



City of Albuquerque



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2
0
2
3



Contact Info:
505-768-2738
www.cabq.gov/sustainability
sustainability@cabq.gov



LETTER FROM MAYOR KELLER

It has been another year of finding creative solutions to make continuous progress towards achieving our city's sustainability goals. While Albuquerque continues to move forward with community-based climate mitigation work, we are still experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change. Over the past year, our communities survived one of the hottest and longest heat seasons on record and felt the effects of prolonged drought, increased snow cap melt, and severe wildfire seasons. Climate change has never been more visible, and together we must continue to adapt and build a more resilient city for Albuquerque families as the climate continues to change.

Following the release of the 2021 Albuquerque Climate Action Plan and the start of our administration's second term, our City has pressed ahead. In that short time, we:

- ✓ Became the first city to create an equity committee in support of the federal Justice40 initiative.
- ✓ Advanced our projected date for 100% municipal renewable energy use to 2025.
- ✓ Were named the third most improved city in the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy national benchmark survey
- ✓ Committed to reducing GHGs, in alignment with the City's commitment to the Paris Climate Accord.
- ✓ Launched the Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN), the first tool of its kind in utility and building performance data streaming.
- ✓ Received over \$74 million in grant awards from multiple agencies to further sustainability efforts in the coming years.
- ✓ Are on track to be among the first large cities to use 100% renewable energy for government operations.

Our continued efforts to be a sustainable and resilient city have been recognized on national and international scales. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named Albuquerque one of the top five large cities in America for most solar installed per capita, and the BRAIN has received national and international praise as an innovative tool for advancing energy efficiency and taking building performance tracking to the next level.

These annual Climate Action Plan Implementation Reports are intended to outline what we have accomplished, share next steps, and reflect back on the work we have completed together. Fighting climate change is an ever-evolving landscape, and the City recognizes that our goals cannot be achieved alone. We are actively working on creating and expanding relationships between City departments, community-based organizations, academia, and local, regional, and state government agencies to develop strategies that protect our most vulnerable communities.

My hope is that you feel connected and informed about the sustainability work of your local government, and see what is possible for institutions to accomplish with the support of the community. We're grateful to the Climate Action Plan Task Force and members of our community who participated in the 2021 Climate Action Plan Planning process and the engagement sessions that followed – your input has been, and will continue to be essential. We look forward to the work to come as we continue to make this a safe, resilient place for families to thrive.

It outlines what we have accomplished, and shares next steps, including the initial strides our Sustainability Office has taken to launch a new public engagement component to the implementation process. Fighting climate change is an ever-evolving landscape, and the City is committed to ensuring community voices are always heard to help shape our course.

My hope for readers of this report is that you not only feel more connected to and informed about the sustainability work of your local government, but that you can see what is possible for institutions to accomplish with the support of community. Thank you to the Climate Action Plan Task Force and community who participated in the 2021 CAP planning process – I look forward to the work to come!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
6	SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS
9	RENEWABLE ENERGY
12	CLEAN TRANSPORTATION
18	WASTE AND RECYCLING
22	EDUCATION AND CLIMATE-READY WORKFORCE
26	CLIMATE CONSCIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS & RESOURCES
32	CONTINUED PLANNING & COLLABORATIONS
32	CONCLUSIONS
33	NEXT STEPS
34	APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate action plans are key mechanisms to promote reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while capturing community priorities. Following the passage of [City Resolution R-19-187](#) and the declaration of a climate emergency, the City of Albuquerque (the City) committed to creating a plan for climate action driven by frontline communities¹ who continue to be impacted by disparities in energy burdens, health outcomes and accessibility, among other challenges.

In 2020, the City kicked off the planning process with a city-wide survey and then formed a climate action task force of community members to author the core strategies of the plan. The task force developed 50 strategies with input from stakeholders. All 50 strategies were adopted by City Council and organized into the following themes for the 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which laid the groundwork for a collaborative future.²

- Sustainable Buildings
- Renewable Energy
- Clean Transportation
- Waste & Recycling
- Economic Development
- Education & Awareness
- Climate Conscious Neighborhoods & Resources

During the implementation period, the Sustainability Office is committed to continuing to track, share and guide implementation of the recommended climate action strategies. Last year, the City released the first annual Climate Action Plan Implementation Report (Implementation Report, CAP-IR), which captured implementation efforts within city government and across the metro area and identified initial gaps and barriers.³ This 2023 Implementation Report builds on the successes and lessons and includes a plan to address remaining gaps and barriers to continue equitable and impactful progress. The overall intent of each Implementation Report is to drive near-term success and long-term change while also mitigating and adapting to climate change.

To ensure community members continue to inform the implementation process, the Sustainability Office held three community engagement sessions over the past year, each centered on a different topic. Building on the lessons and public feedback, in the coming year, the Sustainability Office will expand community engagement so that more people can help shape the projects for reducing climate pollution in our city. Public input has been and will continue to be vital for understanding resident priorities and project impacts, receiving constructive feedback for project implementers, hearing ideas to improve the Albuquerque community, and alignment with the vision community members have for the city.

¹ The City of Albuquerque defines frontline communities as those communities that will be impacted “first and worst” by the effects of climate change. These communities include Indigenous, Black and other communities of color; communities of low-income; and other groups that face greater exposure to pollution and climate hazards with more limited resources to respond.

² “2021 Climate Action Plan,” City of Albuquerque, 2021, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/2021-climate-action-plan.pdf>.

³ “2022 Climate Action Plan Implementation Report,” City of Albuquerque, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/2022-cap-ir-eng-web.pdf>.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS


Increasing the number of sustainable buildings promotes cost savings to residents, supports job creation and allows for greater electrical grid improvements—accelerating Albuquerque’s overall climate response. To accomplish these goals, New Mexico’s new Community Energy Efficiency Development (CEED) Block Grant will appropriate at least \$10 million in funds for reducing building emissions in underserved communities across the state.⁴ Additionally, Albuquerque’s local utility, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), aims to be emissions free by 2040, an ambitious goal that requires continuous efforts and aggressive implementation.

Powering Albuquerque’s buildings, including lighting, heating and cooling, accounts for a significant portion of the City’s total GHG emissions—over half according to the City’s most recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory.⁵ Thus, the City is committed to reducing excess energy needs by increasing the number of energy efficient buildings (both new and retrofits) and tracking progress by periodically conducting a greenhouse gas inventory.⁶

City departments, including the Planning Department, support the development of sustainable buildings through multiple avenues, such as requiring developers and home builders to meet current energy standards, incorporating native landscaping into biking and infrastructure projects, and encouraging renewable energy use by reviewing and approving solar panel installations. Buildings of all types have a multifaceted role to play in improving Albuquerque’s sustainability and growing an equitable, greener economy.






PROGRESS TO DATE

To improve building environmental impacts, the City is focusing on energy efficiency. Audits and retrofits of existing buildings will significantly reduce Albuquerque’s energy consumption. Increasing public awareness around available programs and initiatives, including utility rebates and financial incentives, is critical to help minimize energy burdens placed on the most at-risk residents.

DID YOU KNOW? 

Community Energy Efficiency program retrofits provided services in frontline communities valued at \$260,000.

NOW, EACH YEAR, THE UPGRADES SAVE:


-  Residents an estimated **\$7,000** in utility costs
-  **41,000 kWh** of electricity
-  **4,500 therms** of natural gas
-  **138,800 gallons** of water
-  **60 tons** of CO₂

⁴ “Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant,” H.B. 37, 55th Legislature (New Mexico 2022), <https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/22%20Regular/final/HB0037.pdf>.

⁵ “Greenhouse Gas Inventory,” City of Albuquerque, 2020, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/city-of-albuquerque-ghg-inventory-3.pdf>.

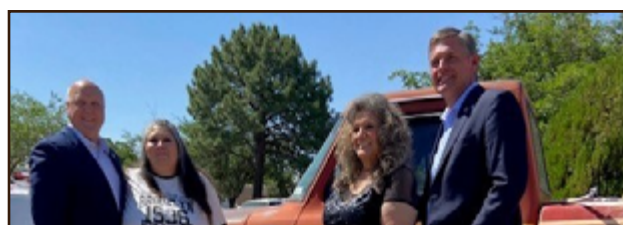
⁶ The next greenhouse gas inventory is estimated to start in 2024.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="87 464 142 527"></p> <p data-bbox="160 478 557 583"><i>Promote access to programs that give incentives for energy efficiency improvements</i></p>  <p data-bbox="160 919 578 1083"><i>(Left to right) Sustainability Officer Kelsey Rader, Prosperity Works Founder Ona Porter, Energy Works Program Director Doug Campion, and City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="646 478 1463 730">The Albuquerque Community Energy Efficiency program—developed by the City in collaboration with Prosperity Works, community service providers, and activists—continues to help improve the health, safety and energy efficiency of homes in the International District. This year it received national attention from a site visit from White House Infrastructure Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu and Senator Heinrich.⁷</p> <p data-bbox="646 764 1463 869">Last year the City, Partnership for Community Action, PNM and Prosperity Works funded a variety of improvements in 10 homes that will save over 8,500 kilowatt hours (kWh) each year.</p> <p data-bbox="646 903 1463 1079">To celebrate the seventh annual National Energy Efficiency Day, Mayor Keller signed a proclamation, declaring October 5 Energy Efficiency Day. That day the City joined regional and national organizations, businesses, utilities, universities and individuals in promoting energy efficiency.⁸</p> <p data-bbox="646 1113 1463 1213">The City maintains a sustainable buildings webpage dedicated to helping residents access energy efficiency savings programs from the State, utilities, and other agencies.⁹</p>



(Left to right) Sustainable Transportation Specialist Albert Lee, White House Infrastructure Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu, Sustainability Specialist Denise Castillo-Gonzalez, Sustainability Officer Kelsey Rader, and Sustainable Waste Specialist Sandra West.




White House Infrastructure Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu (left) and Senator Heinrich (right) with the Morales', homeowners who benefited from energy efficiency upgrades that lowered utility costs and created a better living environment for the Morales family.

⁷ "Heinrich, Biden official tour home made more efficient with federal funds," New Mexico Political Report, accessed August 2023, <https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2023/07/07/heinrich-biden-official-tour-home-made-more-efficient-with-federal-funds>.

⁸ "City of Albuquerque Celebrates Energy Efficiency Day 2022," City of Albuquerque, October 5, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth/news/city-of-albuquerque-celebrates-energy-efficiency-day-2022>.

⁹ "Learn More to Lower Your Energy Bills," Buildings Resources, City of Albuquerque, last modified July 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/buildings/buildings-resources>.

GREEN BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Increase energy efficiency in existing buildings</i></p>	<p>As of June 2023, 125 deep energy efficiency retrofits have been completed. These improvements have resulted in an estimated yearly savings of 239.6 million kWh (GWh) and a combined energy and operations savings of over \$54 million yearly.</p> <p>An energy focused Investment Grade Audit for 50 facilities was completed thanks to a partnership with Yearout Energy. The audit identified ways the City can significantly reduce energy and water consumption, including reducing GHG emissions by over 2,600 tons per year.</p> <p>The new Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network’s (BRAIN) live feed data and visualization has allowed the City to identify and fix issues faster than ever before, saving about \$300,000 annually.¹⁰</p>



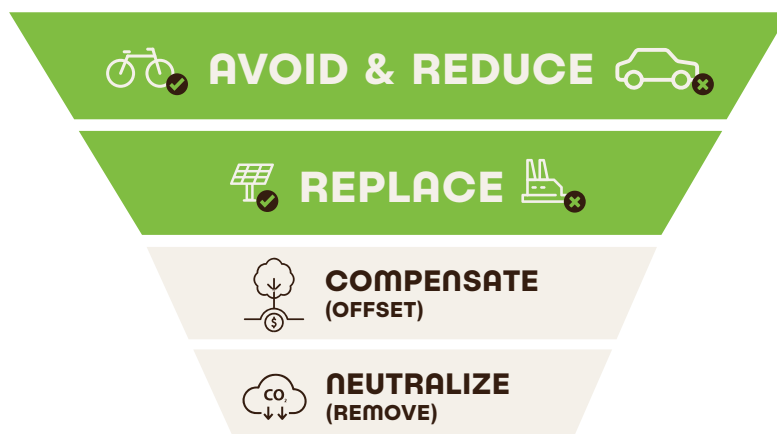
¹⁰ “Albuquerque First City to have Real Time Facility Energy Optimization,” City of Albuquerque, accessed September 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/municipaldevelopment/news/albuquerque-first-city-to-have-real-time-facility-energy-optimization>.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Prioritizing renewable energy projects with the most GHG emissions reduction and long-term environmental and community benefits accelerates progress towards renewable energy goals and a sustainable, renewables-powered future. The Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Hierarchy¹¹ (right) shows the two highest priorities as (1) reducing or avoiding¹² GHG emissions from energy sources and (2) replacing high GHG emissions sources with lower emissions sources (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal over burning fossil fuels). When reducing energy needs and increasing renewable energy production are combined, Albuquerque becomes more resilient to non-renewable energy price fluctuations while reducing GHG emissions.

There is increasing support across government agencies to improve renewable energy accessibility, adoption and infrastructure in Albuquerque. The City is one of the top cities in the U.S. in green power usage¹³ and on track to become one of the first large cities to use 100% renewable energy for government operations. The State's Community Solar Program helps the most at-risk residents be part of the renewable energy transition while reducing their energy burden.¹⁴ While, federal programs are directing more funds to benefit those with the highest energy burdens.¹⁵ These efforts are laying the foundation for a more equitable renewable energy transition and secure future power grid in Albuquerque.

GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION HIERARCHY



¹¹ The Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Hierarchy (similar to the sustainable materials management hierarchy and the wasted food scale) prioritizes energy-related actions that reduce GHG emissions based on the long-term benefits for the economy, environment, and society, with the most beneficial area at the top of the hierarchy. Actions from top to bottom: (1) Avoid and Reduce—Use less, only what you need; (2) Replace—Swap a higher GHG option for a lower GHG option; (3) Compensate (Offset)—Purchase carbon offsets; (4) Neutralize (Remove)—Remove carbon from the atmosphere. Note: The order of items 3 and 4 are being evaluated and may change in the future.

¹² The term “avoided” energy refers to the energy that is not used, and often refers to reductions in energy use through energy efficiency upgrades.

¹³ “City of Albuquerque Ranked No. 13 on EPA’s Top Green Power Users,” City of Albuquerque, accessed August 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth/news/city-of-albuquerque-ranked-no-13-on-epa2019s-top-green-power-users>.

¹⁴ “Community Solar,” New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, accessed August 2023, <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ecmd/community-solar/>.

¹⁵ “Justice40, A whole-of-government initiative,” The White House, accessed August 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40>.

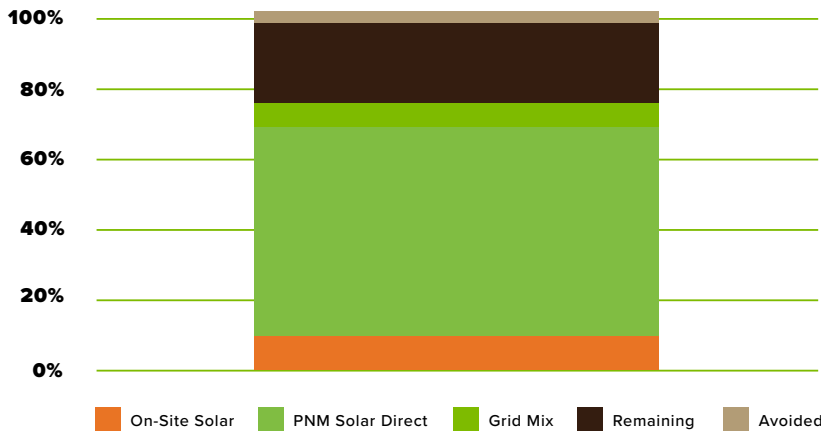
PROGRESS TO DATE

The City has continued to move forward with renewable energy initiatives focused on the top two levels of the GHG Mitigation Hierarchy that support community and sustainability goals. Avoided GHG emissions from energy efficiency upgrades saved money and energy that was invested in services for the community, including the Gibson Health Hub. With expanded services, 32 solar projects on City facilities, and the PNM Solar Direct facility, the City is at 80% renewable energy use and received an international award for institutional energy management.¹⁶

DID YOU KNOW?

The path to 100% renewable energy is like running a race where the finish line keeps moving. Adding electric vehicles, charging stations and new, important buildings and services, increases the amount of renewable energy the City needs to reach 100%.

2023 SNAPSHOT OF CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE ENERGY SOURCES



- ON-SITE SOLAR:** Energy from solar panels installed at City facilities
- PNM SOLAR DIRECT:** Energy from the City’s portion of the PNM Solar Direct facility, completed last year
- GRID MIX:** Energy from PNM’s other renewable sources
- REMAINING:** Energy from PNM’s non-renewable sources
- AVOIDED:** Energy conserved (not used)

¹⁶ “City Receives International Award for Institutional Energy Management,” City of Albuquerque, August 15, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/generalservices/news/city-receives-international-award-for-institutional-energy-management>.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Support local and statewide standards for community solar programs</i></p>	<p>The City partnered with Prosperity Works to create a community-focused community solar communications plan, which will be used to help residents understand the State’s program and its benefits.</p> <p>The Community Solar Low-Income Working Group was formed to actively support clear communication, meaningful benefits, and equitable access to low-income households by providing feedback to the community solar program administrators. The working group participants include local government employees along with representatives from community-based organizations and tribal representatives.</p>
 <p><i>Expand renewable energy usage</i></p>	<p>The City was ranked 13th, on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Top Green Power Users. The City is using more than 55 million kWh of green power annually.¹⁷</p> <p>This fiscal year the City announced a \$95 million Industrial Revenue Bond to assist in the creation of what will be one of New Mexico’s first stand-alone battery energy storage system, a piece of advanced energy infrastructure that is necessary as New Mexico progresses towards a 100% emissions-free future for electricity production.¹⁸</p> <p>The City is now utilizing solar energy from 32 solar sites on City facilities and the PNM Solar Direct facility.</p>

¹⁷ “City of Albuquerque Ranked No. 13 on EPA’s Top Green Power Users,” City of Albuquerque, April 27, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth/news/city-of-albuquerque-ranked-no-13-on-epa2019s-top-green-power-users>.

¹⁸ “Albuquerque’s Energy Grid Gets Major Capital Investment,” City of Albuquerque, December 14, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/economicdevelopment/news/albuquerque2019s-energy-grid-gets-major-capital-investment>.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is the second-largest contributor to Albuquerque’s GHG emissions.¹⁹ Not everyone has access to a vehicle for their daily commutes, so it is important to improve all modes of transportation; whether you are walking, biking, taking the bus, driving or a combination of any of those. Clean transportation is not only about reducing emissions, but it is also about making Albuquerque an accessible city for all. The City continues to take measures to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by working towards goals in the Complete Streets Ordinance²⁰ and Vision Zero Action Plan,²¹ and improving public transportation.

Based on the 2020 CAP Public Survey results,²² residents are most interested in seeing improvements in sidewalk upgrades, bike lane upgrades, and faster public transportation. Increasing safety and accessibility to walking, biking and public transit will reduce GHG emissions by allowing more residents to utilize active transportation and services like ABQ RIDE, thus reducing the number of vehicles on the road. The City is also helping to expand electric vehicle (EV) availability and adding EV chargers to further reduce emissions.

PROGRESS TO DATE

To continue progress in clean transportation, Albuquerque is focusing on expanding EV infrastructure by adding publicly-accessible chargers, requiring certain new developments to install EV charging infrastructure, transitioning its municipal fleet to low and zero-emissions vehicles, and developing plans to improve active transportation infrastructure and transit system access. In support of equitable access to public transit, the City extended Zero Fares, including making Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) buses and Sun Van paratransit service always free to everyone.



Sustainability Office and Nissan Leaf on display at the Los Ranchos All-Electric Car Show.



Sustainability Office Intern, Feleecia Guillen, helping educate the public on Transit Equity Day at the Alvarado Transportation Center.


¹⁹ “Greenhouse Gas Inventory,” City of Albuquerque, 2020, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/city-of-albuquerque-ghg-inventory-3.pdf>.

²⁰ “Complete Streets Ordinance,” City of Albuquerque, accessed July 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/council/projects/current-projects/complete-streets/complete-streets>.

²¹ “Vision Zero,” City of Albuquerque, accessed August 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/vision-zero/vision-zero>.

²² “City of Albuquerque Climate Change Survey,” City of Albuquerque, 2020, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/2020-climate-change-survey.pdf>.

TRANSIT ACCESS & INVESTMENT


STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Realign existing transportation processes and plans to ensure alignment of mode shift projects</i></p>	<p>In December 2022, ABQ RIDE launched its newly improved Transit App,²³ which now includes Rider Alerts that track delays, detours, cancellations and other changes in real time.</p> <p>ABQ RIDE completed two of the three phases of its ABQ RIDE Forward Network Plan,²⁴ to help identify community goals, to guide the City’s investment in public transit, and to inform future decisions about bus routes, run times and frequency.</p> <p>The Department of Municipal Development (DMD) and the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) are updating the City’s Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan, which evaluates existing and proposed facilities to ensure a well-connected and enjoyable active transportation and recreation system throughout Albuquerque.</p>



²³ “ABQ RIDE Launched Newly Improved Transit App,” City of Albuquerque, December 12, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/abq-ride-launches-newly-improved-transit-the-app>.

²⁴ “ABQ Ride Forward,” City of Albuquerque, accessed August 2023, <https://abqrideforward.com>.

TRANSIT ACCESS & INVESTMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p>Increase funding for public transit</p>	<p>In April 2023, 16 months after the Zero Fares Pilot Program was launched, the City approved permanent Zero Fares for ART buses and Sun Van paratransit service. In May 2023, the City extended Zero Fares for non-ART bus services through September 2023.</p> <p>As of November 2022, ABQ RIDE increased starting and post-probationary pay for new drivers.²⁵ This increase will make pay rates more competitive, increase driver retention, and help meet the driver demand. ABQ RIDE has hired 36 new Motor Coach Operators and 21 new Sun Van Chauffeurs, since the pay increases were instituted.</p> <p>In July 2023, ABQ RIDE received a \$25 million grant award from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.²⁶ The RAISE grant award will help fund the Uptown Transit Center Redevelopment Project, which will create over 400 affordable and market-rate housing units, entertainment and retail spaces, and improve access to the City’s public transportation system.</p>





Uptown Transit Center Redevelopment Project design concepts.

²⁵ “ABQ RIDE Increases Pay for New Drivers,” City of Albuquerque, November 18, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/abq-ride-increases-pay-for-new-drivers>.

²⁶ “City Awarded \$43.2 Million for Transit and Housing,” City of Albuquerque, July 6, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/city-awarded-43-2-million-for-transit-and-housing-1>.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT SAFETY

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="87 548 142 611"></p> <p data-bbox="159 558 561 659"><i>Invest in city-funded improvement projects involving mode shifts</i></p>  <p data-bbox="164 974 574 999"><i>Illustration of the future Rail Trail Corridor.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="646 558 1463 659">The DMD is currently developing a Vision Zero Prioritization Strategy, to review progress towards the 2021 Vision Zero Action Plan²⁷ goals and to identify action items and prioritize programs.</p> <p data-bbox="646 705 1463 848">The DMD completed the new streetscapes at the historic Rail Yards in downtown Albuquerque.²⁸ This project includes the first part of the 7-mile Rail Trail, making the Rail Yards more accessible for bicyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p data-bbox="646 894 1463 1184">In July 2022, the City received a \$10 million infrastructure investment from the State²⁹ and a \$11.5 million grant from the RAISE program for the Rail Trail. The RAISE grant funding will create a one-mile physically separated pathway through the heart of Downtown. The Rail Trail will provide a safe and affordable transportation option for residents and improve accessibility for underserved communities by connecting to existing bicycle infrastructure and transportation alternatives.³⁰</p>



Vision of the Rail Trail Marquette Crossing by world-renowned architect Antoine Predock.


²⁷ The Vision Zero Action Plan focuses on creating safer streets for everyone by eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and equitable mobility (<https://www.cabq.gov/vision-zero/vision-zero>).

²⁸ “City Paving the Way for More Downtown Visitors,” City of Albuquerque, June 23, 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/municipaldevelopment/news/city-paving-the-way-for-more-downtown-visitors>.


²⁹ “Governor announces \$10 million infrastructure investment in Albuquerque Rail Trail,” Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, July 28, 2022, <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/2022/07/20/governor-announces-10-million-infrastructure-investment-in-albuquerque-rail-trail>.

³⁰ “On Nationwide Building a Better America Tour, DOT Under Secretary Carlos Monje Jr. Highlights Funding from President Biden’s Infrastructure Law for the Albuquerque Rail Trail,” U.S. Department of Transportation, August 23, 2022, <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/nationwide-building-better-america-tour-dot-under-secretary-carlos-monje-jr>.

TRANSIT PUBLIC EDUCATION³¹

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Increase public education</i></p>	<p>In July 2023, ABQ RIDE unveiled a transit dashboard on its website that highlights current and historic data on transit ridership, Sun Van paratransit service, transit staffing, safety and security data, and other transit statistics and programs.³²</p>

VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Sustain efforts to convert city fleet vehicles to lower emissions vehicles</i></p>	<p>The City continues to implement a “Zero Emissions First” fleet vehicle adoption policy. To date, the City has adopted 106 low- and zero-emissions vehicles into the municipal fleet.</p> <p>The Sustainability Office will be developing a Low/Zero Emissions Fleet Transition Plan over the next year that will analyze several future transition scenarios for a variety of light, medium and heavy-duty City fleet vehicles.</p>



³¹ Additional transportation education efforts are captured in the Education & Climate-Ready Workforce section.

³² “ABQ RIDE Statistics & Programs,” City of Albuquerque, accessed September 2023, <https://abqride-cabq.hub.arcgis.com>.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Transition mass transit to zero emissions fuel sources</i></p>	<p>In June 2022, the City introduced five new zero-emissions electric buses into its public transit fleet.³³ In the first 11 months of operation, these five electric buses have reduced total lifecycle GHG emissions by approximately 113 metric tons, compared to the diesel hybrid buses they replaced.³⁴</p> <p>In July 2023, the City received \$18.2 million from the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program.³⁵ The grant award will fund the purchase of 20 new battery electric buses and in-route rapid charging stations at several transit centers and facilities.</p>
 <p><i>Increase EV infrastructure</i></p>	<p>Since 2019, the City has increased the number of City-owned public EV charging stations from 2 stations with 2 charging ports to 20 stations with 36 charging ports as of September 2023.</p> <p>In May 2023, the City received \$3.9 million from the New Mexico Department of Transportation’s Carbon Reduction Program to install 36 new EV charging stations throughout the City and Albuquerque International Sunport.</p> <p>In June 2023, the City approved several amendments to the 2023 Integrated Development Ordinance³⁶ that require certain new town-home, multi-family housing, and off-street parking developments to install EV charging stations and/or EV-capable parking spaces.³⁷</p>

³³ “ABQ Ride Creates a Buzz with Electric Buses,” City of Albuquerque, June 2022, <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/abq-ride-creates-a-buzz-with-electric-buses>.

³⁴ Estimate is based on ABQ RIDE operational data, Albuquerque electricity mix, and net lifecycle well-to-wheel GHG reduction data from the Center for Transportation and the Environment.

³⁵ “City Awarded \$43.2 Million for Transit and Housing,” City of Albuquerque, July 6, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/news/city-awarded-43-2-million-for-transit-and-housing-1>.

³⁶ “Integrated Development Ordinance,” City of Albuquerque, accessed September 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/planning/codes-policies-regulations/integrated-development-ordinance-1>.

³⁷ City of Albuquerque, 2022 Integrated Development Ordinance Annual Update – Effective Document, Section 5-5(C) (9): Electric Vehicle Parking, page 283, (Albuquerque, NM, effective as of July 27, 2023), https://documents.cabq.gov/planning/IDO/2022_IDO_AnnualUpdate/IDO-2022AnnualUpdate-EFFECTIVE-2023-07-27.pdf.



WASTE & RECYCLING

Products contribute to the climate crisis in each stage of their life cycle, from production to disposal. After disposal, organic materials (e.g., paper, food scraps, green waste) slowly break down and release methane—a GHG over 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide—for 50 years or more after arriving at the landfill. Waste generation rates have been increasing over time,³⁸ and landfill methane was recently identified as the third largest source of human-caused methane emissions in the U.S.³⁹ With these and other pressing factors, it remains increasingly important to (1) holistically evaluate the direct and indirect impacts products have on communities and ecosystems and (2) take a multi-faceted approach to reduce waste and create environmental and social resilience.

Currently, the main issues surrounding waste and recycling include cost, labor, GHG emissions, quantity and material type. Solid waste disposal costs in the city are low compared to national averages.⁴⁰ In the U.S., recycling and composting diversion rates seemed to plateau in the 2010s.⁴¹ However, potentially recyclable and compostable materials still account for over half of our waste on average⁴² and environmental impacts of continuing to send the same amount of materials to the landfill is unsustainable.

DID YOU KNOW?



It is estimated that 246.9 million pounds of food is wasted in the Albuquerque metro area each year.



³⁸ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Fact Sheet, EPA 530-F-20-009 (Washington, DC, December 2020), https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/documents/2018_ff_fact_sheet_dec_2020_fnl_508.pdf.

³⁹ “Basic Information About Landfill Gas.” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, last updated on April 21, 2022, <https://www.epa.gov/lmop/basic-information-about-landfill-gas>.

⁴⁰ The City’s 2022 landfill tipping fee is \$30 per ton for municipal waste (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/trash-collection/commercial>), well below the reported national average in 2020 of \$55.72 per ton (<https://www.biocycle.net/average-u-s-msw-landfill-tip-fee-is-53-72-ton>).

⁴¹ “National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, last updated on June 29, 2022, <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#Trends1960-Today>.

⁴² “National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed August 2023, <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#Generation>.




Waste reduction, recycling and composting priorities are reflected in the 2021 CAP goals and supported by multiple City departments and community groups. The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) leads recycling efforts through a variety of collection options⁴³ and educational tools.⁴⁴ The ABQ BioPark provides compost education and recycling drives for items that cannot go in the blue roll cart. The Sustainability Office leads the City’s food waste reduction and composting efforts and coordinates with SWMD to boost other recycling initiatives. Everyone has an important role to play in reducing GHG emissions from waste and transforming how we see waste—as resources.

PROGRESS TO DATE

To create sustainable materials management systems in Albuquerque, the City has continued to invest in education and outreach to promote reuse and recycling (including composting) by expanding educational tools and programs. The City has also partnered with other organizations and agencies to better understand and reduce food waste in Albuquerque and to create more opportunities for composting. Albuquerque is continuously exploring alternatives to sending material to the landfill, including recycling, composting, reusing and repairing items.

RECYCLING, COMPOSTING & WASTE REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Waste reduction</i></p>	<p>The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) applied their Food Waste and Rescue Calculator to Albuquerque, providing valuable baseline estimates and recommended actions.⁴⁵</p> <p>The 2023 Recyclothes event, hosted by Keep Albuquerque Beautiful, Locker 505, and the SWMD collected 8,420 pounds of clothes that were given to children in frontline communities.</p>

⁴³ The SWMD leads year-round curbside and drop-off recycling options for residents (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/recycling>) as well as seasonal green waste programs (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/green-waste>).

⁴⁴ The SWMD utilizes a variety of education and outreach methods including the Recycle Coach app (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/recycling/recycle-coach>) and reoccurring cleanup events that support education around the impacts of littering (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/clean-city-programs/keep-burque-clean>).

⁴⁵ “Food Waste & Rescue Potential in Albuquerque,” NRDC’s Food Matters project, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/abq-calculator-two-pager.pdf>.


RECYCLING, COMPOSTING & WASTE REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> <i>Fund infrastructure and coordination for neighborhood and school composting</i></p>  <p><i>Students at Wilson Middle School play a compost and recycling relay game with guidance and encouragement from the Sustainable Waste Specialist.</i></p>	<p>The City, in partnership with the Village of Los Ranchos, New Mexico Environment Department, the Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters, and other New Mexico Compost Coalition members, installed two community compost systems on City properties: at Barelas and North Valley Senior Centers.</p> <p>The ABQ BioPark contracted with Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps again this year for five weeks of work focusing on agriculture, composting and public horticulture.</p> <p>The City offers composting and recycling activity-based presentations in schools as requested.</p>



Barelas Senior Center's Community Compost Volunteers (Left), North Valley Senior Center's Community Compost Volunteers and City staff (Right) celebrate the new community compost bins.

RECYCLING, COMPOSTING & WASTE REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Promote methods of recycling, reuse and composting</i></p>	<p>The City has invested in climate-change-related public education, including waste reduction, composting and food waste reduction campaigns.⁴⁶</p> <p>On August 13, 2022, the SWMD partnered with a local maker-space to provide a FixIt Clinic, where people had access to tools and coaches to help them learn to fix instead of trash their appliances, bikes or electronics.</p> <p>In November 2022, the SWMD launched a new online game called “Know What to Throw,” a fun and interactive way to learn more about recycling, composting and proper waste disposal.⁴⁷</p> <p>People diverted 500 cell phones and tablets—weighing 200 lbs—from the landfill by using the ABQ BioPark cell phone recycling receptacles.</p>



⁴⁶ In addition to media campaigns, the Sustainability Office added waste reduction and composting resources to the website (<https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/sustainability-resources>).

⁴⁷ “Know What to Throw,” City of Albuquerque, accessed August 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/news/know-what-to-throw>.



EDUCATION & THE CLIMATE-READY WORKFORCE



Farm in Your Neighborhood event at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space.

Education and awareness are fundamental drivers of current and future actions, including shifting economic forces to address the climate crisis. Sustainability is a growing field; thus, educating on a range of topics offers opportunities for new entry points into the green workforce. Initiatives in multiple sectors (e.g., media attention, collection and sharing of data, commitment from regional leaders, public education) can act in concert to increase awareness and empower informed action that is vital to establishing resilient, inclusive and equitable responses to the climate crisis.


What is taught to the next generation will impact future reactions to climate change, including the creation of new career pathways. Spreading awareness of current human impacts on natural resources, educating on what can be changed moving forward, and teaching sustainability are all important steps in combating the climate crisis and making Albuquerque a more resilient city for all.

PROGRESS TO DATE


Over the last year, the City has partnered with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) to expand their community garden program. This expansion is the result of forming partnerships within City departments and between community liaisons to develop projects and secure funding. The City will continue to maintain and grow education resources on the City's website, prioritizing pertinent information on sustainability topics for public awareness and action. Additionally, job creation and training through the City's collaboration with Job Training Albuquerque (JTA)⁴⁸ will ensure the City can continue to keep job generation and staffing local — and support important sectors such as renewable energy development.

⁴⁸ "Job Training Albuquerque," CNM Ingenuity, Central New Mexico Community College, accessed July 2022, <https://jobtrainingabq.org>.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORTS

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Provide public announcements to educate on climate challenges and opportunities for action.</i></p>	<p>Due to rising water levels in the Rio Grande, Mayor Keller, PRD, Albuquerque Fire Rescue Department and Albuquerque Police Department partnered with New Mexico State Parks to share a safety message. Spreading awareness, education, and being properly equipped will help keep residents and visitors safe.⁴⁹</p>


PUBLIC SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Partner with schools to make ecological knowledge, climate change and school gardens part of the curricula</i></p>	<p>The City continues to collaborate with APS to garner additional support and funding for school garden programs.</p> <p>The Sustainability Office talked with students in the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Sustainability Studies Program about CAP and sustainability policies.</p>




⁴⁹ "Water Safety on the Rio Grande," City of Albuquerque, May 8, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/news/water-safety-on-the-rio-grande>.


PUBLIC SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p><i>Invest in public education about mitigating climate change on a wide range of climate issues</i></p>  <p><i>Sustainability Officer Kelsey Rader, Sustainability Waste Specialist Sandra West and Sustainability Interns Elizabeth Chou, Charley Allen, Alexis Pierce and Feleecia Guillen toured Soilutions' to learn about commercial-scale food waste composting.</i></p>	<p>The City's Open Space Division (OSD) provides community education around climate change, ecosystems and conservation through multiple programs, including 22 Farm in Your Neighborhood events held in partnership with the Rio Grande Community Farm.</p> <p>The Sustainability Office shared climate change education with the public at Transit Equity Day, UNM's Sustainability Expo, State of the City, a local EV Car Show, and a Sustainability Community Walk.</p> <p>The City provided educational campaigns for heat awareness, food waste prevention and composting.</p> <p>The Sustainability Office launched an internship program and hosted four interns who worked on a variety of projects, including materials reuse, composting and climate change education in schools, community composting and garden map, and food rescue.</p>

ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Strengthen local food systems through coordinated community education and collaboration</i></p>	<p>Family Nature Club, made possible by OSD in partnership with the Rio Grande Community Farm, taught families how to grow a garden, supplied participants with local plants, and raffled off space in the community garden to practice with support from local farmers and master gardeners.</p> <p>OSD also connected community to local food and farms through two Neighborhood Open Space Community Concerts at Los Poblanos Fields.</p>

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Continue workforce development</i></p>	<p>JTA partners with industry experts to provide trainings and certifications in Albuquerque’s growing sectors. For example, JTA’s Solar Electric Basics training supports the renewable energy installation workforce.⁵⁰</p> <p>In February 2023, the City’s Economic Development Department concluded their pilot project to create new employment pathways for workers in the early education sector. This pilot was funded by a \$450,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and helped over 350 local job seekers.⁵¹</p> <p>In April 2023, JTA requested \$500,000 in funding to create more opportunities for employees and businesses. This funding will grow construction-focused offerings, adding 544 jobs.⁵²</p>



⁵⁰ “2022-23 JTA Impact Report,” Job Training Albuquerque, May 2023, <https://jobtrainingabq.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/344-22-Ingenuity-Job-Training-Albuquerque-Update-Impact-Report.online-1.pdf>, 4.

⁵¹ “City’s Workforce Development Program Helps Over 350 Local Job Seekers,” City of Albuquerque, February 28, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/economicdevelopment/news/city2019s-workforce-development-program-helps-over-350-local-job-seekers>.

⁵² “Job Training Albuquerque Grows Construction-Focused Offerings, Helps Local Businesses Add 544 Jobs,” City of Albuquerque, April 6, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/economicdevelopment/news/job-training-albuquerque-grows-construction-focused-offerings-helps-local-businesses-add-544-jobs>.



CLIMATE CONSCIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS & RESOURCES

Looking to the future, projections show that climate-driven changes to the region will result in decreases in water availability as well as a rise in both summer wildfires and extreme heat. To mitigate these impacts, 2021 CAP goals focus on increasing conservation of water resources, investing in green infrastructure, and prioritizing the development and maintenance of green spaces.

Challenges spurred by climate change do not affect all residents equally. Local frontline communities are at heightened risk during extreme weather events including floods, wildfires, and heat. Creating opportunities for community engagement, increasing accessibility to green spaces throughout the city, and providing amenities such as safe spaces and clean water for residents, especially in underserved areas, are effective ways to create a resilient city for all.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The Sustainability Office has consciously been working on prioritizing community engagement, placing it at the forefront of climate action prioritization. This year the Sustainability Office hosted three community engagement meetings where speakers shared progress towards the 2021 CAP goals and answered questions from the public. Most importantly, people provided feedback during and after the sessions that informed the initiatives and next iteration of community engagement. Moving forward the Sustainability Office will strive to include a broader range of perspectives and demographics, increase the number of attendees, and improve accessibility.

DID YOU KNOW?




Over the last year, CAP Implementation Community Engagement included:

- 3 sessions covering 3 topics and 8 initiatives,
- 12 speakers from the City and 4 other organizations,
- 64 attendees,
- 48 questions asked and answered, and
- over 90 suggestions for initiative improvements.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROOTED IN EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> <i>Strengthen sustainability efforts city-wide through community engagement</i></p>	<p>The City facilitated three community engagement sessions, each centered on a different topic: energy efficiency, transportation and electric vehicles. The meetings covered eight initiatives: BRAIN, Community Energy Efficiency, PNM’s Transportation and Electrification Programs, the Transit System, Utility Energy Efficiency Programs, Vision Zero, Zero Emissions Plan, and Zero Fares.⁵³</p> <p>Albuquerque became the first city in the nation to advance the Federal Justice40 initiative.⁵⁴ With support from local justice advocates, Mayor Keller created the Justice40 Oversight Coordinating Committee to help prioritize federal investments in historically marginalized communities.⁵⁵</p>






⁵³ Community engagement session recordings, meeting minutes and supplemental resources are available on the City’s website: <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan#CAP-community-engagement>.

⁵⁴ “Justice40, A whole-of-government initiative,” The White House, accessed August 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40>.

⁵⁵ “Albuquerque Becomes First City in Nation to Advance Justice40,” City of Albuquerque, accessed August 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/mayor/news/albuquerque-becomes-first-city-in-nation-to-advance-justice40>.

GREENING EFFORTS IN FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Reduce the urban heat island effect (UHIE)</i></p> <div data-bbox="159 1136 589 1423" style="border: 2px solid #76b82a; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>DID YOU KNOW? </p> <p>91% of Albuquerque’s population live within a half-mile of a park.</p> </div>	<p>In 2023 the City was one of six cities selected to participate in the Vanguard Cities Community Tree Initiative, for its urban forestry and urban heat efforts.⁵⁶</p> <p>This year the City was selected to participate in the New Buildings Institute’s group sessions.⁵⁷ These sessions were spread across collaborating jurisdictions to help develop heat mitigation policy language, specific to cities experiencing the UHIE.</p> <p>The City added a new heat-focused webpage with resources on urban heat and ways to stay safe during extreme heat events.⁵⁸</p> <p>This August the Sustainability Office held its first meeting for the newly launched New Mexico Urban Heat Cohort. This group comprised of City departments, community-based organizations, academia, local, regional, and state government agencies. With the goal to develop strategies to protect, our most vulnerable communities during extreme heat events, and strategize long and short-term mitigation actions.</p> <p>Over the past year, PRD planted 3,778 trees and received \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for tree planting and greening efforts in underserved communities.</p>
 <p><i>Prioritize development and maintenance of green spaces</i></p>	<p>Albuquerque’s park system ranked 23rd in the nation in the 2023 ParkScore Index. Green spaces such as parks continue to improve quality of life for residents and provide fun, safe recreational spaces across the city.⁵⁹</p>

⁵⁶ “Vanguard Cities Community Tree Initiative,” Center for Regenerative Solutions, accessed September 2023, [vanguard cities, https://naturebasedclimate.solutions/vanguard-cities-initiative](https://naturebasedclimate.solutions/vanguard-cities-initiative).

⁵⁷ “About NBI,” New Buildings Institute, accessed September 2023, <https://newbuildings.org/>.

⁵⁸ “Heat ABCs,” City of Albuquerque, accessed September 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/heat>.


⁵⁹ “Albuquerque Parks Rank 23rd in Nation,” City of Albuquerque, May 24, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/news/albuquerque-parks-rank-23rd-in-nation>.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE PLANNING & PRACTICES

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="86 548 142 611"></p> <p data-bbox="159 556 557 699"><i>Strengthen city-wide planning processes through community engagement rooted in environmental justice</i></p>  <p data-bbox="168 961 584 1075"><i>Mayor Tim Keller, Councilor Pena, and City leaders broke ground on the second phase of construction at the new Westgate Community Center.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="646 556 1466 814">The City continues to invest in community centers to expand access to quality amenities. Phase II of construction is underway at Westgate Community Center. This expansion project improves the youth program, delivery of senior meals, and enhances the quality of life of residents by providing more resources, including a warming kitchen, splash pad, classrooms, bus stop and meeting spaces.</p>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE PLANNING & PRACTICES


STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Invest in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), including rain water collection</i></p>	<p>The Water Authority continues to offer rainwater harvesting rebates on new rain barrel purchases.⁶⁰</p> <p>The City has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Urban Middle Rio Grande Chapter. This partnership will connect our urban communities, particularly overburdened or economically distressed communities, with the waterway. These actions will improve coordination among federal agencies, and collaboration with community-led revitalization efforts.⁶¹</p> <p>The Pueblo Alto and Mile Hi Drainage Study Project is crucial to the development of permanent implementation of GSI into future planning infrastructure to address flooding issues in Albuquerque neighborhoods. This project is a unique collaboration between City Council District 7 Councilor and staff, City DMD staff, Bohannon Huston Inc. planners and engineers, Groundwork Studio landscape architects and planners, the Arid Low Impact Development Coalition, Pueblo Alto Neighborhood Association, Mile Hi Neighborhood Association, and local residents.⁶²</p>

⁶⁰ “Rainwater Harvesting,” Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, accessed July 2023, <https://www.505outside.com/residential-rainwater-harvesting-rebates>.

⁶¹ “Urban Waters and the Middle Rio Grande/Albuquerque (New Mexico),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed September 2023, <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-and-middle-rio-grandealbuquerque-new-mexico>.

⁶² “Pueblo Alto and Mile Hi Stormwater Interventions,” Groundwork Studio, accessed September 2023, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e3013cafdda748fc8560d78f73ac5651>.

WATER CONSERVATION AND SMART PLANNING

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Increase gray and black water reclamation</i></p>	<p>The Water Authority’s Southside Water Reclamation Plant allows grey and black water to be collected and treated before being discharged into the Rio Grande.⁶³</p> <p>The Water Authority’s re-use program blends untreated surface water from the Rio Grande with recycled industrial wastewater to irrigate green spaces. This blended water is used to irrigate the Albuquerque Sunport, Balloon Fiesta Park, and other turf areas in the city.⁶⁴</p> <p>Mayor Keller and PRD installed improved water and hand washing stations in several parks across the city to facilitate access to better amenities and encourage sustainability.⁶⁵</p> <p>The Water Authority continues to offer rebates for professional tree care or purchases of new low to medium water use trees.⁶⁶</p>



⁶³ “Reclamation,” Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, 2021, <https://www.abcwua.org/sewer-reclamation>.

⁶⁴ “North Side Irrigation,” Water System Diagram, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, 2021, https://www.abcwua.org/education-23a_balloons.

⁶⁵ “Parks across the City get Upgraded Hydration Stations,” City of Albuquerque, May 9, 2023, <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/news/parks-across-the-city-get-upgraded-hydration-stations>.

⁶⁶ “Treebates,” Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, accessed July 2022, <https://www.505outside.com/residential-treebates>.

CONTINUED PLANNING & COLLABORATIONS

A key way to take big strides towards the Mayor’s GHG goal and the 2021 CAP goals is through partnerships, planning and positioning for federal funding. This year the Sustainability Office, along with Bernalillo County and the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), applied for the EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), which provides funding support for reducing GHG emissions, and other harmful air pollution, through planning and subsequent projects.⁶⁷

The CPRG is a five-year multi-phase grant that promotes collaboration and has a strong community engagement component. To facilitate cross-sector communications, the CPRG working group⁶⁸—comprised of representatives from multiple City departments, Bernalillo County, MRCOG, and key stakeholders—was formed to prepare and plan for the first deliverable, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The PCAP will include “shovel-ready” strategies that will measurably reduce GHGs and can be implemented quickly. Feedback from partners and the public will improve the projects and help position the City for implementation funds. The Sustainability Office will share updates and community input opportunities through existing communication channels, including future implementation reports, social media, and the Sustainability e-newsletter.⁶⁹

CONCLUSION

The 2021 CAP is an important marker of dedication and momentum in Albuquerque, and has been used as an instigator for local action, change and improvement.⁷⁰ This and the previous Implementation Report are designed to engage the public in understanding the CAP implementation process, their role in supporting implementation efforts, how the goals and related projects may affect residents, and the variety of community benefits (i.e., walkability, biking infrastructure, EV rideshare, etc.) that will be realized through CAP implementation.

To accelerate progress towards GHG and equity goals, the City continues to broaden collaborations, pursue funding opportunities, and prioritize projects that both benefit frontline communities and significantly reduce GHG. Participating in programs like EPA’s CPRG will help the City meet its ambitious energy and GHG goals and actualize the community-driven 2021 CAP strategies. As sustainability efforts increase, so does the need to share progress and listen to community members, especially those often unheard and most impacted by climate change. Thus, the City will also be incorporating lessons from the past year to improve and expand future community engagement.

Thanks to the 2021 CAP and CAP Task Force, the City has ambitious, community-supported goals that lay the foundation for monitoring progress, require continued community input, and call for impactful, equitable action. With continued guidance from the community and increasing collaborations and programs, the City is well on the way to creating a healthy, resilient and equitable Albuquerque for all by proactively advancing community-focused climate mitigation and adaptation projects, policies and education.

⁶⁷ “Climate Pollution Reduction Grants,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed August 2023, <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>.

⁶⁸ The initial CPRG Working Group first met in August 2023.

⁶⁹ To sign up for the Sustainability Office’s e-newsletter, please visit <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/about-sustainability> and click on the hyperlink in the Contact Us section.

⁷⁰ “2021 Climate Action Plan,” City of Albuquerque, 2021, <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/documents/2021-climate-action-plan.pdf>.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to continued work toward the CAP goals, transparency and community engagement are vital to the success of sustainability programs and initiatives. The sections below detail the City's commitment to future CAP implementation actions.

Reporting

Implementation Reports are published annually to allow the public and the City to evaluate and monitor progress toward the 2021 CAP goals. Along with community feedback, the Implementation Reports help inform future CAP updates and initiatives.

Community Engagement

The City is dedicated to hearing community voices and tailoring sustainability projects to meet the public's needs and expectations throughout the implementation process. A key element is the Sustainability Office's commitment to incorporating lessons from past community engagement with the goal of increasing the number of residents who provide input that help shape the City's sustainability work and enhances progress towards the 2021 CAP goals.

In the next iteration of community engagement, the City aims to more than double attendees and hear from more voices representing a wider range of perspectives and demographics, especially those in frontline communities, by improving meeting access and increasing outreach. The sessions will still focus on sharing updates and providing opportunities for people to ask questions and provide input. The City is especially interested in hearing from community members regarding (1) initiative impacts, (2) constructive input for project implementers, and (3) continuous alignment with community priorities. Community feedback will be gathered during each meeting and for a period of time afterwards.

To continue to align with the vision community members have for Albuquerque, each year, the City will evaluate the community engagement strategy and feedback to identify ways to improve and increase involvement. Future reports will continue to include progress and updated community engagement strategy plans and goals.



APPENDIX A

ACRONYMS/GLOSSARY

AMP: Affordable Mobility Platform

APS: Albuquerque Public Schools

ART: Albuquerque Rapid Transit

BRAIN: Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network

CAP: Albuquerque Climate Action Plan

CEED: Community Energy Efficiency Development

CPRG: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

DMD: Department of Municipal Development

EMNRD: New Mexico's Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EV: Electric vehicle

GHG: Greenhouse gas

GSI: Green stormwater infrastructure

GWh: Gigawatt hour

Implementation Report: Climate Action Plan Implementation Report, CAP-IR

JTA: Job Training Albuquerque

kWh: Kilowatt hour (1,000,000 kWh = 1 GWh)

MRCOG: Mid-Region Council of Governments

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

OSD: Open Space Division

PCAP: Priority Climate Action Plan

PNM: Public Service Company of New Mexico

PRC: New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

PRD: Parks and Recreation Department

RAISE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

SWMD: Solid Waste Management Department

the City: City of Albuquerque

UHIE: Urban heat island effect


UNM: The University of New Mexico


USDOT: United States Department of Transportation

Water Authority: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

 505-768-2738

 sustainability@cabq.gov

 www.cabq.gov/sustainability