

**MEMORANDUM**

City Manager's Office

**DATE:** December 1, 2021

**TO:** Council Sustainability Committee

**FROM:** Lauren Anderson, Sustainability Analyst II  
Steve Attinger, Sustainability Coordinator

**VIA:** Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant City Manager/Chief Operating Officer

**SUBJECT:** Sustainability Action Plan 4 Status Update

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**PURPOSE**

This memorandum presents a status update on Sustainability Action Plan 4 (SAP-4), including progress since the May 2021 update to City Council and a preview of significant upcoming items.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide input to staff based on this SAP-4 status update.

**BACKGROUND**

The City Council adopted an original Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) in March 2009, for Fiscal Years 2008-09 through 2010-11, as a plan for achieving the City's short- and long-term sustainability goals. In April 2012, Council adopted Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2 (ESAP-2) for Fiscal Years 2011-12 through 2013-14. In 2015, Council adopted a communitywide Climate Protection Roadmap and Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan as roadmaps for achieving the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets through 2050. In September 2016, the Council adopted Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3 (ESAP-3) for Fiscal Years 2016-17 through 2018-19.

In October 2019, the City Council adopted Sustainability Action Plan 4 (SAP-4) as the City's continued plan for strategic investment in sustainability for Fiscal Years 2019-20

through 2021-22. Among its 81 new actions and 79 already-approved actions, SAP-4 contains smaller projects that provide near-term GHG reductions and larger, longer-term infrastructure projects that will yield significant GHG reductions over time. SAP-4 actions are organized around 27 high-level goals in the transportation, energy, land use, zero waste, water, parks and ecosystems, and core sustainability sectors. In May 2021, staff updated the City Council on the status of SAP-4 implementation. During this update, Council approved the removal of five actions (because they were no longer needed or could be combined with other actions) and allocated the available balance within the Sustainability Fund to support several projects. (The Sustainability Fund was created when the City Council adopted SAP-4 in October 2019.)

## ANALYSIS

### Overview of SAP-4 Status

As shown in Table 1, staff has made progress implementing many SAP-4 actions; 75% of actions are completed or in progress, while 25% of actions have not been started.

**Table 1: Progress of 76 New SAP-4 Actions**

STATUS	NUMBER	PERCENT
Completed	15	20%
In Progress/Ongoing	42	55%
Not Started	19	25%
<i>Total New Actions</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>100%</i>

Although many actions have progressed as intended, others have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts. These impacts have included: Shelter-in-Place orders that temporarily restricted work on capital projects; emergence of new priorities to respond to community needs related to the pandemic; constraints on the availability and resources of stakeholders and potential partners as they focused on COVID-19 recovery; staff vacancies in existing positions and challenges in hiring new SAP-4 positions; and reduced capacity and resources as staff focused on maintaining City services in compliance with public health restrictions.

## **Key Progress Since May 2021**

Many SAP-4 projects have started, advanced significantly, or been completed since the update to the City Council in May 2021, as described below.

### **City Manager's Office**

#### *Complete final 2018 community GHG inventory (S2.5)*

The final 2018 and preliminary 2019 community greenhouse gas inventories were presented to the City Council on June 22, 2021. Emissions declined between 2017 and 2018 and remained below 2005 baseline inventory levels. Final 2018 emissions were 604,318 MT CO<sub>2e</sub>, slightly lower than estimated in the preliminary 2018 inventory (610,226 MT CO<sub>2e</sub>), due to lower emissions from energy, solid waste, and off-road mobile sources.

#### *Run the Cool Block program in Mountain View neighborhoods (S4.5)*

While COVID-19 prevented a full launch of the Cool Block program in early 2020, two groups were able to complete the program virtually in fall 2020. In October 2021, staff held three well-attended information sessions toward a second launch. Cool Block leader trainings occurred in November and will continue in December, and the program will officially relaunch in January 2022.

#### *Develop rebate program for e-bikes and other mobility devices (T3.6)*

Staff is finalizing the parameters of an electric bike incentive program and is evaluating options for program administration. Staff expects to launch the program in spring of 2022.

#### *Develop an Electric Vehicle Action Plan (T7.4)*

The Electric Vehicle Action Plan (EVAP) is substantially complete and will be finalized by the end of 2021. The EVAP is a high-level plan identifying strategies, policies, and programs to support electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure deployment. The actions outlined in this plan will be integrated into the next Sustainability Action Plan.

#### *Evaluate a trade-in or rebate program for landscaping equipment (P3.2)*

Staff has been working with Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) and other member agencies to evaluate the potential of implementing a regional incentive program for electric landscaping equipment. While several other agencies are interested in promoting electric landscaping equipment, none currently have the funding or staff capacity to

implement an incentive program. SVCE has agreed to implement a pilot program in Mountain View, with the hope of expanding it to other cities in the future. Staff plans to launch the incentive program by spring 2022.

*Develop a sustainability dashboard for the City's website (S3.3)*

Staff has identified a platform that offers the features needed to deploy a sustainability dashboard on the City's website and is evaluating its usability and other details. Table 2 shows a preliminary list of metrics proposed by staff to display on the dashboard. These metrics may change slightly before the dashboard is completed. Depending on the complexity of displaying the metrics, staff may roll them out in a phased approach. Staff will gather the data starting in early 2022 and seek community feedback before launching the dashboard City-wide, and hopes to release a first version by spring/summer of 2022.

**Table 2: Proposed Metrics for the Sustainability Dashboard**

DIVISION	CATEGORY	PROPOSED METRIC
Building	Electric Vehicles	Number of permits issued for private EV chargers
	Energy	Number of solar PV permits issued communitywide
		Number of conversions to electric heat pump water heaters
		Number of new single-family homes with no natural gas
Forestry and Parks	Tree Canopy	Link to tree canopy interactive website
Planning	Housing	Current Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements
		Yearly residential building permits issued based on affordability levels
		Yearly number of Below Market-Rate (BMR) (City subsidized projects) approved
Solid Waste	Zero Waste	Total annual landfilled tonnage
		Per capita landfilled tonnage (based on service population)
		Diversion rate
Sustainability	GHG Emissions	Municipal (total and by sector)
		Communitywide (total, by sector, and per capita)
	Energy	Electricity use (total and by sector, if available)
		Natural gas use (total and by sector, if available)
		Solar power generated by municipal solar facilities
		Number of people participating in utility rebate programs (if available)
	Electric Vehicles	Number of public EV chargers
		Number of electric vehicles registered in Mountain View

DIVISION	CATEGORY	PROPOSED METRIC
Transportation	Vehicle Travel	Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
	Active and Public Transportation	Weekday public transit ridership
		Weekday pedestrian and bike ridership at key cordon point(s)
		City of Mountain View commute-benefit participants

*Run YellowTin program to educate about home upgrades (S4.6)*

To provide residents with customized information about switching to electric appliances, installing solar energy, and selecting appropriate electric vehicles and bikes, staff plans to launch the online Electrify Mountain View platform by late 2021 or early 2022.

*Develop a resolution and outreach in support of a plant-based diet (S4.7)*

In summer 2021, staff launched an informational campaign that has featured several webinars promoting plant-based eating. Staff is currently designing a restaurant engagement program and is evaluating options to increase plant-based eating within City operations. Staff plans to present a program proposal to the City Council by March 2022.

Community Services Department

*Update the Community Tree Master Plan (P2.2)*

Staff is reviewing the tree canopy and land cover data produced by certified arborists on contract with the City. Staff is also assessing current ordinances, guidelines, and standards; evaluating current “street tree” lists; and drafting updates needed to address tree diversity, management, and goals. The public input portion of the Community Tree Master Plan (CTMP) update is on hold as staff considers how biodiversity influences and connects to various master plans, including the Community Tree Master Plan, active transportation plans, the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and wildlife/Shoreline plans. Staff expects to complete the update by October 2022.

*Partner with Canopy to expand tree planting and outreach (P2.3)*

The City completed its first full year contract with Canopy in July 2021, through which 21 trees were planted over the course of three planting events. Canopy is a nonprofit organization focused on tree planting and stewardship, education, and advocacy. The City recently renewed the contract with Canopy and held a tree planting and tree care work day in Mountain View in November 2021.

*Expand use of electric landscaping equipment and test new models (P3.1)*

Staff recently purchased an additional \$10,000 of electric landscaping equipment, including back-pack leaf blowers, for various Parks and Roadway crews to use. About 10% of the landscaping work undertaken by Parks and Roadway crews is completed using electric landscaping equipment. Going forward, staff will replace any broken gas-powered equipment with electric versions. No new gas-powered blowers or trimmers will be purchased.

*Conduct a communitywide irrigation audit (W1.3)*

Staff has finalized a contractor agreement for a communitywide irrigation audit project. The contractor began the audit in November 2021.

Public Works Department*Analyze opportunities for electrification during renovations (B4.1)*

Staff continues to investigate electrification opportunities for all planned City-owned facilities projects. As such, an electrification evaluation was conducted for City Hall, Center for the Performing Arts, and Fire Station No. 1. Based on this evaluation, staff determined that the HVAC system at Fire Station No. 1 should be converted to all-electric. This electrification work is anticipated to be completed by the end of January 2022. The new Rengstorff Aquatics Center will also be an all-electric facility, including the water heating for the pools. This project is scheduled to begin construction in early 2022.

*Create dedicated funding for active transportation outreach (T3.1)*

Various outreach events were cancelled due to COVID-19. A portion of the funding was used for COVID-19 active transportation outreach (such as Castro StrEATS and touchless pedestrian push buttons). Outreach activities are also planned or under way for bikeway implementation via the repaving of Middlefield Road, from Moffett Boulevard to North Whisman Road.

*Develop a bike rack request program (T3.5)*

The bike rack request program has been delayed due to staffing shortages; however, public input has been obtained via the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a bike rack project funded by the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) program. SAP-4 provided City matching funds to leverage the \$70,000 TFCA grant. With this money, the

City has installed 141 new bike racks on City-owned property and created a map with the locations of these bike racks.

*Adopt Vision Zero Policy and develop and implement Action Plan (T5.1)*

The City Council adopted a Vision Zero policy in December 2019. A contract for the development of a joint Vision Zero Action Plan and Local Road Safety Plan has been executed and work is under way. SAP-4 is providing City matching funds to leverage a \$62,000 Caltrans grant for this work.

*Install additional EV chargers in downtown parking garages (T7.3)*

Projects to install electric vehicle chargers in the 135 Bryant Street and 850 California Street parking structures are under way. The following new chargers will be installed by early 2022:

- **135 Bryant Street Parking Structure:** 10xLevel 2 chargers, as well as make-ready infrastructure to support future installation of an additional 15xLevel 2 chargers.
- **850 California Street Parking Structure:** 24xLevel 2 chargers and 1xLevel 3 fast charger.

*Implement Food Ware Packaging Reduction Phase 1 measures from the Zero Waste Plan (Z1.2)*

Staff is implementing Phase 1 of the Food Ware Packaging Reduction measures from the City's Zero Waste Plan. These initiatives are designed to address the landfilled waste, litter and ocean pollution, and potential negative health impacts of single-use food ware. As part of this effort, staff developed a Food Ware Packaging Reduction Plan, participated in regional efforts to align and expand food-ware ordinances and share best practices, drafted a recommended Food Service Ware Ordinance, and received business and community input. The Food Service Ware Ordinance was considered by the City Council for a first reading at a public hearing on November 9, 2021, was approved by Council and will be presented for adoption on December 14. If adopted, these new regulations would take effect on January 1, 2023. This ordinance expands the current ban on polystyrene foam food service ware to other types of single-use plastics, and require that all nonreusable food service ware (plates, bowls, cups, containers, etc.) be compostable fiber and certified free of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or made entirely of aluminum, which is recyclable. Additionally, the ordinance prohibits the use of straws, stirrers, toothpicks, and food picks made from, or packaged in, plastic.

Other Phase 1 initiatives will begin early next year, including a technical assistance program for restaurants that want to voluntarily transition to reusable food service ware. City staff will also conduct outreach about AB 1276, a new State law that requires provision of accessory items such as straws, stirrers, and utensils only upon request by the consumer, beginning January 1, 2022.

## **CONCLUSION**

SAP-4 was adopted in 2019 to build on the City's past sustainability successes by increasing resources to address climate change and other sustainability challenges. Since adoption, many actions have been completed, but others have been delayed or modified due to COVID-19 or staffing constraints. Since the sustainability landscape is constantly evolving, staff will continue to provide updates to the Council Sustainability Committee, as appropriate, so that it may assess the progress of initiatives and recommend modifications. Staff will present a final update on SAP-4 implementation to the City Council in fall 2022. Development of Sustainability Action Plan 5 will begin by summer 2022.

LA-SA/2/MGR  
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cc: CM, SA – Lund, CDD, CSD, POSM – Youngberg, FRM – Trconic, PWD, APWD – Skinner, TM – Lo, SWPM, SWA – Brewster, SCE – Tseng, CC – Francis