

C-8

June 13, 2023

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve the 2023 Office of Climate Action and Sustainability Work Plan. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The Sustainable City Commission Ordinance (Ordinance) was adopted by a unanimous vote of the City Council on May 15, 2007. The Ordinance established the Sustainable City Commission (Commission), requiring that, "Each year the Commission shall prepare a work program outlining the focus for the Commission for review and approval by the City Council."

The attached 2023 Office of Climate Action and Sustainability Work Plan (Work Plan) was unanimously approved by the Commission on April 27, 2023, and in accordance with the Ordinance, is being submitted for City Council review and approval. The Work Plan includes multiple actions to be taken during the 2023 calendar year.

This year's Work Plan references the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability, as the Office of Sustainability has been incorporated in this new office approved by the City Council in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The Work Plan also incorporates actions from the Long Beach Climate Action Plan (LB CAP), as the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability's scope now includes implementation of the LB CAP. The vision of the LB CAP is to create a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable city by addressing climate change in a way that remedies existing environmental health disparities while also improving health, quality of life, and economic vitality throughout Long Beach. In addition to being consistent with the LB CAP, the Work Plan provides a holistic approach to sustainability and will be used to guide the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability in its work.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Erin Weesner-McKinley on May 22, 2023 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on May 25, 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Work Plan is intended to guide the Commission and City staff in implementing the LB CAP, creating green projects, programs and policies, and making recommendations to the City Council over the next year.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on June 13, 2023, to enable the Commission to move forward with new business at their bimonthly meetings, with the next being held on June 22, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT

This Work Plan includes items and actions intended to guide the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. These items and actions are funded by a combination of funding streams including grant funding, AB 32 Cap and Trade funding to support projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Measure US oil production tax revenues, and an interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for services. Sufficient budget to support the Work Plan is currently appropriated. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

Office of Climate Action & Sustainability

2023 Work Plan (DRAFT)

2023 Work Plan

City Leadership and Funding

The City Council adopted the Long Beach Climate Action Plan (LB CAP) in August 2022, which includes climate action goals aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation goals that focus on the negative impact climate change has on infrastructure, services, and the well-being of the community. The following are the first steps to begin implementing LB CAP.

- Establish new Office of Climate Action and Sustainability
 - Fill new/existing vacancies and comprehensively merge team responsibilities to perform the work associated with LB CAP implementation
- Develop Interdepartmental LB CAP Governance Structure
 - Create citywide working groups responsible for and accountable to fulfill implementation actions in the LB CAP
- Update Commission By-Laws
 - Align Commission purpose and meeting content to support LB CAP implementation
- Target Grant Funding
 - Identify external funding opportunities to support LB CAP implementation
- Incorporate LB CAP in City Legislative Agenda
 - Develop and implement state and federal legislative agendas to help implement and develop LB CAP strategies
- Establish Staff Communications and Training
 - Establish and execute an internal citywide communications and training framework to increase awareness of and support for climate action and the LB CAP and the importance of cross-departmental collaboration to achieve successful implementation

Legislative Affairs

- Explore support for expanding air quality monitoring

Implement Climate Action Plan Actions

Begin work on the following LB CAP Actions assigned to the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability.

- Building and Energy
 - BE-1. Provide Access to Renewably Generated Electricity
 - BE-2. Increase Use of Solar Power
 - BE-3. Promote Community Solar and Microgrids
 - BE-4. Develop a Residential and Commercial Energy Assessment and Benchmarking Program
 - BE-5. Provide Access to Energy Efficiency Financing, Rebates, and Incentives for Building Owners
 - BE-8. Implement Short-Term Measures to Reduce Emissions Related to Oil and Gas Extraction

2023 Work Plan

Implement Climate Action Plan Actions (cont.)

- Transportation
 - T-5. Develop an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Master Plan

- Extreme Heat
 - EH-1. Increase Presence of Cool Roofs and Cool Walls
 - EH-3. Enhance and Expand Urban Forest Cover and Vegetation
 - EH-5. Identify Future Vulnerability Potential for Power Outages Related to Extreme Heat and Develop Plans to Prevent Such Outages

- Air Quality
 - AQ-2. Encourage Urban Agriculture Practices that Reduce Air Quality
 - AQ-3. Support the Development of the Long Beach Airport Sustainability Plan
 - AQ-7. Increase Monitoring and Regulation of Oil Extraction and Refining Process

- Drought
 - DRT-1. Continue Development and Implementation of Water Use Efficiency Programs and Implement Additional Water Conservation Programs
 - DRT-2. Enhance Outreach and Education Related to Water Conservation
 - DRT-3. Expand Usage of Green Infrastructure and Green Streets
 - DRT-4. Expand Usage of Recycled Water and Greywater for Non-Potable Use
 - DRT-5. Incorporate Increased Rainfall Capture and Other Actions to Maximize Local Water Supplies and Offset Imported Water

- Sea Level Rise and Flooding
 - FLD-3. Establish a Flood Impacts Monitoring Program

2023 Work Plan

Policies, Programs, and Services

Disadvantaged Community GHG-Reduction Program

- Launch a residential greenhouse gas reduction program to benefit residents located in disadvantaged community census tracts.

Partners: Long Beach Utilities, Energy Resources
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Building & Energy

Green Business Recognition Program

- Continue a free program to certify businesses through the California Green Businesses Network (CAGBN) and connect businesses with any resources and incentive programs available to help them go green. Expand outreach and support to BIPOC-owned and disadvantaged businesses through community partnerships.

Partners: Economic Development, Long Beach Utilities,
Public Works, Energy Resources, Development Services
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Drought, Building & Energy

LEED for Cities

- Coordinate the LEED for Cities certification process and establish a baseline for continuous monitoring of city performance.

Partners: Public Works, Parks, Recreation & Marine, Long Beach Utilities,
Development Services, Health and Human Services, Office of Equity
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Air Quality, Drought, Building & Energy

Edible Landscapes

- Establish a community orchard at Willow Springs Park. Provide support for the creation of edible garden landscapes by local organizations. Continue to provide Edible Garden workshops to educate residents about growing their own food.

Partners: Food Finders, Long Beach Public Libraries, Conservation Corps of LB
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Air Quality

2023 Work Plan

Policies, Programs, and Services

Urban Agriculture Initiatives

- Administer the UAIZ program, conduct outreach, and provide matchmaking services to encourage adoption on vacant lots in Long Beach.
- Develop a micro-grants program to support urban farms, teaching gardens, and community gardens.

Partners: Development Services, Health and Human Services
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Air Quality, Drought

Mulch Delivery and Pick-up

- Continue the mulch delivery and pick-up programs that benefit residents and local organizations.

Partners: West Coast Arborists, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Air Quality

Tree Planting

- Continue parkway tree plantings upon request and fruit tree plantings in front yards under the CAL FIRE Urban Forestry grant.

Partners: Public Works, Development Services
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Air Quality

Willow Springs Park Support and Native Plant Nursery

- Support park activation and maintenance with community programs and continue to develop the Native Plant Nursery, support local pollinator populations, develop public art opportunities, and provide Native Plant workshops.

Partners: Parks, Recreation & Marine, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Air Quality

Watershed and Urban Forestry Initiatives

- Identify and implement multi-benefit stormwater quality improvements within targeted sub-watersheds along the Los Angeles River through the planting of street trees and other best management practices.

Partners: Public Works, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
LB CAP Sector/Stressor: Extreme Heat, Air Quality, Drought, Flood

2023 Work Plan

Stewardship, Education, and Special Events

Environmental Stewardship

- Provide public engagement and service through participatory fieldwork at Willow Springs Park (MLK Day of Service, Monarch Day of Action, Restoration Fridays).

Partners: Friends of Willow Springs, Leadership Long Beach, Aquarium of the Pacific, Conservation Corps of LB

Environmental Education and Special Events

- Coordinate expanding opportunities for environmental education and special events, including Earth Month activities, workshops, online features, etc.

Partners: Friends of Willow Springs, Library Services, Parks, Recreation & Marine, Long Beach City College

Ranchos Walk

- Support the planning and execution of the Ranchos Walk in partnership with City Departments and community partners

Partners: Public Works, Development Services, Health and Human Services, Walk Long Beach

Commission Meetings

Month	Climate Action Plan Topic	Admin Items
January	Year in Review Commission Retreat	Work Plan Presentation Commission Training
February	Sea Level Rise & Flooding	Work Plan Review
April	Earth Month Celebration	
June	Drought	Chair/Vice Chair Elections
August	Extreme Heat, Air Quality	
October	Building & Energy, Waste	
December	Transportation	

**Agenda and background materials will be sent before each meeting. In between meetings, staff anticipates providing supplemental material for Commissioners to consider for ongoing education.*