



Notice of Intent to Adopt Negative Declaration

Berkeley Climate Action Plan

The City of Berkeley has prepared an Initial Study pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code, Division 13 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the Berkeley Climate Action Plan (CAP). The City proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration (“ND”) because the CAP would not result in any significant environmental impacts. This ND and the Initial Study describe the reasons that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact report under CEQA.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Comments on the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration must be submitted in writing prior to the close of the public comment period.

From **April 24 to May 26, 2009**, the Negative Declaration and its Initial Study of environmental effects are available for public review during normal office hours at the following locations:

Berkeley Public Library
2090 Kittredge Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Green Building Center
Permit Service Center,
2120 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

These documents are also available on the City’s website: <http://www.berkeleyclimateaction.org/>

Written comments on the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration should be submitted to:

Timothy Burroughs, Climate Action Coordinator
Office of Energy & Sustainable Development
2120 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
tburroughs@ci.berkeley.ca.us
Phone: (510) 981-7437

PUBLIC MEETINGS: The City Council held a public hearing on the Climate Action Plan on April 21, 2009. The Council will discuss the CAP at additional meetings prior to the adoption of the Negative Declaration and adoption of the Climate Action Plan. Separate public hearings are not scheduled to receive comments on the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration. Therefore, comments must be submitted in writing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is the adoption of a policy document, the Climate Action Plan, intended to provide policy direction and actions the City and the community can take to significantly reduce the generation of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) consistent with the direction adopted by the voters in 2006 to reduce GHG emissions in the City of Berkeley by 80% by 2050.

The purpose of the plan is to guide the development, enhancement, and ultimately the implementation of actions that aggressively cut Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions. The plan does the following:

- Describes where Berkeley's GHG emissions come from
- Provides an estimate of how those emissions could be expected to grow
- Recommends goals, policies and actions that we as a community can implement to achieve GHG reductions and other community benefits such as increased green job opportunities and improved public health
- Provides a timeline for the plan's implementation, including identifying existing and potential costs and funding sources
- Defines a strategy for turning this plan into action and transparently tracking and reporting progress toward our goal.

The Berkeley Climate Action Plan was designed under the premise that local governments and the communities they represent can address the main sources of the emissions that cause global warming: the energy consumed in buildings and for transportation and the solid waste sent to landfills.

Below is a summary of the core recommended strategies for each category of action included in the plan.

1. Sustainable Transportation & Land Use (Chapter 3): The plan is designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled in the community by making cycling, walking, public transit and other sustainable mobility modes the mainstream and to increase vehicle fuel efficiency and the utilization of low-carbon fuels:

- *Increase the safety, reliability, and frequency of public transit*
- *Expand other mobility options, such as car share pods and shuttle buses, into areas where existing public transit is less frequent and accessible*
- *Accelerate implementation of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans and continue efforts to make walking and cycling a safe, healthy and enjoyable alternative to driving*
- *Ensure that new development is "green" development, meaning that it is oriented toward transit and is coupled with enhancements to green and open space, urban forestry efforts, and water conservation efforts, among others.*
- *Manage parking effectively to minimize driving demand and to encourage and support alternatives to driving*
- *Create incentives for low-carbon vehicles, such as electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids*

2. Building Energy Use (Chapter 4): The community's task is to reduce conventional energy use in every existing Berkeley home, business and institution through high-quality energy efficiency retrofits and a greater reliance on renewable energy such as solar:

- *Strive to achieve zero net energy performance in new construction by 2020*
- *Enhance and lower the cost of energy efficiency services and standards for existing*

residential and non-residential buildings

- *Develop a local, clean, decentralized renewable energy supply to meet a larger portion of the community's energy needs*
- *Continue to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public buildings*
- *Prepare local residents for job opportunities in the emerging green economy*

3. Waste Reduction & Recycling (Chapter 5): These measures aim to eliminate solid waste at its source, i.e., the point of production, and to maximize reuse and recycling throughout the community:

- *Enhance recycling, composting and source reduction services for residential and non-residential buildings*
- *Increase the City's capacity to divert construction & demolition debris from landfills*
- *Expand the types of materials that can be recycled locally, such as certain plastics*
- *Expand efforts to eliminate waste at its source by limiting the use of plastic bags and by increasing producers' responsibility for product waste and packaging*

4. Community Outreach & Empowerment (Chapter 7): The success of the local climate action efforts rests on behavior change. Actions designed to educate and empower community members are fundamental to this plan:

- *Launch a coordinated outreach and education campaign to mobilize residents, businesses and industry*
- *Continue to expand the opportunities students have to learn about and take action on climate change*
- *Increase awareness and action in the City government by providing training on how to increase sustainability at home and in the workplace*

The plan also includes measures to prepare for the risks associated with climate change. The CAP calls for the City to partner with local, regional, and state agencies to develop a plan of action for climate adaptation.

PROJECT SPONSOR & LEAD AGENCY: City of Berkeley

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide

Cc: Environmental Documents Distribution List, including the following:

Alameda County Clerk's Office
Alameda County Congestion Management Agency
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District
Berkeley Central Library
Communities for a Better Environment
Dept.

Environmental Review Staff, c/o City Administrator, Albany
Environmental Review Staff, c/o City Manager, Emeryville
Environmental Review Staff, c/o City Manager, Oakland
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