



Alhambra Altadena Arcadia Bradbury Duarte LaCañada Flintridge Monrovia Monterey Park
Pasadena San Gabriel San Marino Sierra Madre South Pasadena

November 9, 2020

Mayor Terry Tornek
City Hall
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228
P.O. Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Dear Mayor Tornek, Mayor-elect Gordo, and Members of the City Council:

The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area has recently reviewed the 2018 Pasadena Climate Action Plan (CAP), and the 2019 document, Near Term Implementation Actions. We are writing to ask for your help in assuring that the CAP will achieve its stated objective of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and thereby protecting the quality of life of Pasadena area residents.

The climate crisis threatens damage to public health and safety, decline in property values, insurance risks and other grave consequences. As Pasadena area residents witness record high temperatures, dangerous air quality, accumulating unrecycled waste, and water scarcity, we are aware that we face an urgent *crisis*, not a distant prospect.

We appreciate the highly organized framework of the CAP, with Objectives, Strategies, Measures, Actions, Indicators and assignment of responsibility set forth in a highly readable document. However, in reviewing the CAP, we note that many of the Actions are aspirational statements calling upon officials to consider, explore or discuss possible future actions, or to market accomplishments already achieved years ago.

We also observe that the CAP does not provide for periodic audits and transparent public information about implementation. There is a provision for updates of some kind every five years; it is evident that this recommendation is inadequate given the urgency of the climate crisis.

We believe that you share our concern that the CAP implementation must be *specific, effective, prioritized, and transparent* to the public in light of the urgency of the climate crisis. For this reason, we request that the Office of the Mayor and the City Council take the following steps:

1. *Specific.* For any Actions that are not specific, measurable and implementable, the responsible City office report should determine how the Action could be improved.
2. *Effective.* The Actions must cause change in GHG emissions. The CAP states that the largest gains in emissions reductions are expected from Energy and Mobility measures. Therefore, it is especially important that Actions relating to renewable energy supply and non-fossil fuel transportation be implemented and measured for efficacy.
3. *Prioritized.* The office of the Mayor should assume direct responsibility for the implementation of the CAP. The Mayor should convene a CAP audit committee of city staff that meets monthly to audit the state of implementation of each of the Strategies, Measures and Actions set forth in the CAP. This committee should report directly to the Mayor, with the full participation of the City Manager. Evaluation of City employees should include their effectiveness in implementing the CAP. The offices that the CAP has

identified as responsible for each Action should submit monthly written status reports. We recognize that in some cases implementation of the CAP may be affected by budgetary constraints. Where this is the case, this should be explicitly recognized and disclosed to the public, priorities should be shifted wherever possible and all efforts should be made to secure funding from national, state, and county governments.

4. *Transparent.* CAP audit committee meetings should be public with time for public comment. Written reports should be published on the City website so that Pasadena voters can see the progress of implementation.

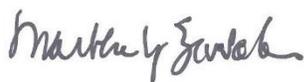
The CAP neglects to address several issues and these omissions should be rectified. The impact of climate change on our ability to avoid dangerous wildfires should be taken into account; our response professionals should be involved in addressing climate change vulnerabilities. The CAP makes no mention of the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poor, homeless, disabled, and unemployed residents of our city. Inadequate attention is given to accelerated termination of coal energy. There is no mention of improving waste recycling, including #5 collection, in order to avoid methane creation in landfill. These omissions from the CAP should be rectified.

Finally, in reviewing the 2018 CAP Near Term Implementation Plan (NTIP), we were disappointed to see that the Measures and Actions in the CAP, as vague as they were, had either not been initiated or were actually decided against by a city agency. For example, in the key area of Mobility Strategies, out of 26 Actions, all but 4 were still in “Tier I” (meaning early stage or not yet begun). For those Tier I Actions, no explanation was offered for the lack of measurable action. For the remaining 4 Actions, 1 was deemed unnecessary, 1 was declined because of a change in “current priorities”, 1 was described as completed without explanation and 1 was described as “Pending”. In the other key area, energy strategies, out of 24 Actions, all but 7 were still in Tier I. Of those remaining 7, all were either rejected by the responsible City agency, not implemented because of unspecified resource constraints, or under consideration.

In short, the NTIP displays a lack of urgency in implementation and a casual approach to public accountability.

We submit this letter to you in the hopes that we can work together to urgently and productively address the existential challenge of climate change. We look to our City officials to lead the way to a safe and secure future for Pasadena citizens and future generations. We request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss our request for specific, effective, prioritized and transparent implementation of the Strategies set forth in the CAP.

Sincerely,



Martha Y. Zavala
President, League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

cc: City Council
City Manager Steven Mermell
David Reyes, Director Pasadena Planning Department
David Sanchez, Principal Planner, City of Pasadena
Environmental Advisory Commission

From: [Kathy](#)
To: [Hudgins, Ariel](#)
Subject: Re: Comment on Pasadena Climate Action Plan Annual Report
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:23:42 PM

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263>.

Dear Ms. Hudgins,
I have corrected a significant typo. Please forward this copy of my comments. Thank you.

> On Nov 16, 2020, at 6:20 PM, Kathy [REDACTED] wrote:
>
> Dear Ms Hudgins,
> Please submit my comments on the Pasadena Climate Action Plan Annual Report to the Environmental Advisory Committee.
>
> I have reviewed the Pasadena Climate Action Plan and the 2019 Annual Report and appendices. I live in Altadena and am a member of the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area. I understand that the Environmental Advisory Committee is charged to monitor the CAP and to make policy recommendations.
>
> I am concerned that there is no sense of urgency in the CAP and its Annual Report. The Annual Report for calendar year 2019 is only being submitted now in November 2020. Many of the items are listed as priority 1, but have no updates suggesting that no action has yet been taken. Item E-3.1 indicates that energy efficiency audits of city facilities will not happen for a couple years. Is there a reason for the delay? Audits could lead to identification of measures that could then be scheduled. I recommend that the EAC request that the audits be completed as soon as possible and request that City staff provide a detailed schedule (month and year) for accomplishing necessary steps.
>
> I also recommend that the EAC request that the City expedite its emissions inventory and update the CAP in 2021. The CAP Update needs to include more specific implementation measures and more aggressive implementation schedule. A public outreach effort to involve the citizens of Pasadena in achieving these goals is also important. To increase transparency and public involvement, future annual reports and updates should include more explanation to allow the public to understand the reports. I was hoping that the table included in Appendix A of the Annual Report would be followed by a short report with a bit of discussion. But Appendix B was an even more abbreviated summary.
>
> Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I hope that the EAC can invigorate the CAP and its implementation.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Kathleen Kunysz
> [REDACTED]
> Altadena, CA 91001
>
>

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission:

Your responsibility as stated on the Commission web page is: “The Environmental Advisory Commission members advise the City Council and make policy recommendations in support of the goals and objectives of the City’s Environmental Charter and monitor and guide the Green City Action Plan.” It seems therefore that it is incumbent upon you in this known time of climate emergency to advise the City to update the Pasadena Climate Action Plan (CAP) to create real and sustainable reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The Whitefish, MT Climate Action Plan has been suggested as a model.

(<https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/339/2018-Climate-Action-Plan-PDF>) You will note that the verbs used are action verbs: “implement, improve, enforce, create, optimize, develop, reduce.” The verbs in the Pasadena CAP are: “consider, explore, recommend, identify (with no further action stated).” We need immediate action from our city.

I would like to suggest the following five immediate areas for implementation:

1. End our use of coal-based energy and use our over-abundance of renewable energy sources. The fact that Pasadena energy is 30% coal-based is inexcusable given our current knowledge of the urgency for action to reduce our use of fossil fuels.
2. Move the city’s entire fleet of vehicles to EV’s over the next 6 months or sooner.
3. Require all new construction to be all electric beginning within the next 6 months. It is not energy or financially efficient to install gas that will have to be removed in the near future.
4. Install solar panels on all public buildings, including schools, where it is feasible. Direct Pasadena Water and Power to implement and publicize incentives for commercial and residential rooftop solar and to remove the current 5% cap on net metering (NEM).
5. Establish programs in the schools which educate the children about climate change and provide opportunities for them to assist in the efforts to mitigate the damages from it.

The Pasadena CAP does not seem to be committed to making the difficult changes that are needed now. The city has taken the easy route: planting trees, incentivizing private purchase of EV’s, etc. The EAC needs to require the city to take action now.

Please expedite the GHG emissions report for 2020 so it is completed by the end of the first quarter of 2021. And please expedite the update of the Climate Action Plan to include specific and effective actions to implement goals that reflect the urgency of the climate emergency. Please encourage specific actions to begin to be implemented now. A sustainability officer for Pasadena would be of great assistance with this task. We can act and measure at the same time. What are we waiting for? We know the climate situation will not improve without our timely actions. Please lead us in our efforts to keep the planet comfortably inhabitable for us and future generations!

Thank you,
Kathy Berlin

 Pasadena