



City of Albuquerque



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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LETTER FROM MAYOR KELLER

At the City of Albuquerque, we continue to prioritize sustainability to create a better future for our families. 2024 will be documented as the hottest year on record, surpassing even the heat levels of 2023, and extreme weather events impacted residents across Albuquerque. There is an urgent need for collective action to address the potentially devastating effects of carbon pollution.

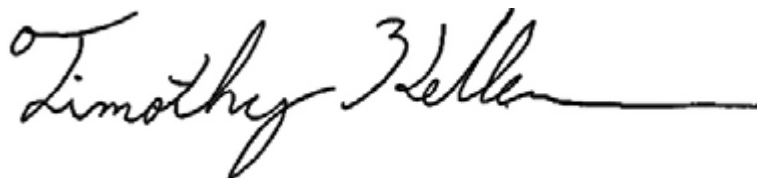
Cities play an important role in climate action, and we are all in on sustainability. With unanimous support from City Council, we are renewing the commitment with changes to the City's Sustainability Resolution. All options to cool down our communities are on the table, from planting more trees and using cool pavement, to more green jobs, clean transportation infrastructure, and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income residents.

We have made strides in our sustainability efforts, and this report highlights our 2024 accomplishments, including:

- ✓ On track to reach our 100% renewable energy goal by 2025
- ✓ Our pledge to upgrade energy efficiency in all City buildings
- ✓ Reducing 52 metric tons of CO2 through new lighting upgrades
- ✓ Developing food scrap diversion and composting programs that reduce methane emissions from our landfills
- ✓ Planting 15,000 new trees towards our goal of 100,000 trees by 2030
- ✓ Analyzing how best to transition the fleet vehicles to low and zero-emission vehicles
- ✓ Purchasing five new electric vans and 20 electric buses
- ✓ Adding a new affordable car-share program

We create a more climate change-resistant community when we work collaboratively with partners across the city and state to protect all our residents, especially our most vulnerable and frontline communities.

While we've made real progress, we won't stop fighting back against climate change. I will continue to prioritize sustainability for a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous Albuquerque.



Timothy Keller




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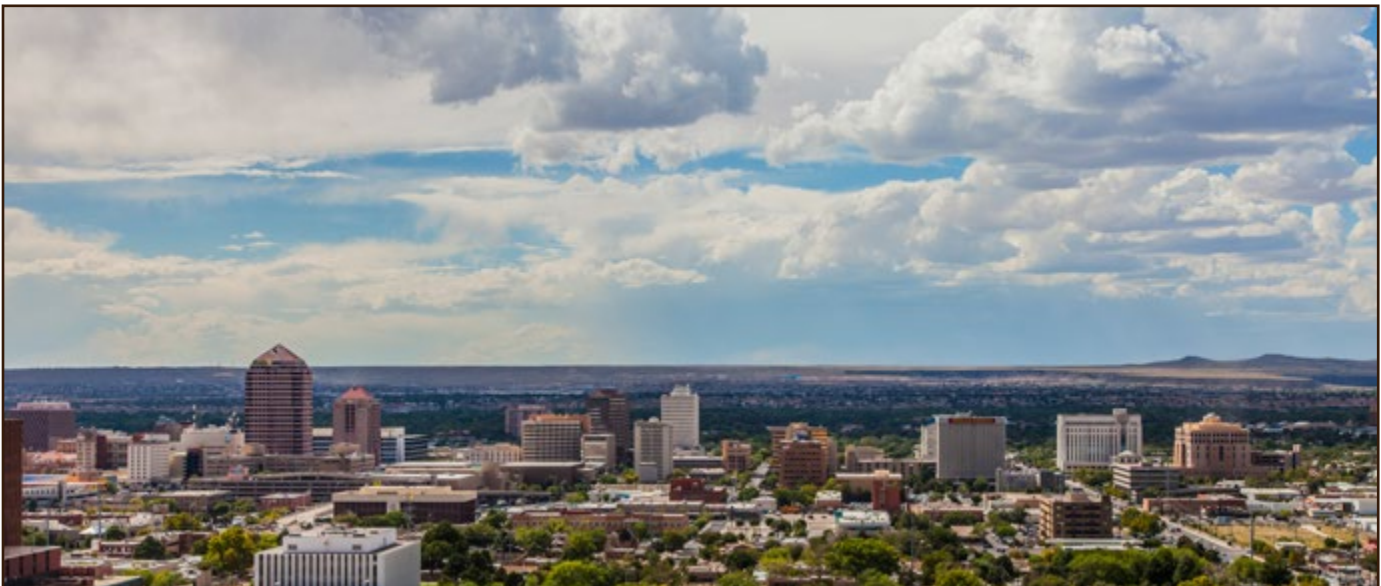
SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <i>Promote access to programs that give incentives for energy efficiency improvements</i>	<p>The Sustainability Office, in conjunction with Prosperity Works, helped numerous families in frontline communities maximize home energy efficiency and minimize the heavy energy burden those families face. This took the shape of weatherizing windows and doors, repairing glass, adding attic and wall insulation, wrapping and insulating water heaters, adding mini splits, improving electrical panels, and other improvements that make homes more comfortable and lower energy bills.</p>


BRIGHTEN UP ALBUQUERQUE

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <i>Increase energy efficiency in existing buildings</i>	<p>The City’s Energy and Sustainability Division is working hard to lower energy bills and reduce the carbon footprint of city operations. One program, Brighten Up Albuquerque, is about replacing incandescent and fluorescent lighting with brighter and more efficient LED lighting in City of Albuquerque buildings, streets, and parks. The savings from these measures amounted to \$123,468 and 52.18 metric tons of CO2.</p>



RENEWABLE ENERGY


RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <i>Expand renewable energy usage</i>	<p>An essential target of Mayor Keller’s is to power the City government with 100% renewable energy by 2025. While the city has come a long way towards this goal, with 38 distributed solar arrays on city property and a partnership with PNM’s Solar Direct, the city is still looking to expand its renewable energy generation. The City hopes to deploy solar arrays on 25 new sites in the coming year to achieve the remaining 6 MW needed to be a fully clean-powered city.</p>





CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

ELECTRIC VANS/BUSES

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <i>Reevaluate routes, invest in free public transit, Improve the “last Mile”</i>	<p>ABQ Ride Connect Microtransit came on line this year with five new electric vans to promote equitable first and last mile connections with free on-demand service. The program is currently limited to two service zones within the City, Rio Grande, and West Mesa.</p> <p>In November 2023, the City permanently instituted a Zero Fares program for all ABQ Ride transit services.</p>



TRANSIT ACCESS & INVESTMENT

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="99 464 574 604">  <i>Promote rideshare options with electric vehicles, prioritizing increased options for frontline communities</i> </p> 	<p data-bbox="646 470 1468 722"> The Sustainability Office launched Albuquerque’s first EV rideshare program, the Affordable Mobility Platform (AMP), in partnership with Forth, a national non-profit organization focused on equitable transportation, and PAH! Hiland Plaza, a multi-family affordable housing community in the International District. The AMP project provides residents, staff, and the general public access to two shared EVs for a small hourly or daily rate. </p> <p data-bbox="646 766 1468 909"> EV Charging Stations: The City continues to add to its network of EV charging stations. In addition to the 38 ports already in place, the City is designing 36 new stations and will commence construction in 2025. </p>




WASTE & RECYCLING

RECYCLING, COMPOSTING & WASTE REDUCTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="99 464 558 573">  Promote methods of recycling, reuse, and composting in frontline communities </p> <div data-bbox="164 604 691 1167" style="border: 2px solid #76c73a; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p data-bbox="207 659 631 701">DID YOU KNOW? </p> <p data-bbox="207 716 631 1104"> Food waste accounts for about 58% of the methane emissions from landfills. Methane is a heat-trapping greenhouse gas that is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. With two small pilots, we diverted 7.5 tons of food scraps from the waste stream equating to 5.23 MTCO₂E—Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—avoided emissions. </p> </div>	<p data-bbox="646 470 1466 800"> In the last year, the State of New Mexico approved the registration for two vibrant community compost sites on City property where nearly 50 people learned to compost and pitched in to care for the sites. Additionally, a partnership with Three Sisters Kitchen and Food Matters resulted in 7.5 tons of food scraps diverted from the waste stream through a hands-on pilot at Explora Science Museum and a City-operated, commercial-scale kitchen. Both pilots included learning opportunities for children, adults, and city staff. </p> <p data-bbox="712 829 1466 972"> The City worked with Three Sisters Kitchen and Food Matters to develop a Local Food Donation Guide that is posted along with many other resources to our new Waste as Resources webpage. </p> <p data-bbox="712 1001 1466 1182"> The City Sustainability Office led an extensive public engagement effort to design an equity-focused community-scale composting program. The effort included meeting and talking to over 200 people at 24 meetings, five tabling events, and a pop-up at the BioPark. </p> <p data-bbox="646 1211 1466 1316"> The City partnered on two grants awarded to Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District that will direct over \$700,000 in federal funds to support composting in Albuquerque. </p>





RECYCLING & CIRCULARITY

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p>Promote methods of recycling, reuse and composting</p>	<p>This year, the 2024 Recyclothes event, hosted by Keep Albuquerque Beautiful, Locker 505, and the City’s Solid Waste Management Department, collected 7,440 pounds of clothes that were given to children in frontline communities. The City also partnered with a local makerspace to provide two FixIt Clinics in the Spring and Fall, where dozens of people worked with coaches while learning to fix instead of trash their appliances, bikes, or electronics.</p>





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	<p>DID YOU KNOW? Albuquerque had the most clean energy jobs in the state in 2024.* *According to Renewable Energy Industries Assoc. of NM and E2.org</p>
 <p>Focus on Workforce Development for communities with underinvestment</p> 	<p>UNM students worked with the City’s Sustainability Office to research ways to expand opportunities for job creation in the development and roll out of the State’s EV charging station network.</p>	

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> Create city-wide sustainable development goals to address climate change</p> 	<p>The Albuquerque City Council passed an updated Sustainability Resolution on a 9-0 vote earlier this year. The resolution was a priority for Mayor Keller’s administration and demonstrated his commitment to sustainability in all aspects of City government, from transportation to trees, and from energy efficient buildings to green stormwater infrastructure. To see the resolution, visit cabq.gov/sustainability.</p>

EARTH DAY

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> Educate residents about waste generation and consumption</p> 	<p>On a beautiful Sunday in April, Earth Day Festival NM in partnership with the City of Albuquerque and many other organizations hosted the first large-scale Earth Day event at Balloon Fiesta Park. The theme—Planet v. Plastics—brought to light the importance of sustainable materials. There also was a focus on electrification, electric vehicles (EVs), heat pumps, and other new technologies that help reduce our collective carbon footprint.</p>




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>Last year, the City’s Open Space Division (OSD) provided community education around climate change, ecosystems and conservation through multiple programs, including 16 Farm in Your Neighborhood events held in partnership with the Rio Grande Community Farm. The City OSD also connected community to local food and farms through two Neighborhood Open Space Community Concerts at Los Poblanos Fields.</p> <p>Additionally, Farm in Your Neighborhood involved collaboration with eight different community centers throughout the summer.</p>


CLIMATE CONSCIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS & RESOURCES

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> <i>Invest in green stormwater infrastructure</i></p>	<p>The City of Albuquerque has formed a collaborative partnership among City departments and external agencies to participate in a Nature-Based Climate Solutions Accelerator with the Center for Regenerative Solutions. This group of municipal and community partners is engaging in stormwater and green infrastructure training aimed at building the community’s capacity to implement equity-driven, nature-based solutions to address the critical climate change challenge.</p>




USE OF TREEPLOTTER AND THE 100,000 TREE GOAL

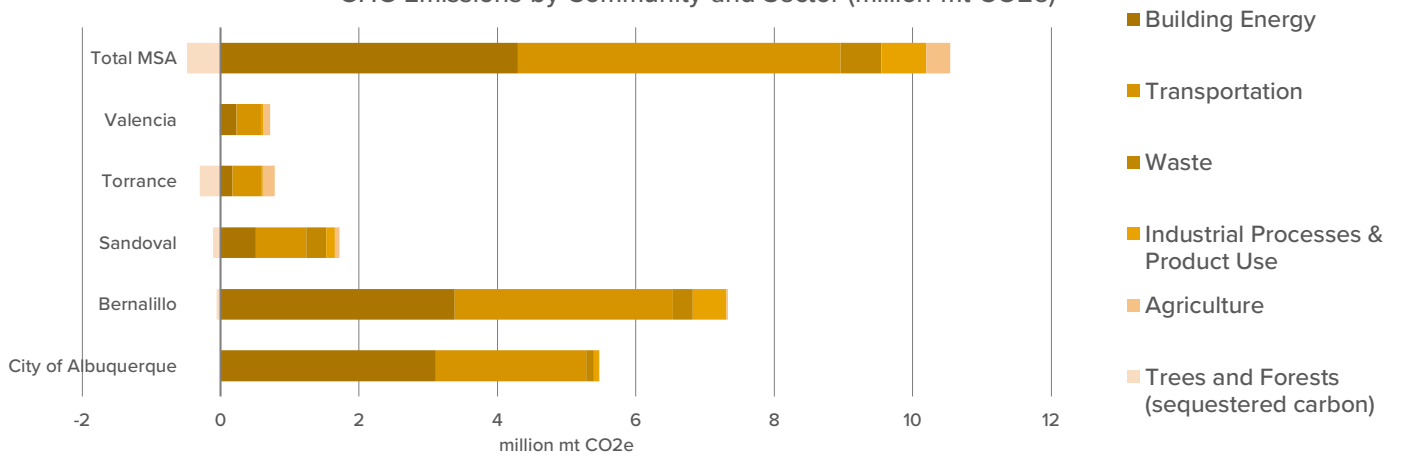
STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
<p> <i>Reduce the heat island effect and prioritize “greening” in frontline communities</i></p> <div data-bbox="175 632 813 1272" style="border: 2px solid #76b82a; border-radius: 15px; padding: 15px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>DID YOU KNOW? Trees improve the quality of neighborhoods and business districts, increase property values, save energy, improve air quality, and strengthen climate resilience.</p> </div>	<p>The City of Albuquerque has an ambitious goal of tracking the location of 100,000 newly planted trees throughout the city. This nature-based solution to increase the city’s green urban infrastructure will help to mitigate the impacts of the urban heat island effect while bolstering the urban tree canopy cover for future generations. In the last year, over 15,000 trees have been planted or counted, along with increased tracking of planting locations through the city’s digital tree inventory software, TreePlotter. City staff are using TreePlotter software to track the tree canopy, find areas with thin or diminishing coverage, and ensure that frontline communities get equal access to the benefits of a healthy tree canopy. In a recent effort to increase tree plantings by the Albuquerque community, the City’s Parks and Recreations Department, through Let’s Plant Albuquerque, hosted a downtown tree giveaway event in partnership with Richard Levy Gallery. More information about this initiative and efforts can be found at letsplantabq.org.</p>



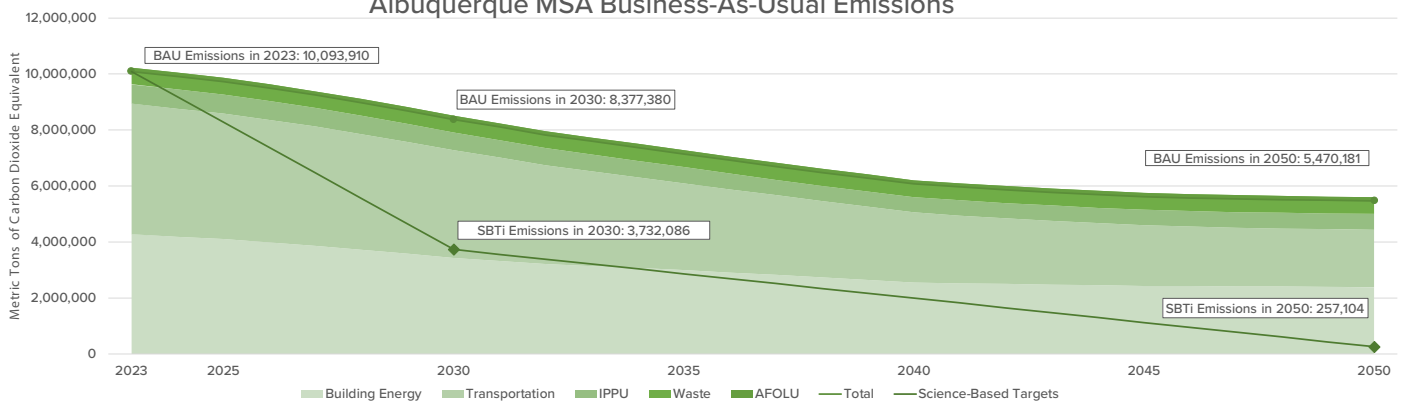
2025 COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Strengthen city-wide planning processes through community engagement rooted in environmental justice</i></p>	<p>The Sustainability Office is conducting a climate planning effort on behalf of the Greater Albuquerque Area, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency. In 2024, the City commissioned a series of 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventories to provide a current picture of climate pollution sources in the Greater Albuquerque Area (see Emissions by Community and Sector below). The City also conducted a Business as Usual (BAU) projection with a Science Based Target (SBT) for the Greater Albuquerque Area. That projection showcases the gap between international goals and estimated emissions reductions. The Sustainability Office will work with the community to develop an equity-based pollution reduction plan that helps us update the City’s 2021 Climate Action Plan and get us closer to our climate goals.</p>


GHG Emissions by Community and Sector (million mt CO2e)



Albuquerque MSA Business-As-Usual Emissions



2025 COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
 <p><i>Focus on Workforce Development for communities with underinvestment</i></p>	<p>Climate action requires meaningful work at every level--whether the jobs are nature-based, like caring for our tree canopy; technology-based, like designing energy efficiency systems; or mechanical, like installing Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure or solar panels, all are key components of a sustainable and resilient community.</p>





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

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