

Chihuahuan Desert Climate Collaborative

Summit – 1 of 3

February 26th, 2025

Please be seated. We will begin shortly!



**Chihuahuan
Desert
Climate
Collaborative**

POWERED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO



Agenda

- **Welcome and Sign-in** (*10 mins*)
 - **Introductions and Opening Remarks** (*15 mins*)
 - **Project Overview** (*10 mins*)
 - **Case Studies** (*15 mins*)
 - **Q&A** (*25 mins*)
 - **Next Steps** (*5 mins*)
 - **Open house** (*40 mins*)
- 

Opening Remarks

Dionne Mack

El Paso City Manager



Project Overview and Q&A



Chihuahuan Desert
Climate Collaborative

El Paso and Hudspeth Counties

10 Municipalities

02 Counties

05 International
Ports of Entry

15 Census-Designated Places +
Unincorporated Communities



** LIDAC – Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities*

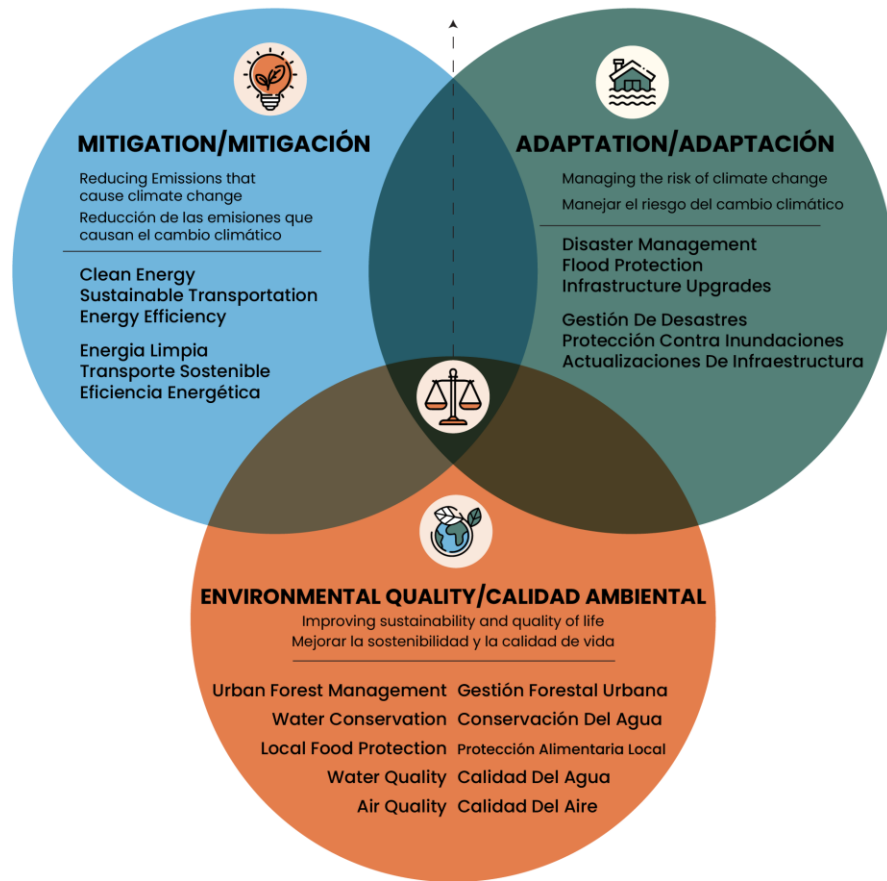
Climate Action Plan

- Focus on adaptation, mitigation, and environmental quality

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL

prioritizing communities most impacted or most in need across all actions

Priorizar las comunidades más impactadas o más necesitadas en todas las acciones



Priority Climate Action Plan

March 2024

- The PCAP identified shovel-ready projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide additional benefits
- It incorporates feedback from over 700 stakeholders
- Texas Chapter – American Planning Association – Award winner!



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan

Priority Climate Action Plan

#02F38901 | March 2024



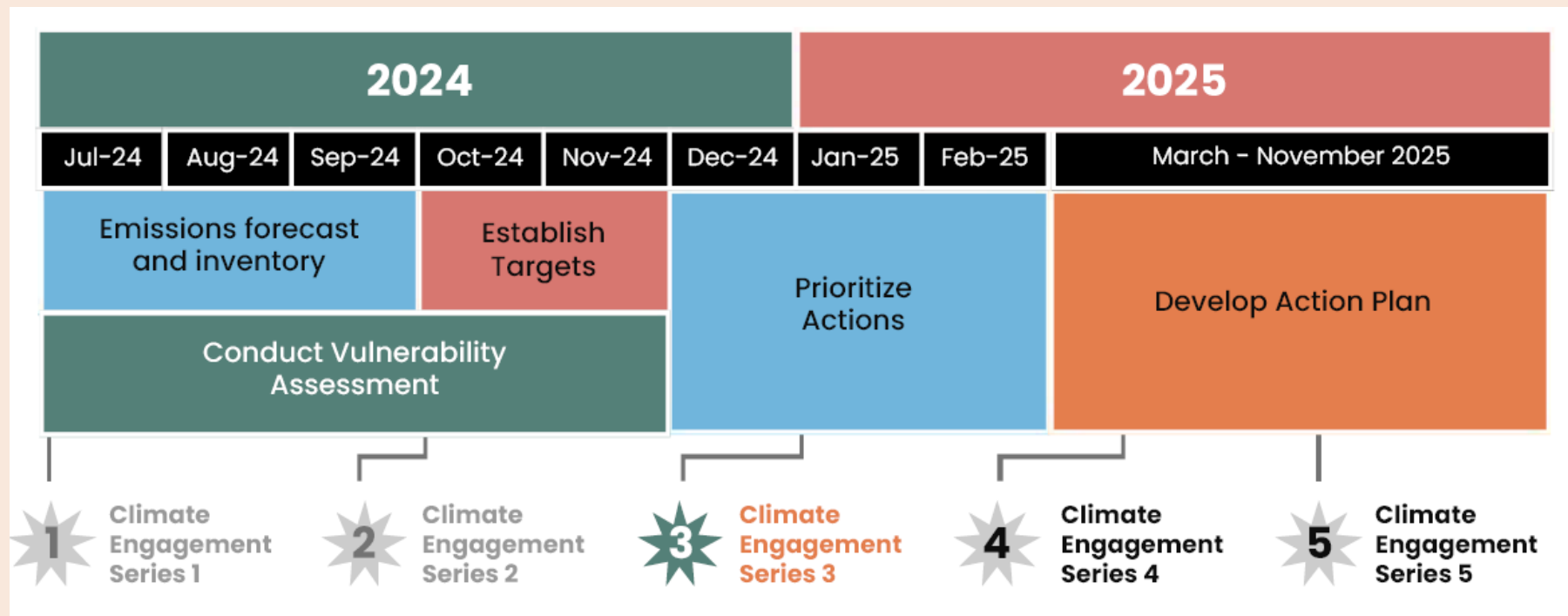
Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

April 2024 – Ongoing

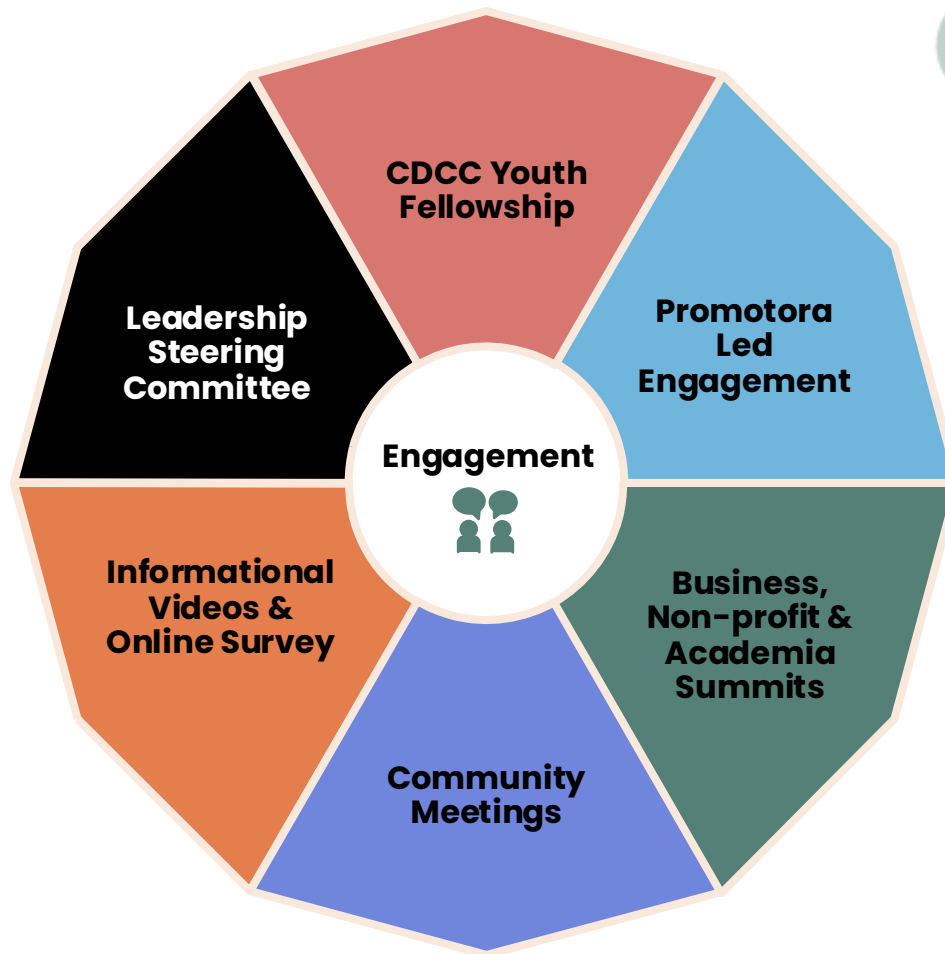
- Develop a clear roadmap for the region to **reduce greenhouse gases**. And **adapt to the impacts of climate change**
- Improve **air quality, health and economic opportunities**
- **Integrate all community members** into the process, recommendations, and plan outcomes
- Be **accessible and useful** to all stakeholders
- Meet **EPA requirements**



Timeline



Multi-Pronged Approach to Engagement



Leadership Steering Committee

- Comprise all key stakeholders in El Paso and Hudspeth counties



**ONE REGION ALL UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF
ONE STEERING COMMITTEE**

UNA REGIÓN BAJO LA DIRECCIÓN DE UN SOLO COMITÉ DIRECTIVO



Fellowship

- On the ground outreach and engagement
- Career development and upskilling
- Hands-on experience across various sustainability fields
- Build connections with experts and local organizations
- Develop transferable skills for future sustainability careers



Fellows and Promotora Engagement

- Partnership with Texas A&M Colonias Program
- Fellows and Promotora trainees lead engagement in hard-to-reach area
- Promotora are community health workers who provide culturally relevant health education, outreach, and advocacy



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Architecture



Colonias



Community Meetings

- Five community engagement series to communicate project progress and get input
- Over 1800 unique feedback received so far





Community Members Engaged So Far

- Over 1,865 unique community inputs gathered through open houses, fellow-hosted meetings, and bilingual surveys

Priority Climate Action Plan	765
Comprehensive Climate Action Plan	
Series #1	647
Series #2	317
Promotora - Fellows Outreach	139
Total	1868

Regional Inventory & Risks



Regional GHG Inventory



Climate Shocks and Stressors



Extreme Heat
Calor extremo



Heavy Rain & Flooding
Lluvias intensas e inundaciones



Drought
Sequía



Cost of Inaction

- **Increased operational costs** due to climate-related disruptions (e.g., extreme weather, flooding, heatwaves)
- **Damage to infrastructure** leading to costly repairs and maintenance
- **Supply chain disruptions**, causing delays and financial losses
- **Reduced productivity** from health impacts (e.g., heat-related illnesses, respiratory issues due to poor air quality)
- **Insurance and risk management costs** rising due to extreme weather events
- **Loss of revenue** from reduced customer demand or access to markets



Summit Series Objectives

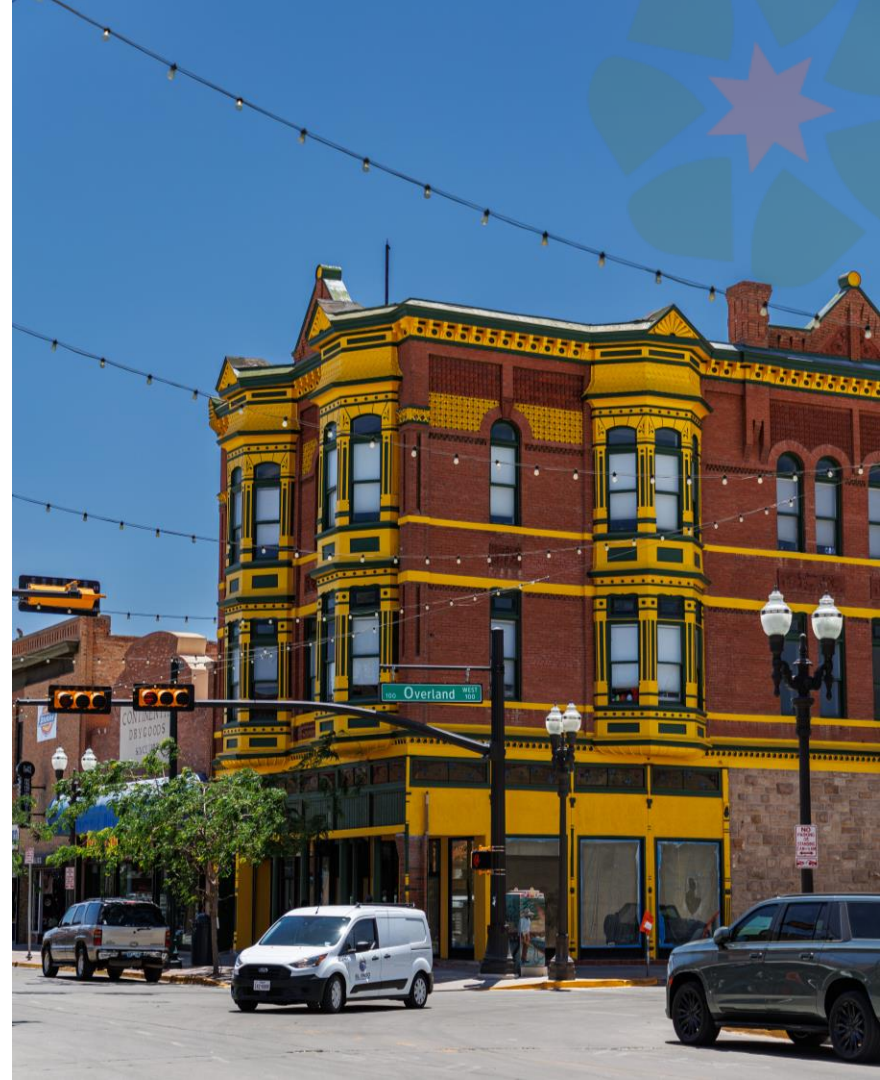


Building Partnerships for Implementation



Objectives

- Bring partners together to **collaborate**
- Communicate **resource needs** to support effective implementation
- Shape **implementable actions** by identifying priorities, opportunities, and solutions
- Summit # 2 – April 2025 (*tentative*)
- Summit # 3 – July 2025 (*tentative*)



Case Studies



Chihuahuan Desert
Climate Collaborative

El Paso County & Schneider Electric Energy Savings Agreement

Jose Landeros



Transforming Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future

■ Overview

- El Paso County has entered into a strategic partnership with Schneider Electric to modernize **30 county facilities**, addressing deferred maintenance challenges while advancing energy efficiency.
- This project is structured as an Energy Savings and Construction Services Contract, aligning with the County's commitment to sustainability and cost efficiency.
- The initiative will generate an **estimated \$40 million in savings** over the 20-year project lifespan.

■ Key Benefits

- Energy Efficiency: **23% reduction** in energy consumption, equating to over \$1.19 million in annual savings.
- Environmental Impact: Reduction of over **4,300 tons of greenhouse gas emissions** annually—equivalent to removing nearly **1,000 cars from the road**.
- Financial Responsibility: Guaranteed energy savings backed by Schneider Electric, ensuring fiscal accountability and long-term cost reductions.

Infrastructure Modernization & Key Enhancements

■ Project Scope

- LED Lighting Retrofits: County-wide upgrades to enhance **efficiency, reduce energy use**, and improve lighting quality in public facilities.
- Mechanical Plant Upgrades: Chillers, boilers, and cooling towers at key locations, particularly the County Courthouse, to improve comfort and reliability.
- Building Automation System (BAS): **Smart controls** for HVAC systems to align operations with actual building use, optimizing energy performance.
- Water Conservation Measures: Implementation at detention facilities leading to a **54% reduction in water** consumption, saving approximately **48.2 million gallons annually**.
- Technology Integration: Use of advanced energy management systems to **monitor and verify savings**, ensuring ongoing performance and accountability.

■ Project Timeline

- Start Date: November 2024
- Estimated Completion: June 2027

■ Long-Term Vision

- Enhancing operational efficiencies while promoting sustainability.
- Reinforcing the County's commitment to climate-conscious infrastructure development.
- Setting a precedent for responsible governance and environmental stewardship.

El Paso Water

Andrew Aliyas



Fred Hervey WRP Solar Power System



Figure 3-6: Ground Mount Racking Installation

- Will supply 80% of annual demand.
- Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART Grants
 - Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG)
- Notice of Award: Aug. 2024
 - \$4,868,512
- Total Construction Cost Range
 - \$11 million - \$16 million
- Net Annual Savings with System
 - \$648,728

Moon Road Complete Streets Project

Alejandra Valadez





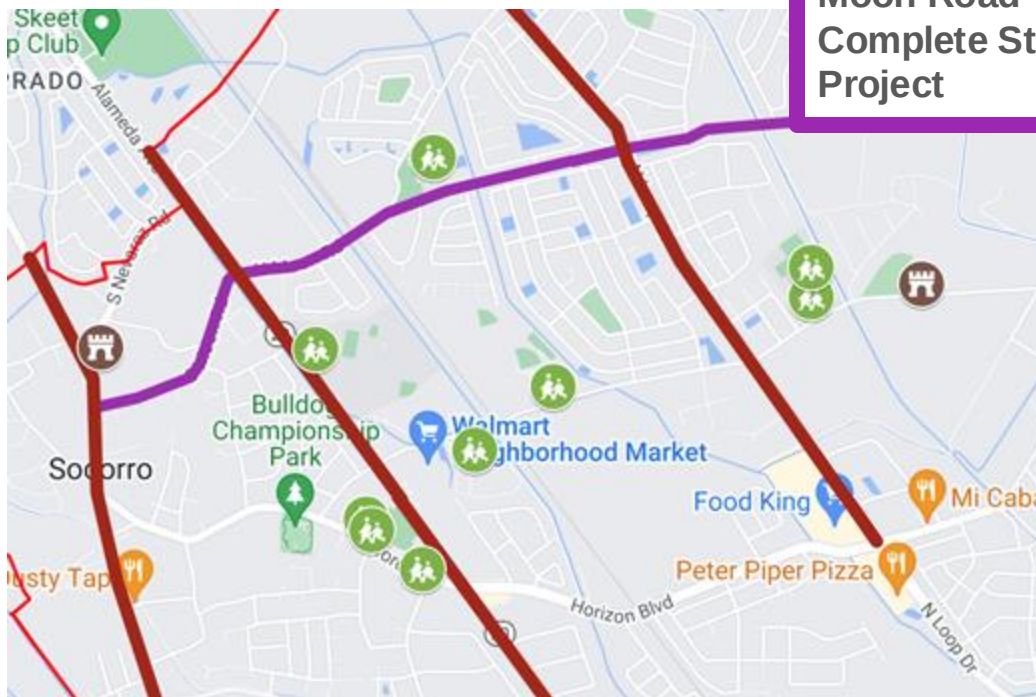
City of Socorro,
Texas



A City With a Mission

Moon Road Complete Streets Project

Moon Road Complete Streets Project



Limits:

Socorro Road to Grijalva Drive (2.17 mi)

Scope:

Planning - Environmental analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, and benefit-cost analysis for Complete Streets Conversion of Moon Road following principles of universal design

Outcomes:

Improved mobility and connectivity, safety, and environmental sustainability



City of Socorro,
Texas



A City With a Mission

Moon Road - Current Conditions

N. Moon Rd



Google Street Views of N. Moon and S. Moon Rd., both within 500 ft. from public schools showing:

- Hazardous conditions for students walking to school
- Lack of pedestrian or ADA-access
- Lack of bicycle access

S. Moon Rd



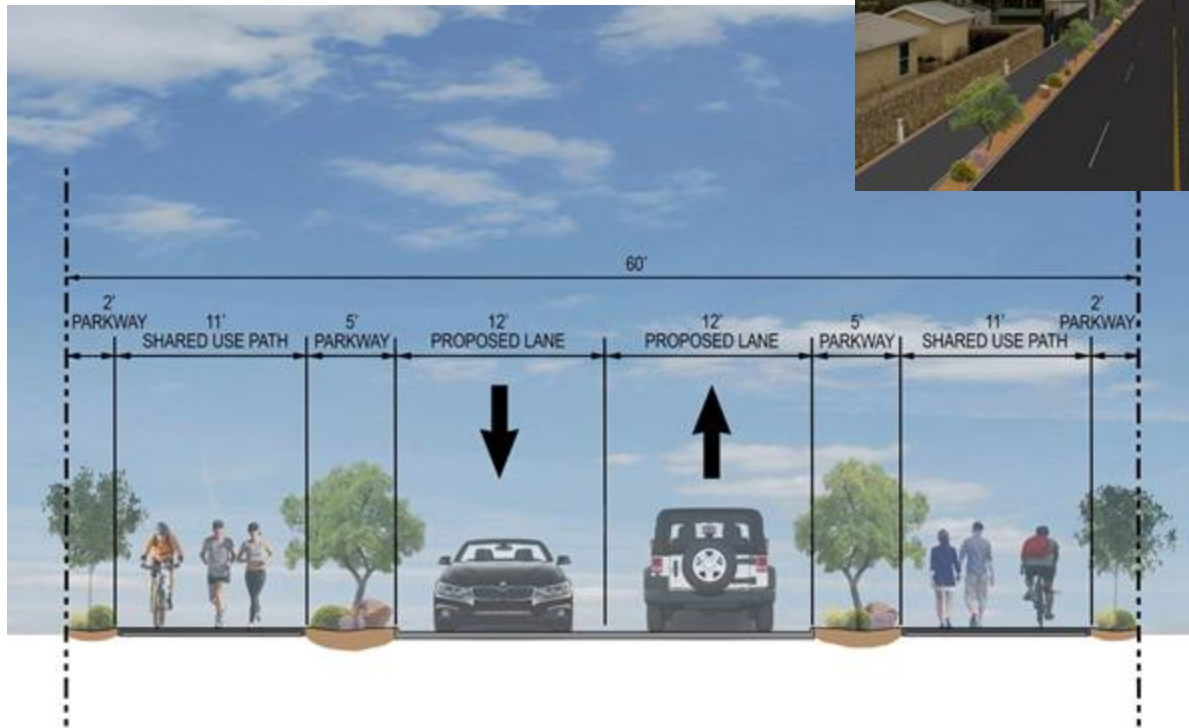


City of Socorro,
Texas



A City With a Mission

Moon Road - Conceptual Cross Sections



Conceptual only,
subject to change

Tree Planting Program

Dora Hernandez





Program Design

Nominate Your Neighborhood!



1 # OF NEIGHBORS

At least 5 neighbors on the same block

2 ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

Single-family residences, no commercial establishments

3 LOW TREE EQUITY IS

PRIORITIZED
Properties must be in areas below 65% on Tree Equity scorecard

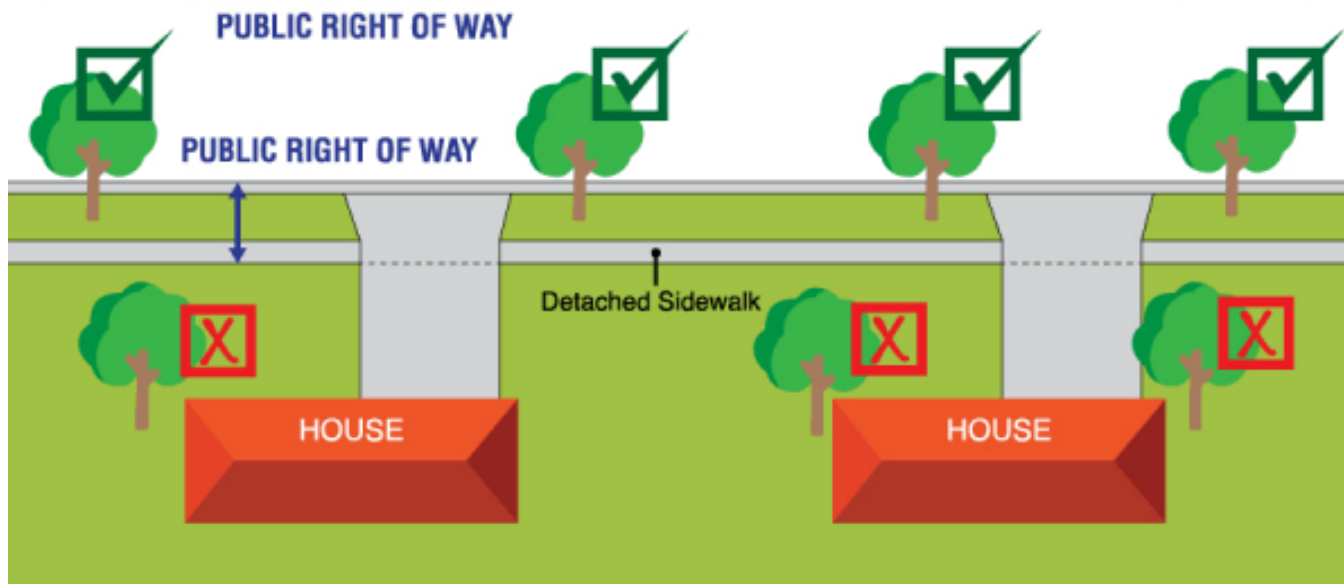
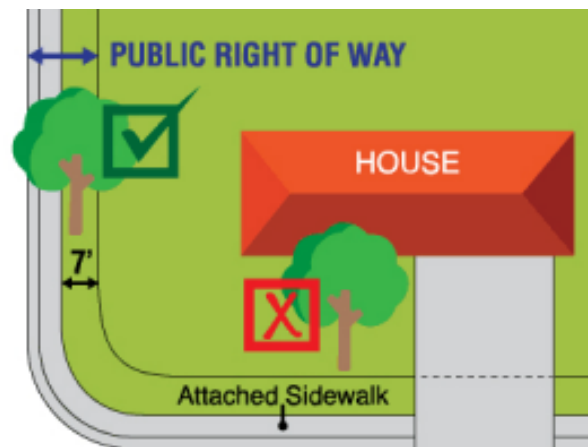
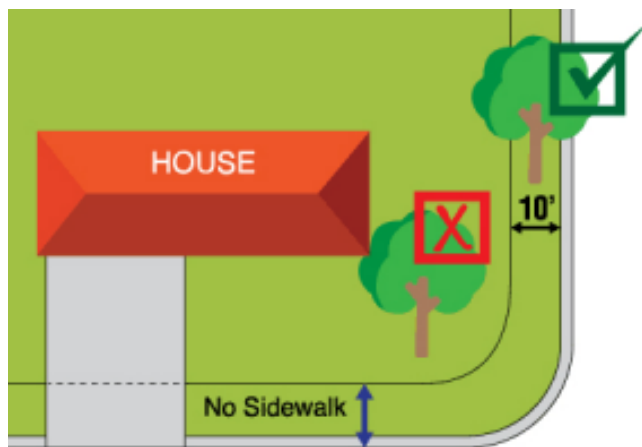
4 LOCATION OF TREES

Each household is eligible for up to (2) trees in City's Right of Ways.

5 TREE PLANTING COMMITMENT

Each household will be required to sign participation waiver and agreement to maintain & water their trees.

[Neighborhood Nomination Application](#)
[Tree Equity Score Map](#)



249 TREES PLANTED

12 Planting Events

31 TOTAL HOURS

228 VOLUNTEERS

\$225,751.92
MANPOWER-Volunteer
Contributions*

2024-2025 Planting Summary



Airport Solar Projects

Fernando Liano



Airport Solar Projects

ConRACs Solar System:

- **Systems Size:** 1,18 MWAC
- **Budget:** \$3,000,000.00 FAA Grant Contribution and \$1,704,944.00 Airport Enterprise Funds
- **Total:** \$4,704,944.00
- Completion Winter 2025

Short Term Parking Solar System:

- **System Size:** 1 MWAC
- **Budget:** \$1,750,000.00 Department of Energy contribution and \$2,106,478.00 Airport Enterprise Funds
- **Total:** \$3,856,478.00
- Completion Winter 2025



Benefits:



GHG emission reduction



Cost savings
(behind the meter)



Added services:
shaded parking

Community Benefits

Joana Rosales
El Paso Resident & Former CDCC Fellow



Questions?



Chihuahuan Desert
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Next Steps





Feedback Handout

- Complete the handout and provide your feedback to City staff at your table
- Provide input on barriers and opportunities to implement draft goals from your organization's perspective

El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan

Summit Session #1

February 26th, 2025

Your name:

Organization:

Share ongoing sustainability efforts, interests or challenges and highlight successful green initiatives from the organization you represent.



Identify opportunities and barriers for implementing draft goals or measures in the Climate Action Plan.

	Opportunities	Barriers
Increase Native Trees and Natural Spaces: Enhance local ecosystems by expanding green spaces and planting native trees to improve air quality and mitigate heat.		
Support transit, walking, and biking: Encourage alternative transportation options and reduce reliance on personal vehicles to decrease emissions, traffic congestion, and improve air quality.		

El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan 1

	Opportunities	Barriers
Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings: Upgrade existing buildings with energy-efficient technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs from the built environment.		
Install Renewable Energy Systems: Transition to clean energy sources like solar and geothermal to power homes, businesses, and infrastructure.		
Evaluate Sustainable Waste Management Practices: Keep improving waste management practices that reduce, reuse, and recycle materials to minimize landfill use and environmental impact.		
Support the Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition: Promote the adoption of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to reduce air pollution, operational costs and dependence on fossil fuels.		
Promote Sustainable Food Production and Distribution: Encourage local, sustainable farming practices and improve food systems to reduce carbon footprints and promote food security.		
Cool Communities and Protect Health: Implement strategies such as urban greening and shade provision to reduce heat stress and improve public health.		

El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan 2

	Opportunities	Barriers
Reduce Flood Risk: Implement actions such as green infrastructure and floodplain restoration to keep reducing flood risks.		
Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water: Enhance water conservation practices and develop drought-resistant strategies to protect water resources in arid regions.		
Protect Critical Infrastructure: Strengthen key infrastructure such as power grids, water systems, and transportation to ensure resilience against climate impacts.		
Improve Air Quality: Regularly track and assess the achievement of targets for effective implementation and continuous improvement.		

Any other notes or comments?



El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan 3

- Walk around and provide feedback on the draft actions on the boards
- Prioritize actions and offer suggestions for solutions

MEASURE: 2 OF 12

Cool Communities and Protect Health Spanish translation

Image © 2020. Illustration of a city park with people walking and playing. The city is vibrant and green, with many trees and a clear blue sky.

Place a dot next to the actions you believe should be prioritized

☐ Installing emergency communication and evacuation warnings in multiple languages to support all communities	☐ Installing reflective roofs in vulnerable communities to provide cooling, absorb heat, and increase during hot events and other emergencies
☐ Plant more trees to reduce the urban heat island and protect public health	☐ Upgrade all transit transportation planning and infrastructure early warning system
☐ Deming a heat-reflective building code to protect homes, businesses, critical facilities	☐ Do you have other ideas? Write us at "Feedback" link
☐ Creating climate-resilient building codes and development standards to encourage building resilience to future climate change impacts	

What this means for you Spanish translation

During another scorching El Paso summer, Josephina worried about her aging parents in their small apartment. The city implemented more trees and shade structures that cooled their neighborhoods, while new building codes made homes resistant to extreme heat. Resilience hubs, or multi-hazard resilience hubs, opened in vulnerable areas, offering shelter, water, and other resources. The emergency communications system provided warnings in Spanish and other languages, so Josephina's parents could prepare for heat waves. Thanks to these changes, El Paso wasn't just surviving heat waves—it was protecting its people, keeping Josephina's family safe and cool.

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Notes

1. When discussing this plan, it is important to note that while the plan is a good starting point, it is not a final plan. It is a plan that is being developed and will be updated as more information is gathered and as the community's needs change.
2. The plan is a living document that will be updated as more information is gathered and as the community's needs change. It is a plan that is being developed and will be updated as more information is gathered and as the community's needs change.
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MEASURE 11 OF 12

Evaluate Sustainable Waste Management Practices

Spanish translation



What this means for you

Spanish translation

Actions

11.1 Engage in community waste management practices through the community action plan to ensure that all residents are aware of the importance of recycling and that all waste is properly disposed of.

11.2 Engage in community waste management practices through the community action plan to ensure that all residents are aware of the importance of recycling and that all waste is properly disposed of.

MEASURE 12 OF 12

Improve Air Quality

Spanish translation



What this means for you

Spanish translation

Metrics

12.1 Measure the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality.

12.2 Measure the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality. The city should monitor the number of days with poor air quality.

Place a dot next to the actions you believe should be prioritized

Capture and aggregate data to use in community planning	Engage community-wide consulting
Improve frequency and quality of recycling services	Improve air quality monitoring systems

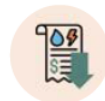
Next Steps

- **Interested in a deep dive of actions?** –
Contact Fernando by 2/28 at berjanofl@elpasotexas.gov
- **Next summit session** – Will be in April, a 6-hour session for a deep dive analysis of actions. Focus group style. Block your calendar!
- **Help spread the word** on upcoming community meetings and survey

HOW CAN THIS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY?



Create Pathways to green jobs.



Lower utility bills and transportation costs



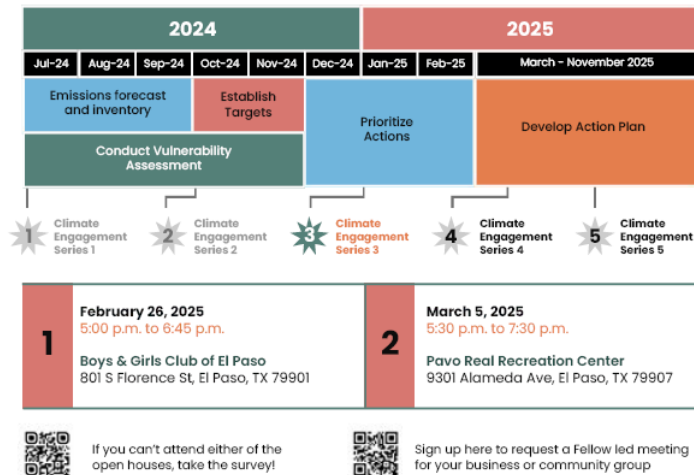
Add more open Spaces and vegetation. And Protect the desert and the ecosystem



Improve air quality for all

GET INVOLVED!

Get involved! The overall project is anticipated to be complete by fall of 2025. There will be five community touchpoints where as a community member you can learn about the project progress and give us your input and feedback.



Learn more and stay involved at epclimate.org

Follow us on:
Instagram: @iam_elpaso
Facebook: @EPClimate
X: @ElPasoTXGov

Thank you



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