



City Council Report

Date: June 17, 2021
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Scott Bouchie, Environmental Management & Sustainability
Department Director
Subject: Climate Action Plan for Mesa with Aspirational Goals

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the proposed Climate Action Plan for Mesa with aspirational goals that will inform consideration of actions within City operations and guide engagement of the public to identify communitywide opportunities.

Background

On March 4, 2021, the City Council established the 'Healthy Environment' Council Strategic Initiative. This initiative expressed the City Council's desire to proactively and responsibly protect and conserve Mesa's environment and natural resources to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon pollution. A Climate Action Plan (Plan) was developed to promote long-term community health benefits of sustainable growth.

The City of Mesa has a history and culture of sustainability led by the Environmental Management & Sustainability Department. The City has endeavored to lower our environmental impact, build resiliency, implement mitigation and adaption strategies, and support innovative technologies in our City operations for over 15 years.

Discussion

The Plan identifies four 'Aspirational Goals' and six 'Focus Areas' that support the goals. The Focus Areas were introduced and supported by Council during a discussion on City operations on February 18, 2021. In addition, the Aspirational Goals were recommended to move forward by the Sustainability and Transportation Council Committee on April 8, 2021.

The Plan will be used as a roadmap to shape the community's vision for the future. Individual City departments will continue to develop policies, projects and programs that will provide for progress toward the goals based on measurable targets and strategies. These policies, projects and programs will be presented to Council for consideration through the normal approval processes, such as budget meetings and

Council meetings. Detailed information about feasibility, benefits and greenhouse gas emission reductions will be provided.

This Plan provides a pathway to accelerate our historic success, reduce carbon pollution and mitigate climate change so Mesa continues to be a vibrant, prosperous, and thriving city for generations to come. The Plan will evolve over time as new strategies, resources, technologies, and collaborations come to light.

If the Council adopts the Plan by resolution, the City will begin the next phase of the project which includes extensive community engagement and public input for an updated version of the Plan.

Alternatives

Alternate 1: Accept the proposed Climate Action Plan for Mesa with Aspirational Goals

Alternate 2: Recommend changes to the proposed Plan.

Alternate 3: No Action.

Fiscal Impact

There are no fiscal impacts directly related with the Plan. Departments will be the owners of policies, projects and programs that implement the Plan and will continue to come to Council for fiscal approval through the normal processes (i.e., budget meetings, Council agenda).

Coordinated With

The Plan was drafted and completed in coordination with the City Manager's Office, Business Services, Development Services, Energy Resources, Engineering, Environmental Management & Sustainability, Fire & Medical, Fleet, Library, Parks Recreation & Commercial Facilities, Public Information Office, Transit, Transportation, & Water Resources.