



## Water & Natural Resources TWG Meeting #3 Summary

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

2:30-4:30 PM

7000 San Pedro Ave., CPS Energy Northside Customer Service Center

**Facilitators:** Danielle Vitoff (Navigant)

### Introduction Presentation

- Goal of the meeting: vote on broader mitigation goals that should be included in the plan
- Reviewed CAAP timeline: GHG baseline is mostly completed with some minor refining to do and starting to develop future scenarios
- Provided examples of other CAAP frameworks for reference:
  - NYC's 1.5 Degree Plan for its evaluation of co-benefits and incorporating equity in metrics
  - New Orleans' Plan for its broad, audacious goals with a focus on resilience
  - Climate Smart San Jose for its "Three Pillars" approach

### Measure Brainstorm

- Prompt: *What components are critical to San Antonio's climate action strategy around water and natural resources?*
- TWG were asked to write their responses on Post-it notes to the question and stick them on easel pads under the categories of personal/institutional practices, codes/standards, programs, smart cities, social/quality of life, and other (see images below)
- Responses were reviewed and some were re-categorized and clarified.
  - Clarification: TWGs are focused on community actions rather than municipal actions.
- Most responses were clustered around practices, followed by smart cities, programs, codes/standards, social/quality of life, and other.

### GHG Reductions

- Scan of Past & Current Plans
  - Examined 31 plans to attempt to quantify GHGs. Suggestions for this planning process include increasing GHG awareness; developing/applying methods for estimating GHG emissions; emergency management must include fuel shortage possibility in planning; expand funding for non-auto options; leverage land use to reduce congestion and vehicle miles travelled; assess proposed projects for GHG impacts
  - Make sure we have the right agencies/policies/processes to reduce GHG emissions
- SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan includes some natural resource strategies.
- Draft 2040 Community Emissions
  - Discussed 4 possible GHG emissions projections compared to 2016

### Measure Prioritization

- Consider four elements to prioritize proposed measures
  - GHG Impact: Does the measure have to potential for low, medium, or high GHG emissions reductions?
  - Equity
  - Ease of implementation: Is the measure hard or easy to implement? Does implementation require a small or large number of stakeholders?

- Cost of implementation: Is the implementation cost low or high, when including cost borne by all stakeholders?
- The ideal measure will have potential for high GHG emission reductions, be equitable, easy to implement, and low in cost
- Activity: measure the four criteria, vote for your top three with colored dots (all dots weighted equally, colors have no meaning), and review the top 3-5 measures through voting
  - Results: Consensus around appropriate landscaping, smart city/carbon sink, urban agriculture, and increased tree canopy (See photos below for results of prioritization activity.)
  - In general, votes clustered around codes and standards.
  - Comment:
    - Interrelatedness of all ideas stands out.
    - Language is important; appealing to values is important; speak of what matters to people. GHGs are not engaging.
    - One way to engage the public could be representing the whole GHG system as a home or apartment complex in order to make it more understandable.

### Meeting Wrap-up

- Wrap-up
  - Daniel Leal and Grant Ellis, City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department
    - Currently working on trail design strategies and understanding how to implement LID strategies
    - Revising the Parks System Plan; looking at strategies for the short- and long-term;
    - Beginning a grant initiative called “Cities Connecting Children to Nature”
    - A new urban forestry inventory analysis will be completed for San Antonio which will provide more granular data about urban trees.
- Homework for next meeting due TBD:
  - Work on drafting language to clarify top 3-5 selected goals
  - Look for request to provide input on cost-benefit analysis
- Feedback to be sent to [lisa.lin@sanantonio.gov](mailto:lisa.lin@sanantonio.gov) or [danielle.vitoff@navigant.com](mailto:danielle.vitoff@navigant.com)
- The next meeting is an online meeting on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30pm. The 1400 S. Flores Main Conference Room will be reserved at that time if you would like to watch it as a group.

### Public Comment

- We need to tie GHGs back to public health and not assume that people do not understand GHGs.
- Q: It seems like the process is supposed to elicit overarching themes rather than specific initiatives and strategies. Don't we want specific strategies?/A: Overarching themes are more palatable than strategies which can be easily rejected. Overarching themes show cross-sector buy-in and have political teeth. Themes will help us take steps in the right direction and prepare us to develop specific strategies.
- Do not forget “why” we are taking these steps (e.g. health, quality of life, etc.)

# CODES + STANDARDS

Require GHG mitigation for projects

Protection of Riparian Areas - allow GI to be built.

Using Green Complete Streets

Progressive tax to address equity and heavily resource, high income resource users

fully integrated ordinances that impact GHG in Park require ment met by auto, w/ summer pool

More Xeriscaping of public SPACES

Minimize parking lot size requirements Shared parking

Reduce Irrigation Systems scope installation

Reduce agency use for agencies mowing dredging

# PROGRAMS

- Require data base sharing, spirit rebate programs

Increase use of resilient landscape

- Evaluate COSA dupl practices & projects for energy/GHG impact

• Promote low-impact development on under-utilized lands (i.e.: Urban farms)

Financing + Incentives for owners (lands bldg)

Prioritize water catchment programs in low income communities

• Continue evaluating water/energy audits, and agricultural production costs associated w/ water, to ensure the most efficient use of resources

Expanding ~~mass~~ urban agriculture & local agrical agriculture

Education and programs in additional languages

# SOCIAL / QUALITY OF LIFE

Persevere ~~urban~~  
wildland

Natural  
Area / Creek  
Restoration  
Riparian

Language

# SMART CITIES

reduce  
Overall  
Per person  
water use

Getting rid  
of grass lawns  
and moving  
towards zero-scaping,  
urban agriculture/  
parks, and denser  
housing

Urban forestry  
program  
↓  
Throughout SA,  
connected

Urban Forestry  
Follow Recommendations  
of City Forester  
Article Inventory  
(2019)

• Develop water-holding  
Capacity of urban  
Soils. (increase organic  
matter, boost  
soil health)

design main-  
tain parks and  
open spaces to  
maximize CO<sub>2</sub>  
sinks  
• soils  
• vegetation  
• stormwater runoff

Carbon Storage  
Big City is an  
Asset not a  
liability.  
soil carbon

• Increase tree  
Canopy in SA  
(Promote urban forestry  
efforts w/ native  
Species)

utilize  
best practices  
from dryer  
cities

Codes & Standards  
Urban growth  
boundary  
with mass carbon  
capture wilderness  
outside of the UGB

Identify  
All open spaces  
inc. in dry  
soil carbon  
for carbon  
sequestration

Integrate  
LID with  
Green Ways  
Tree = carbon  
sink

# PRACTICES (PERSONAL + INSTITUTIONAL)

• Increase the application of energy recovery tech in water production

• Utilize solar at as many CoSA/SAW CPSE-owned open lands as possible

Reduce Peak Water Demand

Increase Use of diversity in landscape

Reduce average production need by use of appropriate landscaping

• Continue capturing the majority of digester gas associated with WW treatment, getting as close to zero emission as possible

• Solar/Wind Power at Treatment & Desal plants

• Get Grid CO<sub>2</sub> Free ASAP

• Promote native plantings/landscaping

• Move to permeable paving or other green building materials

Public educ. on landsc mgmt practices & water resources

Mass rainwater capture program, esp esp for homes

Promoting of vegetarian/vegan lifestyle

## OTHER

MORE DEFINED GHG INVENTORY REFLECTING EACH OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES - FORESTRY OTHERS? (WATER RESOURCES ONLY 0.1% OF GHG)