

Chihuahuan Desert Climate Collaborative

Summit #3 of 3

August 13th, 2025

Please be seated. We will begin shortly!



**Chihuahuan
Desert
Climate
Collaborative**

POWERED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO

Opening Remarks

**Congresswoman
Veronica Escobar**





Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**
 - **Overview**
 - **Implementation and Partners**
 - **Next Steps**
 - **Q&A and Wrap-up**
 - **Open House**
- 

Overview





Measures & Actions

The El Paso Region Climate Action Plan outlines how the region will address the challenges of climate change through targeted actions



10

Measures



39

Mitigation Actions



53

Actions



14

Adaptation Actions

Measures & Actions



Measure 1: Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings

6 Actions



Measure 2: Support the Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition

6 Actions



Measure 3: Install Renewable Energy Systems

5 Actions



Measure 4: Promote Sustainable Food Systems and Waste Management Practices

6 Actions



Measure 5: Promote Walking, Biking, and Riding Transit

8 Actions



Measure 6: Monitor and Improve Air Quality

5 Actions



Measure 7: Implement and Oversee Climate Action

3 Actions



Measure 8: Cool Communities, Protect Health, and Increase Native Ecosystems

7 Actions



Measure 9: Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water

4 Actions

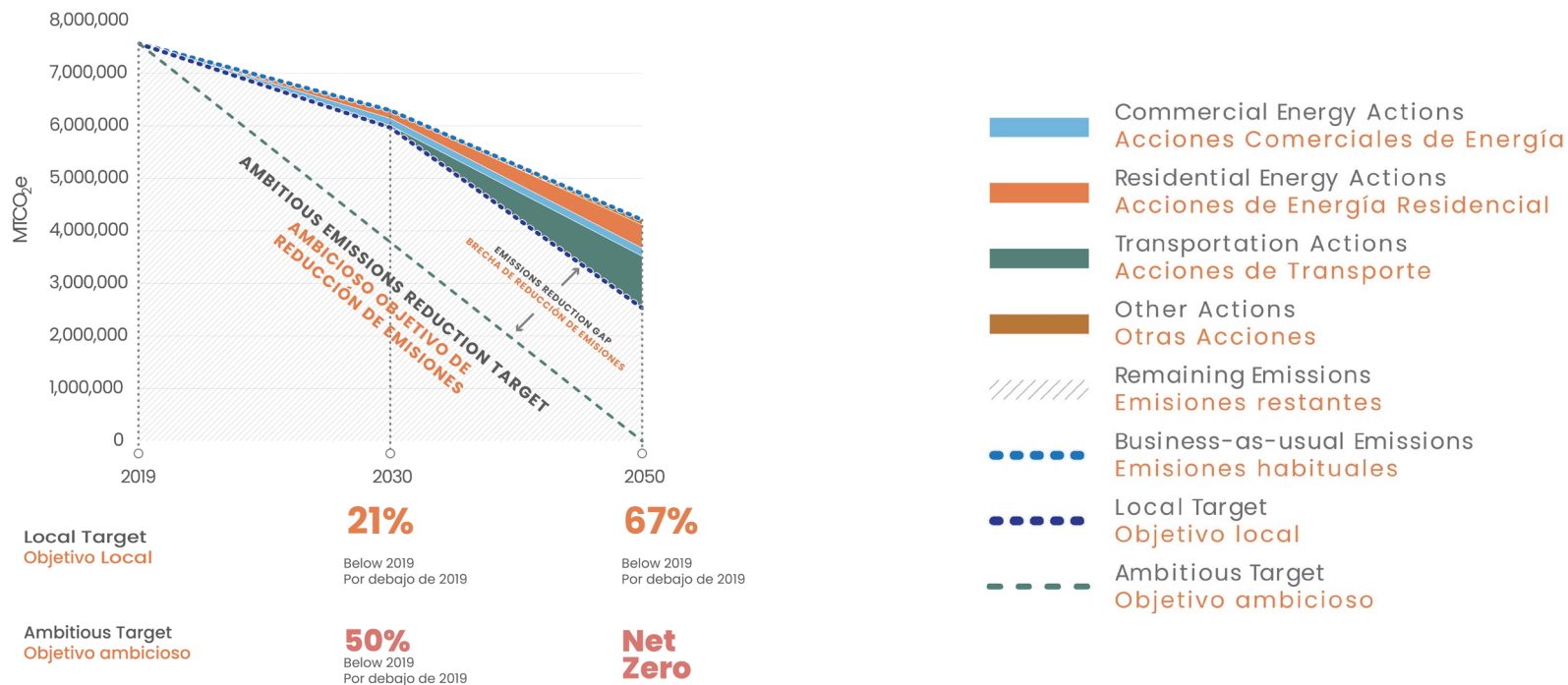


Measure 10: Reduce Flood Risk

3 Actions

Emission Reduction

Projected greenhouse gas reductions from implementing all actions





Targets: Ambitious vs. Localized

The Climate Action Plan sets two types of emissions reduction targets for the region:

1. An **ambitious target** aligned with scientific best practices
2. A **localized target** based on the reductions El Paso region can achieve by fully implementing the actions outlined in this plan

	2030	2050
Local Target	21% Below 2019	67% Below 2019
Ambitious Target	50% Below 2019	Net Zero

Challenges In Reducing Emissions



Federal/State Control

Limited local authority



Ports of Entry

Limited authority



Freight and Trade

Key sector, supports jobs but adds emissions

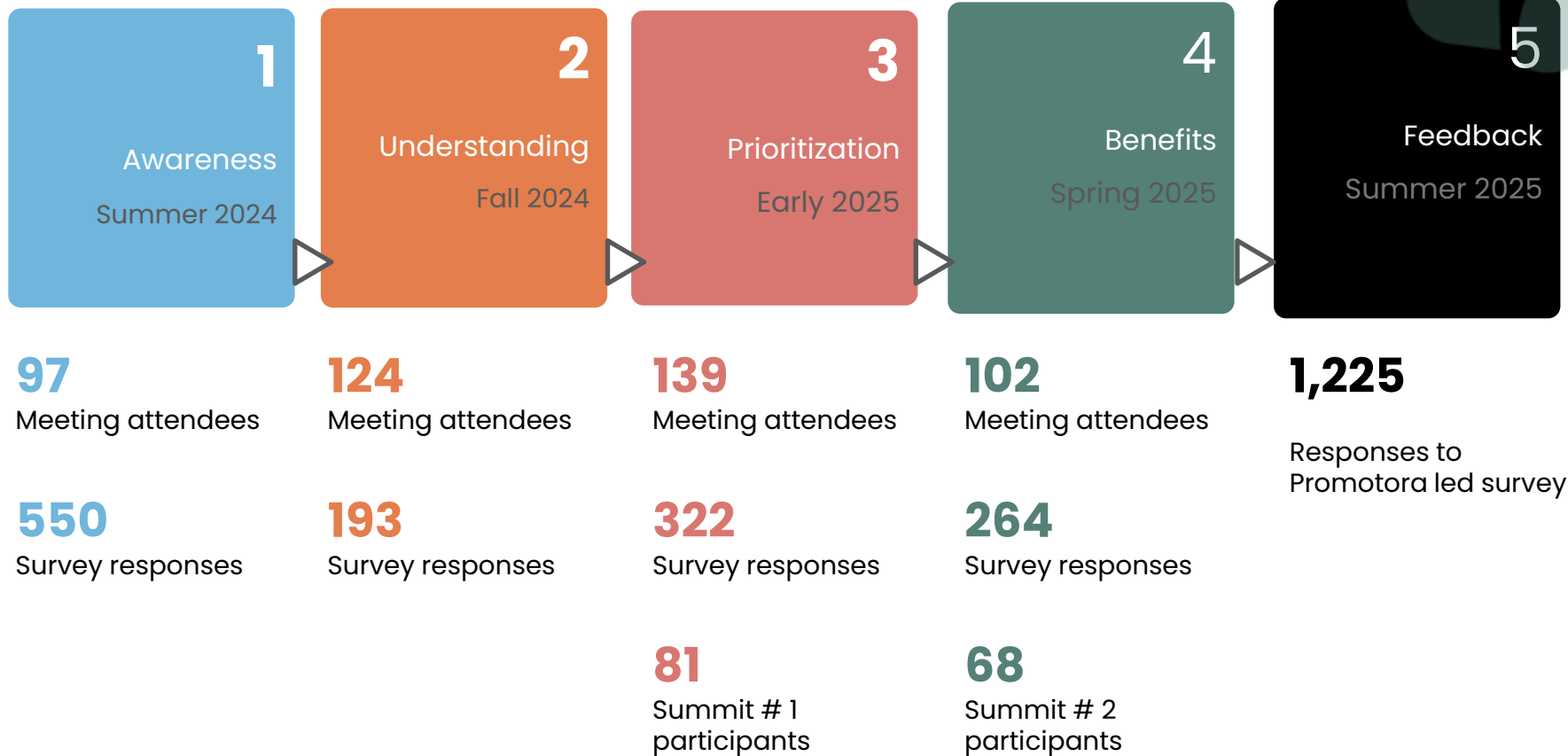
Multi-Pronged Approach to Engagement



Engagement Phases



Shaped By Over 3,000 Voices



Promotora Engagement

- Partnered with **Texas Colonia Program** for targeted outreach
- Engagement led by promotoras and CDCC Fellows in informal settings
- Tailored survey collected input on climate concerns and priorities
- Community input: 423 English and 803 Spanish responses
- Income insight: 481 respondents reported household income under \$50,000



Feedback



- 64**
MENTIONS **Trees, shade, and green space**
"More parks with trees and sidewalks around my neighborhood"
"More trees along the road; more trees mean less heat"
- 30**
MENTIONS **Parks and recreation amenities**
"A park to go walking with trees"
"We need more parks for kids"
- 23**
MENTIONS **AC and cooling**
"Use less air conditioning and heating"
"Help with AC maintenance"
- 14**
MENTIONS **Street and infrastructure improvements**
"Fix the streets that flood"
"Better sidewalks and lighting"
- 13**
MENTIONS **Transportation access**
"Add more public transportation to reduce car traffic"

- 11**
MENTIONS **Utility bills/affordability**
"Help for people who can't pay the bills"
"Support with water bills and light bills"
- 10**
MENTIONS **Solar energy**
"More opportunities to acquire solar panels at low prices"
"Programs for solar installation with payment plans"
- 8**
MENTIONS **Drainage and flood control**
"Install better drainage in my neighborhood"
"Fix the streets that flood during rain"
"Clean out existing drains regularly"
- 4**
MENTIONS **Food access**
"Yes, more food for everyone"
"Community gardens in neighborhoods"



Other Benefits to the Community

Number of actions that provide other benefits



29

Public Health and Wellbeing



08

Environmental Stewardship



16

Resource Conservation



25

Economic Prosperity



18

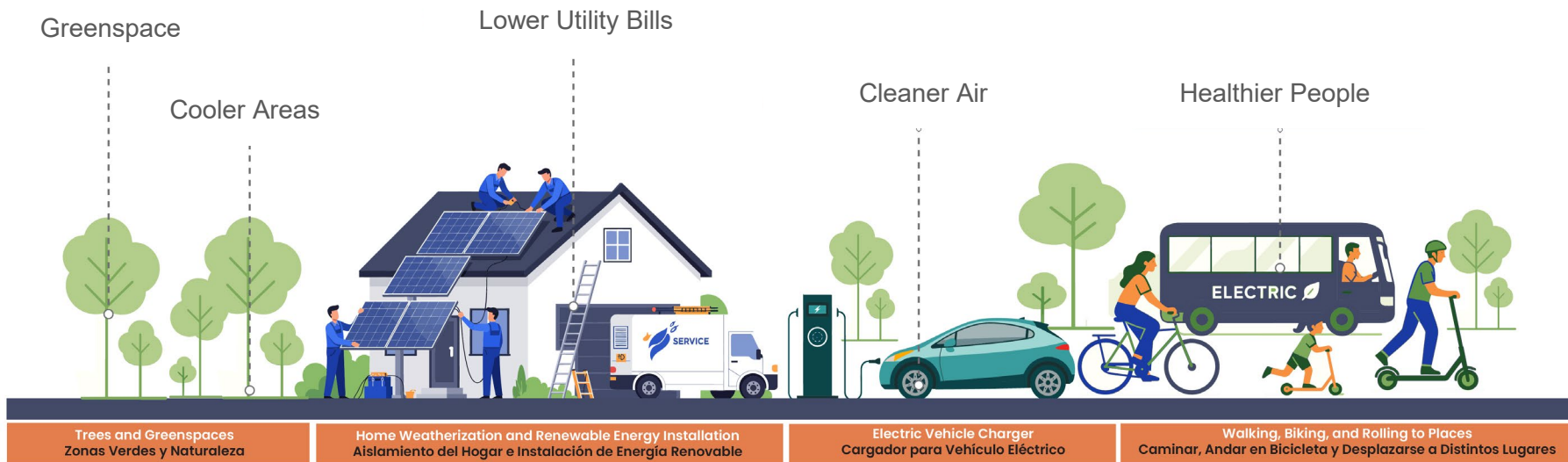
Savings to Residents and Businesses



16

Community Building

Other Benefits to the Community



Implementation Considerations

No single source can fund it all

Local Sources

Grants (State and Federal)

Private Investment

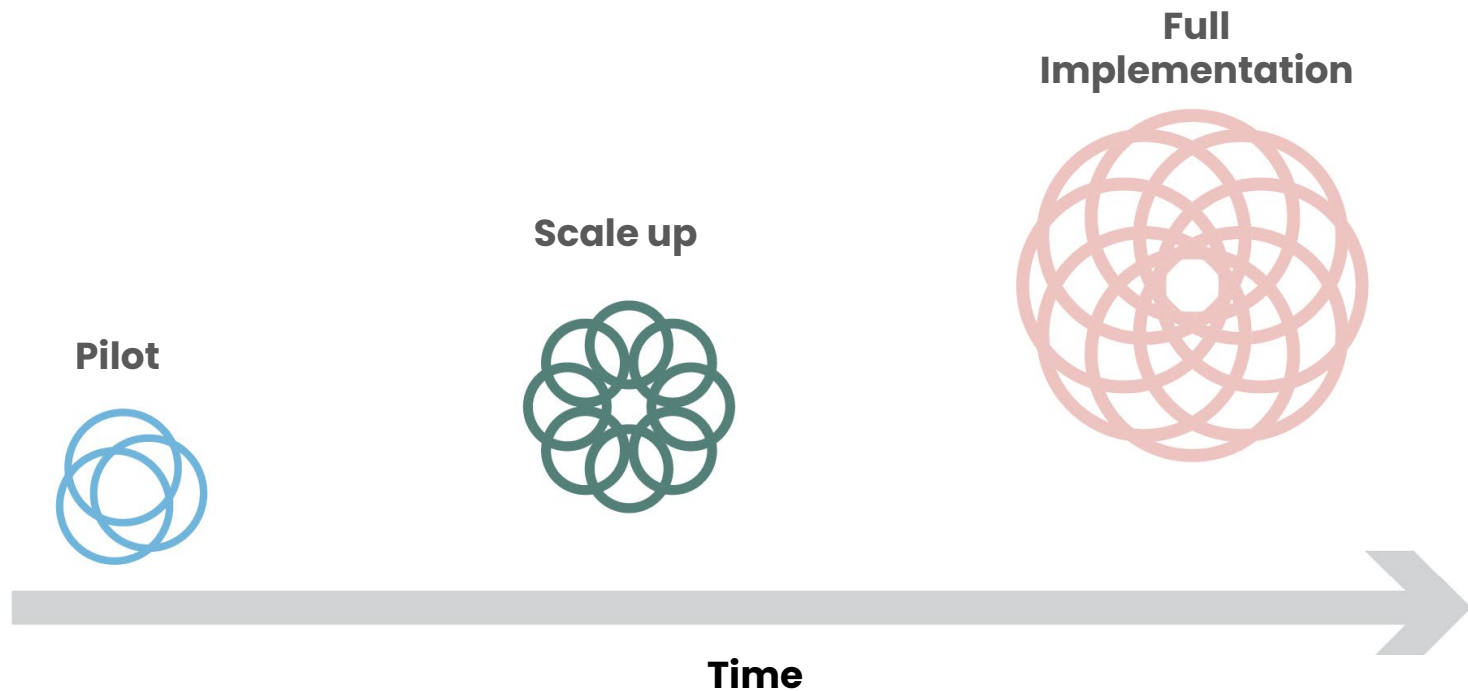
Utility Revenue



Combined Funding Sources

Implementation Considerations

Implementation builds over time



Implementation Considerations

It takes partnerships between:

- Local Governments
- State Governments
- Federal Governments
- Finance and Philanthropy
- Businesses
- Community Organizations
- Residents



Workforce Needs

Local workforce and meeting new demand

- Grid and EV investments will create hundreds of jobs in 5 years
- Roles in construction, clean energy, and logistics

What's Needed:

- Strong training-to-employment pipeline
- Employer connections, job seeker awareness

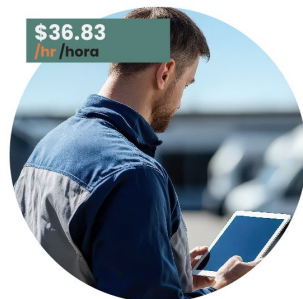
Why It Matters:

- Delays, missed economic benefits, and deeper inequities if action isn't taken



High Demand Jobs

General and
Operations Manager



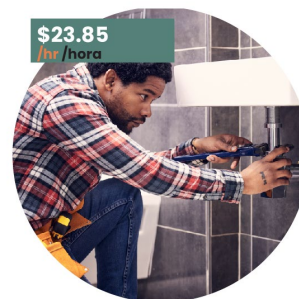
Project Management
Specialist



Welder, Cutter, Solder
and Brazier



Plumber, Pipefitter
and Steamfitter



Helper-Installation,
Maintenance, and Repair
Workers



Automotive Service
Technicians and Mechanics



Electricians



Installation, Maintenance,
and Repair Workers



First line Supervisors of
Construction Trade and
Extraction Workers



Solar Photovoltaic
Installers



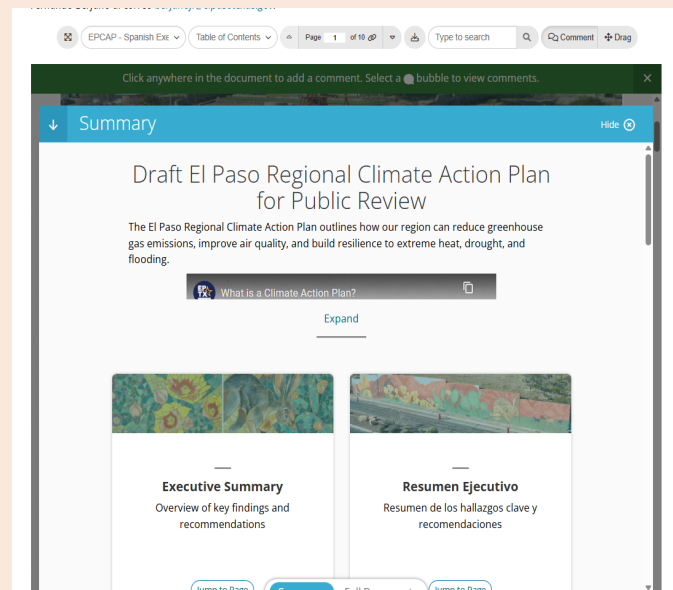
Climate Action Plan – Table of Contents



 Executive Summary	 Chapter 01: Introduction	 Chapter 02: Stakeholder Engagement	 Chapter 03: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory	 Chapter 04: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections	 Chapter 05: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets	 Chapter 06: Co-pollutant Inventory and Projections
 Chapter 07: Climate Vulnerability Assessment	 Chapter 08: Climate Actions	 Chapter 09: Low-Income and Disadvantaged Community Analysis	 Chapter 10: Intersection with Other Funding Sources	 Chapter 11: Workforce Planning Analysis	 Chapter 12: Conclusion and Next Steps	 Resumen Ejecutivo

Review the Draft Plan & Share Your Feedback

- Visit epclimate.org
- Browse through each section of the plan
- Click anywhere in the document to leave a comment
- Provide feedback by **September 8th**



Q&A



Implementation & Partners





Climate Summit #3: Renewable Natural Gas

August 13, 2025

Drew Phillip Aliyas, P.S.M.

- **Education**

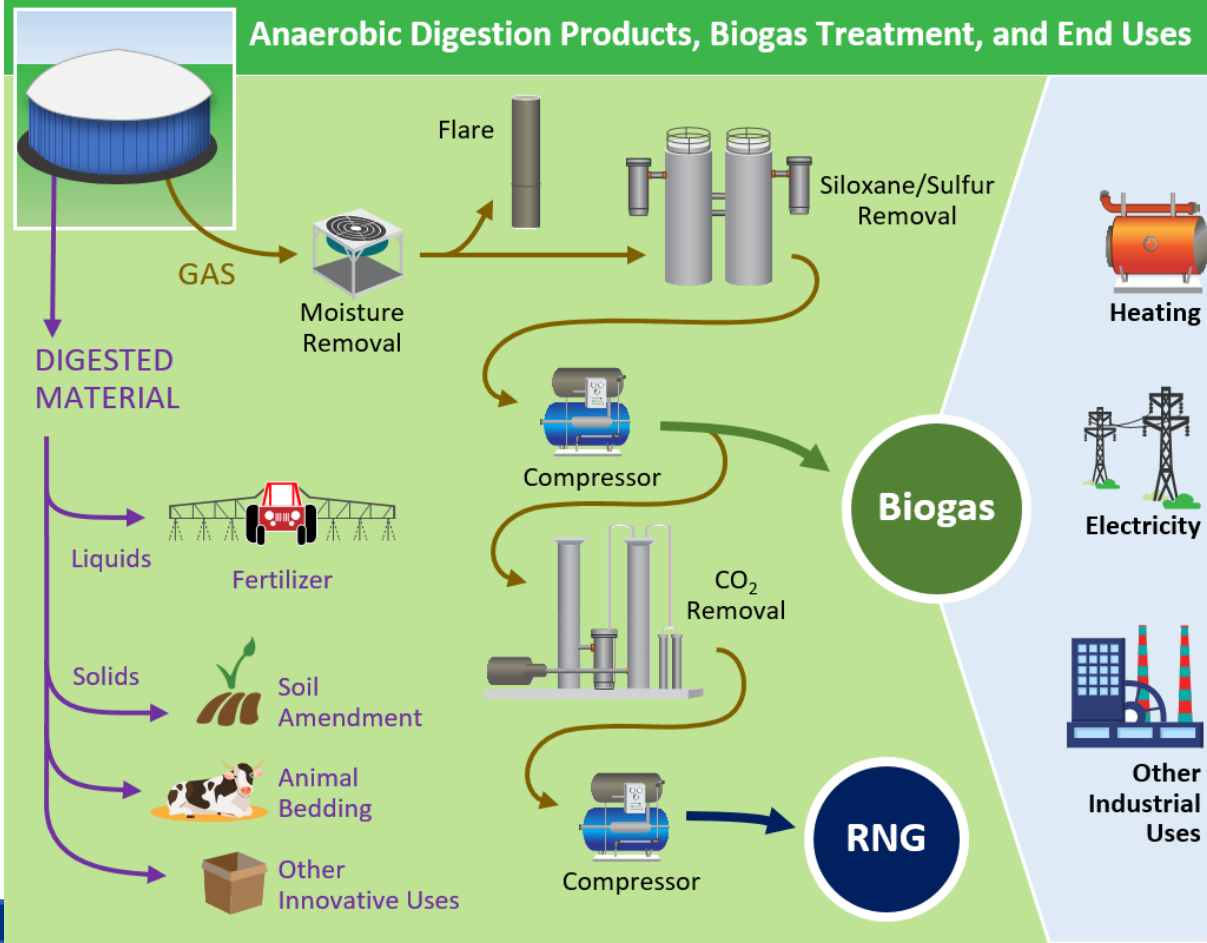
- Bachelors of Science: Biology
- Professional Science Masters: Environmental Sustainability & Natural Resource Management

- **Tenure w/ El Paso Water**

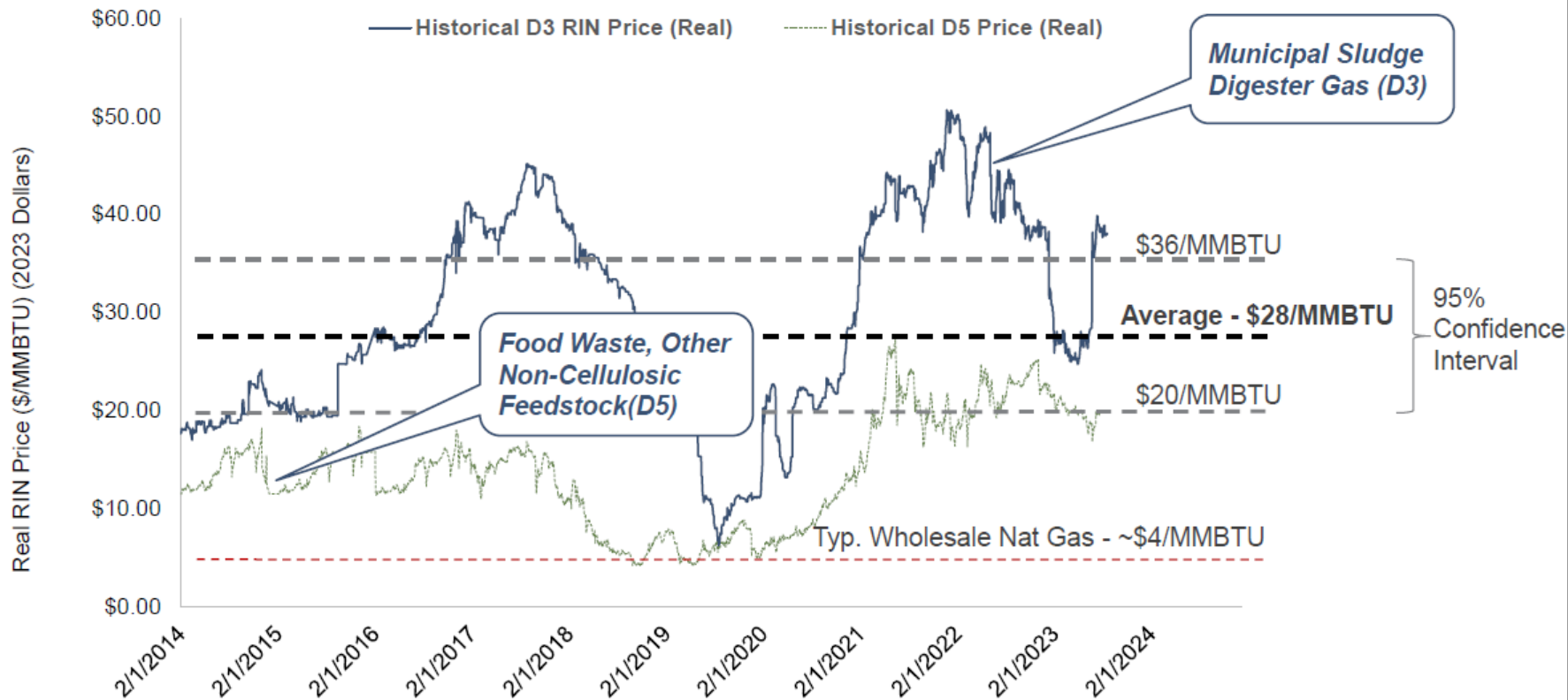
- Laboratory Technician
- Research Coordinator
- Sustainability Program Specialist
- Sustainability Coordinator
- Utility Climate & Research Program Manager



Biogas (Renewable Natural Gas)



RIN Market Performance



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EPWater's largest rehab project depends on collaboration

Adriana Salas de Santiago

[Contact Us](#)

It takes a diverse team to successfully execute the largest wastewater rehabilitation project in El Paso Water's history. That's why utility engineers are working closely with construction consultants and contractors at the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to upgrade and expand the facility efficiently.

Prioritizing quality over cost

The \$1.3 billion project is being managed through the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) method, which emphasizes long-term quality and durability, said EPWater's Vice President of Operations and Technical Services Gilbert Trejo.

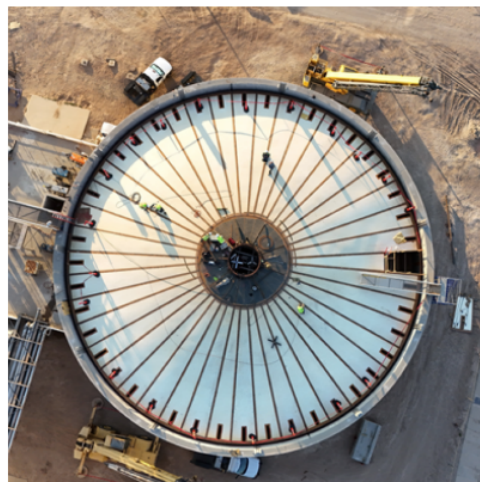
In contrast to a traditional bidding approach that often prioritizes the lowest cost, CMAR emphasizes collaboration and quality over cost.

"This method leads to smarter decisions and delivers a higher-quality result," Trejo said. "It's not about finding the cheapest price; it's about long-term performance and minimizing risk through accurate cost planning."

Trejo explained that past projects driven primarily by cost considerations are part of the reason this rehabilitation is necessary. For example, in one case technicians now struggle to perform maintenance because the original flow-control gates – selected for their lower price – have corroded and no longer function.

"These failures have put us in avoidable emergency situations," Trejo said.

A key focus of the Bustamante project is to build in redundancies or backup systems that allow for routine maintenance without disrupting operations.



Aerial photo of the rehabilitated Bustamante digesters courtesy of MGC Contractors Inc.

El Paso Water: RNG Timeline

Previously

- Apr 2025: PSB approved P3 guidelines.

Now

- Plant running at ~**30 MGD** (was 39 MGD)
- **Phase 1**: New 21.4 MGD train
- **Phase 2**: Rehab to restore ~9 MGD
- Target capacity: ~**51 MGD**
- RFQ/RFP for RNG in draft

Opportunity

- Upgrade enables **RNG integration** (biogas → fuel)
- P3 supports design, funding & ops
- Boosts sustainability + energy recovery

Next

- Release RFQ/RFP
- Select RNG partner

Business Resilience Toolkit



Chihuahuan
Desert
Climate
Collaborative

Your Guide to Business Resilience in El Paso

BUSINESS RESILIENCE TOOLKIT
SEPTEMBER 2025

(915) 212-0138
climate@elpasotexas.gov
epclimate.org

El Paso's Most Pressing Climate Hazards



EXTREME HEAT

Extreme Heat Impacts

- Damages roads, railways, and sidewalks
 - Increases health risks for outdoor workers and vulnerable groups
 - Disrupts supply chains and raises costs for businesses
-



DROUGHT

Drought Impacts

- Water scarcity directly impacts communities, businesses, and agriculture
 - Air quality is reduced, and evaporative coolers face reduced cooling efficiency
-



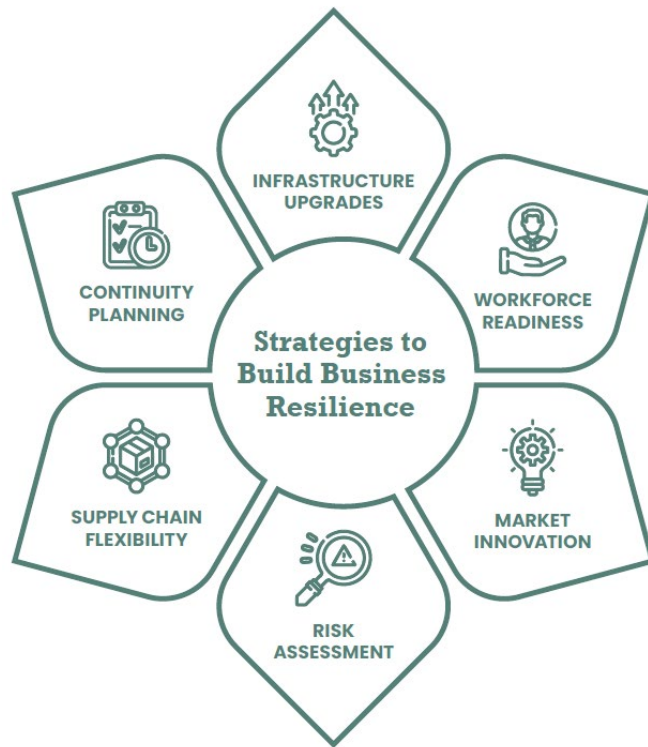
FLOODING

Flood Impacts

- Disruptions and damage to property
- Key facilities such as hospitals risk shutting down, while road and bridge closures disrupt emergency response and trade
- Water scarcity directly impacts communities, businesses, and agriculture

Six Strategies to Build Business Resilience

- **Infrastructure Upgrades** – Strengthen physical assets
- **Workforce Readiness** – Train and support employees
- **Market Innovation** – Adapt products and services
- **Risk Assessment** – Identify and prepare for threats
- **Supply Chain Flexibility** – Diversify suppliers and logistics
- **Continuity Planning** – Keep operations running during disruptions
- Learn more at www.epclimate.org/resources



What These Risks Mean For Your Business



More power
outages and
cooling costs



Delayed
deliveries and
workforce
shortages



Threats
to clean
water, air
quality, and
operational
continuity

65%
of Small
Businesses
Shut Down
after Disasters

Next Steps



Help Spread the Word!

Open House #1

Today and here at 5:30 pm

Open House #2 – Saturday, August 16th, 2025

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

El Paso Community College – Valle Verde
Campus, Building C, Cafeteria Annex
919 Hunter Dr, El Paso, TX 79915



Chihuahuan Desert
Climate Collaborative
POWERED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO

It's here! Check out the Draft Climate Action Plan!

Celebrate. Learn more. Share your input.

Open House #1

When: Wednesday, August 13th
Where: Chamizal Recreation Center &
Library @ 2119 Cypress Ave, El Paso, TX
79905
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Open House #2

When: Saturday, August 16th
Where: El Paso Community College –
Valle Verde Campus, Building C,
Cafeteria Annex @ 919 Hunter Dr, El
Paso, TX 79915
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

If you can't make it to both open houses, take a deep dive
into the plan online at [EPClimate.org](https://epclimate.org)!



Come learn about the exciting pilot projects
led by our Climate Fellows.



YOUNG LEADERS. BOLD IDEAS. JÓVENES LÍDERES. IDEAS AUDACES.

Request for Letters of Support

- CCAP is due to EPA on December 1st
- CAP will go to City Council for adoption
- We're asking for letters of support from your organization
- Staff will follow up with details and templates

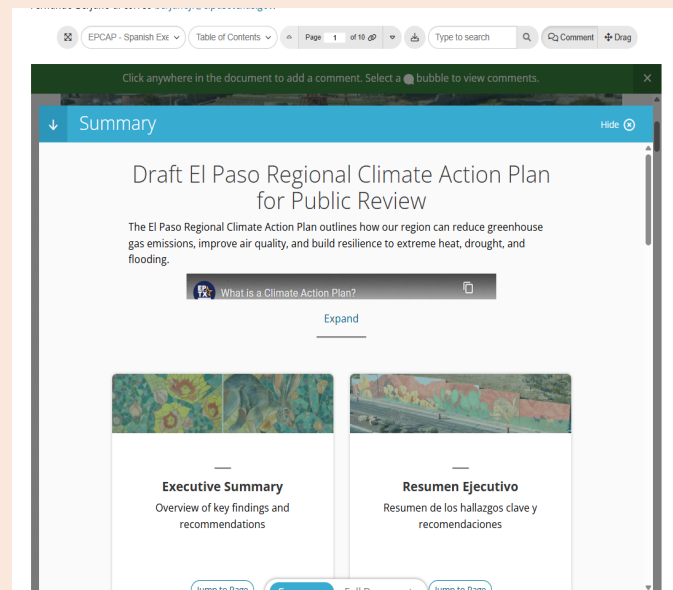


Q&A and Wrap-up



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Thank you!

