubs and/or civic or charitable organizations to which you belong or have belonged:

Describe the activities you have helped organize or taken part in through these groups or organizations.

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Please list any educational programs or courses you have taken that relate to the work of this board/commission/committee

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies? If so, please list position held and dates:

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or committee:

To your knowledge, are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

☐No

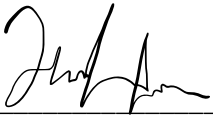
☐Yes. If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

What exciting possibilities do you see for Sebastopol as a community in the future and how might this board/commission/committee help us get there?

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature :  \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Consent: (If applicable)

If applicant is under age 18, parent/guardian must complete the following:

As parent/guardian of this minor, I have reviewed the volunteer application form and give my consent for (name): \_\_\_\_\_, (age) \_\_\_\_\_: To participate in this volunteer committee/commission/board.

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## City of Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Application Responses

### School Clubs and Civic or Charitable Organizations

Disability Culture Awareness Club (SRJC), Environmental Club (SRJC), Paper Crane Club (Vice President - high school), Key Club (Treasurer - high school), A&O Cleaning Service (Co-founder), Volunteer with local community gardens.

### Activities Organized or Participated In

I've helped coordinate peer support and educational meetings, organized wellness and sustainability awareness events, and participated in local community clean-up efforts. Through my business and volunteer work, I've promoted eco-conscious, low-waste living and mental health-centered care in daily life. In high school, I supported fundraising and outreach projects, including supply drives and mental health awareness campaigns.

### Special Interests, Skills, and Talents

I'm passionate about sustainability, mental and physical wellness, and environmental equity. I've been actively working to cut out plastic in my life, make low-impact choices, and educate my peers through example and conversation. I bring strong organizational and leadership experience from both school and community roles, and I care deeply about how climate change affects the general health and well-being of individuals-especially youth and vulnerable populations.

### Relevant Educational Programs or Courses

Environmental Engineering (in progress), Introduction to Environmental Science, Nutrition & Food Systems, Psychology, and Art (with a focus on visual storytelling for outreach). I'm currently attending Santa Rosa Junior College with plans to transfer to a four-year university in environmental studies or engineering.

### Previous Governmental Bodies Served On

## City of Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Application Responses

Not yet, but I'm excited to begin serving in a civic role.

### Why I Want to Serve on this Committee

I want to help Sebastopol reach its climate goals while ensuring that solutions are accessible, community-driven, and inclusive. I care deeply about the environment and believe young people have a key role to play in shaping sustainable futures. Serving on the Climate Action Committee would give me the chance to support real progress in our town while learning from others and giving back.

### Issues the Committee Should Focus On

Yes-reducing plastic and single-use waste, supporting zero-waste initiatives, improving public access to climate education, and promoting equity in all aspects of climate planning. I also believe strongly in ensuring that underrepresented voices, including youth and disabled community members, are included in climate conversations.

### Exciting Possibilities for Sebastopol

Sebastopol has the chance to become a model for small-town climate leadership-one that prioritizes justice, resilience, and community connection. By focusing on education, sustainable infrastructure, and local empowerment, this committee can help Sebastopol make bold progress that reflects both global responsibility and local care.

### Additional Information for City Council

I'm a passionate advocate for equity and sustainability with a lived understanding of how climate action intersects with everyday life. Through personal choices, business practices, and peer engagement, I've been working to live more sustainably and encourage others to do the same. I would be honored to bring that experience and dedication to the Climate Action Committee.