



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Environment Committee

Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, Chair
Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Vice Chair
Councilmember Jennifer Campbell

Environment Committee 2024 Work Plan

February 9, 2024

The Environment Committee's 2024 Work Plan has been developed with the thoughtful and constructive input of the Committee members and the public. As this Committee has seen in prior years, there are core principles that should underly this Committee's agendas:

- Advance ambitious climate goals.
- Lead with equity.
- Acknowledge past harm and need for environmental justice.
- Ensure transparency and promote inclusion.
- Ensure high quality job standards while expanding a skilled and trained workforce for a green economy.
- Partner with government agencies and community organizations to improve strategies and leverage resources.

It is with these principles in mind that the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and the Climate Resilient SD Plan can be successfully advanced and incorporated across all City departments and objectives.

The Priority Issues listed below are a summary of input received and set an ambitious, yet achievable roadmap for this Committee in 2024. These issues do not limit the Committee from exploring new policies and ideas, and these are encouraged to further the principles stated above.

Priority Issues

Climate Action Plan

- Plan Implementation
 - Follow and enact the City's CAP Implementation Plan. This includes the CAP's six strategies:
 1. Decarbonization of the Built Environment
 2. Access to Clean & Renewable Energy
 3. Mobility & Land Use
 4. Circular Economy & Clean Communities
 5. Resilient Infrastructure and Healthy Ecosystems
 6. Emerging Climate Actions
 - Establish, monitor, and track benchmarks toward achieving CAP goals.
 - Review unfunded Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 CAP requests during the development of the FY25 budget.
- Monitor and capitalize on state and federal funding and grant opportunities.
 - Identify opportunities to increase the use of renewables and clean technologies.
- Climate Advisory Board
 - Receive annual update from the Climate Advisory Board.
(Note: this new board is pending board appointments.)
- Equity
 - Utilize the Climate Equity Index and receive updates as required.
 - Monitor projects funded through the Climate Equity Fund.
 - Consider revisions to climate policies to ensure equitable climate action and distribution of city resources.

Climate Resilient SD Plan

- Plan Implementation
 - Implement the City's Climate Resilient SD Plan.
- Receive reports from climate experts on the effects of sea level rise on infrastructure, land-use, the economy, and how impacts may be mitigated.
- Resiliency Advisory Board
 - Receive annual update from the Resiliency Advisory Board. (Note: this new board is pending Council approval and board appointments.)

Energy/Decarbonization

- Building Electrification
 - Adopt measures to advance all-electric infrastructure for new construction and a transition plan for existing buildings, including alternative measures that recognize litigation and federal regulations.
 - Review options and develop strategies to transition city buildings.
 - Extend ZEMBOP to city-affiliated agency buildings.
 - Utilize incentive programs and community pilots to provide an equitable transition.
 - Advance building performance standards and municipal and private buildings.

Energy/Decarbonization, Cont.

- San Diego Community Power (SDCP)
 - Receive an update on progress towards renewable energy goals, the Community Power Plan, the Regional Energy Network, and partnerships between the City and SDCP on initiatives.
- Municipal Energy Strategy
 - Monitor implementation of the Municipal Energy Strategy and expand renewable energy resources and battery storage on municipal facilities.
- Electric Vehicle Charging
 - Build out an electric vehicle charging network that increases citywide EV ownership, maximizes the use of publicly owned land, balances energy demand, and allows for charging when and where drivers need it.
 - Receive updates on electrification on municipal vehicles, including charging infrastructure and adoption rates.
 - Amend the San Diego Municipal Code regarding hours of business operation in commercial-neighborhood zones to ensure operation of public electric vehicle charging stations.
- Phase Out Fossil Fuels
 - Reduce the dependence on fossil fuels.
 - Eliminate new oil and gas extraction, recognizing the impacts existing extraction sites have on local communities.
- Small Engine Landscaping Equipment
 - Transition away from gas-powered small engine landscaping tools and replace with electric equipment, including pilot and trade-in programs.
 - Receive update on City and State pilot programs to transition from gas-powered landscaping equipment.
- Public Power
 - Monitor the Public Power Feasibility Study and receive update on community engagement during Phase II.
- Electric & Gas Franchise Agreements
 - Implement requirements of the electric and gas franchise agreements with San Diego Gas & Electric, including the Energy Cooperation Agreement, the Utility Undergrounding Program, and the Solar Equity Program.
 - Receive update regarding the review and audit recommendations of the Franchise Compliance Review Committee.
 - Monitor rate case filings and impacts to customer bills.

Mobility

- Vision Zero
 - Commit to Vision Zero priorities that allow motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists to safely move around the city.
 - Partner with local organizations to provide education on safe mobility, including educating drivers on the importance of separated travel lanes.

Mobility, Cont.

- Mobility Master Plan & Complete Streets
 - Implement the Master Mobility Plan while establishing and monitoring benchmarks.
 - Implement the Complete Streets policy and receive timely updates on any exceptions granted by the City.

Water and Sustainability

- Stormwater Infrastructure
 - Develop funding strategy to meet the needs of the City's under-resourced stormwater system.
 - Review existing stormwater conditions, needs, and priorities.
 - Evaluate infrastructure options to conserve stormwater.
- Pure Water
 - Monitor Phase I construction and community outreach.
 - Advance Phase II.
- Dam Infrastructure
 - Receive update on dam conditions and repairs.
 - Work with Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on monitoring dam facilities.
- Water Conservation
 - Develop implementation plan for municipal and commercial onsite water reuse.
 - Explore feasibility of expanded use of waterless toilets and urinals.
- Public Utilities Department
 - Update customer service, meter reading, and billing practices to ensure reliable and efficient operations.
 - Evaluate proposals and opportunities to reduce customer costs.

Natural Resources

- Trees
 - Review and update the City's tree policies consistent with CAP Strategy 5.
 - Expand the urban tree canopy by updating the City's Five-Year Plan and Free Tree Program.
 - Monitor implementation of the \$10M federal grant and leverage additional funding from partner agencies/organizations.
- Wildfire Prevention and Brush Management
 - Review current practices and enhance fire prevention strategies.
 - Receive updates from brush management staff across all appropriate departments to ensure the recommendations from the recent brush management audit are implemented quickly and efficiently.
 - Receive briefings from experts, partner organizations, fire resource professionals, and City staff on preparations and mitigation strategies.

Natural Resources, Cont.

- Open Space Preservation
 - Review annual report and performance audit of the Multiple Species Conservation Program.
 - Receive report on management of open space lands and recreational areas, including use conflicts and maintaining consistency with the Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) requirements.
 - Conduct a Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) Needs Assessment
 - Review opportunities to transfer management of City property to another department to increase oversight and stewardship of the property.
 - Conduct public and staff education regarding the difference between recreational parks and habitat preserves.
 - Explore workforce opportunities and pilots to provide training, part- and full-time jobs, and exposure to a career in natural resources.
 - Initiate Trails Master Plan process.
 - Review update on the San Diego River Park Master Plan and EIFD.
 - Explore opportunities for increased management and protection of natural areas.
- Cross Border
 - Monitor federal and local actions to eliminate cross border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.
 - Evaluate possible City actions to reduce pollution and improve water quality in the Tijuana River Valley and surrounding communities.
 - Review Otay Mesa East Port of Entry development and associated air quality improvements.
- Marine Protected Areas
 - Review policies to preserve and enhance Marine Protected Areas.
- Coastal Bluffs and Infrastructure
 - Review local coastal bluff erosion and resiliency implications.
- Expand Wetlands
 - Review and advance plans for the De Anza Natural project.
 - Facilitate public and private preservation of wetlands.
- Wildlife Management
 - Balance safety, wild animal protection, and access in public lands.
- Biodiversity
 - Develop citywide biodiversity policies that protect native species, preserve pollinators, and reduce pesticide use.
 - Build on commitments related to Bee City USA and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge to educate the public on the importance of pollinators.

Circular Economy

- Recycling
 - Monitor recycling rates, including organic recycling adoption by customers.
 - Receive updates on the construction of the organics process facility.
- Measure B
 - Initiate the cost of service study following the passage of Measure B, including outreach plans to City customers.
- Zero Waste Plan
 - Monitor the City's Zero Waste Plan and update as necessary.
- Pollution Reduction
 - Upgrade waste policies and facilities to prevent pollution at beaches and watersheds.
 - Develop and initiate pilot programs to reduce waste in City parks and beaches.
 - Reduce tobacco waste.
 - Receive update on hazardous materials collections and increased efforts to reduce pollution from hazardous materials.
- Food Justice
 - Evaluate the nexus of environmental justice and food justice.
 - Explore opportunities to improve access to healthy foods; Pursue food resiliency.

Meeting Dates

Note: Additional meetings may be added to the legislative calendar. The public will be notified in accordance with Brown Act noticing requirements should special meetings be added.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • January 18, 2024 at 1:00pm | • June 20, 2024 at 1:00pm |
| • February 15, 2024 at 1:00pm | • July 18, 2024 at 1:00pm |
| • March 14, 2024 at 1:00pm | • September 12, 2024 at 1:00pm |
| • April 11, 2024 at 1:00pm | • October 10, 2024 at 1:00pm |
| • May 23, 2024 at 1:00pm | • November 14, 2024 at 1:00pm |

Meeting Participation

Access

All City Council and committee meetings will be held in-person at Council Chambers and available to the public in-person or virtually via Zoom Webinar. Information for attending the meeting in-person, virtually or viewing the broadcast on CityTV can be found on the City Clerk's website and on each committee meeting agenda.

Non-agenda public comment

At each meeting, any member of the public can provide non-agenda public comment, which is held soon after the meeting begins. Non-agenda public comment is for offering remarks for any topic relevant to the Committee that is not being discussed as an agenda item. Speakers for non-agenda public comment will have 2 minutes to provide their remarks, although there will be no discussion among the committee members of the topics addressed during non-agenda public comment.

Public comment

Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on each agenda item following staff presentations on the item. Depending on the number of speakers, each speaker will have 1-2 minutes to provide their remarks, which must be applicable to the item being heard. Following the conclusion of public comment, committee members will deliberate on the item. At the discretion of the chair, organized presentations can be arranged in advance. Instructions for providing public comment are included on the meeting agenda and are promulgated at the meeting.

Monitoring and Contact

The 2024 Work Plan will be posted online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/council-committees>. The Committee will continue to provide periodic updates to the work plan and per San Diego Municipal Code §22.0101, Rule 6.1.3, the Committee will produce a year-end report.

Questions related to this work plan or the Committee should be addressed to Brian Elliott, Committee Consultant, at belliott@sandiego.gov.