



## Water & Natural Resources TWG Meeting #1 Summary

March 20, 2018

3:00 PM-5:00 PM

1400 S. Flores - Main Conference Room

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### Introductions

- Doug Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, introduced representatives from the City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability, CPS Energy, UTSA, and Navigant Consulting. Nils Frenkel from Navigant served as facilitator for the meeting. Attendees from the technical working group introduced themselves.

### Review of Process & Timeline

- Due to the short timeline, the group might have to meet more often than once a quarter. Meeting frequency will be determined after all technical working groups have met.
- The goal is to have a Paris-compliant GHG target by June 29, 2018 and a draft climate action and adaptation plan by the end of the year.
- Liaisons from the Steering Committee (SC) will be selected by the Mayor to help with communication between the Technical Working Group (TWG) and SC. Encourage the cross-pollination of ideas.
- TWG helps bring perspective of the community but also helps with engagement by communicating to respective organizations or companies about SA Climate Ready. TWG helps amplify the message and process.
- Equity is not just the responsibility of the Climate Equity TWG but a shared responsibility across TWGs and SC. The process should be transparent and fair and engage the most vulnerable communities. Be cognizant that climate impacts differ across demographic groups and understand vulnerabilities that exist in the community. Identify solutions that do not exacerbate equity issues.
- This TWG might be more focused on adaptation strategies.

### SA Climate Ready Vision + Priorities Activity & Feedback Review

- Vision
  - Envision a city where we attract environmentally-conscious businesses that want to co-invest with us in our energy, water, and people and help us attain more renewable energy and water and a renewed workforce. Bring a new kind of business to San Antonio.
  - A net zero energy consumer and importer; net zero water consumer and importer; transportation around the city that is equitable, easy, and efficient so there is no need for a personal automobile; net zero food consumer and producer; need to plan for the potential of new residents but focus on making it the best place for current residents
  - Take the lessons learned from the San Antonio River Authority which changed the community's indifference of our river to awareness; raising the environmental and climate literacy in the community; knowing that there are 4 eco-regions in San Antonio should mean that we consider being hyperlocal in our strategies (e.g. certain tree species grow better in certain parts of San Antonio)
  - Address data from climate projections (e.g. longer droughts, more intense rainfall, etc.) and make sure all future development is resilient to these climate impacts
  - Holistic, multi-beneficial projects and development; safe, clean, and enjoyable river; use low-impact development and green infrastructure to handle flash flooding and drought; more walkable and bikeable neighborhoods; improved transportation component through complete streets, protected bike lanes, tree wells, etc.; reduced urban heat island effect through green and white roofs

- Priorities
  - Make recommendation for policy changes through the Unified Development Code by sector
  - Incorporating best practices in green infrastructure and compare costs and benefits
  - Water will become a more precious commodity, so we need to figure out how to diversify our sources; increase opportunities for more solar and wind energy
  - Involve college students
  - Preserve and enhance the tourism and the hospitality industry as part of the economy
  - Set ambitious goals with the most ambitious demand reductions possible
  - Save money by breaking down silos
  - Need more education on climate change since some still think it is a non-issue; improve communications around climate change

### **2014 GHG Inventory Overview & 2016 GHG Inventory Update**

- Water and wastewater about equal in emissions from the 2014 GHG Inventory.
- Comments:
  - How do the communities outside of San Antonio affect our emissions?
  - If we retired CPS Energy's coal plants, how will that affect the water basin and water production?
  - Reducing per capita water consumption to 75 gpd would equal to how much GHG reduction?
  - Need to talk with other TWGs regarding energy/water nexus

### **GHG Mitigation Strategies: Best Practices**

- Los Angeles has integrated water management practices and recaptures methane.
- Good practice to look at other cities, but we have to vet what is possible and practical in San Antonio.
- The next meeting will be a discussion about potential strategies and impacts to the community.

### **Future Meeting Schedule & Next Steps**

- 2:30-4:30 PM on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday generally works for the group.
- Create a checklist of preferred plans (including past plans from San Antonio) and start generating strategies to be discussed.

### **Additional Comments**

- Spend more time and tackle as much as possible at the beginning of the process and then lighten up later
- Understand what the end product is and then work back from that
- Need projections of water and energy consumption – data need
- Vista Ridge requires a lot of energy use
- Want to ensure the this plan is operationalized and implemented
- How do we make sure that this is truly equitable and make sure this plan represents the entire community?
- Texas Water Development Board is looking at demand projections for water and energy and scenarios where coal plants will go offline with the increase of renewable energy generation
- SAWS sells captured methane but need to do more on infiltration, storm water collection, recycling water, and recharging the aquifer
- Consider urban tree canopy
- Look at how to improve construction technology and housing; can houses be more efficient, generate energy, conserve water, and be made to be more multi-functional? Need buy-in from construction companies
- Evaluate mandatory v. encouraged strategies

### **Public Comment**

- No public comment

