

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: February 3, 2026

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

City Council to conduct interviews for two openings 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 are currently two openings on the committee. Vacancies are available under the variety of experiences and/or characteristics approved for the Committee makeup at the March 18, 2025, Council meeting.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Climate Action Committee is regularly scheduled to meet on 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. Terms of office are two-year terms, and the opening term will last until December 31st, 2027.

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
Phill Carter	City Council Liaison at large	As assigned
Steven Pierce, Chair	Sebastopol Business Owner, Energy, Transportation, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026
Emily Ocon	Transportation, Climate Change, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026
Lila Newton	Youth Representative, Climate Change	December 31, 2026
Sunny Galbraith	Zero Waste	December 31, 2026

Vacant	One or more of the listed experiences/characteristics	December 31, 2027
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The City Council received applications from the following individuals for the two openings on the Climate Action Committee:

APPLICANTS	EXPERIENCE/CHARACTERISTICS:
Kenna Lee	Climate Change
Olivia House	Youth Representative

Interviews for the applicants are scheduled as follows, beginning at 6:00 pm:

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Experience/Characteristics</u>
1. Kenna Lee	Climate Change
2. Olivia House	Youth Representative

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The City received one application within the time period for the two openings. City staff extended the deadline for two more weeks and received the second application. This item is for the Council to consider these applications for the two available seats. If the seats are unfilled, City staff will re-advertise the vacancies.

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.

RESTATEMENT RECOMMENDATION:

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

OPTIONS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Applications (redacted)

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 1/21/2026

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 1/5/2026

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: Approval Date: N/A

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 1/21/2026

The Climate Action Committee will consist of seven (7) members from the following backgrounds:

Appointed Roles

- One City Councilmember

Six (6) members with one or more of the following experience/characteristics:

- Youth Representative (17-23)
- Climate Change
- Sebastopol Business Owner
- Local Climate Action Group
- Environmental Justice & Equity
- Rights of Nature
- Energy
- Transportation

Which category is being applied for? (Fill out all that apply)

Climate Change

Environmental Justice / Equity

Name: Kensa Lee

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number:

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

Yes No

Work Phone Number: N/A

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

Yes No

Facsimile Number: N/A

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

Yes No

E-Mail Address:

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? 4 yrs

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

Yes No
If so, for how long? _____

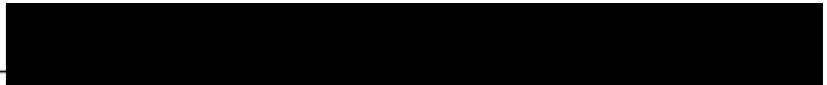
Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Member since inception

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

Yes No

If so, when? 2 previous terms

Present Employer: 

Job Title: Local Health Jurisdiction Climate Change Specialist

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

CAC since 2020

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

Sebastopol World Friends
Sebastopol West 100

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

No

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

Knowledge of links between climate change & public health including policy recommendations for preserving quality of life via built & natural environment.

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

Yale University BA

SSU, BSN

John Hopkins, MAS Humanitarian Health

Yale School of Public Health, Certificate in Climate Change & Human Health

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

N/A

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:

Continue working on education/outreach
and serve on tree ordinance subcommittee

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?

current member

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?

No

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

Current member, past chair.

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

Mitigation actions with adaptation
co-benefits e.g. incentivizing healthy
tree planting + maintenance

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

Fully! We are serving the whole
community + must listen to what
they value.

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

Seek areas of common ground + establish personal rapport / connection.

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?

Review objections + look for ways to make the proposal less objectionable.

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

I live in a fully electrified house with solar, battery + a grey water system.
I drive an EV, and use active transport when possible. I limit air travel. Also, I work full time on climate issues.

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

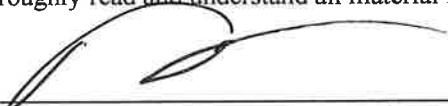
Federal macro environment + big business-driven climate change denial. We have to keep our eyes on real science, communicate facts effectively, + maintain hope.

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.

- Alignment with RLPA priorities.
- Build local resilience with disaster preparedness, community-level social fabric, + green infrastructure.
- Take responsibility for + prioritize GHG reduction at municipal level through purchasing + planning.



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

Applicant's Signature: 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Kenna Lee

Date: 12/11/25

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:
[REDACTED] _____

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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: [REDACTED]

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.