

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE – PUBLIC COMMENT MINUTES – 02.17.21

Moderators:

Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First, Melanie Sanchez Eastwood, New Mexico First, Sharon Berman, New Mexico First, Erika Robers, New Mexico First, Wendy Wintermute, New Mexico First

C.A.B.Q. Staff:

Kelsey Rader, Environmental Health Department, Alice Main, Environmental Health Department, Natalie Duncan, Environmental Health Department, Chris Chavez, Economic Development Department, Jill Holbert, Solid Waste Department, Terra Reed, Planning Department, Stephanie Dominguez, ABQ Ride, Andrew De Garmo, ABQ Ride

Task Force Members Present:

Genesis Arizmendi; Kevin Bean; Molly Blumhoefer; Theresa Cardenas; Amy Carpenter; Sharon Hausam; Josue De Luna Navarro; Cassandra Miller; J Alex Montano; Tara Trafton; Tony Sparks

Community Registrants: Anita Amstutz; Betty Bastai; Karl Braithwaite; Joan Brown; Clifton Chadwick; Camilla Fiebelman; John Giessman; Rebecca Habtour; Joshua Lodoly; Lisa Logan; Claude Morelli; Jessica Roybal; Fiona Wong;

Agenda

12:00 PM – 12:05 PM Introduction & Event Road Map Lilly Irvin-Vitela & Kelsey Rader
12:05 PM – 12:30 PM Recap of Recommendations Overarching Principles Tony Sparks & Genesis Arizmendi Climate Conscious Neighborhoods Theresa Cardenas & Amy Carpenter Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Theresa Cardenas & Molly Blumhoefer Governance & Economic Development Kevin Bean & Genesis Arizmendi Waste & Recycling Molly Blumhoefer Transportation Sharon Hausam & Cassandra Miller
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM Breakout 1 Climate Conscious Neighborhoods Lilly Irvin-Vitela Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Melanie Eastwood & Tony Sparks Governance & Economic Development Sharon Berman & Kevin Bean Waste & Recycling Roy Montibon & Molly Blumhoefer Transportation Wendy Wintermute & Cassandra Miller
1:00 PM – 1:10 PM Report Out
1:10 PM – 1:40 PM Breakout 2 Climate Conscious Neighborhoods Lilly Irvin-Vitela Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Melanie Eastwood & Tony Sparks Governance & Economic Development Sharon Berman & Kevin Bean Waste & Recycling Roy Montibon & Molly Blumhoefer Transportation Wendy Wintermute & Cassandra Miller
1:40 PM – 1:50 PM Report Out
1:50 PM – 2:00 PM Wrap Up & Next Steps Lilly Irvin-Vitela & Kelsey Rader

Group Agreements

- Provide general and specific feedback.
- Share the time with other participants so everyone can be heard.
- There is an opportunity for a variety of views to be shared and debate is unnecessary.

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- Be respectful- Dissent is welcomed but interrupting, attacking, and arguing will not be tolerated.
- In the small group, facilitators will go round robin. Participants have the option to speak or pass.

Zoom Norms

- Please keep your mics muted unless you're speaking.
- Please turn your camera on when you are speaking and identify yourself.
- If you have a question or comment in the large group, please raise your hand.

Breakout Group Questions

Notes will be taken by N.M.F. & C.A.B.Q. Staff Members. A reporter from the group will share back 2-4 ideas in 1.5-2 minutes

1. Are there any principles or recommendations that need to be clarified? If yes, please identify anything confusing.
2. Are there any principles or recommendations related to these topics that you find concerning? If yes, please briefly explain.
3. Are there any principles or recommendations that you find most impactful, promising, or hopeful?

Recommendations

[C.A.B.Q. Climate Action Task Force – Draft Recommendations 2021.](#)

Overview of Questions, Concerns, and Support by Breakout Group

Rec. Category	Questions	Concerns/Suggestions	Support
Climate Conscious Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the impact of climate decisions on pollinators • Consider how the built environment impacts human psychology • How to maintain the passion for being part of the climate mitigation solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be explicit about including youth in climate mitigation efforts • Just transitions • Precisely defining frontline communities and map where they are located to understand priorities • Outreach strategies for place-based solutions • Greater clarity needed about improving the canopy cover • Need to address climate capture in soil • Suggests adding a glyphosate ban to protect pollinators • Suggests adding a plastic ban • Improve the illustrations in the City Codes so they are to scale and better inform the development process • Better define culturally appropriate and sustainable building practices • Next steps in terms of implementation • More detail on public-private partnerships about tree health is needed • There are barriers to implementation, for example, with composting. • Benchmarks would help track progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very excited about the plan • Appreciate emphasis on the climate emergency • Like that it is written with an understanding about who will be most impacted by climate change. • Emphasis on social justice • Commitment to addressing environmental racism • Focus on solutions centered in community • Greening of building codes • LEED rating system
Renewable Energy or Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many specific items will be in the plan? • Is there a framework to rank the different activities by carbon reduction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern- Support amendments to the energy transition that strengthen the C.A.B.Q.'s commitment to social justice. • References to state and federal legislation seems outside the scope of the City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including concerns in the C.A.P. around water are good; • Water management/savings strategies have ancillary benefits in other areas, as well.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will C.A.P. recommendations be enforced? • What would be the area would be the focus including neighborhoods? • Do we think it would be co-ops that manage solar, P.N.M., or some other entity? • How are we going to look at frontline areas that are dependent on oil and gas? • Properties are owned by people who might not even live here. How do we manage owners when people living in the homes might be disadvantaged? • How does the climate action plan intersect with water? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABQ ETA leader felt our C.A.P. demonstrated some 'inappropriate principles.' By suggesting amendments to the E.T.A., she said we were stepping on legislators' toes and those who initially drafted the plan. There is legislation currently underway in the Round House, with amendments proposed, and our C.A.P. is not the correct forum to influence them. • Suggested language, support initiatives to center environmental and social justice in climate work. • Many sustainability strategies have been tried over the years, but didn't always 'stick.' • More ideas presented in the C.A.P. than the capacity to get them all done. Discussion ensued about ways to prioritize the recommendations. • Curious on small and large actions. Community gardens were extremely popular. Prioritizing solar. Future is worth saving. Community solar even if we start smaller. Offset expenses by doing retrofit. • Perhaps identify short-, medium-, and long-range goals, showing incremental successes along the way to get buy-in and develop momentum. • Perhaps rank recommendations based on their capacity to reduce carbon emissions. • Have a map that zooms in on needed areas. • We might need a building authority to hold property owners and developers accountable. • Create a building code assessment. Seems like there would have to be process. This would be an activity to hold accountable, legislation, regulations, codes, ect. • Use score cards/rating systems to hold people accountable and help with sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community solar development • Committee social justice emphasis • Acceptance of solar reality. • Implement social justice within the current structure • Implement battery storage for solar • Identify places available for community solar installation • Tax high-energy users • Prioritize benefits/reinvestment in frontline communities
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies need to be in alignment with city capacity. Most impactful maybe not just the low hanging fruit. 	
<p>Governance and Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are we using ditches, arroyos, etc? • What are the impacts on the aquifer? • Can farms grow less water-intensive crops? • Farmland fallowing- Does that plan involve compensation, incentive base for people to leave more acreage fallows, or plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Arrowhead Center and N.M.S.U. to identify means to use solar power to pump drip pumps. • Plan needs a lot of discussion about fallowing. • Family have been farmers for more than 200 years. Ag land that is zoned "not in use residential" is higher-taxed. There needs to be some recognition. • Important to consider is that with water, across multiple jurisdiction. • Using water for ag use is targeted - there are a lot of lovely homes along Rio Grande Blvd. that are watering massive lawns. Incentivize this. • Interjurisdictional nature of water management - it doesn't respect political boundaries. • It is interesting to have a citywide solution for renewable energy by 2030 to provide \$\$ to the City, drive jobs, and be a hub for renewable development. • Curious about how we can positively balance water conservation efforts with our greening effort • Instead of requiring developer to submit a sustainability plan, give examples of sustainable development for them to choose from • Create pollinator corridors • Concern that recommendation related to E.T.A. and social justice does not recognize existing social justice impacts of E.T.A. • Not sure how green jobs will be created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • `Considering water conservation • Community solar as economic development

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<p>Waste Management and Recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a difference between how kitchen compost and yard clippings should be handled? • How do we educate people about recycling given changes in recycling markets? • Will the plastic bag ban be on hold permanently? • Is it worthwhile to recycle glass? • What do you do with bottle caps and enveloped with plastic? 	<p>we need markets for recyclable materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although there is tandem planning about water sustainability, this plan should address water use, harvesting, and reuse • Building codes could require water capture, conservation of gray water systems, and use of native plants • Emphasize less consumption • Require incoming businesses to adhere to strict waste reduction protocols • Educate people about not buying unnecessary stuff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking community composting to community gardening • Recycling stickers and updated magnets • Strategies to reduce waste
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation encompasses all users of roads • "Build on or continue the transparency ..." • Is the rail runner included in the scope of the C.A.P.? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better coordination with Rio Metro, ABQ Ride, and Country transportation • Define "socially responsible." • Define "frontline communities." • Measure affordability based on fares + time spent • Social services not adequately funded, so don't use them as a model for public transportation • Add "desirability" and "convenience" to access and affordability • Need a transit planning process, 2000 efforts out of date • Is 2019 \$127 million on public transportation (Rio Metro and ABQ Ride) justified? • Limited times and routes are deterrents • There is a safety issue on buses that needs to be addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic safety is important • Commitment to transparency and equity • Access and affordability • Free public transit • Link these recommendations to transit planning AND land use planning • Public education efforts to destigmatize the use of public transportation. • Public education that emphasizes the climate connection

Climate Conscious Neighborhoods – Discussion Groups 1 & 2

- Very excited about the task force and this plan. I'm on the N.M. Beekeeping Association board, co-founded the organization "Think Like A Bee", and spearheaded the Burque Bee City pollination celebration. My work and interests are really focused on pollinator corridors and how they can be integrated into neighborhoods.
- I'm in architecture and planning (at Hartman and Majewski Design Group) and am getting involved in the American Institute of Architects' Committee on the Environment for N.M. I also am engaging in the sustainability plan for my design firm. I have lots of interest in how the built environment affects human psychology and I am very excited to be here.
- I am an independent consultant who is architecturally trained with a master's in architecture. My master's thesis was focused on sustainable urban design. Sustainability and planning are passions of mine from school, and I also have a great interest in governance and economic development. I am also a LEED accredited professional and I have helped with Sandia labs LEED certification.
- I live in the Wells Park neighborhood. I am here because I have wanted to be more plugged into the community, which is something I value more and more as I'm getting older. I believe that climate change and the way we respond to it are the crux of being human and critical to how we respond to it.
- I'm calling from Taos - I've lived in ABQ for most of my life but recently relocated. I'm a sustainability consultant and my projects are primarily based in ABQ – for example, I work with A.P.S. on LEED certifying their new school projects. Tony Sparks [T.F. member] told me about this meeting and I'm so interested and happy to be here.
- I wear many different hats. I am an associate fellow for the Institute of Policy Studies where I write about immigration and climate justice. I am also an associate communication person for Power 4 New Mexico. I am a part of its current work to make New Mexico commit to a just transition [to clean energy].
- So exciting to see this interest in sustainability. Some questions I have are: How do we hang onto this passion in urban areas? There are always points of connection, points of intersection, within our communities and conversations. I am so excited to be here with all of you.
- I am a task force member representing the northeast part of ABQ. I am the senior vice president at Year Out Energy and chair of the New Mexico chapter of the Energy Services Coalition. Knowledge of and interest in energy efficiency are my main contributions to the task force, but I have a passion for everything we discuss as a group.
- This theme of Climate Conscious Neighborhoods is focused on how to mobilize people around the climate emergency, promote education that is culturally and linguistically responsive around sustainability, greening to address the urban heat island effect, and how to address our needs of sustainability within our communities.

Are there any principles or recommendations that need to be clarified? If yes, please identify anything confusing.

- Lots of great ideas, great information. This seems like a great opportunity to engage youth as they are socially conscious drivers of change in our communities. If we equip them with appropriate and

effective education tools, they can educate their families. Another priority is accessibility for less fortunate folks. People might have to buy packs of plastic water bottles because they do not have access to good water at home, but then they have to pay more for this and produce more waste. We need to provide education *and* amenities.

- Yes! It is so important to think of youth as recipients for information and as leaders themselves.
- You all talked a lot about frontline communities - I am wondering if we have, in New Mexico, identified where and who those communities are specifically and then come up with strategies for outreach? I'd like to know how much knowledge we have to specific frontline communities and related outreach efforts.
 - My work is all mixed so I will also talk about what Power 4 N.M. has been doing for N.M. communities. HB9 (Climate Solutions Act) has a whole portion on decarbonization; our main priority with this bill is creating an office focused on a just [energy] transition. In Power 4 N.M.'s research on workforce development in N.M., we have identified frontline communities as those who have been dependent on oil and gas business for decades (such as those residing in the Permian Basin or Four Corners areas, for example). But there are many intersections in how we conceive of frontline communities. For example: workers whose health has been affected by inequitable development, Brown and Black folks, folks on reservations, Navajo nation, folks who have been historically, systemically marginalized. We have to consider many factors, including but not limited to gender and immigration status. Frontline communities are not just those who are "sleeping next to the beast" but also, for example, those living in the International District who have been exposed to the jet fuel spill from the Air Force base and are not economically able to sustain themselves. For example, Texans currently [during large grid outages due to winter storms] who are barely able to pay their utility bills—Black, Brown, immigrant folks in poor communities all bear the brunt of the current power outages. [Frontline communities can be defined in different ways depending on the context.]
 - A lot of the strategies/goals discussed in the recommendations are place-based, and climate action is a place-based topic. I've always been especially curious about outreach strategies because that is such a difficult thing to do.
 - Throughout the plan, we have been very intentional about ensuring that messaging is not just *for* frontline communities but also *by* frontline communities. We have prioritized paying people for their wisdom and knowledge to get their messages out there in an impactful way. It is important to identify frontline communities as those with need and those with great knowledge, expertise, and value.
 - We are really talking about empowering the frontline communities to teach us what we need to do and show how it can be done in coordination and partnership with them. For example, Valle del Oro is an area in the South Valley that is a wildlife refuge where they created a wetland out of an old dairy farm. They have done an amazing job bringing their work into schools to empower children to be the multipliers of their good work.
- I had a lot of questions, but I want to drill down a few specific things.
 - I want to point out that Tree NM is doing a lot for improving canopy cover. Additionally, I have talked with the City about "BEE NM," an idea in which pollinator corridors would be covered in the City's [climate?] plan. I had been in contact with the Solid Waste Department about this idea. (Dan Humbles had been the main contact but he has since left the department).
 - Are you educating people about how we can teach people about carbon capture in the soil?

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- Regarding glyphosate, we [pollinator advocates - did not catch which group specifically] were working at the state level on a neonic [neonicotinoids] ban [\[SB103\]](#), do you think this could be done at the city level? We are not confident it will pass at state level.
- Do we need to collaborate with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District to do glyphosate bans because they cover the waterways running through the City?
- Is the task force considering a plastic ban? For example, Taos has figured out that all the plastic they try to recycle is not recycled. In Taos, they have an initiative to repurpose plastic by, for example, building houses and tiny sheds. I think that we need more awareness over how plastic is actually minimally recycled. We need to deal with plastic problems and promote zero waste.
- I was hoping to hear a little more about the culturally appropriate sustainable building practices discussed in the task force recommendations.
 - One of the things that I understand it to be is a way of appreciating how much knowledge there is in the indigenous communities. For example – the adobe house! Who knew we could actually avoid using so much plastic and manufactured things by making our built environments work for us *and* with us? The built environment doesn't have to be what it is right now.
 - This idea is trying to get the City to know that any climate solution should put frontline communities at the very center. I have many different projects I'm working on but one thing I work on is messaging for the N.M. Native voters' group [N.M. Native Vote] strongly supports community solar because it allows the community to be involved in decision-making about how we get our energy.
 - For example, for many tribe's wind turbines would not be culturally appropriate. Wind turbines would actually intervene with the eagle path - they would block eagle movement, eagle migrations. It is important to the task force to find solutions based in the community instead of coming from big corporations coming from out of state into our community to profit off the climate crisis. In this plan the solution comes from and is created by frontline communities.
- I was able to follow along with the entire plan. For me, the big question is: What are the next steps in terms of implementation.
 - What we've been discussing today are the broad ideas and principles behind the Climate Action Plan. After this period of public comment, the task force will take this input and finetune the recommendations. In this finetuning and prioritizing, the task force will identify timelines and metrics. For example: one goal we have is to get more people to compost, and we want to hire *promotoras* to help promote this practice. If this is something retained in the final plan then what specifics are we talking about? We have to consider questions such as: How many promotoras? One in every neighborhood, one for every region? When do we want them hired by, what specifically do we want them to accomplish?
 - The City itself would only say no to the task force's suggestions if the task force recommended something illegal. Otherwise, this plan is entirely in the community's hands, and intentionally focused on frontline communities. The City will release the plan on Earth Day, and after that there will be more opportunities for the community to come together to achieve these goals. There is so much work to do and it will not necessarily be City personnel-driven, it will be driven by the community and supported by the City. We hope that the plan will carry over to the next administration.

Are there any principles or recommendations related to these topics that you find concerning? If yes, explain.

- **[Code legibility]** My last experience dealing with code in the City was not favorable – it is so complicated and layered. The illustrations used in City codes are not always to scale - that can be frustrating. For example, in my design firm, we would have discussions about code and what would be good design, but there were disagreements about the same code's meanings. As we are looking to implement improvements as we are designing and improving our neighborhoods, it would be beneficial to create more clarity in planning codes. For example, we need better illustrations so that people in the design industry can experience improved legibility without necessarily having to cross-reference layers of documents and work with illustrations that diverge from what is actually in a code. I think we could do better. This would really help with street design.
- This [Climate Conscious Neighborhoods] is a big topic. There is a lot of detail and it is naturally very intersectional. I did not see anything that was off mark, but some things will be trickier.
 - What recommendations specifically do you think will be harder to pursue?
 - My partner is an arborist and notes in the recommendations about improving the accessibility and affordability of arbor work gave me some pause considering how, by nature, arbor work is expensive. A question that I think is important is: How could we focus on tree maintenance over tree removal?
 - Yes! The idea here is that this would be a public-private partnership in which we find a way to incentivize using public dollars to support the public good that is tree work.
 - One idea I have is finding a way to fund arbor work so that arborists could work on a sliding scale.
- As an individual trying to get my residents in Albuquerque to, for example, compost or collect rainwater, I know that you run into personal challenges when promoting these actions. Just composting alone has a whole host of challenges in a city. Depending on who you have on the task force to work on these individual issues, I think it's all possible. But there is a lot in this plan that will, overall, need to be hashed out. But I think it's better to aim high and have a lot of goals. A question I have is: Is there any sort of timeline to this plan? Are you looking at benchmarks over time to see if and how some of these strategies will be successful? For example, after the plan is released, you could almost build a case study in which the City documents benchmarks and challenges that have been experienced and/or overcome during the plan implementation process.
 - This is a living, working document. As the climate action endorsed by the plan becomes a reality, senses of urgency, capacity, and resource availability will also emerge. The task force is working to ensure that there are benchmarks and timelines to accompany the implementation process. Concerns over accountability will also be addressed.
- I have one additional question: I'm concerned about who the next Mayor might be and how, historically, there have been waves of enthusiasm towards sustainability in the Albuquerque City government. How do you prevent future administrative changes from impacting the plan moving forward?
 - Think back to the 2009 climate action plan - it was fully developed as a plan, but the implementation didn't happen full force, so it has been very tricky for this administration to research and track progress on that plan. Your concerns are very valid! You cannot guarantee political outcomes, but you are most likely to have an impact when you have a well-organized, hard-working group of folks working on implementation.

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- From the City of Albuquerque we have a comparison between the 2009 initial climate action plan and now and how sustainability goals have progressed. I was astounded at how much progress has been made. The City is moving forward and continuing to move forward through multiple administrations. There is a lot of work to be done but you are a part of this conversation.
- I think accountability is not just done with a report, but through community organizing. If it's written in this report, you can easily organize a community and demand that the City of Albuquerque does what it has promised to do. Accountability is more complicated than just writing a report - it also includes community involvement and community organizing.

Are there any principles or recommendations that you find most impactful, promising, or hopeful?

- I am so excited about this work! The fact that you use the phrase "climate emergency" – YES YES YES! Everything is so exciting.
- I am super excited that the task force has written this plan to focus on who will be most impacted by climate change. Looking at climate change through the lenses of environmental justice and environmental racism is important. I like focusing on community-oriented solutions instead of coming in and presenting options that outside forces think are best. I think this will improve the success of the recommendations' implementation.
- Full disclosure: I am a sustainability advisor, and I work on LEED projects) The greening of building codes is a huge step towards sustainability that is done all over the U.S., and it shouldn't be a huge stretch to implement this. A LEED rating system will cover almost everything in the climate action plan on a wide scope - sites, material, indoor environmental quality. I am a big advocate for the LEED system because it is a simple way to tackle a lot, not only with renovations and new construction but also by looking at existing building stock and choosing *not* to build new buildings.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency – Discussion Groups 1 & 2

Are there any principles or recommendations that need to be clarified? If yes, please identify anything confusing.

- Support amendments to the energy transition that strengthen the C.A.B.Q.'s commitment to social justice.
- Suggested language, support initiatives to center environmental and social justice in climate work.
- I'm a leader and serves on the water board. Helped develop the trans act. Why is legislation key that is trans to frame? Is the survey being used as a tool? Gets us to 80% percent. It will save \$ on bills. Will generate \$ Energy Transition Act. Should we remove it from the survey to generalize.
- Support amendments to city act to social justice. That social justice has not been forgotten.
- Suggest some language merge because we have social justice interwoven throughout related to Energy Transaction Act. Protect and respect land and water - this is throughout. General and this one is not general.
- Part of the legislature right now. Working hard to kill the bill.
- How we prioritize our thinking. We are supporting legislation that we support. Not meaning that we like E.T.A. More social justice amendments.
- Echoes. Pulled up an email from the new energy economy and thought it needed to be amended. Core is being laid out. Social justice is important but does not link to legislation. C.A.B.Q. can support

legislation that helps the climate with social justice at the center. Support initiatives to center environmental and social justice in climate work.

- What is the process we are getting the survey? How is this going to be around with folks around the City? So many signatures before Grievances.
 - Noted that the process is going to finalize the plan. Mayor and the City Council. Not legally binding. Dependent on how things are implemented. Ensure and track implementation strategy. Put it on the radar. More of a weigh-in as we move forward.
- Good positive stuff but it would be helpful. So many more options. Let us add low-hanging fruit, medium options and then high fruit. We want people to know this is a guess. We need a metric. How many specific items. Strategies that are in alignment with city capacity. Most impactful, maybe not just the low-hanging fruit.
- Noted that it's a good point. Is there a framework to rank the different activities by carbon reduction? Pass legislation that would want to be serving all residents. Carbon reduction.
- Intersection with water. Bigger impacts with CC are something to be done with zoning when efficient buildings. Survey was hard because it came out of the legislative session.
 - Noted that the CC started in 2019. The resolution was passed to update the 2009 plan. Working with others about climate action plans around the U.S.; looking at countries to see what things people were doing around the U.S. Then, the pandemic hit. Formal work kicked off in summer.
- The C.A.P. demonstrated some 'inappropriate principles.' By suggesting amendments to the E.T.A., she said we were stepping on legislators' toes and those who initially drafted the plan. There is legislation currently underway in the Round House, with amendments proposed, and our C.A.P. is not the correct forum to influence them. The authors of the E.T.A. went to great lengths to prioritize social justice. Participant had even researched the C.A.T.F. meeting minutes and found a reference to a post from an environmental group that may have made false or inflated claims around the E.T.A.'s provisions not have used that as the basis for a C.A.P. recommendation.
- Commented that many sustainability strategies have been tried over the years but didn't always stick.' She wanted to know how our recommendations could/would be enforced? The City's Sustainability Office will oversee implementation after the C.A.P. gets adopted by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council.
- Observed that there are clearly more ideas presented in the C.A.P. than the capacity to get them all done. Discussion ensued about ways to prioritize the recommendations. Perhaps identify short-, medium-, and long-range goals, showing incremental successes along the way to get buy-in and develop momentum? Perhaps rank recommendations based on their capacity to reduce carbon emissions?
- Validated that including concerns in the C.A.P. around water are good; water management/savings strategies have ancillary benefits in other areas, as well.
- For community solar let us just assume it passes. What would be the area would be the focus including neighborhoods. Cross polarization of neighborhoods and accessible to underserved communities. Have a map that zooms in on needed areas.
- Love this effort and sustainability. Speaking to heart. Piggy-back on community solar- do we think that there will be co-ops that would manage it or would be like P.N.M. or another way.
- Noted it's a great question but we might be able to see what will happen. Needs to look at language in legislation. WE have the land available. But cannot say if there would be end users. Open-space areas might be an option. But the last is not close by to people to grab that energy. Location and where the customers will be. There are nonprofit groups that organize solar in the area. Could help roll out an implementation plan.

- How are we going to look at frontline areas that are dependent on oil and gas? Properties are owned by people who might not even live here. How do we manage them? Because people living in the homes might be disadvantaged?
- Wondered how would we do this?
- We might need a building authority. How do you hold property owners and developers accountable? Building code assessment. Seems like there would have to be process. This would be an activity to hold accountable, legislation, regulations, codes, ect. Maybe provide incentives. Have good work that is coming out of M.R.A.? We are in the middle of reporting to someone who creates scorecards that help with sustainability. Reality check. Low-income housing to make a cheap house.

Are there any principles or recommendations related to these topics that you find concerning? If yes, explain.

- Came up in the last group as members of the public how do you feel about the mix of impact on the activities. How do you feel we should move forward? More priority placed on areas of need. Curious on small and large actions. Community gardens were extremely popular. Prioritizing solar. Future is worth saving. Community solar even if we start smaller. Offset expenses by doing retrofit.

Are there any principles or recommendations that you find most impactful, promising, or hopeful?

- Noted that we should tax the people who use the most energy. Community solar development.
- Loves the committee social justice emphasis. Realistic. Benefit from it.
- Loves it too.
- Noted that she is most hopeful because many people are trying to integrate social justice into their lives. So happy that the group feels the same. Acceptance of solar reality. We need to get to the big goal. Implement social justice within current structure Implementing battery storage too. Growing industry. So much great content. New type of process, not political, this is a community effort. New type of process that has not had a seat at the table. Lots of people who are working together. Great writing called Adrian Marie Brown book. Many lessons. Make the revolution irresistible. Push the boulder up the hill.
- Showed great interest in Community Solar. Wanted to know where these arrays could/would be installed? Ensuing discussion suggested identifying available land, and prioritizing locations based on proximity to users and demographics of the communities most needing to be served.
- Who runs Community Solar programs? Who organizes them? Tony mentioned that a national nonprofit organization called the Solar Outreach Project, in conjunction with the U.S. Dept. of Energy's 'SunShot Initiative,' provides guidance, training, and resources to help planners develop Community Solar programs. www.solaroutreach.org www.narc.org
- Wondered how the City would be able to control out-of-state property owners and hold them accountable to provisions of the C.A.P.? Would simple 'rules' and 'recommendations' be enough? Discussion turned to the use of enforceable codes and ordinances and possible incentives for developers and landlords.
- Liked the idea of taxing high-energy users.
- The group in general, was pleased with the C.A.P.'s prioritization around Front-Line Communities and showed lots of support for Community Solar.

Are there any principles or recommendations that need to be clarified? If yes, please identify anything confusing.

- **Water Conservation:** To what extent are we using ditches, arroyos, etc? Answer: this is an adaptation issue that needs to be addressed. This was discussed throughout the meetings re. Implementing infrastructure around the City to hold water to water native plants, use water efficiently.
 - What about the aquifer.
 - Response was that aquifer levels were not taken into consideration specifically. We'll consider that.
- **Econ Development:** Farming - have you thought of growing crops that don't require too much water, have you made a list of crops that require less water?
 - Response - It is important to bring this into the farming zone and talk about implementing it although it is being brought into other ideas.
- It is interesting to have a citywide solution for renewable energy by 2030 to provide \$\$ to the City, drive jobs, and be a hub for renewable development.
- **Water conservation:** Curious about how we can positively balance water conservation efforts with our greening effort? Adding tree cover and plants and green spaces within 10 in minutes.
 - Response - creating citywide infrastructure around the City to retain rainwater.
 - Could we note that fracking is not a sustainable way to address water?
 - Reply - that is a big part of the education response. Lots of jobs, people scared to lose employment. If we center around possibilities available re. Jobs, etc.
- **Sustainable Development:**
- New Development Sustainability Plan - how effective will that be and have good results instead of outlining for developers what is expected or giving them good examples of what a good would be. Delineating and providing resource they can refer to, with components of what they will need, an example. Create opportunities to purchase farmland for carbon capture. And beginning to educate people about how important that is. Curious about how-to bring life back, revitalize businesses after COVID-19 hump? That synergizes with a lot of these efforts. Outreach to communities? Curious about ideas brewing. Seeing that we are spring boarding off of these into economic development - how will that look?
 - Reply was that the C.A.B.Q. econ dev developing plan contains revitalization of local strong business. Small businesses are our bread and butter. In particular, one thing along the Central Corridor "Regenerating Route 66" gets people back out there in COVID safe way, depending on money. Utilizing public transit is one aspect they are encouraging. No intention to boost econ development.
- Purchase Farmland - could put in pollinator corridors. Perimeters have been lost in farmland. Contiguous perimeters throughout farmland that become P. Corridors. Creating pollinator perimeters or corridors. Would love to see that important component.
 - Reply - re. urban econ development - ideas that came through community solar - not just on outskirts but also potential for business owners to put on their rooftops for themselves and their neighbors, could increase revenue streams. Pollinator corridors - how can that fit into complete green street efforts - sidewalk and sensitivity - is this part of the investments? Improving our streets can improve the econ dev.

Are there any principles or recommendations related to these topics that you find concerning? If yes, explain.

- **Green Jobs:** "Ag Tech" - we could do better than just irrigation. It could be something that specifically says, work with Arrowhead Center and N.M.S.U. to identify means to use solar power to pump drip pumps. Vision: employees with white lab coats and clipboards, titrate, etc.? Partnering with universities
- **Water conservation:** Farmland following plan? Does that plan involve compensation, incentive base for people to leave more acreage fallows, or plan? Response - this is a plan that needs a lot of discussion. My family have been farmers for more than 200 years. Ag land that is zoned "not in use residential" is higher taxed. There needs to be some recognition. Also important to consider is that with water, across multiple jurisdiction. Using water for ag use - there are a lot of lovely homes along Rio Grande Blvd. that are watering massive lawns. Incentivize this.
 - Interjurisdictional nature of water management - it doesn't respect political boundaries.
- Survey question - guiding principles - answer 7 to question 1 is very specific and implies that the energy transition act doesn't apply to social justice and it does.
- Add that solid waste has wildflower initiative - that could be capitalized on. Keeps from heavy spraying.

Green jobs - how are you going to do that? Response - C.A.B.Q. addressing this, getting word out, identifying folks

Are there any principles or recommendations that you find most impactful, promising, or hopeful?

- **Water conservation:** Using water sources such as using ditches, arroyos for water conservation and smart planning, as well as for farming crops requiring the least water, as well as working using solar power to pump drip irrigation pumps.
- Water conservation - really worried. This is good timing.

Waste Management & Recycling – Discussion Groups 1 & 2

Are there any principles or recommendations that need to be clarified? If yes, please identify anything confusing.

- If there is a difference between how kitchen compost and yard clippings should be processed, this should be clarified.
- Due to the evolving nature of recycling and recent market changes (e.g. China imposing higher restrictions) it will be important to educate residents on the evolving recycling best practices.
- Define "socially responsible"
- Define "frontline communities"
- Transportation encompasses all users of roads
- Affordability isn't just the fare you pay but the time you spend on the bus, i.e., the costs of travel time
- Re: transparency and accountability: transportation funding is already quite transparent, so can this read "Build on or continue the transparency ..."
- Is the Road Runner included in the scope of this initiative?

Are there any principles or recommendations related to these topics that you find concerning? If yes, explain.

- **Market Generation:** How can this plan help generate a market for recyclable materials? Without a market, it will be difficult to encourage mass-recycling efforts long-term.
 - Are there Job/manufacturing opportunities within the recycling industry? E.g. Can glass be turned into building materials locally?
- **Connection to **Water**:** Even though this plan chose not to address water (due to tandem planning processes) water use, harvesting, and reuse is integral for this area and the water-energy nexus cannot be ignored.
 - For example, in this section, there could be recommendations to implement building codes to require water capture, water conservation, grey water systems, and removing zero-scapes to use local plants (which are fed recycled and harvested water) to cool our City.
 - Similarly, the City can use its power to prevent detrimental business practices from occurring and require them to uphold specific waste/zero waste practices. For example, Los Lunas and Valencia county should have prevented the water bottling company from setting up shop and at minimum, stop them from expanding production in the middle of a drought.
- The narrative needs to **begin with consuming less first**: There is lots of language around recycling, but there needs to be more focus on the leading factors of waste reduction such as refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, and repurpose.
 - Examples of recommendations could be to require incoming businesses to agree to strict waste reduction protocols.
 - Another option would be to educate folks about all the savings from not buying unnecessary new stuff.
- Are social services better funded now than transportation? Might this result in the unintended consequence of reducing funding for transportation?
- "Access" and "affordability" are good but add "desirability" and "convenience."
- What happened to the City's transit planning process? The last plan was in 2000. All of these recommendations are best accomplished through a real transit planning process. Will this lead to a new transit plan? Response: The City has an R.F.P. out for a new transit planning process.
- In 2019 this region spent \$127 million on public transportation (Rio Metro and ABQ Ride). Is this funding justified?
- The biggest deterrent to using public transportation are the limited times and routes. Routes don't run in the evenings or on Sunday and don't serve neighborhoods where residents are most dependent on public transportation.
- There is a safety issue on buses that needs to be addressed. These same safety issues (e.g., harassment, inebriated or violent passengers) affect pedestrians also. Who is responsible for this? Who needs to be involved in the solution?

Are there any principles or recommendations that you find most impactful, promising, or hopeful?

- Community composting and the connection to bolstering new and existing community gardens
- Educating the public at school and through recycling stickers and updated magnets.
- Anything that will help to reduce waste before we generate it
- Traffic safety is important.
- Commitment to transparency and equity
- Access and affordability: public acceptance of climate change initiatives will come down to access, affordability, and inclusiveness. My electric car is more expensive now, but that may change in the future.

- Free public transit: how do we make up the gap between costs and revenues? U.N.M. and C.N.M. buy bus passes for their students. In some communities, businesses buy bus passes for their employees.
- Link these recommendations to transit planning AND to land use planning. Great density of housing and businesses increases ridership. Public transit can be expensive and environmentally negative if the buses run empty.
- Last mile: ride sharing? Vouchers for Uber and Lyft to connect to transit points? Improvements in bike lanes, as on 4th street, which has made it much safer for bicyclists.
- Better coordination with Rio Metro, ABQ Ride and Country transportation would encourage more cost efficient and cost-effective allocations.
- Public education efforts to destigmatize use of public transportation, i.e., good stories about public transit. But see concern above about the real safety issues in public transportation that need to be addressed.
- Public education that emphasizes the climate connection; a public dashboard that tracks our progress, e.g., in greenhouse gas emissions.

General Questions

- Is the plastic bag ban stopped forever or is it only temporary due to Covid?
 - The Mayor tied the suspension of the reusable bag ban to his executive emergency orders so as long as the orders are in effect, the reusable bag ban will remain in place. (I believe it actually should be called "the suspension of the plastic bag ban" because they are not suspending the use of reusable bags, just allowing stores to use plastic bags)
 - The temporary bag ban was enacted more in the spirit of assisting frontline workers and not as a health concern.
- Is it still worthwhile to recycle glass?
 - There are still useful markets for glass, however the company who used to process the City's glass went out of business. glass is being shipped to Phoenix and used at the landfill for civil engineering applications at landfills (filtration).
- Can you clarify what to do with plastic bottle caps and envelopes with plastic?
 - Small bottle caps that are loose will not get recycled as they are too small for the processing machinery. If it is a plastic cap on a plastic bottle, keep it on so it gets recycled. If the cap is a different material from the bottle, throw it away as it won't make it through recycling.
 - Envelopes with plastic can be recycled and you DO NOT need to remove the plastic.

Report Out – Discussion 1

Transportation- Our two highlights, everyone who spoke up, felt excellent about the plan's emphasis on affordability and access and inclusive it. That came through in the recommendations that were lovely to hear. We also talked about the need to make transportation alternatives more desirable, convenient, and safer, so people use them.

Waste & Recycling- One of the most promising ideas is that community composting was popular and trying to put together gardens would be great and associated with that composting. We could also find some other sort of collaborative effort at the city level to do something with the composting that came out of an effort. We also brought up plastics, accountability and corporations and then education. And the sticker on your recycling bin might be a few things missing like, what do we do with bottle caps?

And what do we do with envelopes? There's a little bit of confusion that we think might need a little more clarity, so the educational component and then composting. I think, with the composting, gardening, and farming, we need to connect those dots so that we don't arrive at a dead end with a whole bunch of compost that nobody's using because that'll kill off the program so it's really connecting the dots on some of these different would appear to be different issues.

Governance & Economic Development-There were many questions about water. Even if the recommendation wasn't specifically about water never good questions, excuse me with ditches' arroyo for water conservation and smart planning. For farming, excuse me farming crops requiring less water and using solar power, possibly to pump drip irrigation systems. There was a question about a good one, about farm the farming following plan how could that work with that would it be compensation would there be in the sentence. A lot of the session about water and the enter jurisdictional nature of water management in this area, and the challenge is that it does not respect political boundaries, but that's the jurisdictional situation we're faced with.

Renewable Energy & energy Efficiency- So we first of all I want to say, we had a super invested in well informed group, it was a amazing deep discussion with some very well connected people two basic things that came out of it, one is looking at one of our guiding principles around the environmental transaction Act and the specific language used to address that there was discussion about whether that's an appropriate way for us to do it on a Climate Action Plan versus legislatively and hoping that there wasn't a suggestion there that the climate action or that the E.T.A. is not looking at climate justice because it is. That was one of the main discussions and the other one has to do with transitioning from this into the concrete plan, how would it be enforced and how we prioritize things in a way that's most effective because clearly there's more to do than we can just jump in and do overnight, so we discussed those basic ideas.

Climate Conscious Neighborhoods- I think the major takeaways that I found her that it happens and we noted right off the B.A.T. that there was a lot of opportunity for synergy between a lot of different ideas and agendas from everything like greening corridors and providing pollinator corridors. The other big topic of conversation was communication on how we're going to identify who were communicating with how the communication is working who's informing the plan or has already informed the plan how to communicate and educate as we go through both to the frontline communities. New Mexicans, in general, and also design professionals and how we can better add clarity to implement.

Report Out – Discussion 2

Governance & Economic Development-What came out of this, among many other ones was this wonderful idea of pollinator corridors and perimeters including wildflowers and what that could do for economic development, beauty and health.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency- How will energy efficiency be managed? And given that there's this enormous opportunity we've got solar gardens we've got solar energy efficiency. And the idea is that it's collaborative planning on all our projects to prioritize the frontline communities. We want to reach out to organizations that specialize in this to help us get there.

Climate Conscious Neighborhoods-The biggest idea for one of the biggest idea, there was many is about cultural appropriate climate solutions. I think, for far too long, our communities have allowed people outside to do the decision making for our clean energy future with are really take into account what we

really need right a clear example is like Community solar programs and really about the main message of this climate Task Force is that. C.A.B.Q. needs to develop solutions for and by communities that are facing the climate crisis every single day.

Waste & Recycling- The big idea is connecting the dots between starting with addressing consumers behavior about what you're buying and how much, and why, and going all the way through. Not so much at the national level but local companies who might be based here to really kind of raise their awareness and maybe even require them to use less plastic, you know, more recyclables etc if they're going to do business here in New Mexico.

Transportation- One of the big ideas, we had many the same people in our group to get into the issue of accessibility, and one idea that I don't think the task force has talked about quite as much is feeling safe. Hence, people are excited about the affordability and the accessibility of public transit but they don't want to negate safety so that's something that we can discuss more.

Next Steps

- Please encourage your networks to take the [Draft Recommendations 2021 Survey](#) by the deadline: 5:00 PM on Friday, February 26, 2021. The survey includes each potential principle, recommendation, and strategy identified by the Climate Action Plan Task Force for the Climate Action Plan's next iteration.
- Feedback from community meetings and survey results will go back to the Task Force to inform the priority climate action principles, strategies, and tactics in the final climate action plan.
- Once recommendations and strategies are prioritized, Task Force members will identify the timeline for recommendations, metrics, potential constraints, and benefits.
- The final draft will be formatted and reviewed by the City of Albuquerque. The only caveat on recommendations that would not be advanced from the Task Force would be if a suggestion were illegal. The plan will be released publicly on Earth Day in April 2021. Ongoing reporting on progress will come from the City of Albuquerque Office of Sustainability.