



**Chihuahuan
Desert
Climate
Collaborative**
POWERED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO

**Climate Engagement Series #5
Summary Report
Prepared by David Sanchez, CDCC Climate Fellow**

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Purpose of Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, impacting communities around the world, including right here in the El Paso region. Rising temperatures, increased drought, extreme weather, and air quality concerns are already affecting residents' health, daily lives, and the natural environment of the Chihuahuan Desert.

In response, the City of El Paso is developing its first-ever Climate Action Plan (CAP)—a forward-thinking strategy aimed at addressing local climate impacts while building a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for all. Central to this effort is meaningful community engagement. The plan is being shaped not just by science and policy, but by the lived experiences and ideas of those who call El Paso and Hudspeth counties home.

Through a series of open houses, online surveys, and accessible resources, residents are being invited to learn more about climate change, share their personal experiences, and help identify priorities for action. By involving the community directly, the CAP seeks to reflect the diverse needs, values, and hopes of the people it is designed to serve, ensuring that no voice is left out as we prepare for a changing climate together.

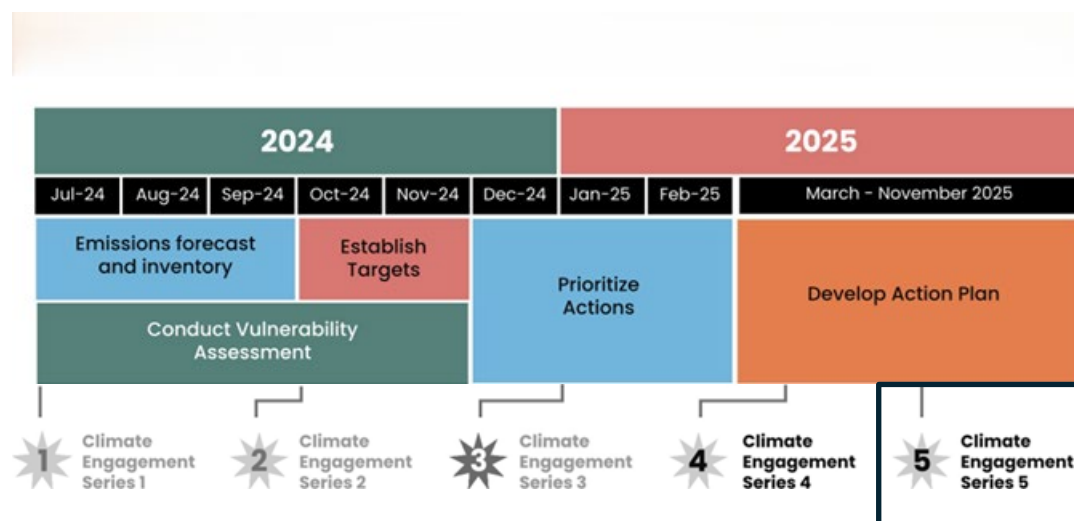


Figure 1 - Project Timeline

Engagement Activities

The following engagement activities were completed through the fifth climate engagement series:

- On **August 2nd, 2025**, a tabling event was held at El Paso Community College during *Unidos Por Un Futuro Mejor*, an annual Spanish-language special education conference. The event served to engage community members and invite them to participate in the upcoming Engagement Series #5 Open Houses, which included a total of 40 engagements.
- On **August 13th, 2025**, an in-person Open House for CAP feedback was held at Chamizal Recreation Center as part of Climate Engagement Series #5. The event drew 47 attendees, offering a chance for community members to learn about the plan and share their input.
- On **August 16th, 2025**, an in-person Open House for the CAP was held at EPCC-Valle Verde as part of Climate Engagement Series #5. The event engaged 32 participants, providing an opportunity for the community to learn about the plan and offer feedback.
- On **September 8th, 2025**, a Meeting-in-a-Box was conducted at Centro San Vicente on Alameda Avenue to encourage community members to provide feedback on the draft CAP, resulting in 25 engagements.
- On **September 13th, 2025**, a pop-up event at El Paso Zoo led by the East Side and Central sub-teams engaged with around 36 visitors and collected 11 letters of support for the CAP.
- On **September 13th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling public engagement activity at the Community Movie Night and Resource Fair at Ascarate Park. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support for the CAP and resulted in 24 engagements.
- On **September 18th, 2025**, an event was held at City 3 to inform regional planners during a Texas APA El Paso Chapter meeting, with 20 attendees in attendance.
- On **September 20th, 2025**, a climate-focused workshop was conducted with high school students during the Parkland High School Youth Summit, engaging 10 student participants.
- On **September 20th, 2025**, during the International Day of Peace Symposium at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Fellow Ian attended the event and engaged with at least a dozen participants, encouraging them to visit the project website and submit letters of support.
- On **September 20th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling public engagement at the 2025 Water Fest Event at Tech2O Learning Center. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support for the CAP, resulting in 54 engagements.
- On **September 27th, 2025**, at the El Paso Zoo's 21st Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta, fellows conducted a tabling event to collect Letters of Support

for the Climate Action Plan CAP and encourage community members to provide feedback. The outreach resulted in a total of 70 Letters of Support collected.

- On **September 27th, 2025**, during World Cleanup Day at the Blackie Chester Park Playground, fellows volunteered in a park cleanup and engaged with community members, collecting a total of 12 Letters of Support.
- On **September 28th, 2025**, Climate Fellow Alexa Farpon conducted an in-person public engagement at a concert event, using the opportunity to collect Letters of Support for the CAP, resulting in 6 Letters of Support.
- On **October 4th, 2025**, at Loretto Academy, fellows volunteered during the Loretto Academy Litter Pilgrimage and engaged with participants, resulting in 67 Letters of Support and a total of 67 engagements.
- On **October 11th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling public engagement activity at the UTEP Earth Science Celebration. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support and resulted in 65 engagements.
- On **October 11th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling public engagement at the Flora Fest event at UTEP. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support for the CAP, resulting in 50 engagements.
- On **October 12th, 2025**, an in-person public engagement was conducted at the Reimagining El Paso event at Starlight Event Center. The outreach, led by the fellows, focused on collecting Letters of Support for the CAP, resulting in 12 engagements.
- On **October 15th, 2025**, an in-person public engagement activity was conducted at El Paso Community College during the EPCC Transmountain Earth Science Event. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support and resulted in 24 Letters of Support being gathered.
- On **October 25th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling public engagement activity at the 2nd Annual *Día de los Doggies* event at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support, resulting in 20 engagements and 20 Letters of Support being collected.
- On **October 25th, 2025**, fellows facilitated a workshop at Montwood High School during MiniCAST Lite 2025. The session included a presentation of their capstone project and the draft CAP, and engaged participants in providing feedback and collecting 25 Letters of Support.
- On **October 30th, 2025**, Climate Fellow Alexa Farpon conducted an in-person outreach during a midterm class presentation at UTEP. The engagement provided an opportunity to collect Letters of Support for the CAP, resulting in 10 letters of support.

Stakeholder Engagement

- On **September 24th, 2025**, an in-person stakeholder engagement meeting was held at City 3 with leadership developers and city staff. The meeting included 3 developer attendees and focused on discussion and collaboration regarding ongoing projects.

- On **October 4th, 2025**, fellows conducted a tabling stakeholder engagement at the 2025 Neighborhood Summit held at Beast Recreational Center. The outreach focused on collecting Letters of Support (LOS) for the CAP, resulting in 47 engagements.
- On **October 29th, 2025**, an in-person stakeholder engagement meeting with developers was held at City 3. The meeting included 15 attendees and focused on discussing development projects and fostering collaboration with city staff.
- On **November 6th, 2025**, an in-person stakeholder engagement was held at the El Paso Chamber of Commerce Executive Board Meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ongoing initiatives and foster collaboration with regional business leaders.

Outreach Materials



Chihuahuan Desert
Climate Collaborative
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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.





Chihuahuan Desert
Climate Collaborative
POWERED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO

¡Ya está aquí! ¡Consulta el Borrador del Plan de Acción Climática!

Celebra. Infórmate. Comparte tu opinión.

Reunión Comunitaria #1

Cuándo: Miércoles, 13 de agosto
Dónde: Centro Recreativo y Biblioteca Chamizal @ 2119 Cypress Ave, El Paso, TX 79905
Hora: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Reunión Comunitaria #2

Cuándo: Sábado, 16 de agosto
Dónde: El Paso Community College – Valle Verde Campus, Building C, Cafeteria Annex @ 919 Hunter Dr, El Paso, TX 79915
Hora: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

¡Habrá actividades para niños y refrigerios



Community Open Houses







Community Feedback on Capstone Projects

Open Houses

The CDCC team continued its community engagement efforts through a third phase of open-house-style events, held on **August 13th, 2025**, and **August 16th, 2025**. These open houses were hosted at the Chamizal Regional Recreation Center & Library, and El Paso Community College's Valle Verde campus, both located within identified LIDAC communities. The primary focus of these events was to gather community feedback on the Regional Climate Action Plan Executive Summary while also showcasing the Climate Fellows' capstone projects. Fellows showcased their projects to attendees, and community members were provided with nomination forms to vote on the projects they felt demonstrated the greatest innovation and potential community impact. To support inclusive participation, the events offered bilingual staff, refreshments, and a children's activity area featuring a recyclable art project table. Feedback on the Executive Summary and capstone projects was collected through interactive discussions and written input from attendees.

1. *Eastside Clean-Up*

The Eastside Clean-Up Initiative consisted of a series of six consecutive community clean-up events held at Eastside Regional Park in El Paso. This initiative was implemented through a collaborative partnership with the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, Environmental Services Department, and the nonprofit organization Desert Rescue 915. The recurring events focused on restoring and maintaining the same park area over time, enabling sustained litter removal, mitigation of illegal dumping, and increased community stewardship. By hosting multiple clean-ups in the same location, the initiative reinforced long-term environmental care, strengthened partnerships, and encouraged consistent resident participation in improving neighborhood public spaces.

2. *Northeast Clean-Up*

The Northeast Clean-up Capstone Project implemented a three-part community cleanup initiative on October 4, October 18, and November 16, 2025, in partnership with the Frontera Land Alliance to improve environmental conditions in remote and high-use outdoor areas in El Paso. Frontera Land Alliance's expertise in land stewardship and cleanup coordination was central to the project's success, as it enabled the identification of priority sites, informed the selection of appropriate materials, and provided access to necessary equipment. The project emphasized community engagement and environmental stewardship, creating opportunities for dialogue with trail users and increasing public awareness of local conservation efforts. Throughout the initiative, the team identified key logistical considerations, including the importance of clear and precise communication regarding meeting locations and accessibility, particularly when working in areas without established addresses. By incorporating contact information and maintaining consistent communication with participants, the project improved coordination and ensured broader, more inclusive participation.

Overall, the capstone highlights best practices for planning and implementing community-based environmental projects that are accessible, collaborative, and responsive to local needs.

3. ***Garden in A Box***

The Clint–Socorro team proposed the development of a self-sustaining “Garden-in-a-Box” initiative designed to support local food access, environmental education, and water-efficient gardening practices. The project introduced compact, modular garden kits that include seeds, soil, and guidance for low-water maintenance, making them suitable for households with limited space or resources. By emphasizing sustainability, reuse, and climate-resilient design, the project aimed to empower residents to grow their own food while reducing water use and long-term maintenance needs. The initiative also highlighted opportunities for community workshops and partnerships to promote long-term adoption and neighborhood-level resilience.

4. ***Air Quality Monitors***

The Mission Valley and Horizon capstone project focuses on improving air quality in El Paso by addressing ground-level ozone, a pollutant formed by vehicle and industrial emissions that directly affects respiratory health. In collaboration with Dr. Juan Aguilera from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, the project supports the deployment and evaluation of air quality monitors across select locations in the city to better understand localized pollution levels. The project aims to assess how community-based air monitoring and purification efforts can reduce pollution exposure, support public health, and inform future air quality strategies and policies, particularly in communities most impacted by poor air quality.

5. ***Education***

The Central capstone project develops a series of four TEKS-aligned lesson plans centered on species native to the Chihuahuan Desert, including the Creosote Bush, Prickly Pear Cactus, Burrowing Owl, and Peninsular Pronghorn. Two lessons are designed for fifth-grade students and two for senior-level learners, with the goal of promoting interactive, place-based learning that strengthens students’ connections to the local environment in El Paso. The project also supports educators by providing ready-to-use instructional materials that address common constraints related to time and resource availability. Developed in partnership with the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition, the lesson plans will be distributed through the organization’s website, with pilot implementation planned in collaboration with local educators to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for diverse learners.

Climate Pledge

As part of the Open House activities, community members were invited to participate in a Climate Action Pledge to demonstrate their support for the Regional Climate Action Plan. Attendees were provided with prompt cards that included guided, open-ended questions, allowing them to write personal reflections, commitments, or ideas related to climate action in their daily lives and within their community. These written responses were then displayed on engagement boards throughout the event space, creating a visible and collective expression of community support and priorities. This interactive activity encouraged meaningful participation, amplified community voices, and reinforced a shared commitment to advancing climate solutions informed by resident input.

Theme: Individual Action and Community Advocacy in Support of Climate Action

Description:

This theme captures how community members express their support for the El Paso Climate Action Plan through personal behavior changes, civic engagement, and advocacy. Participants emphasized everyday actions, such as using public transportation, composting, reducing energy consumption, and planting trees, alongside broader efforts to educate others, participate in community events, and advocate for climate-focused principles in their professional and personal lives. Collectively, these responses reflect a strong sense of individual responsibility paired with community-oriented action, highlighting residents' willingness to integrate climate-conscious practices into daily routines while supporting systemic and plan-aligned initiatives.

Letters of Support Feedback

Community members were invited to share their perspectives through a letter of support format designed to be accessible, structured, and easy to complete. The format provided a guided template addressed to local leaders, which included a brief introduction expressing support for the Regional Climate Action Plan for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, a central statement encouraging adoption and investment in climate solutions, and a closing that acknowledged local leadership and commitment to the region's future. While the core structure of the letter was consistent, participants were encouraged to personalize their responses by adding handwritten comments, emphasizing issues most important to them such as air quality, green jobs, community health, or climate resilience or by reinforcing their overall support for the plan. This approach allowed community members to clearly communicate endorsement of the plan while also incorporating their own priorities and voices, resulting in feedback that was both consistent in message and reflective of individual community values.

Theme: Intergenerational Responsibility, Environmental Health, and Community-Led Climate Resilience

Description:

This theme reflects a widespread concern for protecting environmental health, particularly clean air, safe water, and healthy ecosystems, as a responsibility owed to both current residents and future generations. Many participants framed their support for the Regional Climate Action Plan in terms of the well-being of their children, grandchildren, and community, emphasizing long-term resilience, public health, and quality of life in El Paso and the broader Chihuahuan Desert region. Respondents frequently connected environmental protection to broader outcomes such as economic stability, green job creation, reliable public transportation, and preparedness for increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather events.

Additionally, comments highlighted the importance of place-based, locally informed solutions, underscoring that climate strategies should reflect the unique environmental conditions, cultural values, and ecological context of the Chihuahuan Desert. While the majority of responses expressed strong support for the plan and urgency for action, a small number of comments voiced skepticism toward climate change framing, reinforcing the need for transparent, data-informed communication and inclusive dialogue. Overall, the theme embodies a community-driven commitment to stewarding natural resources, protecting human and ecological health, and collaboratively shaping a resilient and sustainable future for generations to come.

Letter of Support Sample Format

Dear Local Leaders,

I am writing to **express my support for the Regional Climate Action Plan** for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

I urge you to adopt the plan and invest in solutions that improve air quality, create green jobs, and protect our communities from climate impacts. This plan is an important step toward a healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable future for our region.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our future.

Sincerely,

Name/Signature: -----

Date: -----

City/Neighborhood: -----

ZIP Code: -----

Estimadas y estimados líderes locales,

Les escribo para **expresar mi apoyo al Plan de Acción Climática Regional** para los Condados de El Paso y Hudspeth.

Les urjo a que adopten este plan e inviertan en soluciones que mejoren la calidad del aire, generen empleos verdes y protejan a nuestras comunidades de los impactos del cambio climático. Este plan representa un paso importante hacia un futuro más saludable, resiliente y sostenible para nuestra región.

Gracias por su liderazgo y compromiso con nuestro futuro.

Atentamente,

Nombre/Firma: -----

Fecha: -----

Ciudad/Vecindario: -----

Código Postal: -----

Open House Board Materials

How Are We Taking Action on Climate Change? Como estamos actuando contra el cambio climático?



Measure 1: Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings

Medida 1: Aumentar la eficiencia energética y descarbonizar los edificios

Action M1: Educate or create a community-wide building energy efficiency and electrification rebate program.
Action M1: Implement a green or energy community standard for commercial buildings energy efficiency and electrification.
Action M2: Develop a building energy performance standard for commercial buildings.
Action M2: Develop a building energy performance standard for commercial buildings.
Action M3: Partner with industries to reduce emissions related to industrial activities.
Action M3: Collaborate with industries to reduce emissions related to industrial activities.
Action M4: Enhance or develop a weatherization program.
Action M4: Enhance or develop a weatherization program.
Action M5: Increase energy efficiency in public buildings.
Action M5: Increase energy efficiency in public buildings.
Action M6: Develop a data center policy that incorporates environmental, community, and economic development considerations.
Action M6: Develop a data center policy that incorporates environmental, community, and economic development considerations.



Measure 2: Support the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition

Medida 2: Apoyar la transición a vehículos de cero emisiones

Action M7: Implement electric vehicle (EV) charging policies for new buildings.
Action M7: Implement electric vehicle (EV) charging policies for new buildings.
Action M8: Organize car emissions and hybrid vehicle ride-and-drive events for community members.
Action M8: Organize car emissions and hybrid vehicle ride-and-drive events for community members.
Action M9: Transition municipal fleets to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).
Action M9: Transition municipal fleets to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).
Action M10: Install carpooling policies for carpooling.
Action M10: Install carpooling policies for carpooling.
Action M11: Develop shared car hubs for carpooling and ride-and-drive events.
Action M11: Develop shared car hubs for carpooling and ride-and-drive events.
Action M12: Develop car-sharing policies for carpooling and ride-and-drive events.
Action M12: Develop car-sharing policies for carpooling and ride-and-drive events.



Measure 3: Install Renewable Energy Systems

Medida 3: Instalar sistemas de energía renovable

Action M13: Partner with utilities and developers to increase renewable energy use.
Action M13: Partner with utilities and developers to increase renewable energy use.
Action M14: Implement renewable energy incentives for businesses and residents.
Action M14: Implement renewable energy incentives for businesses and residents.
Action M15: Develop renewable energy storage and distribution systems.
Action M15: Develop renewable energy storage and distribution systems.
Action M16: Implement renewable energy storage and distribution systems.
Action M16: Implement renewable energy storage and distribution systems.
Action M17: Develop renewable energy storage and distribution systems.
Action M17: Develop renewable energy storage and distribution systems.



Measure 4: Promote Sustainable Food Systems and Waste Management Practices

Medida 4: Promover sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y prácticas de gestión de residuos

Action M18: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M18: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M19: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M19: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M20: Develop composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M20: Develop composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M21: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.
Action M21: Implement composting programs for food and yard waste.



Measure 5: Promote Walking, Biking, and Riding Transit

Medida 5: Promover la caminata, el uso de la bicicleta y el transporte público

Action M22: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.
Action M22: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.
Action M23: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.
Action M23: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.
Action M24: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.
Action M24: Implement complete street conversion projects to improve walking, biking, and public transit use.



Measure 6: Monitor and Improve Air Quality

Medida 6: Monitorear y mejorar la calidad del aire

Action M25: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.
Action M25: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.
Action M26: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.
Action M26: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.
Action M27: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.
Action M27: Coordinate infrastructure, policy, and operations to reduce truck idling at ports and freight corridors.



Measure 7: Implement and Oversee Climate Actions

Medida 7: Implementar y supervisar acciones climáticas

Action M28: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.
Action M28: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.
Action M29: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.
Action M29: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.
Action M30: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.
Action M30: Establish green revolving funds to support sustainability projects in public buildings.



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

Medida 8: Refrescar las comunidades, proteger la salud y aumentar los ecosistemas nativos

Action M31: Develop a community sustainability program to mitigate heat by increasing tree canopy and shading, lowering of cooling/heating, community centers, and neighborhood centers.
Action M31: Develop a community sustainability program to mitigate heat by increasing tree canopy and shading, lowering of cooling/heating, community centers, and neighborhood centers.
Action M32: Develop a community sustainability program to mitigate heat by increasing tree canopy and shading, lowering of cooling/heating, community centers, and neighborhood centers.
Action M32: Develop a community sustainability program to mitigate heat by increasing tree canopy and shading, lowering of cooling/heating, community centers, and neighborhood centers.



Measure 9: Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water

Medida 9: Desarrollar resiliencia ante la sequía y conservar el agua

Action A1: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.
Action A1: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.
Action A2: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.
Action A2: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.
Action A3: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.
Action A3: Expand water and parks to support groundwater recharge.



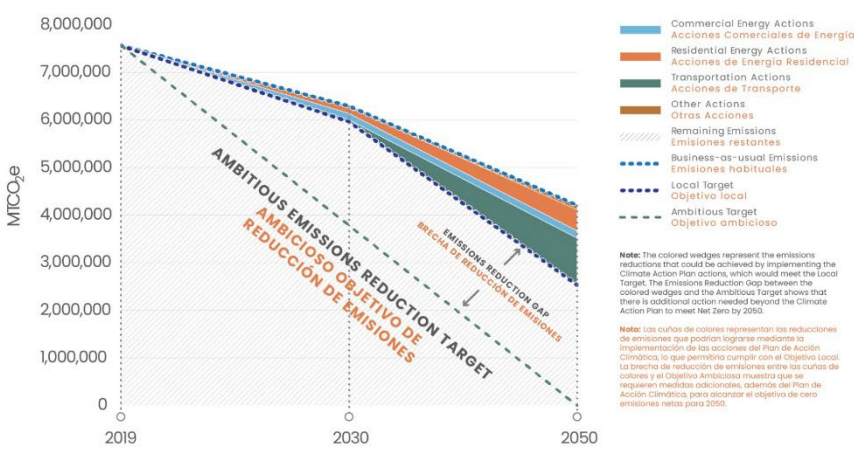
Measure 10: Reduce Flood Risk

Medida 10: Reducir el riesgo de inundaciones

Action A4: Develop green infrastructure and reduce impermeable surfaces along roads and in urban corridors.
Action A4: Develop green infrastructure and reduce impermeable surfaces along roads and in urban corridors.
Action A5: Develop green infrastructure and reduce impermeable surfaces along roads and in urban corridors.
Action A5: Develop green infrastructure and reduce impermeable surfaces along roads and in urban corridors.

M Mitigation
A Adaptation

How Much Heat-Trapping Gases Will Our Actions Reduce? ¿Qué cantidad de gases de efecto invernadero reduciremos con nuestras acciones?



Our Climate Targets: Ambitious vs. Localized Nuestros Objetivos Climáticos: Ambiciosos Vs. Localizados

The Climate Action Plan sets two types of emissions reduction targets for the region:
El Plan de Acción Climática establece dos tipos de metas de reducción de emisiones para la región:

- An ambitious target aligned with scientific best practices. Una meta ambiciosa alineada con las mejores prácticas científicas.
- A localized target based on the reductions El Paso can achieve by fully implementing the actions outlined in this plan. Una meta localizada basada en las reducciones que El Paso puede lograr al implementar completamente las acciones descritas en este plan.

Challenges to Reducing Emissions Desafíos para la Reducción de Emisiones

Federal/State Control Control federal/estatal
• Limited local authority Autoridad local limitada

Ports of Entry Puertos de entrada
• High diesel emissions Altas emisiones diésel

Freight & Trade Carga y comercio
• Supports jobs, adds emissions Genera empleos, suma emisiones

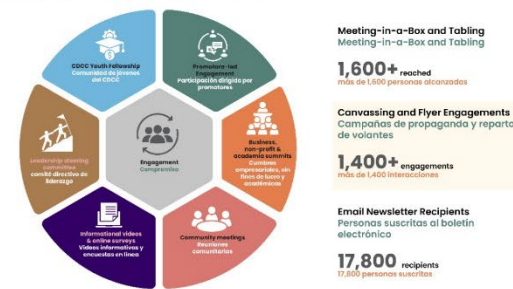
How Were People Engaged? ¿Cómo se involucró a la gente?



How Community Voices and Regional Leadership Shaped the Plan Cómo las voces comunitarias y el liderazgo regional dieron forma al plan

- Strong regional coordination through the Chihuahuan Desert Climate Collaborative (CDCC) and Leadership Steering Committee (LSC) helped align goals across local government, nonprofits, and institutions. Una sólida coordinación regional a través del Colaborativo Climático del Desierto Chihuahuense (CDCC) y el Comité Directivo de Liderazgo (LSC) ayudó a alinear metas entre gobiernos locales, organizaciones sin fines de lucro e instituciones.
- More than 3,000 people participated in bilingual meetings, surveys, and events, including targeted outreach by Climate Fellows and promotoras in hard-to-reach neighborhoods. Más de 3,000 personas participaron en reuniones bilingües, encuestas y eventos, incluyendo alcance específico realizado por Climate Fellows y promotoras en vecindarios de difícil acceso.
- Community organizations and local businesses shaped the plan through climate summits and ongoing partnerships. Las organizaciones comunitarias y negocios locales dieron forma al plan mediante cumbres climáticas y asociaciones continuas.
- Engagement will continue after adoption, with updates and input opportunities shared on the project website. La participación continuará después de la adopción del plan, con actualizaciones y oportunidades de opinión compartidas en el sitio web del proyecto.

Approaches to Engagement Enfoques de Participación Comunitaria



Shaped by 3,000 People Formado por más de 3,000 personas

Repeated Engagement: 91 people engaged once, 568 people engaged twice, and 38 people engaged three times. Participación repetida: 91 personas participaron una vez, 568 participaron dos veces y 38 participaron tres veces.



How Can the Actions in the Plan Benefit You and Your Community? ¿Cómo Pueden las Acciones del Plan Beneficiarte a Ti y a Tu Comunidad?



Number of Actions in the Plan Número de acciones en el plan

53 Actions
Acciones

- Measure 1: Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings**
Medida 1: Aumentar la eficiencia energética y descarbonizar los edificios
6 actions
- Measure 2: Support the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition**
Medida 2: Apoyar la transición a vehículos de cero emisiones
6 actions
- Measure 3: Install Renewable Energy Systems**
Medida 3: Instalar sistemas de energía renovable
5 actions
- Measure 4: Promote Sustainable Food Systems and Waste Management Practices**
Medida 4: Promover sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y prácticas de gestión de residuos
6 actions
- Measure 5: Promote Walking, Biking, and Riding Transit**
Medida 5: Promover la caminata, el uso de la bicicleta y el transporte público
8 actions
- Measure 6: Monitor and Improve Air Quality**
Medida 6: Monitorear y mejorar la calidad del aire
5 actions
- Measure 7: Implement and Oversee Climate Actions**
Medida 7: Implementar y supervisar acciones climáticas
3 actions
- Measure 8: Cool Communities, Protect Health, and Increase Native Ecosystems**
Medida 8: Refrescar las comunidades, proteger la salud y aumentar los ecosistemas nativos
7 actions
- Measure 9: Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water**
Medida 9: Desarrollar resiliencia ante la sequía y conservar el agua
4 actions
- Measure 10: Reduce Flood Risk**
Medida 10: Reducir el riesgo de inundaciones
3 actions

Primary Benefit Beneficio principal

39 Mitigation
Mitigación **14 Adaptation**
Adaptación

Other Action Benefits Otros beneficios de la acción

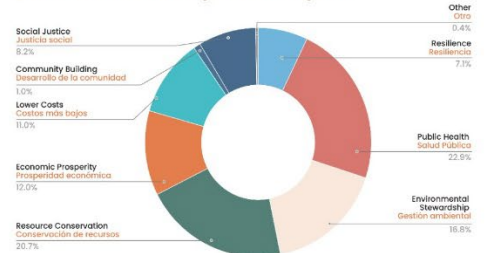
- 29 actions**
Public Health and Wellbeing
Salud pública y bienestar
- 8 actions**
Environmental Stewardship
Gestión ambiental
- 16 actions**
Resource Conservation
Conservación de recursos
- 25 actions**
Economic Prosperity
Prosperidad económica
- 18 actions**
Savings to Residents and Businesses
Ahorros para residentes y empresas
- 16 actions**
Community Building
Desarrollo de capacidades

Implementation Timeline Cronograma de implementación

- 8 actions**
Near-term
A corto plazo
- 22 actions**
Medium-term
Mediano plazo
- 8 actions**
Long-term
A largo plazo

Community Response | Respuesta Comunitaria

Which benefits should this plan prioritize?
¿Qué beneficios debería priorizar este plan?

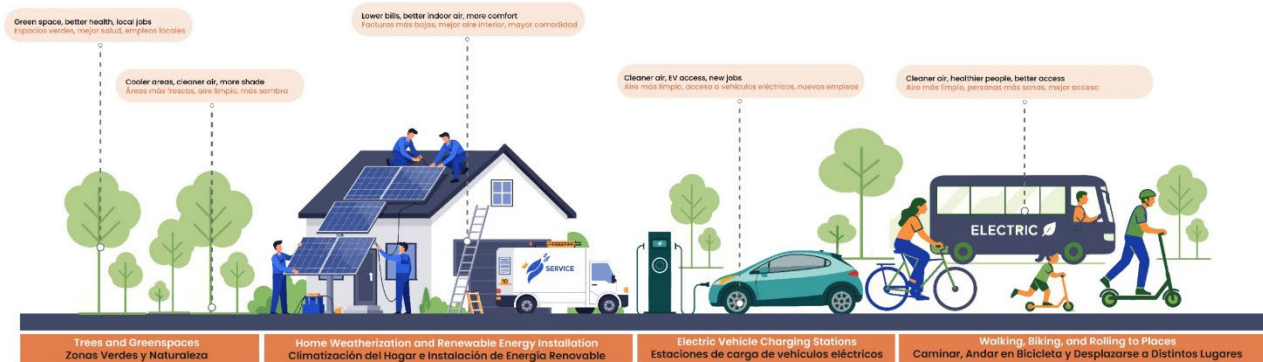


Co-Pollutants* Reductions Reducciones de co-contaminantes

	2030 Co-pollutant Reduction Potential (short ton/year) Potencial de reducción de co-contaminantes 2030 (tonelada corta/año)*	2050 Co-pollutant Reduction Potential (short ton/year) Potencial de reducción de co-contaminantes para 2050 (tonelada corta/año)*
Ammonia (NH ₃) Amoníaco (NH ₃)	13	10
Carbon Monoxide (CO) Monóxido de carbono (CO)	548	321
Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) Óxidos de nitrógeno (NOx)	170	121
Particulate Matter (PM10) Materia particulada (PM10)	47	27
Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Materia particulada (PM2.5)	35	17
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) Dióxido de azufre (SO ₂)	335	9
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Compuestos orgánicos volátiles (COV)	60	34
Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) Contaminantes atmosféricos peligrosos (HAP)	4	3

*Co-pollutants are additional harmful substances released alongside a primary pollutant

How Will These Actions Support Vulnerable Communities? ¿Cómo Apoyarán Estas Acciones a las Comunidades Vulnerables?



How Will We Implement Climate Action? ¿Cómo Implementaremos la Acción Climática?

No Single Source Can Fund It All
Ninguna Fuente Puede Financiarlo Todo Solo



Implementation Builds Over Time
La Implementación se Desarrolla con el Tiempo



It Takes Partnerships Between...
Se Necesitan Alianzas Entre...

- Local Governments / Gobiernos Locales
- State Governments / Gobiernos Estatales
- Federal Governments / Gobiernos Federales
- Finance & Philanthropy / Finanzas y Filantropía
- Business / Sector Empresarial
- Community Organizations / Organizaciones Comunitarias



How Can Climate Action Create Good Local Jobs? ¿Cómo puede la acción climática crear buenos empleos locales?



Workforce and Jobs: Powering a Clean Energy Future Empleo y fuerza laboral: Impulsando un futuro de energía limpia

Investments in grid upgrades and EV charging will create hundreds of jobs over the next five years.
Las inversiones en la modernización de la red y la infraestructura de carga para vehículos eléctricos (EV) crearán cientos de empleos en los próximos cinco años.

- Job opportunities will include**
Las oportunidades laborales incluirán:
- Construction and Installation
 - Clean energy and EV infrastructure
 - Support roles in logistics, supply, and maintenance
- Local workforce supply is not yet ready to meet this growing demand.**
La fuerza laboral local aún no está preparada para satisfacer esta creciente demanda.

What's Needed for Success Qué se necesita para tener éxito

- A strong training-to-employment pipeline is critical.
Key elements include:
Es fundamental contar con una conexión sólida entre la capacitación y el empleo. Los elementos clave incluyen:
- Employers connected to skilled local talent
 - Job seekers aware of new opportunities
 - Training programs with strong curricula and industry partnerships
 - Support services to help workers complete training and stay employed

Why It Matters Por qué importa

- Without intentional workforce investment, the region risks:
Sin inversión intencional en la fuerza laboral, la región corre el riesgo de:
- Delays in Climate Action Plan Implementation
 - Missed local economic benefits
 - Widening workforce inequities
 - Limited career growth opportunities for residents within local communities.
- Acting now ensures climate action leads to inclusive, sustainable employment for our communities.
Actuar ahora garantiza que la acción climática genere empleo inclusivo y sostenible para nuestras comunidades.



Learn more about career pathways at the Workforce Solutions Borderplex website:
Aprenda más sobre trayectorias profesionales en energía limpia en el sitio web de Workforce Solutions Borderplex:
www.borderplexjobs.com

High-Demand Jobs | Empleos de Alta Demanda



General and Operations Managers
Oversee organizational operations, policies, and staff through subordinate managers.
Gerentes generales y de operaciones
Supervisan las operaciones, las políticas y el personal de la organización a través de gerentes subordinados.



Project Management Specialist
Coordinate project elements including timelines, budgets, and staffing; often lead teams.
Especialistas en gestión de proyectos
Coordinan elementos del proyecto, como plazos, presupuestos y personal; a menudo lideran equipos.



First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
Supervise and coordinate construction/extraction crews, ensuring compliance.
Supervisores de primera línea de trabajadores de construcción y extracción
Supervisan y coordinan a los equipos de construcción y extracción, garantizando el cumplimiento.



Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
Install and repair piping systems for liquids or gases, including heating/cooling.
Piomeros, instaladores de tuberías y de sistemas de calefacción y aire acondicionado
Instalan y reparan sistemas de tuberías para líquidos o gases, incluyendo sistemas de calefacción y refrigeración.



Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
Inspect, maintain, and repair automotive systems and engines.
Técnicos y mecánicos de servicio automotriz
Inspeccionan, mantienen y reparan sistemas y motores automotrices.



Electricians
Install, maintain, and repair electrical systems and equipment.
Electricistas
Instalan, mantienen y reparan sistemas y equipos eléctricos.



Solar Photovoltaic Installers
Install and maintain solar PV systems, often on rooftops.
Instaladores de sistemas solares fotovoltaicos
Instalan y mantienen sistemas solares fotovoltaicos, generalmente en techos.



Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazors
Join or repair metal machinery subassembly and technical relationships.
Soldadores, cortadores, soldadores y braseros
Unen o reparan metales maquinaria subconjunto y técnicas relacionadas.



Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other
Perform varied maintenance and repair tasks not otherwise classified (e.g., geothermal technicians).
Trabajadores de instalación, mantenimiento y reparación (todos los demás)
Realizan diversas tareas de mantenimiento y reparación no clasificadas de otra manera (por ejemplo, técnicos geotérmicos).



Helpers-Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers
Assist skilled workers by preparing materials and cleaning.
Ayudantes - Trabajadores de instalación, mantenimiento y reparación
Ayudan a los trabajadores calificados preparando materiales y limpiando.

Do You Have Any Feedback?

¿Tienes algún comentario?



Take a Deep Dive!

Read the plan and share your comments at EPClimate.org or scan the QR code.

Explora a Fondo!

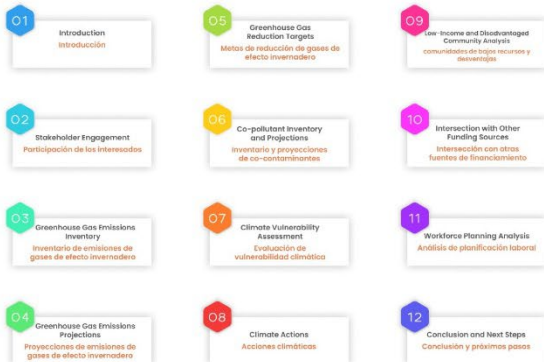
Lee el plan y comparte tus comentarios en EPClimate.org o escanea el código QR.



Share Your Feedback on a Post-it.

Comparte tus comentarios en un post-it.

Chapters of the Climate Action Plan Capítulos del Plan de Acción Climática



What Should We Call This Plan?

¿Cómo deberíamos llamar a este plan?



Add a dot for the title you like best.
Agrega un punto al título que más te guste.



Echoes of The Desert: El Paso & Hudspeth County Climate Action Plan
Ecos del desierto: Plan de acción climática de El Paso y el condado de Hudspeth



Sun City Sustainability Pact: El Paso and Hudspeth County Climate Action Plan
Pacto de Sostenibilidad de la Ciudad del Sol: Plan de Acción Climática de los Condados de El Paso y Hudspeth



Far West Texas Regional Climate Action Plan
Plan de Acción Climática Regional del Oeste de Texas



EPIC CAP: El Paso Integrated Climate Action Plan
EPIC CAP: Plan de Acción Climática Integrado de El Paso



GREEN ELP:
Generating Resilient and Equitable Environmental Needs for El Paso
GREEN ELP: Generando Necesidades Ambientales Resilientes y Equitativas para El Paso



Desert Borderlands Regional Climate Action Plan
Plan de Acción Climática Regional de las Tierras Fronterizas del Desierto

Support Our Climate Future: Submit a Letter!

Apoya Nuestro Futuro Climático: Envía una Carta de Apoyo!



Why Write a Letter of Support?

A letter of support is your chance to show local leaders that climate action matters to you and your community.

By writing a letter, you can:

- **Urge decision-makers** to adopt the Climate Action Plan
- **Explain why climate solutions are important** to your neighborhood, health, and future
- **Encourage investment** in clean energy, air quality, green jobs, and community resilience

Your voice matters. Your letter helps build momentum and moves us from planning to action. Your letters will be shared with the leaders!

How to Participate:

- Take a template or blank sheet of paper.
- Fill in your letter—share why climate action matters to you.
- Drop it in the letter box when you're done!

or



Scan the QR code to submit your letter of support for the Climate Action Plan today!

Make your voice heard.

¿Por Qué Escribir una Carta de Apoyo?

Una carta de apoyo es tu oportunidad para mostrar a los líderes locales que la acción climática te importa a ti y a tu comunidad.

Al escribir una carta, puedes:

- Instar a los responsables de tomar decisiones a adoptar el Plan de Acción Climática
- Explicar por qué las soluciones climáticas son importantes para tu vecindario, tu salud y tu futuro
- Fomentar la inversión en energía limpia, calidad del aire, empleos verdes y resiliencia comunitaria

Tu voz importa. Su carta impulsa el proceso y nos impulsa de la planificación a la acción. ¡Compartiremos sus cartas con los líderes!

Cómo Participar:

- Toma una plantilla o una hoja en blanco.
- Escribe tu carta—comparte por qué la acción climática es importante para ti.
- Deposítala en la urna al terminar.

o



¡Escanea el código QR para enviar hoy mismo tu carta de apoyo al Plan de Acción Climática!

Haz oír tu voz.

Take a Climate Pledge!

¡Haz un compromiso por el clima!



How to Take a Climate Pledge

Cómo Hacer un Compromiso por el Clima

Take a pledge card. Toma una tarjeta de compromiso.

Think of one small action you can take to help tackle climate change. Piensa en una acción pequeña que puedas tomar para ayudar a combatir el cambio climático.

Complete the sentence: "I support El Paso Climate Action by..."
Completa la oración: "Yo apoyo la Acción Climática de El Paso al..."

Write your pledge on the card. Escribe tu compromiso en la tarjeta.

Stick it on the board to share your commitment with others!
Pega la tarjeta en el tablero para compartir tu compromiso con los demás.

El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan Draft for Public Review

The Draft El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan has been released for public review and comment, providing residents and stakeholders an opportunity to shape the region's approach to climate action. The plan outlines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance resilience to climate-related hazards, including extreme heat, drought, and flooding. Developed through extensive community engagement involving more than 3,000 residents and organizations, the draft plan reflects local priorities and emphasizes solutions that advance environmental sustainability while supporting public health, economic opportunity, and workforce development.

A central focus of the plan is equity, with prioritized actions designed to benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities that are often most impacted by climate and environmental challenges. The draft serves as a roadmap for achieving a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient El Paso region, striking a balance between environmental goals and long-term economic and social benefits.

Community members were encouraged to actively participate in the public review process by submitting comments directly on the draft plan. Users can navigate the document using the table of contents, search for specific topics, and review summaries of key sections. The interactive platform also allowed participants to view, reply to, and upvote comments from others, fostering transparent dialogue and shared learning. All feedback submitted by the public will help inform revisions to the final Climate Action Plan. Comments submitted by September 14th were to be considered in the final version.

Qualitative Data Analysis of Public Comments on the El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan Draft (CAP)

Overview

The public submitted extensive comments on the Draft El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan (August 8, 2025). Analysis of these comments revealed recurring themes related to climate hazards, public health, air quality, cross-border coordination, equity, and plan feasibility. The data were coded thematically to identify key areas of concern, suggestions for improvement, and perceived barriers to implementation, with a total of 271 comments.

Theme 1: Climate Hazards and Local Impacts

Description: Residents highlighted direct impacts of climate change on daily life, emphasizing extreme weather events, heat, and dust storms. Vulnerable populations, particularly seniors, were noted as disproportionately affected.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Extreme Heat:**
"This past summer was especially concerning—my children's outdoor time was limited due to extreme heat, frequent dust storms, bad air quality, heavy rains, and flooding."
"Single senior citizens living in a home with no HVAC or money to pay for cooling facilities can be fatal. In 2024, El Paso County recorded 39 deaths attributed directly or indirectly to heat."
- **Dust Storms & Air Quality:**
"Dust storms, as well as increased air pollution related to multiple factors, are serious challenges and must be included, especially as dust storms are directly linked to climate change, as is ozone pollution."
- **Flooding & Water Events:**
"This year the flooding in El Paso has been extreme. I saw poor drainage in the northeast and many vehicles stranded."
"Are not roadways especially in El Paso vulnerable to flooding?"
- **Other Extreme Events:**
"The most damage I have seen...other than the 2006 flood was the 2011 freeze...Freezing is not considered in the plan as a threat."

Theme 2: Air Quality, Emissions, and Industrial Accountability

Description: Residents expressed concerns regarding sources of emissions, air quality monitoring, and the accountability of industrial operations.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Industrial Emissions & Monitoring:**
"What is included in building and facilities? I am wondering how much emissions are coming from Marathon and any EPE plants."
"Partnership alone will not curb polluting emissions from big and powerful corporations, such as Marathon. Regulation and external monitoring must be part of the measure taken to address industrial activities."
- **Transportation Emissions:**
"Is it possible to separate data of passenger vehicles from commercial vehicles?"
- **Air Quality Monitoring:**
"Air quality monitoring expansion is a major strength but requires detailed protocols for data use, rapid response, and coordination with public health agencies, especially during acute dust storm or wildfire events."

Theme 3: Cross-Border and Regional Coordination

Description: The binational nature of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez presents unique challenges for air quality, traffic, and water management.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Ports of Entry & Traffic:**
"We need to cooperate with Juarez to get the traffic across the border faster"

and not congest our streets...Move some of the traffic like large trucks out of the city and into county ports of entry like Tornillo and Santa Teresa.”

- **Cross-Border Environmental Planning:**

“An extensive study by UTEP indicated that by 2050 we will be running out of groundwater...Of course, it should include Juarez in all planning as we share aquifers.”

Theme 4: Plan Accessibility, Communication, and Public Engagement

Description: Residents noted challenges with accessing and understanding the CAP and called for improved public outreach.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Document Usability:**

“I had much difficulty navigating the document. It kept flipping over to Spanish from English...A PDF would have been better.”

- **Awareness & Education:**

“The Climate Action Plan should include steps to get the word out...Advertisements, online videos, and lectures for students and science teachers.”

- **Stakeholder Engagement:**

“The study areas represent a cumulative population of nearly 850,000 but only 3,000 plus have participated. The city needs to step up its efforts to make this a meaningful process.”

Theme 5: Water Management and Green Infrastructure

Description: Comments emphasized water scarcity, stormwater management, and climate-resilient urban design.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Water Conservation:**

“El Paso should be aggressively pursuing actions to conserve water...This could include penalizing lawn and tree watering, assisting farmers with drip irrigation.”

- **Stormwater & Flood Management:**

“Many of our storm gutters become clogged with trash and flood debris quickly during monsoon season...The City needs to dedicate itself to monitoring and clearing gutters.”

- **Urban Greening & Cooling:**

“Trees, trees, trees! There has to be something the city does to help communities plant more trees and put more trees on city landscaping.”

Theme 6: Transportation, Land Use, and Walkability

Description: Residents expressed a desire for walkable neighborhoods, transit-oriented development, and reduced dependence on private vehicles.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Walkability & Transit Oriented Development:**
“For me this is extremely important. I would like the ability to walk to restaurants or bars without needing an Uber or to drive.”
“Recommend changing to ‘increase incentives for TOD.’”
 - **Zoning & Evidence-Based Planning:**
“Is there evidence elsewhere in the US that such a zoning update is conducive to the goal of promoting walking, biking, and mass transit?”
-

Theme 7: Equity and Vulnerable Populations

Description: Many comments emphasized the need for inclusive implementation that benefits disadvantaged communities.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **LIDAC Communities & Equity:**
“How do you get to 65% of the total population being disadvantaged?...The city will utilize an equity investment framework?”
 - **Targeted Support for Vulnerable Populations:**
“Benefits for LIDACs must be realized rapidly, not deferred to later phases.”
-

Theme 8: Implementation Feasibility, Funding, and Accountability

Description: Concerns focused on the financial, political, and operational feasibility of the CAP.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Funding & ROI:**
“Detailed cost-benefit analyses—including for capital-intensive infrastructure—are essential to guide prioritization as funding opportunities fluctuate.”
 - **Phased Action Plans & Contingencies:**
“Can developers provide a more detailed risk assessment and phased action schedule reflecting varying levels of funding, legislative/regulatory authority, and cross-border/interstate coordination?”
 - **External Oversight:**
“Regular, independent evaluations by external experts in public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience are suggested to maintain scientific rigor and credibility.”
-

Theme 9: Technical and Data-Related Feedback

Description: Participants noted areas where technical clarity, data presentation, and visual communication could be improved.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Clarity of Terms & Units:**
“What is a metric ton? Could this be stated in tons that most of us understand?”
- **Maps, Figures, and Visuals:**
“The colors on the legend are too light...increase width of color lines/bars. Consider separating Port of Entry bridges from other bridges.”
- **Data Gaps & References:**
“Most of the data was collected in 2019, with great expectations for 2030. Explain how the region is advancing to meet those expectations.”
“Consider adding the following publication with regard to ozone in this study: Valenzuela et al., 2013.”

Theme 10: Vulnerable Populations and Public Health

Description: Residents emphasized the disproportionate impacts of climate hazards, especially extreme heat, on populations such as unhoused individuals, the elderly, and children.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Heat Vulnerability:**
“Unhoused people are also vulnerable to extreme heat, please name that population.”
“Include data, numbers, and percentages on how the elderly and children are impacted due to extreme heat.”
- **Cooling Centers & Behavioral Resilience:**
“Creating more cooling centers and improving existing ones, and making them solar powered should be prioritized more over the goal to transition to zero emission vehicles.”
“There’s much to be done for resilience with just habits...signage, ‘please make sure to close door behind you—we’re saving energy.’ Several rec centers double as cooling stations have this issue where the door stays open.”

Theme 11: Energy Efficiency, Electrification, and Fuel Choice

Description: Residents expressed concern about electrification policies, fuel choice, affordability, and equity in building efficiency initiatives.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Fuel Choice & Appliance Options:**
“Action M1 encourages residents and businesses to replace appliances with high-efficiency electric options...should consider benefits of high-efficiency natural gas appliances.”
“Action M2...should encompass fuel choice to facilitate affordable commercial property development.”
- **Legal and Policy Constraints:**
“Texas law (HB 17) precludes municipalities from mandating electric vs

natural gas...City should ensure fuel choice to protect affordability and LIDAC communities.”

- **Low-Income Household Support:**
“Develop a program geared towards low-income households.”
“Consider federal HOMES rebate program to subsidize energy-efficient improvements.”
- **Cost and Feasibility Concerns:**
“Keeping in mind, recommended code changes only serve to increase construction costs, which are always passed on to end users.”

Theme 12: Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Feasibility

Description: Comments raised concerns regarding the technical and financial feasibility of solar, EV, and other renewable infrastructure.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Solar and EV Infrastructure:**
“Concerns about implementing solar readiness infrastructure (Action M15)...may increase development costs and risk stranded assets.”
“Concerns about EV charging infrastructure (Action M7)...premature until market matures; may limit fuel gas installation.”
- **Municipal Fleet Transition:**
“Action M9...consider CNG vehicles, which reduce GHG emissions and lower fuel costs. Funding available through TERP, AFFP, GAFF programs.”
- **Grid Capacity & Affordability:**
“This is unrealistic and unaffordable...current power generation insufficient; street improvement funds are underfunded.”
“Encourage grid reliability study to ensure infrastructure can support load growth.”

Theme 13: Transportation, Land Use, and Walkability

Description: Residents highlighted the need for walkable neighborhoods, mixed-use development, and multimodal transportation planning.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Multimodal Planning & Complete Streets:**
“El Paso Mayor Cook initiative to make El Paso least car dependent...supports Plan El Paso and Livable City Sustainability Plan, including Complete Streets policy.”
“Establish shade and connectivity standards...mandate mixed-use, walkable environments within walking distance of residences.”
- **State and Regional Transportation Strategies:**
“Consider mentioning Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, TXDOT Active Transportation Plan-2050, and MPO Congestion Management Process as strategies.”

Theme 14: Water Management and Urban Resilience

Description: Comments addressed water scarcity, inefficient agricultural practices, stormwater management, and climate-resilient urban design.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Agricultural Water Use:**
“Critical to address agricultural water practices in the Rio Grande region...flood irrigation consumes 80% of water but represents <2% of GDP.”
“Invest in drip irrigation, dryland practices, and less water-intensive crops.”
 - **Urban Stormwater Management:**
“Adopt low-impact development standards...rain gardens, bio-swales, constructed wetlands to retain water on-site and nurture green shade canopy.”
 - **Shade and Tree Management:**
“Trees require significant water; shade trees may not survive without supplemental water...pay low-income households to grow native trees for sale to a local tree co-op.”
“Plant native trees near cars.”
-

Theme 15: Food Systems and Community Resilience

Description: Residents suggested programs for urban agriculture, local food production, and building social capital through community initiatives.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Urban Agriculture & Home Gardening:**
“Teach households to grow food via gardening, hydroponics, greenhouses, chicken coops; create local co-ops for surplus.”
 - **Community Gardens:**
“Program of community gardens to build neighborhood social capital...messy to manage but valuable for communities.”
-

Theme 16: Air Quality and Data Management

Description: Residents stressed that air quality monitoring must be paired with actionable processes and accountability.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Monitoring and Response:**
“Installing air quality monitoring systems (Action M36) only makes sense if you act on the data...most important action for protecting vulnerable populations.”
 - **Data Application & Management:**
“When installing technology, it is important to have a process to apply and manage it, which is not visible here.”
-

Theme 17: Waste Management and Recycling

Description: Comments highlighted opportunities to improve composting, recycling infrastructure, and reduce landfill use.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Composting & Organic Waste:**
“Stop allowing trees, weeds, leaves to be disposed in landfill...implement composting at Citizen Collection Stations until citywide program exists.”
“Kitchen waste, leaves, weeds, or trees should be composted for gardens, agriculture, and landscaping.”
 - **Recycling Equipment & Accessibility:**
“City should ensure equipment is in place to recycle items...glass has not been recycled at Collection Centers since early 2025 due to equipment failure.”
-

Theme 18: Education, Awareness, and Behavioral Change

Description: Residents encouraged programs to build sustainability consciousness and encourage energy-saving behaviors.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Environmental Education:**
“Nowhere in the plan do I see anything about Environmental Education to build local consciousness...Sierra Club’s Global Warming Express curriculum could be adapted.”
 - **Behavioral Nudges & Awareness:**
“Signage and behavioral nudges in buildings can save energy...more awareness and incentives to all city departments would help.”
-

Theme 19: Program Clarity, Policy, and Implementation Feasibility

Description: Residents requested clarity on program definitions, policy implementation, funding, and technical guidance.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Action Classification & Definitions:**
“Distinguish Actions: Policy, Program, or Project—perhaps by color code.”
“Is ‘data center’ defined earlier? Are policies already established? Is there a concept plan?”
 - **Collaboration & Resource Offerings:**
“We offer ourselves as a resource to the City...helpful to understand data center policy and energy generation requirements.”
 - **Funding and Grants:**
“Consider federal funding programs for energy efficiency and alternative fuel infrastructure (HOMES, TERP, AFFP, GAFF, Take Charge TX Program).”
-

Theme 20: Renewable Energy, Grid Reliability, and Utility Programs

Description: Residents highlighted technical limitations, feasibility challenges, and programmatic solutions for renewable energy adoption, grid reliability, and utility coordination.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Rooftop Solar Limitations:**
“El Paso Electric would rather have everyone subscribe to their solar program than install their own solar...remote solar lacks both battery and turbine backup.”
 - **Emerging Technologies:**
“Several energy companies are developing carbon capture for biogas, but none are ready yet for widespread implementation.”
 - **Utility Coordination Programs:**
“Take Charge TX Pilot Program offers turnkey solutions for non-residential customers...budget-friendly, simplifies project management, accelerates infrastructure rollout, and aligns with regulatory/funding programs.”
“Residential battery storage program should NOT be limited to solar customers...utility-owned batteries could improve peak demand management and community resilience.”
-

Theme 21: Data Centers and Energy Impacts

Description: Comments emphasized the need for careful consideration of data center types, energy demands, emissions, and stakeholder impacts.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Types and Purposes of Data Centers:**
“Hyperscale data centers are more resource-intensive than edge data centers...attention must be paid to type and purpose.”
 - **Stakeholder Engagement:**
“Data center developments impact utility providers, workforce trainers, and property owners...recommend convening a stakeholder group on this action.”
 - **Air Quality and Public Health Risks:**
“Publicly disclosing emissions data is critical...backup diesel generators and gas turbines pose high risk to air quality.”
“Executive Order 14141 acknowledged that emissions from data centers may affect National Ambient Air Quality Standards.”
 - **Monitoring & Policy Evaluation:**
“Recommend collecting data on the number of data center projects rescinded due to policy.”
-

Theme 22: Transportation, Congestion, and Multimodal Options

Description: Comments focused on alternative transportation solutions, congestion mitigation, and alignment with MPO strategies.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Rail and Transit Solutions:**
“Rail line from I-10 east could be used as commuter rail...city would need to help fund track improvements, still a potential option.”
 - **Parking Policy Concerns:**
“Not sure how removing parking minimums benefits the community or reduces GHG...goes against current city code except via special waivers.”
 - **Congestion and Air Quality Alignment:**
“Consider referencing Metropolitan Transportation Plan and MPO congestion/air quality strategies.”
 - **Event-Based Outreach:**
“Car-free events could promote climate goals, but weather and transit solutions must be addressed first; outreach is priority 1.”
-

Theme 23: Urban Forestry, Street Trees, and Public Health

Description: Residents stressed the importance of increasing tree canopy, reducing tree spacing, and prioritizing public health outcomes.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Tree Spacing and Canopy Coverage:**
“Maximum allowable street tree distance (30 feet) is too wide; 20 feet spacing improves canopy, reduces heat exposure, and enhances pedestrian safety.”
 - **Native and Drought-Tolerant Species:**
“Native species like palo verde and mesquite require supplemental irrigation only 18–24 months...root systems sustain trees thereafter.”
 - **Debunking Developer Concerns:**
“Competition among trees is not harmful...developers’ claims about infrastructure damage are oversimplified and ignore native tree growth patterns.”
 - **Water Harvesting and Flood Management:**
“Pair every street tree planting with water harvesting and irrigation systems...enhances stormwater management, public safety, and climate resilience.”
 - **Equity and Public Health:**
“Reducing ambient heat saves lives, especially for older adults and low-income households...urban heat island effect is severe in El Paso.”
 - **Accountability and Long-Term Maintenance:**
“Many trees die because they lack continual support after planting...projects require long-term accountability.”
-

Theme 24: Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Circular Economy

Description: Residents suggested actionable strategies for increasing recycling, local reuse, and material innovation.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Recycling Access and Compliance:**
“Expand recycling to apartments that currently lack blue bins...landlords may be required to comply; outreach could also help.”
 - **Mini-Grant Programs and Entrepreneurship:**
“Timebanking and mini-grant programs could promote material reuse/recycling and economic prosperity...partner with universities and Fab Lab for local manufacturing.”
 - **Metrics and Accountability:**
“Add ‘increase recycling rate’ as a metric...TCEQ publishes annually.”
-

Theme 25: Green Infrastructure, Wetlands, and Open Space

Description: Comments focused on green stormwater infrastructure, open space preservation, wetlands, and ecosystem services.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure:**
“Design and implement manuals and projects for green stormwater infrastructure...distinguish between planning and installation.”
 - **Wetlands and Ambient Cooling:**
“Assist Keystone and Rio Bosques wetlands...wetlands provide noticeable cooling during extreme heat events.”
 - **Open Space Preservation:**
“Critical to preserve arroyos and natural spaces for flooding, water recharge, air quality...plans should identify priorities and implementation strategies.”
-

Theme 26: Food Systems, Local Economy, and Workforce

Description: Residents emphasized integration of local food systems, workforce planning, and community engagement.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Community Gardens and Local Food Production:**
“Dirt Y Girls model for mini-grant programs...timebanking can integrate volunteer work, tree planting, or trash cleanup with climate action initiatives.”
 - **Workforce Planning Gaps:**
“55 occupations impacted by CAP mitigation actions; none relate to food systems, recycling, or low-water landscaping...these are labor-intensive and holistic.”
 - **Crowdsourcing Ideas and Hubs:**
“Kelly Center for Hunger ideal for hub locations...crowdsource ideas to plan early.”
-

Theme 27: Engagement, Metrics, and Public Oversight

Description: Residents recommended transparent performance metrics, community buy-in, and public reporting to strengthen CAP implementation.

Subthemes & Illustrative Quotes:

- **Metrics and Accountability:**
“Plan lacks specific performance metrics...annual report via public forum recommended.”
- **Community and Stakeholder Engagement:**
“Engage key organizations: El Paso Chamber, Hispanic Chamber, Borderplex Alliance, Realtor and Builder Associations...for meaningful buy-in before final CAP submission.”
- **Bond Allocation Considerations:**
“Prop C funds should consider which communities voted for the climate bond...ensure equitable benefit distribution.”
- **Long-Term Implementation:**
“Tree planting is a 5–10-year plan...without ongoing support, efforts are wasted (example: Ascarate Park).”

Public Comments

Public Review

Write in:

- As a local resident and mother of four, I’ve seen firsthand the growing impacts of climate issues. This past summer was especially concerning—my children’s outdoor time was limited due to extreme heat, frequent dust storms, bad air quality, heavy rains, and flooding. The Climate Action Plan gives me peace of mind, knowing our community is taking meaningful steps toward sustainability and resilience for both current and future generations.
- Impacts of Climate Issues
Extreme heat limiting outdoor activities.
Frequent dust storms affecting daily life.
Poor air quality posing health risks.
Heavy rains and flooding causing disruptions.
Support for Climate Action Plan
Provides peace of mind to local residents.
Addresses sustainability and resilience for current and future generations.
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
I had much difficulty navigating the document. I kept losing place as it flipped over to Spanish from English or next page. A PDF would have been better. Even more so, the city could have printed a few dozen copies ring bound and distributed to key influencers for review.

The 10 measures and 53 actions seem related to the overall goal of ghg reduction. If I have one serious objection to the plan it is that that is a very one-dimensional goal. It almost reduces the plan to a regional chemistry project. There are so many other dimensions of sustainability besides just ghg reduction. I also know this format was dictated by the EPA.

- Document Format and Accessibility

Difficulty navigating the document due to language transitions and page layout.
Preference for a PDF format over the current document structure.
Suggestion to print ring-bound copies for distribution to key influencers.

Sustainability Goals and Plan Scope

Concern over the plan's focus solely on greenhouse gas reduction.
Suggestion to include broader sustainability dimensions in addition to GHG reduction.
Acknowledgment that the format was dictated by the EPA.

- May want to add that El Paso has historically been in non-attainment for air quality with regard to Carbon Monoxide, Particulate Matter 10, Particulate Matter 2.5, and Ozone
- It may be good to clarify from the beginning if Juarez/Mexico were part of the conversations
- Positive Feedback

Document outlines concrete and achievable actions.
Potential to become a model for other Western cities.

Impact Assessment

Even ten percent implementation would create an impact.

Inspirational Reference

Gandhi's quote emphasizes the importance of individual actions.

- This is an outstanding document, outlining concrete and achievable actions that could become a model for other cities in the West. If we had only accomplished ten percent of the actions, we would have made an impact. As Gandhi said in 1938, "What we each do seems insignificant, but it is very important that we do it."
- One of the significant contributions of The Climate Action Plan is that it will raise awareness among El Pasoans about the critical nature of this issue through the city's demonstration of actions. Raising awareness is key to addressing global warming because the solution will require a paradigm shift in the way we think about how our actions affect the environment. Climate change is real, caused by man, and the consequences are going to be devastating unless we all take responsibility.

With this important goal of raising awareness, the Climate Action Plan should include steps to get the word out. This might include advertisements, online videos, and even lectures for students and science teachers.

- Major Topics from Review Comments
Raising Awareness

The Climate Action Plan aims to educate El Pasoans on critical climate issues. Awareness is crucial for addressing global warming and prompting a paradigm shift.

Climate Change Insights

Climate change is man-made and consequences will be devastating without collective responsibility.

Suggested Outreach Strategies

Plan should include advertisements, online videos, and lectures for awareness efforts. Engagement with students and science teachers should be prioritized in outreach.

- What is included in building and facilities? I am wondering how much emissions are coming from Marathon and any EPE plants
- How often will these emissions be reviewed to ensure we are meeting our targets?
- Cross-Border Traffic Management
Collaborate with Juarez to streamline border traffic flow and reduce street congestion. Designate additional bridges as free bridges to alleviate traffic burden.

Alternative Traffic Routing

Reroute large trucks and tractor trailers to county ports of entry like Tornillo and Santa Teresa.

Consider closing Stanton Bridge during high traffic times to minimize downtown area congestion.

- My comment is referencing the ports of entry in the city. We need to cooperate with Juarez to get the traffic across the border faster and not congest our streets during high traffic times. Can any other the other bridges also be designated as a free bridge? Move some of the traffic like large trucks or tractor trailers out of the city and into county ports of entry like Tornillo and Santa Theresa. Close the Stanton bridge during high traffic times because it congests our downtown area.

- Climate Change-Related Threats to Livability

Include reduced air quality from particulate and ozone pollution in imminent threat list.

Highlight the impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of dust storms. Emphasize dust storms and ozone pollution as key factors affecting air quality and livability.

Broader Climate Challenges

Maintain focus on heat, floods, and drought as significant problems.

- I feel like we must add reduced air quality from particulate and ozone pollution and impactful dust storms to the short list of our imminent threats for livability. Yes, heat,

floods, and drought are very clearly big problems, but anyone who has lived in El Paso during 2025 can bear witness to the serious impact of dust storms, as well as increased air pollution related to multiple factors. These are serious challenges and must be included, especially as dust storms are directly linked to climate change, as is ozone pollution.

- Climate Change-Related Threats to Livability

Include reduced air quality from particulate and ozone pollution in imminent threat list.

Highlight the impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of dust storms. Emphasize dust storms and ozone pollution as key factors affecting air quality and livability.

Broader Climate Challenges

Maintain focus on heat, floods, and drought as significant problems.

- Single Senior Citizens living in a home with no HVAC or money to pay for cooling facilities can be fatal, In 2024, El Paso County recorded 39 deaths attributed directly or indirectly to heat, surpassing the previous record of 26 deaths in 2023.
<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17082025/el-paso-extreme-heat-illness-death/>
- Key Issues for Senior Citizens and Extreme Heat

Single seniors in homes without HVAC face life-threatening heat exposure.

Financial barriers prevent access to proper cooling facilities.

Heat-related deaths increased in El Paso County from 26 in 2023 to 39 in 2024.

Climate impact and extreme heat trends pose growing health risks.

- Consider mentioning the many older senior citizens who have no cooling systems in their homes or money to pay for them. It can be fatal.
<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17082025/el-paso-extreme-heat-illness-death/>
- I ALSO WANTED TO ASK IF MAYBE WE COULD HAVE A WEEKEND OR A WHOLE WEEK OF STAY AT HOME AND WORK BECAUSE DURING THE

COVID PANDEMIC THE AIR SEEMED TO CLEAR UP. MAYBE WE COULD ALL TAKE BUSES OR MAYBE SUN METRO CAN OFFER FREE RIDES FOR THE WEEKEND OR A WEEK. TREES TREES TREES! THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING THAT THE CITY DOES TO HELP COMMUNITIES PLANT MORE TREES AND PUT MORE TREES ON CITY LANDSCAPING.

- Work from Home Initiative

Suggest a weekend or week of stay-at-home remote work.

Reference to air quality improvement during COVID pandemic.

Public Transportation

Proposal for buses or Sun Metro to offer free rides for a weekend/week.

Environmental Improvements

Advocate for community tree planting initiatives supported by the city.

Request for more trees in city landscaping projects.

- a link / reference to actions taken by COEP to increase its resilience would be helpful
- Consider highlighting sentences 2 and 3 either in bold or via bullets so that a wide audience understands the concept of a MEASURE
- Consider differentiating

Policy

Program - this one is clear in the action description - consider

Project

Consider category subheadings within each measure - this helps the general public to better understand the different level of actions . A few words to introduce Policy Program and Project would also be helpful

- Differentiation Suggestions

Clarify distinctions between Policy, Program, and Project in action descriptions. Provide brief introductions for Policy, Program, and Project categories.

Formatting Improvements

Include category subheadings within each measure for better public understanding of action levels.

- Partnership alone will not curb polluting emissions from big and powerful corporations, such as Marathon. Regulation (not only self-regulation) and external monitoring must be part of the measure taken to address industrial activities.
- This may become a zoning issue. Maybe rephrase to City to adopt better standards and incentives for battery storage installation
- Recommend incentivizing battery storage not only for buildings but also residential
- Since El Paso Waste Management is not able to recycle plastics of any kind at this time, it should no longer be listed among the items households and businesses can recycle. This misrepresentation leads citizens to believe their plastic use and disposal is not harming the environment and living organisms, when it most certainly is. Pretending that we recycle plastic is a strategy used by the plastics industry to perpetuate the myth that plastic is ok. We do not need to stoop to the level of greedy corporations; we need to get real, sooner rather than later.
- Recycling Misrepresentation

El Paso Waste Management cannot recycle any type of plastics currently.

Plastic recycling listed incorrectly among recyclable items for households and businesses.

Misrepresentation leads to false assumptions about environmental harm caused by plastic disposal.

Environmental Impact

Misleading claims obscure plastics' harmful effects on the environment and living organisms.

Perpetuation of plastic recycling myth benefits greedy corporations.

Call to Action

Urgent need to address and correct the plastic recycling misinformation.

Advocacy for transparency and environmental responsibility over corporate influence.

- For me this is extremely important. I would like the ability to walk to restaurants or bars without needing an uber or to drive
- Recommend changing to "increase incentives for TOD"
- Is there evidence elsewhere in the US that such a zoning update is conducive to the goal of promoting walking, biking, and mass transit? This isn't obvious at first glance, and should be referenced, if there is such evidence.
- Where is the Action Item for identifying water waste and holding accountable those responsible for it? In my neighborhood, commercial holdings and facilities are constantly flooding the streets with leaking water from various causes, and there doesn't seem to be much attention given this issue. Also, what about parks and businesses that water outside of water times? This also happens across the city.
- Action Items and Accountability

Missing action item for identifying water waste and responsible parties.

Need to address accountability for water misuse in neighborhoods and facilities.

Water Waste Issues

Commercial properties frequently flood streets due to leaking water from various causes.

Parks and businesses watering outside designated water times is a widespread issue across the city.

- An extensive study by a team at UTEP headed by Dr. Mayer indicated that, by 2050, we will be running out of our most significant source of water, groundwater. This means that El Paso should be aggressively pursuing actions to conserve water. That could include penalizing lawn and tree watering through an escalating water cost tied to volume. It might also prohibit green lawns on new housing. It could also assist farmers in switching to drip irrigation. And, of course, it should include Juarez in all planning as we share aquifers.
- Water Scarcity Projections

Groundwater depletion predicted by 2050, as per UTEP study led by Dr. Mayer.

Recommended Conservation Actions

Escalating water cost tied to volume for penalizing excessive usage.

Prohibition of green lawns in new housing developments.
Support for farmers switching to drip irrigation systems.

Regional Collaboration

Include Juarez in water conservation planning due to shared aquifer systems.

- Recommend adopting Low Impact Development standards for developments as well as incentivize construction of LID on existing developments.
- Many of our storm gutters become clogged with trash and flood debris quickly during monsoon season. This makes them ineffective at their purpose and increases flooding on roadways. The City needs to dedicate itself to monitoring and clearing gutters across the city especially during the rainy season.
- Storm Gutter Issues

Storm gutters quickly clog with trash and flood debris during monsoon season.
Clogged gutters lead to ineffective drainage, increasing roadway flooding.

Proposed Solutions

Monitor and clear gutters citywide, especially during the rainy season.
Encourage the City to prioritize gutter maintenance and cleaning efforts.

- This year the flooding in el paso have been extreme. Just this past weekend I saw poor drainage in the northeast and many vehicles stranded.
- LIDAC Analysis

How do you get to 65% of ⁷the total population being disadvantaged? I know El Paso is below National AMI but that can't be 65%, it's a statistical impossibility using AMI.

- The city will utilize an equity investment framework? Guess who won the election? If you want to get future funding you might think about how you phrase this. I'm guessing the current Administration will be more interested in economic growth and opportunity so maybe use that as a focus instead of equity.
- Equity Investment Framework

Questioning the utilization of an equity-driven investment approach.
Suggesting a focus on economic growth and opportunity over equity.

Political Influence and Funding

Implications of election outcomes on funding priorities.
Advising careful phrasing to align with Administration interests.

- Questions:

1. Can developers provide a more detailed risk assessment and phased action schedule reflecting varying levels of funding, legislative/regulatory authority, and cross-border/interstate coordination? What mechanisms will be used if funding or authority is delayed or limited?

2. What is the expected total cost (with breakdown by sector and action) to achieve both the localized and ambitious GHG targets, and what are the estimated returns in energy savings, reduced morbidity/mortality, and workforce development?

3. How will health outcomes directly attributable to plan actions be measured, and what are the baseline values and quantifiable reduction targets for major public health threats (e.g., heat illness, air pollution-related disease)?

4. How does the plan address engagement and coordination with Mexican and New Mexican authorities, given the importance of regional cross-border emissions, pollution, and public health?

5. For the air quality monitoring network expansion, what are the plans for real-time public reporting, rapid response during acute events, and data integration with health surveillance systems?

6. How will programmatic and funding prioritization ensure that benefits for LIDACs are realized rapidly, not deferred to later phases?

7. What legislative and regulatory strategies are envisioned for updating energy/building codes and zoning ordinances, especially if significant local or state opposition arises?

8. Are there plans for regular external evaluation or peer review of plan progress, implementation fidelity, and real-world impact?

- Risk Assessments, Funding, and Coordination

Detailed risk assessment with phased schedules for varying funding and authority levels.

Mechanisms for handling funding or legislative/regulatory authority limitations or delays.

Engagement strategies for Mexican and New Mexican cross-border emissions and pollution coordination.

Costs and Returns

Total plan cost breakdown by sector and action for GHG targets.

Estimated energy savings, morbidity/mortality reduction, and workforce development returns.

Health Outcomes

Measurement methods for health outcomes attributable to plan actions.

Baseline values and reduction targets for key public health threats (e.g., heat illness, air pollution).

Air Quality Monitoring

Real-time public reporting and rapid response plans during acute air quality events.
Integration of monitoring data with health surveillance systems.

Low-Income, Disadvantaged, and At-Risk Communities (LIDACs)

Prioritization strategies ensuring rapid benefits realization for LIDACs.

Legislative and Regulatory Measures

Strategies for updating energy/building codes despite potential local/state opposition.
Zoning ordinance adaptation in legislative and regulatory plans.

Evaluation and Peer Review

Plans for regular external evaluation and peer review of plan implementation and impact.

- To whom it may concern:

I am submitting the following written comments on the Draft El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan (August 8, 2025) as an individual, in response to the City's request for public input.

The Draft El Paso Regional Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive, technically sound response to the region's climate and environmental health challenges. It is evidence-based, equity-oriented, and ambitious, but it would benefit from deeper operational clarity, clearer accountability mechanisms, and more robust strategies for cross-border and multisectoral challenges.

It's strengths includes its focus on equity, comprehensive sectorial analysis, integration of health and climate hazards, actionable targets and metrics, community engagement and transparency, and workforce and economic transition integration. Also, it is well positioned for local and federal engagement, although Texas's political environment may introduce substantial risk for legal, regulatory, and funding obstacles—especially for actions requiring new mandates or external partnerships.

These are some areas for improvement that I have identified:

- The localized target (67% reduction below 2019 GHG by 2050) is modeled on full implementation of 53 actions, but many depend on external funding, regulatory shifts, and cross-jurisdictional cooperation. The plan acknowledges that reaching net zero (ambitious target) will require significant regional, state, and federal support but does not specify clear escalation pathways or fallback plans if such support is constrained.

- Many actions depend on voluntary industry partnerships (e.g., for industrial decarbonization, electrification, freight corridors) or alignment from El Paso Electric, Texas Gas, and federal entities operating critical infrastructure (e.g., border crossings, military facilities) that are not directly accountable to local authorities. The plan would benefit from a more explicit risk assessment and a prioritized, phased implementation schedule with contingency options.
- The workforce strategy intelligently highlights anticipated labor bottlenecks but requires more specific training pipeline benchmarks, timelines for program scaling, and contingency frameworks for acute labor shortages.
- While there is an inventory of eligible federal and state funds, cost estimates for many actions are “under development.” For a plan of this scale, detailed cost-benefit analyses—including for capital-intensive infrastructure (e.g., heat-resilient retrofits, stormwater upgrades, distributed solar, EV charging networks)—are essential to guide prioritization as funding opportunities fluctuate. The plan should also provide estimates for program operation/maintenance, not only initial investments.
- There is little discussion of the total cost or financial ROI for reaching the different GHG reduction targets under best-case and business-as-usual funding scenarios.
- Although the plan makes strong connections between climate action and health, it would benefit from clearly defined and evidence-based health outcome metrics (e.g., respiratory and cardiovascular morbidity/mortality rates attributable to air pollution, heat-related illness admissions, mental health consequences of climate extremes), with baseline values and explicit reduction targets.
- Air quality monitoring expansion is a major strength but requires detailed protocols for data use, rapid response, and coordination with public health agencies, especially during acute dust storm or wildfire events.
- There is opportunity for closer integration with ongoing health surveillance (e.g., hospital/ED syndromic surveillance) and stronger feedback loops between climate action implementation and observed community health outcomes.
- El Paso is a binational hub with substantive emissions, pollution, and health impacts linked to transboundary trade, cross-border transport, and shared airsheds with Ciudad Juárez. The plan references international bridges and coordination but could provide a more in-depth discussion of collaborative opportunities (and barriers) with Mexican and New Mexican partners, cross-border emissions management, and emergency response.
- While the plan identifies extreme heat as a central hazard, detailed, location-specific adaptation measures—such as green infrastructure targeting the most vulnerable census tracts, climate shelter operations plans, and cool corridor investments—could be further elaborated.

- The timeline and funding for resilience hubs, shaded transit, restoration of green spaces, and retrofits for critical facilities require more specificity. Prioritization schemes (e.g., using SVI or heat exposure metrics) should be made explicit for adaptation spending.
- Some key actions (e.g., EV policies in new buildings, energy codes for decarbonization, zoning code reforms) would require significant revisions to existing local and state codes. The plan should outline feasible pathways, anticipated resistance points, and legislative support strategies.
- The future climate action dashboard is promising, but the plan should delineate what is measured, how data drives mid-course corrections, who is held accountable, and how communities, especially LIDACs, participate in plan governance over the next decades.
- Regular, independent evaluations by external experts in public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience are suggested to maintain scientific rigor and credibility.

Potential Implementation Barriers

- Certain climate actions are vulnerable to state-level preemption—e.g., Texas laws limiting municipal building standards, or restricting bans on natural gas connections.
- Regulatory authority for emissions reductions, industrial standards, and transportation corridors may remain under state or federal jurisdiction, limiting the reach of CAP actions.
- As the plan’s next steps include formal adoption and departmental alignment, turnover in city, county, or regional leadership after elections (local, state, or federal) could delay, dilute, or reverse key CAP initiatives.
- High-profile local opposition, industry lobbying, or misinformation about plan impacts (e.g., costs, jobs, or household energy use) could slow adoption or provoke legal or ballot challenges, especially for measures perceived as costly or regulatory.
- Concerns about increased costs for residents or businesses—even if mitigated with rebate programs—could be politicized if not accompanied by robust public education and targeted subsidies to low-income households and LIDACs.
- Strengths of the Draft Climate Action Plan

Equity-focused, comprehensive sectorial analysis, integrating health and climate hazards effectively.

Actionable targets and metrics foster transparency and accountability.

Community engagement emphasized alongside workforce and economic transition

strategies.

Positioned for local and federal collaboration, despite Texas's political challenges.

Areas for Improvement

Targets and Risk Management

Localized GHG target depends on external funding, regulatory shifts, and cross-jurisdictional cooperation.

Lack of escalation pathways or fallback plans for constrained regional/state/federal support.

Need for explicit risk assessment and phased implementation with contingency options.

Financial Analysis and Prioritization

Cost-benefit analyses needed for infrastructure investments and operational/maintenance costs.

Insufficient discussion on financial ROI under various funding scenarios.

Workforce Strategies

Training benchmarks, program scaling timelines, and contingency frameworks for labor shortages required.

Health Metrics and Monitoring

Need evidence-based health metrics with baseline values and explicit reduction targets.

Air quality monitoring protocols should integrate with rapid-response systems and health agencies.

Stronger feedback loops between climate actions and community health outcomes suggested.

Cross-border Coordination

More detail required for coordinating transboundary emissions and emergency response with Ciudad Juárez and New Mexican partners.

Adaptation Measures

Elaborate adaptation strategies for extreme heat at vulnerable census tracts, climate shelters, and cool corridors.

Specificity needed for timeline and funding of resilience hubs and green infrastructure projects.

Legislative Alignment

Feasible pathways needed for reforms in EV policies, energy codes, and zoning regulations.
Anticipated resistance points and legislative support strategies should be detailed.

Governance and Accountability

Climate action dashboard should define measurements, mid-course corrections, and accountability mechanisms.
Community participation mechanisms for plan governance over decades should be outlined.
Independent evaluations by external experts recommended for scientific rigor and credibility.

Potential Implementation Barriers

Vulnerability to Texas laws restricting municipal building standards and natural gas policies.
State/federal jurisdiction limits emissions reductions and transportation corridor authority.
Leadership turnover post-election risks delaying or reversing CAP initiatives.
Public opposition or misinformation could provoke legal or political challenges to adoption.
Cost concerns could be mitigated by robust education and targeted subsidies for low-income households.

- I believe it is 6 ports of entry for the region if you count the port in New Mexico that is near our border with Texas: 1. Santa Teresa NM, 2. Santa Fe Bridge, 3 Stanton Bridge, 4 Bridge of the Americas (Free), 5. Zaragoza, 6. Tornillo-Guadalupe POE
- Ports of Entry for the Region

Count includes 6 ports of entry near Texas-New Mexico border.
Listed POEs: Santa Teresa, Santa Fe Bridge, Stanton Bridge, Bridge of the Americas.
Additional POEs: Zaragoza, Tornillo-Guadalupe Port of Entry.

- "Santa Teresa is growing and has a freight crossing as well.
- Santa Teresa POE, although not in the area is also a contributor to international traffic and air quality concerns.
- Study area may need to include color to distinguish from other areas
- The CAP will support investment in....

consider edit to

The CAP advocates and supports investment in

- local meaning the City of El Paso goals? or referencing to goals for everyone in the area?
- The study areas and the multiple community stakeholders involved in this process represent a cumulative population of nearly 850,000 but only 3,000 plus, have participated. Without much greater participation in all of the communities, only a few

are representing the needs and concerns of the many. The city needs to step up its efforts to make any of this a meaningful process.

- Participation Challenges

Low engagement: Only 3,000+ participated out of 850,000 cumulative population.

Limited representation: Few participants are addressing the needs of many.

Recommendations for Improvement

Increase outreach: City must enhance efforts to engage more community members.

Ensure inclusivity: Broader participation is critical for a meaningful process.

- Only after the local environmental community made an issue of this, I thought the city did a pretty good job. I am happy to see that you mentioned Community First Coalition on page 6.
- Councilors? City Council/City Representatives
- local elected officials
- Please define
- How did the city conduct outreach to get participation or awareness of these events?
- Content Marketing
- Email Marketing
- Social Media

Engagements - it does not specify how, comments, likes, or follows (ambiguous)

- Should be included in the Appendix
- Suggestion: this figure could be below the engagement series
- Suggestion: under the engagement series
- ..defined as..
- Update
- Texas A&M?
- Should be included in the Appendix
- energy?
- Consider bullets to summarize major findings
- consider an annual State of the Climate Action Plan event
- What is a metric ton? Could this be stated in tons that most of us understand?
- I get it that there had to be some formula, but it is limited to CO2. My guess is that even trace elements of toxic emissions from the marathon refinery outweigh some tons of CO2. I'm wondering if that was factored in. For example, refrigeration gas emissions are 10 times worse than petroleum emissions per Project Drawdown. Perhaps that is what you meant by Process and Fugitive emissions that account for 5% of gross emission.
- General Concerns

Formula focuses exclusively on CO2, possibly overlooking other harmful emissions. Questioning whether trace toxic emissions were considered in the analysis.

Specific Emissions Analysis

Refrigeration gases are significantly more impactful than petroleum emissions, per Project Drawdown.

Clarification sought on "Process and Fugitive emissions" accounting for 5% of gross emissions.

- is it possible to separate data of passenger vehicles from commercial vehicles ?
- What does this mean and how much will it cost? And who will pay for it? The Electric Company does not have the capacity currently to provide enough power generation to meet these needs. Texas Commission for Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Texas Emissions Reduction Program is offering Government Alternative Fuel Fleet Grants which opens in December of 2026, provides opportunities for municipalities to purchase or lease new vehicles including EVs and CNG for such fleets as EMS, Fire, police, environmental services, and other fleet vehicles with high use requirements.
- Clarification on Costs and Responsibilities

What does this mean and how much will it cost?

Who is responsible for paying for it?

Power Generation Concerns

Electric Company lacks capacity to meet power generation needs.

Funding Opportunity

Texas Emissions Reduction Program grants open December 2026 for alternative fuel fleet vehicles.

Grants support municipalities to purchase/lease EVs, CNG vehicles for EMS, Fire, police, etc.

- define
- add captions to photos (i.e. Paso Del Norte International Bridge)
- Not fully display
- The colors utilized for wastewater and agriculture are too similar - hard to distinguish them in categories.
- non-commercial vehicles
- the murals as chapter intro pages is nice touch to this report!
- Decrease in emissions in 3 main sectors but none from industries. I am wondering how we can utilities local authority to hold industries accountable. Marathon requests to release more emissions to the PUC and the PUC grants it. Would like to see some accountability or strategy outlined for this.
- Emissions Reduction

Decrease in emissions observed in three key sectors.

No reduction in industrial emissions identified.

Accountability for Industries

Need for strategies to hold industries accountable for emissions.
Utilize local authorities for stricter industrial accountability.

Concerns About PUC Decisions

Marathon request to release more emissions granted by PUC.
Call for stronger oversight or accountability mechanisms for PUC decisions.

- *utilize
- You are counting on transportation, commercial, and residential energy to accomplish the bulk of ghg reductions. And that much of this will happen naturally without taking specific actions. Is that correct?
- Why would Industrial Energy and Process not change over the next 25 years?
- These are completely unrealistic goals. Funding from state and federal grant opportunities cannot be relied on as is evidenced by the recent actions taken by the existing administration. Further, without active engagement from our sister city of Ciudad Juarez, the climb will remain very steep and long
- Unrealistic Goals

Goals set are deemed unrealistic and unattainable.

Funding Concerns

State and federal grants are unreliable due to recent administrative actions.

Collaboration Challenges

Lack of active engagement from Ciudad Juarez hinders project progress.

- Only 5 years left to achieve 50% below!
- If I am reading this right doing nothing, i.e., business as usual, will result in a 44% ghg reduction by 2050. That actually looks like the most economic because most emission reduction will occur in transportation, commercial energy, and industrial energy sectors that are largely autonomous and act in their own interest. Those interests include the efficiency of ghg reduction.
- Business as Usual (BAU) Approach

BAU leads to a projected 44% GHG reduction by 2050.

Reduction occurs autonomously in transportation, commercial energy, and industrial energy sectors.

Cost Efficiency and Autonomy

BAU appears to be the most economic option compared to alternatives.
Sectors act in self-interest, prioritizing efficiency in GHG reduction.

- Where are we today - 5 years shy of 2030?

- Most of the data was collected in 2019, with great expectations for 2030. Explain how the region is advancing to meet those expectations. Show data collected from 2019 to the present.
- highway?
- nationwide or in the El Paso region?
- Highway vehicles will be the main source of this? Are you talking about non-co2 emissions from such vehicles, chief of which is carbon monoxide CO followed by volatile organic compounds? Where are these coming from?
- commercial vehicles?
- "Consider adding the following publication with regard to ozone in this study: Valenzuela, V.H., Yang, H., Fitzgerald, F., Cheu, R.L. , Yang H., Olvera H., Li W-W., Pinal, G. Conceptual Model for Ozone Reduction in El Paso, Texas, Paper #538, Proceedings of the 105th Air and Waste Management Association Conference and Exhibition, San Antonio, TX, June 19-22, 2013. Air and Waste Management Association 2012-A-538-AWMA"
- Sources for Ozone Study

Suggest inclusion of Valenzuela et al. (2013) publication on ozone reduction in El Paso, Texas.

Publication presented at the 105th Air and Waste Management Association Conference.

Relevance of conceptual modeling for ozone reduction to the current research context.

- Natural Resources in a major source - could not find where this was defined
- this section appears to underestimate the impact of flash floods which are on the rise in the El Paso area
- Are not roadways especially in El Paso vulnerable to flooding ?
- and LIDAC communities!
- You identify heat, drought, and flooding as the main threats to vulnerable assets in the community. Yet the most damage I have seen in my 29 years here other than the 2006 flood was the 2011 freeze. Then there was the big freeze 2 years ago that shut Texas down. Freezing is not considered in the plan as a threat.
- Excluded Threats in the Plan

Freezing incidents, such as the 2011 freeze, are not considered in the threat assessment.

Major freeze events, including Texas shutdown, are overlooked despite significant community impact.

Identified Main Threats

Heat, drought, and flooding noted as primary threats to vulnerable community assets.

- please define - does El Paso have anything other than inland flooding?
- Why was Flash Flooding left out of Key Takeaways bullets?
- 100 F

- On page 42, you state that El Paso relies on groundwater from the Hueco-Mesilla and Bolson aquifers. This should read, "the Hueco and Mesilla bolsons."

Ditto page 54.

- Many people in the El Paso region have respiratory issues. Wonder if we can provide some data about how these dust storms impact vulnerable populations
- How many miles per hour was the "brownout", and if there is data from El Paso Electric Company highlighting the reduction of electricity generation at the solar farms due to the high winds, to include.
- a photo or two would provide dramatic yet realistic evidence of the 2025 dust storms - please consider adding
- entries (plural)
- The colors on the legend (colors are light) do not match the maps colors - at the very least increase width of color lines/bars in the legend to better highlight the colors
- Consider separating Port of Entry bridges from other bridges
- For Figures 10-14 are there corresponding tables that list the hazards (that could be added in the appendix)?
- make that Figures 10-15
- Unhoused people are also vulnerable to extreme heat, please name that population
- Include data, numbers, and percentages on how the elderly and children are impacted due to extreme heat.
- I think creating more cooling centers and improving existing ones, and making them solar powered should be prioritized more over the goal to transition to zero emission vehicles. While both are important, I suggest prioritizing the goals that more of the general population needs whether it is cooling centers or providing assistance to upgrade housing energy efficiency or cooling
- Cooling Centers

Establish more cooling centers to serve vulnerable populations.

Upgrade existing cooling centers with improved facilities and solar power integration.

Housing Energy Efficiency

Provide assistance to enhance housing energy efficiency and cooling systems.

Prioritization of Goals

Focus on population-wide needs like cooling centers and housing upgrades over zero-emission vehicle transitions.

- There's also much to be done for resilience with just habits! We can cool buildings all we want buuut simple things like signage, "please make sure to close door behind you- we're saving energy" can do a LOT too. Several rec centers, doubling as cooling stations have this issue where the Door stays Open letting out all the cool air- not energy smart at all. I brought it up to staff of course but more awareness and incentives to all city departments would be a help!

- Energy Efficiency and Awareness

Encourage habit-based practices for energy efficiency, like closing doors to save energy.

Promote awareness and signage to guide public behavior on energy-saving actions.

Cooling Station Challenges

Rec centers doubling as cooling stations face issues with doors left open.

Develop incentives for city departments to improve energy-smart practices in cooling stations.

Staff and Department Involvement

Increase staff training and awareness to address energy-related issues proactively.

Facilitate interdepartmental collaboration to promote energy-saving initiatives citywide.

- Recently?
- Mass development is impacting the animal species here in El Paso. Would like to see more land preserved.
- Great Section
- add caption to photo
- It maybe worth mentioning El Paso Mayor Cook at one time declared his initiative to make El Paso the least car dependent city. This led to Plan El Paso and Smart Growth.
- Regarding El Paso being the least car dependent city it maybe worth considering the following with regard to current initiatives City of El Paso is working with:

Through this policy, the City of El Paso confirms its commitment to integrating and prioritizing multimodal

transportation options in all street and road projects. This Complete Streets Policy directly supports the

transportation goals outlined in Plan El Paso and the Livable City Sustainability Plan “to become the

least car-dependent city in the Southwest through meaningful travel options and land-use patterns that

support walkability, livability, and sustainability.” This policy will also directly support the goals outlined in

the 25 by 2025 City of El Paso Strategic Plan, such as:

1.5 - Stimulate economic growth through transit and bridges

2.4 - Improve motorist safety and traffic management solutions

3.1 - Improve the visual impression of the community (gateways, corridors, intersections, and parkland)

3.2 - Set one standard for infrastructure across the City

7.2 - Improve competitiveness through infrastructure improvements impacting the quality of life

7.3 - Implement improvements and activate programming that support and promote multimodal

transportation

7.5 - Design and implement infrastructure projects that maximize co-benefits, simultaneously addressing

climatic and social stressors such as flooding, heat and energy, and citizen mobility update

8.5 - Improve air quality throughout El Paso

<https://www.elpasotexas.gov/assets/Documents/CoEP/Capital-Improvement/Transportation-Planning/El-Paso-Complete-Streets-Policy.pdf>

- Analysis of Draft Review Comments
Key Policy Goals and Commitments

City commitment to prioritize multimodal transportation in all street and road projects.

Focus on walkability, livability, and sustainability in land-use and travel options. Aim to become the least car-dependent city in the Southwest region.

Alignment with Strategic Plans

Supports Plan El Paso and Livable City Sustainability Plan transportation goals. Matches objectives under the 25 by 2025 City of El Paso Strategic Plan.

Specific Strategic Plan Goals

1.5: Stimulate economic growth through transit and bridge improvements.

2.4: Enhance motorist safety and implement traffic management solutions.

3.1: Improve visual appeal of gateways, corridors, and intersections.

3.2: Establish standardized infrastructure across the city.

7.2: Boost competitiveness with infrastructure improvements enhancing quality of life.

7.3: Promote multimodal transportation through targeted projects and programming.

7.5: Design projects addressing flooding, heat, energy, and mobility stressors.

8.5: Implement projects improving air quality citywide.

Supporting Documentation

Direct link to El Paso Complete Streets Policy provided for reference.

- Nowhere in the plan do I see anything about Environmental Education to build a local consciousness of sustainability. The Sierra Club has a curriculum called Global Warming Express that has been distributed widely in elementary schools throughout New Mexico. I'm sure there are other such programs. Something like this could be implemented with cooperation of the school districts.
- Environmental Education and Sustainability

Lack of focus on Environmental Education in the current plan.

Importance of fostering local sustainability consciousness among communities.

Existing Programs as Examples

Sierra Club's "Global Warming Express" curriculum used in New Mexico elementary schools.

Potential collaboration with school districts to implement similar programs.

- Nowhere in the plan do I see anything about Environmental Education to build a local consciousness of sustainability. The Sierra Club has a curriculum called Global Warming Express that has been distributed widely in elementary schools throughout New Mexico. I'm sure there are other such programs. Something like this could be implemented with cooperation of the school districts.
- Consider mentioning other state strategies for climate change such as: Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, TXDOT texas-statewide Active Transportation Plan-2050, TXDOT Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan.
- Distinguish Actions : Policy , Program or Project - perhaps by a color code
- consider mentioning as a strategy the El Paso MPO's Congestion Management Process:
<https://www.elpasompo.org/media/CMP/CongestionManagementProcessCMP.pdf>
- It is common knowledge that EPE's current and near future capabilities cannot meet the needs required to accomplish M1. All of these recommendations in M1 and M2 will serve to significantly increase building costs that will be passed on to the end users, both commercial (small business), and residential buyers and renters, impacting the LIDAC communities which are the very same that we are trying to protect. Also, there is state law passed in 2021 which precludes any municipality from passing codes that mandate builders use electric vs natural gas.
- EPE Capabilities

EPE's current and future capabilities insufficient for M1 requirements.

Cost Implications

M1 and M2 recommendations will significantly raise building costs. Increased costs will disproportionately affect small businesses and residential buyers/renters. LIDAC communities will face greater financial burden, undermining intended protection.

Regulatory Restrictions

State law (2021) prohibits municipalities from mandating electric over natural gas for builders.

- As presented, Measure 1: Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings - Action M1: Enhance or create a community-wide building energy efficiency and electrification rebate program (hereafter, “Action M1”) Action M1 of the Plan encourages residents and businesses to replace old appliances with high-efficiency electric options. This particular Action does not address or consider the benefits of the use of natural gas appliances, which are often more affordable and energy efficient options. The appliance market includes a plethora of high-efficiency natural gas appliances available for residential and commercial applications, including over 4,000 ENERGY Star-rated natural gas furnaces, water heaters, and clothes dryers.s.4 These natural gas appliances represent accessible, cost-effective options for increasing building energy efficiency, and should not be overlooked.

In its current form, the Plan is focused on developing incentives aimed at encouraging all electric buildings and developments within the City. Action M1 of the City’s Plan emphasizes the monitoring of building permits for equipment data for indications of fuel switching behaviors (full electrification of building plans) of builders and/or developers. However, in 2021, the Texas Legislature took steps by adopting HB 17 (now codified as Tex. Util. Code § 181.903) to protect builders and property owners from facing the negative impacts of regulation or policy that either encourages or discourages the installation of certain utility facilities based on energy type. To avoid potential conflict with this state law, we strongly encourage the City to conduct a comprehensive and thorough legal review of the proposed new climate plan in light of the legislative intent to ensure preservation of fuel choice for commercial and residential customers. Considering the availability of high-efficiency natural gas appliances and current state law, we strongly encourage the City to amend Action M1 to provide and encourage the development of fuel neutral assistance and building codes to enhance home energy efficiency.

In addition to the considerations mentioned above, within the Climate Action Plan, the City specifically recognizes that electrification of residential buildings may have negative impacts on City residents as electrification involves high upfront costs, which will likely be transferred to renters, low-income and disadvantaged communities (“LIDACs”). To mitigate such costs, the City suggests disbursement of full or partial subsidies; however, the City does not provide the means or source of such funding.

We recommend review of a potential source of federal funding for energy efficient home improvements, the Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole House (HOMES) rebate program. This program is distributed by the US Department of Energy and authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act. The HOMES program provides residential energy efficiency rebates for Texans of all income levels, regardless of fuel type. TGS strongly encourages the City to protect customer choice and to enhance affordability of participation in emission reduction activities. The City's recognition and support of customer choice will allow each El Pasoan to make economically informed decisions regarding their appliance purchases.

- Concerns About Exclusivity of Electric Options

Current plan excludes benefits of high-efficiency natural gas appliances. Over 4,000 ENERGY Star-rated natural gas appliances available for cost-effective energy efficiency. Advocates for a "fuel-neutral" approach to energy efficiency programs and building codes.

Legal and Legislative Considerations

Texas HB 17 protects fuel choice for builders and property owners. Advocates for legal review to ensure compliance with Tex. Util. Code § 181.903.

Economic Impacts and Affordability

Electrification entails high upfront costs, which could burden low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs). Suggests leveraging programs like HOMES rebate program for subsidies to mitigate costs.

Customer Choice Advocacy

Recommends support for economically informed appliance purchasing decisions. Encourages preserving fuel choice for residential and commercial customers.

- Regarding Action M2, we request further details on the proposed commercial building energy performance standard. We strongly encourage the City to ensure that such a standard encompasses fuel choice to facilitate affordable commercial property development. In the absence of fuel choice, businesses may face higher operational costs driven by increased energy expenses, which could have downstream effects on economic growth.
- Action M2: Commercial Building Energy Performance Standard

Request for detailed information on the proposed energy performance standard. Emphasize the importance of including fuel choice in the standard. Concern about higher operational costs if fuel choice is excluded. Potential impact on economic growth due to increased energy expenses.

- develop a program geared towards low income households

- enhance or develop ? this makes it sound that it is not known if a program currently exist, is that the case?
- This is for Action M4
- We offer ourselves as a resource to the City. As the City continues to work to develop these plans, it would be helpful to have a better understanding of the City's proposed data center policy, in particular, the energy generation requirements that will potentially be incorporated.
- City Collaboration

Offer assistance as a resource to support City plan development.

Data Center Policy

Seek clarity on the proposed data center policy specifics.

Request details on energy generation requirements in the policy.

- is "data center" defined earlier in the document - if so please reference with footnote. also wordsmith this sentence ---data center development policy ?
- Implement ? Have the policies already been established?
- We are concerned about provisions in the Plan that recommend the implementation of requirements for EV charging (Action M7). We believe this provision will increase the cost of development and construction as well as increase the costs to home and business owners who seek to acquire property without proper consideration of the Full Fuel Cycle impacts. Further, if EV charging are not installed in the building, such infrastructure would only serve as a stranded asset upon building construction. Requiring building designers to spend money on solar and/or EV infrastructure will likely limit their ability to incorporate more efficient fuel gas infrastructure, effectively placing a limit on fuel gas installation. Also, until the market for EVs and building out of economy-wide charging infrastructure develops toward maturity, adoption of such provisions is premature. As such, the market for EV charging cannot be presumed to be most efficient and commonly implemented at residential buildings.
- Concerns Regarding EV Charging Requirements in the Plan

Increased cost of development, construction, and property acquisition for home and business owners.

Lack of consideration of Full Fuel Cycle impacts.

Infrastructure could become a stranded asset if not utilized in buildings.

Trade-off between EV/solar infrastructure and efficient fuel gas installation in building design.

Premature adoption due to underdeveloped EV market and charging infrastructure.

Questionable assumption about the efficiency and common implementation of EV charging in residential buildings.

- Action M9 (Transition municipal fleets to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs)) aims to transition municipal fleets to zero emission vehicles. We wish to highlight our successful relationship with Sun Metro, where TGS provides fuel and fill-up stations for Sun Metro's CNG powered bus fleet. TGS, recommends that the City include the consideration of CNG vehicles in executing action M9. CNG reduces tailpipe

greenhouse gas emissions by about 20% compared with gasoline. Natural gas vehicles offer a range of other benefits, including increased driving range and lower fuel costs. For example, SunMetro reports fuel costs savings of \$2 million dollars every six months as compared against diesel vehicles.

In addition to the already well established Texas Gas Service's CNG offerings, we would like to note the forthcoming availability of funding for CNG fleets and infrastructure through the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP), administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Within the TCEQ, the Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFF), offers grants to construct fueling stations that provide natural gas, while the Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program (GAFF) provides grants to assist municipalities in purchasing CNG vehicles. These grant programs are projected to open in October 2025 and December 2026, respectively. Grants such as these may be useful to the City in your implementation of alternative fuel infrastructure under actions M11 (Develop alternate fuel hubs for buses and heavy-duty fleet vehicles) and M12 (Develop alternative fuel freight corridors), as well as the City's continued acquisition of CNG powered municipal fleets, pursuant to and in harmony with action M9.

- Key Topics from Comment on Action M9
Successful Partnership with Sun Metro

Collaboration with TGS for CNG fuel and station infrastructure for Sun Metro.
SunMetro saves \$2 million in fuel costs every six months versus diesel vehicles.

Recommendations for Action M9

Include CNG vehicles in transitioning municipal fleets to zero emission vehicles.
CNG reduces greenhouse gas emissions by ~20% compared to gasoline vehicles.
CNG vehicles offer extended driving range and lower fuel costs.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities via Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFF): Grants for constructing natural gas fueling stations.

Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program (GAFF): Grants for purchasing CNG vehicles.

AFFF projected to open October 2025; GAFF anticipated in December 2026.

Opportunities to Align with Related Actions

Use TERP grants to develop alternate fuel hubs under action M11.

Leverage funding to create alternative fuel freight corridors under action M12.

Pursue continued acquisition of CNG-powered municipal fleets in harmony with action M9.

- This is unrealistic and unaffordable. There currently does not exist sufficient power generation to supply this effort. Our funds allocations for street improvements are sorely underfunded and this, in my opinion, needs to be the first priority.
- is there already a concept plan ?
- We are concerned about provisions in the Plan that recommend the implementation of requirements for solar readiness infrastructure (Action M15) in new residential and commercial buildings. We believe that this provision will increase the cost of development and construction as well as increase the costs to home and business owners who seek to acquire property without proper consideration of the Full Fuel Cycle impacts. Further, if solar panels are not installed in the building, such infrastructure would only serve as a stranded asset upon building construction. Requiring building designers to spend money on solar infrastructure will likely limit their ability to incorporate more efficient fuel gas infrastructure, effectively placing a limit on fuel gas installation.
- Concerns about Solar Readiness Infrastructure

Increased development and construction costs due to solar readiness requirements (Action M15).

Potential cost burden on home and business owners acquiring properties.

Risk of stranded assets if solar panels are not installed post-construction.

Fuel Gas Infrastructure Limitations

Requirement may restrict the incorporation of efficient fuel gas systems in new buildings.

Concerns about improper consideration of Full Fuel Cycle impacts in planning.

- Do these policies already exist?
- resilience hubs powered by solar
- Except for Measure 4, food systems and waste management, the strategies and actions are mostly of a technical nature. This is the only one that seems to touch upon building social capital. It would be nice to see a program of community gardens here.

I know they are somewhat messy to manage but they are a good way to build neighborhood social capital.

- Food Systems and Waste Management

Measure 4 focuses on building social capital through food systems and waste management.

Suggests adding a community gardens program to foster neighborhood social capital.

Acknowledges community gardens' management challenges but highlights their social benefits.

- The City should ensure that equipment is in place to recycle items - glass has not been recycled at Collections Centers since the beginning of 2025 due to equipment failure . Residents are greeted by NO GLASS RECYCLING sign!
- Hello! A simple and effective way to improve our city is by no longer allowing trees, weeds, and leaves to be disposed of in the landfill. Organic matter has carbon,

nutrients and water. Our current Citizen Collection Stations only allow people with a (water) bill in hand to dispose of organic matter in the mulch bin. Landscapers are not allowed in and should be able to do the same. I see them (landscapers) everyday with truck beds full with trees, leaves and other carbon material driving straight to the landfill. They take tons of valuable organic matter everyday to be petrified in plastic instead of allowing it to be mulched or added to a compost heap. Which brings me to a second recommendation, composting at the Citizen Collections Stations can be implemented much sooner until a city wide pick up is organized. Kitchen waste, leaves, weeds, or trees should not go to the landfill; organic matter can be processed to destroy pathogens and weed seeds through hot composting and used in gardens, agriculture, home and city landscapes. I suggest this from experience, just yesterday I drove by apartments on Brown and Cliff where landscapers were cutting down a 2 mesquite trees, I asked them where they would take them and they said “Al dompe” aka the landfill. I asked them if they could take to our community compost at school around the corner on Brown instead. They agreed and now it’s being used for paths, mulch, and the compost.

Thank you kindly,

Michelle Arnold

- Organic Waste Management
Policy Improvements

Prohibit organic waste disposal in landfills to capture nutrients and water from materials.

Expand Citizen Collection Station accessibility to include landscapers without requiring a water bill.

Composting Recommendations

Implement hot composting at Citizen Collection Stations for immediate organic waste processing.

Organize future city-wide organic waste pickup for increased efficiency and community involvement.

Practical Use of Organic Matter

Promote reuse of organic waste for mulch, compost, and landscaping across city and community projects.

- We offer ourselves as a resource to the City.
- It is critical that this Climate Action Plan address agricultural water practices in the Rio Grande region. At present, the dominant use of water in the valley is for flood irrigation, a method that is inefficient, outdated, and unsustainable in the face of

prolonged drought and climate change. Transitioning toward dryland agriculture, drip irrigation, and other modern water-saving practices is not optional—it is essential for the long-term survival of the river and the communities that depend on it.

Yes, agriculture is an important part of our cultural and economic identity. Farmers understandably rely on access to water. But we cannot ignore the reality of the numbers: pecan orchards, cotton, chile, and alfalfa represent less than two percent of GDP production for the entire Rio Grande Basin. Despite this small economic footprint, they consume roughly eighty percent of the available water supply. This imbalance is not only unsustainable but unjust, especially as cities, ecosystems, and households struggle with limited access to clean water.

The region must prioritize efficiency and equity. Investments should go toward incentivizing farmers to adopt water-saving technologies, transition to less water-intensive crops, or develop dryland practices that are already used successfully in other arid agricultural regions. Continuing to pour water into low-value, high-consumption crops under the banner of tradition is not a climate strategy—it is a slow-motion disaster.

If the Climate Action Plan fails to address the outsized role of flood irrigation in water depletion, then all other conservation efforts risk being undermined. This is an opportunity to correct the imbalance and ensure that the limited water resources of the Rio Grande are used in ways that sustain both the community and the river for future generations.

- Key Topics from the Draft Review Comments
Agricultural Water Practices in Rio Grande Region

Flood irrigation is inefficient, outdated, and unsustainable amid drought and climate change.

Transitioning to dryland agriculture, drip irrigation, and modern practices is essential for survival.

Economic and Water Use Imbalance

Agriculture occupies less than 2% of GDP but consumes 80% of available water. Cotton, chile, and alfalfa crops are high-consumption but provide minimal economic value.

Recommendations for Water Efficiency and Equity

Incentivize farmers to adopt water-saving technologies and transition to less water-intensive crops.

Encourage the use of dryland practices proven effective in other arid regions.

Urgency in Climate Action Plan

Failure to address flood irrigation undermines all other conservation measures.

Opportunity to ensure sustainable water use for the community and ecosystem's future.

- Teach households how to grow food through gardening, hydroponic vegetable towers, greenhouses, and chicken coops and create local o-ops as a market for household surplus.
- Establish shade and connectivity standards. Mandate mixed use for convenient and accessible services within walking distance of residences.
- Establish and mandate "door to door" standards of walkable environments between residences, businesses, and transit stops.
- This is an excellent idea and an opportunity to work with private industry to implement measures and use of newer technologies to accomplish.
- On Measure 6 to monitor and improve air quality, installing air quality monitoring systems in communities affected by poor air quality (Action M36) only makes sense if you do something about it. You can collect the data all you want and we all know where the garbage air is in this town, but what are you going to do about it when you have the data.

When you install a technology it is important to have a process to apply it and manage it and that is not visible here. Actually I would call this the single most important action in the plan because it will have the most effect on the most vulnerable people in El Paso.

- Action Implementation Concerns

Lack of clear plan to act on collected air quality data.

Importance of processes to manage and apply monitoring technology.

Strategic Priority

Action M36 identified as most impactful for vulnerable populations in El Paso.

- Plant native trees near cars.
- As the Rio Grande continues to provide less water and as Dr. Mayer's UTEP study indicates, we will likely be out of groundwater in 25 years. Although trees do provide shade, they require a lot of water to survive. They will not live in the desert without supplemental water, and a shade tree can require over one hundred gallons per day. If trees grew in the desert without supplemental water, then there would be trees in the desert. That says that planting trees for shade does not seem to be an environmentally responsible action for El Paso.
- Water Scarcity and Environmental Sustainability

Rio Grande decreasing water availability; groundwater may be depleted in 25 years.

Planting shade trees in El Paso may not be sustainable due to high water needs.

Trees require over 100 gallons of supplemental water per day in desert environments.

Concerns About Tree Planting

Shade trees cannot naturally survive in desert without supplemental water. Planting trees in a desert contradicts environmental responsibility for resource management.

- "For Measure 8 consider involving the architecture school here. Professor Kripa has researched this topic extensively."
- Increasing construction costs that results in increased costs of homes and rental rates, running counter to the very goals of providing affordable housing in all market rate categories, and especially impacting LIDAC communities
- Same comment as above applies to this recommended action
- Pay low-income households to grow native trees from seed for sale to a local tree co-op.
- Adopt low impact development standards. Use rain gardens, bio-swales, constructed wetlands to retain water on site and to nurture a green shade canopy.
- We recommend the following to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the potential impacts of implementing the City's Climate Plan:
We encourage the City to utilize full fuel cycle methodology to accurately assess building efficiency and associated costs. The full fuel cycle encompasses extraction losses as well as delivery, transmission, and production losses and accounts for all primary fuel consumption. This calculation creates a complete assessment of emissions.
We strongly encourage the City to conduct a grid reliability study to ensure that any additional electrical infrastructure to be placed in commercial and residential buildings can effectively support load growth.
- Recommendations for Comprehensive Analysis of Climate Plan Impacts
Methodology Enhancements for Assessing Building Efficiency

Adopt full fuel cycle methodology for precise building efficiency and cost assessment. Include extraction, delivery, transmission, and production losses in fuel consumption calculations.

Infrastructure and Grid Reliability

Conduct grid reliability study for future electrical infrastructure in buildings. Ensure electrical grid supports anticipated load growth in commercial and residential areas.

- Keeping in mind, as stated earlier, these recommended code changes only serve to increase construction costs, which are always passed on to the end users.
- EPE has the Take Charge TX Program designed to support non-residential customers in Texas who want to install public EV charging stations without managing the equipment themselves.

Turnkey Service: El Paso Electric purchases, installs, operates, and maintains the EV charging stations.

Flexible Payment Terms: Customers choose a repayment plan ranging from 1 to 10 years, with monthly bill charges based on the selected term.

- Program Overview

Take Charge TX Program supports non-residential customers in Texas installing public EV chargers.

El Paso Electric handles all EV station management, reducing customer burden.

Turnkey Service

El Paso Electric provides full-service installation, operation, and maintenance of EV chargers.

Payment Options

Flexible repayment plans from 1 to 10 years, billed monthly as per chosen term.

- Generally, El Paso Electric would rather have everyone subscribe to their solar program than install their own solar. This is due to the intermittency imposed by rooftop solar. At El Paso Electric's solar farms, they have massive gas turbine generators to compensate for times when the sun is blocked. They sound like 747 jet engines, because that is almost precisely what they are. The regular gas-fired steam generators cannot load follow, which requires a quick start-up. They have great difficulty compensating for remote solar, which lacks both battery and turbine backup.
- El Paso Electric Solar Program Preference

Prefer customers subscribe to utility solar program over installing rooftop solar. Rooftop solar's intermittency poses challenges for grid stability.

Utility Solar Farm Infrastructure

Solar farms use gas turbine generators for intermittency compensation. Gas turbines resemble 747 jet engines in sound and design.

Challenges with Rooftop Solar Integration

Remote rooftop solar lacks battery and turbine backup.

Regular gas-fired steam generators struggle with load-following demands from rooftop solar.

- Several energy companies are well along in the development phases of technologies to capture biogas known as carbon capture, but none of these programs are ready yet for widespread implementation.
- Some years ago, as I-10 east began to be a parking lot at commuter times, I talked with the railroad about using one of their two rail lines to provide a commuter rail line into the city. At that time, they were open to the idea because they preferred to go around El Paso to avoid the city's slowdowns. The city would have to help with the cost of

improvements to the track north of the town. I could not get anyone in the city interested in this. However, it might still be an option worth considering.

- Transportation Challenges

I-10 east congestion during commuter times creates significant delays.

Railroad expressed interest in a commuter rail line to bypass city slowdowns.

Potential Solution

Commuter rail line on existing railroad tracks could alleviate traffic issues.

City involvement needed for funding improvements to the railroad north of town.

Proposal faced resistance from city officials previously, but could be reconsidered.

- Not sure how removing parking minimums is going to benefit the community and how this recommendation will help to reduce GHG. This recommendation also goes against current established city code, with the exception of allowing the property owner to request a waiver for special circumstances.
- Community Impact

Concerns about benefits of removing parking minimums for the community.

Questions about how this recommendation aligns with community needs.

Environmental Considerations

Uncertainty about the role of parking minimum removal in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Alignment with City Regulations

Recommendation conflicts with current established city code.

Conditions for waivers for parking minimum removal noted as special exceptions.

- Consider mentioning Congestion/ Air Quality Strategies mention from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan from the El Paso MPO:
https://www.elpasompo.org/media/MTP/RMS2050MTP/FinalMTP_4Nov22/RMS_2050_MTP_Chapter_4.pdf
- FOR ALL ACTIONS - the Page by Page descriptions are helpful but it becomes tedious to flip through each page, also consider a supplemental spreadsheet that lists ALL Actions to include the key items such as Benefits, Implementation Schedule / Milestones AND METRICS
- Page-by-Page Descriptions

Helpful but tedious to navigate page-by-page.

Flip-through process negatively impacts user experience.

Supplemental Spreadsheet Recommendation

Suggest creating a spreadsheet listing all Actions.

Include key items: Benefits, Implementation Schedule, Milestones, Metrics.

- In developing a data center policy, attention to the various types of data centers and their intended purpose will need to be considered as not all data centers are equal. For example, Hyperscale data centers have a tendency to be more resource intensive in comparison to edge data centers, however these two types of data centers serve different purposes. Avanza Data and Policy Hub is currently researching data centers and their impact on communities.
- Data Center Types and Purposes

Different types of data centers need specific consideration in policy development. Hyperscale data centers are more resource-intensive compared to edge data centers. Edge data centers and Hyperscale data centers fulfill distinct roles and purposes.

Research Initiatives

Avanza Data and Policy Hub is studying the impact of data centers on communities.

- Data center developments impact a variety of stakeholders ranging from utility providers to workforce trainers to property owners. Recommendation to also convene a stakeholder group on this action.
- Avanza Data and Policy Hub has determined there are approximately 11 data centers in the Borderplex region (9 in El Paso County), with three in active development. Most of the data centers in the region have been internet service provider owned dedicated to network functions. When reviewing the data center data, attention to the type of data center and its intended purpose will need to be considered as data centers cannot be identically compared.
- Data Center Count and Development

11 data centers in the Borderplex region, 9 in El Paso County.
Three data centers currently in active development.

Ownership and Purpose

Majority of data centers owned by internet service providers, dedicated to network functions.

Data centers cannot be compared identically due to varying types and purposes.

Review Considerations

Analyze type of data center and its intended purpose during comparisons.

- Recommendation to collect data on the number of data center projects that were rescinded due to the policy.
- Publicly disclosing emissions information will be critical for the air quality and public health of our community. This data should be collected. If data centers are using back up diesel generators along with behind the meter solutions of gas turbines for power generation, there is a high risk of pollutants (ex: PM 2.5, NOx, SO2) entering the air and posing public health risks for communities. Please note Executive Order 14141, which was rescinded in July 2025, stated data center sites should be prioritized in locations where areas were not at risk of persistently failing to attain National Ambient Air

Quality Standards. This EO could be viewed as an acknowledgement that emissions from data centers may cause air quality concerns. Additional peer reviewed research on data centers and public health can be found here: [The Unpaid Toll: Quantifying the Public Health Impact of AI](#), UC Riverside (Dec 2024)

- Transparency and Reporting

Publicly disclosing emissions information is critical for air quality and public health. Data collection on emissions from data centers is necessary.

Health and Environmental Risks

Diesel generators and gas turbines pose risks of pollutants like PM 2.5, NOx, SO2. Pollutants from data centers can negatively impact community health and air quality.

Regulatory Context

Executive Order 14141 prioritized locating data centers outside areas persistently failing air quality standards.

Rescinded Executive Order 14141 acknowledges potential emissions-related air quality concerns from data centers.

Research and Evidence

Peer-reviewed research on data centers' public health impacts is available from UC Riverside (Dec 2024).

- Utility coordination through the Take Charge Program. The Take Charge TX Pilot Program is a turnkey solution offered by El Paso Electric (EPE) for non-residential customers, including municipalities like the City of El Paso.

1. Budget-Friendly Deployment

- Avoids large upfront capital expenditures.
- Enables multi-year budgeting through predictable monthly payments.

2. Simplified Project Management

- EPE handles all technical and operational aspects.
- Reduces administrative burden for city departments.

3. Accelerated Infrastructure Rollout

- Utility coordination allows for faster permitting and installation.

- Supports city goals for transportation electrification and climate action.

4. Regulatory and Funding Alignment

- The program is approved by the Texas Public Utility Commission and aligns with EPE's Transportation Electrification Plan.[epelectric](#)

- Customers may also qualify for rebates under the PowerConnect TX Program, which can be layered with Take Charge participation.[EPE's TX Commercial EV Programs](#)

5. Scalable and Inclusive

- Open to various city facilities under general service rate schedules.

- Can be extended to parks, libraries, and municipal lots.

- Key Topics in Take Charge TX Pilot Program
Budget-Friendly Deployment

Avoids large upfront capital expenditures.

Enables multi-year budgeting through predictable monthly payments.

Simplified Project Management

EPE handles all technical and operational aspects.

Reduces administrative burden for city departments.

Accelerated Infrastructure Rollout

Utility coordination allows faster permitting and installation.

Supports transportation electrification and climate action goals.

Regulatory and Funding Alignment

Approved by Texas Public Utility Commission; aligns with EPE's Transportation Electrification Plan.

Customers can qualify for PowerConnect TX Program rebates alongside Take Charge participation.

Scalable and Inclusive

Open to various city facilities under general service rate schedules.

Extendable to parks, libraries, and municipal lots.

- Would like to see how El Paso plans to do utility accountability (rise in rates, data centers, etc.)

- There are many reports coming out about how data centers increase energy demands and how the costs typically fall on residential.

<https://westernresourceadvocates.org/data-center-impacts-in-the-west-report/>

I think it is very important for the climate action plan to address this now and for the city to take proactive measures versus reactive.

- Data Centers Energy Impact

Data centers significantly increase energy demands.

Residential sectors often bear the costs of increased energy use.

Climate Action Plan Recommendations

Climate action plan should address data center energy impacts proactively.

City should implement proactive measures to mitigate energy and cost issues.

- YES! a policy or statement from Council / county commissioners is a place to start!
- Residential battery storage program should be limited to solar customers only.
Leveraging battery installations to improve reliability on underperforming feeders could maximize grid support and customer benefit simultaneously.
- Meant that it should NOT be limited to solar customers only.
- Consider Utility-owned battery installations in residential homes. This would allow:

Control battery dispatch during peak demand or grid stress events.

Reduce reliance on peaker plants and fossil fuel generation.

Enhance outage response by providing backup power to customers

A program like this aligns with the City of El Paso's Climate Action Plan, which includes goals for battery storage and grid modernization. It supports:

Carbon reduction by shifting load away from peak fossil generation.

Community resilience through distributed energy resources.

Public-private collaboration on sustainability initiatives.

- Utility-Owned Battery Installations

Control battery dispatch during peak demand or grid stress events.

Reduce reliance on peaker plants and fossil fuel generation.

Provide backup power to customers during outages.

Alignment with Climate Action Plan

Support battery storage and grid modernization goals.

Enable carbon reduction by shifting load from peak fossil generation.

Enhance community resilience via distributed energy resources.

Sustainability and Collaboration

Promote public-private partnerships for sustainability initiatives.

- Did you forget to mention Dirt Y Girls who did/do an incredible job servicing their neighborhood and are an inspiration to model further mini-grant programs after, so that more neighborhoods could do this sort of thing locally, as a non for profit business. (tie it into the timebank and we got ourselves a full circle economy!)
- Recognition and Example

Highlighting Dirt Y Girls' significant contribution to their neighborhood.

Suggesting Dirt Y Girls as a model for future mini-grant programs.

Expansion and Integration

Advocating for neighborhood-focused non-profit initiatives inspired by Dirt Y Girls.

Linking mini-grant programs to timebank for a sustainable, circular economy.

- The fastest way to make an impact and expand recycling to housing in apartments , which currently don't have blue bins (most, that I know of) could be to require landlords to comply with recycling , but perhaps outreach could get this job done too, instead of a heavy hand. Declaring the climate emergency could help with sense of urgency on this. We can follow MANY cities precedent- though very late.
- Expanding Recycling in Apartment Housing

Require landlords to comply with recycling regulations.

Outreach programs as an alternative to enforcement for engaging landlords and tenants.

Addressing Climate Emergency

Declare a climate emergency to create a sense of urgency.

Follow precedents set by other cities regarding recycling policies.

- this one could also say a benefit is economic prosperity, especially if a specific minigrant program were tailored to material reuse-recycling entrepreneurial efforts,. I'd suggest partnering with the university and building more accessible recycling stations that can grind and create pellets from plastic, to be molded into real products right here locally. I think the Instructables for such machines is open source. Fab Lab may be a good partner too. Eco El Paso has drafts for this
- Economic Prosperity and Entrepreneurial Efforts

Tailored minigrant program for material reuse-recycling entrepreneurial initiatives.

Boost local economy by creating products from recycled materials.

Recycling Infrastructure and Technology

Build accessible recycling stations for grinding and molding plastic into products.

Explore open-source designs such as Instructables for recycling machines.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with the university for program development and expertise.
Collaborate with Fab Lab for machinery and product design innovation.
Leverage Eco El Paso's drafts for recycling initiatives.

- no solutions identified ?
- add "Increase recycling rate" as a metric ..This rate is published annually by TCEQ.
- One of the most urgent and actionable items for this Climate Action Plan is to decrease the maximum allowable distance between street trees. Currently, the maximum spacing is 30 feet. This is far too wide. A more appropriate standard—used in cities with robust and effective urban forestry programs—is 20 feet. Reducing the distance improves canopy coverage, increases shade, reduces heat exposure, and enhances pedestrian safety. Developers often argue for wider spacing, but their reasoning consistently prioritizes profit margins over community health and environmental sustainability. These arguments are not only ill-informed but actively undermine the goals of urban forestry and climate resilience.

Water Usage and Drought Tolerance

The claim that more street trees will harm water resources is misleading. Native and drought-tolerant species adapted to this region—such as palo verde and mesquite—require supplemental irrigation only for the first 18–24 months. Once established, their root systems sustain themselves under desert conditions. Instead of non-native, high-water species (such as oaks used in the downtown baseball stadium), the City should prioritize tree lists curated by experts like High Desert Native Plants. Many native options also provide seasonal color, which addresses aesthetic concerns, and can be paired with native shrubs and groundcover that support pollinators and soil health. If water use is truly a concern, then policy discussions should start with practices like flood irrigation and the massive consumption by data centers—both of which dwarf the water needs of native urban forestry.

Tree Health and Competition

Developers also claim that planting trees closer together creates unhealthy competition. This is simply wrong. Trees, particularly native desert species, are part of a cooperative ecological network. Through shared root systems and fungal associations, they actually exchange resources, creating healthier stands of vegetation and stronger resilience across the canopy. The “competition” narrative reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of ecological science.

Infrastructure Concerns

Another common argument is that street trees damage roads, sidewalks, or underground utilities. Again, this is an oversimplification. Not all trees grow in the same way, and careful species selection prevents these issues. There are numerous native trees whose root systems and growth patterns do not compromise

infrastructure. A scientifically informed, region-specific tree list already exists and should guide planting decisions.

Water Harvesting and Floodplain Management

Every street tree planting should be paired with water harvesting and irrigation systems, including sunken planting areas and curb cuts. These practices provide a two-way benefit: trees receive needed water, and stormwater is managed more effectively. Rather than sending runoff directly into drains and reservoirs, these systems allow infiltration, filter pollutants, and reduce localized flooding. With more frequent “50-year” and “100-year” storms becoming the norm, this is not optional—it is essential public safety infrastructure.

Rejecting Misinformation and Developer-Driven Policy

The arguments made by developers, often echoed by engineers and planners, are self-defeating. They undermine climate action goals and misinform the public in ways that delay progress. These narratives are designed to protect developer profits, not public health.

Equity and Public Health

This region experiences some of the most severe urban heat island effects in the country. We are one of the most underserved regions globally, and reducing ambient heat will literally save lives. Older adults and low-income households without access to reliable cooling systems are already dying from extreme heat. This is not theoretical—it is a present crisis. Beyond the moral imperative, there is also a practical one: lowering urban heat reduces strain on the energy grid and lowers utility costs. Cities like Phoenix and Tucson have invested heavily in street tree networks and are decades ahead. El Paso is falling behind at the expense of its residents. Not to mention, trees make a monumental impact on our air quality and mental health.

This Is A Call for Generational Change

I recognize the political challenges in drafting climate policy, especially when consultants must balance multiple stakeholders. But prioritizing developer preferences over community needs is shortsighted and harmful. This is an opportunity to set a new standard—one that creates generational benefits through cooler streets, healthier neighborhoods, improved stormwater management, and equitable public health outcomes. Supporting the status quo only strengthens the influence of local oligarchies while leaving residents vulnerable.

We need more street trees. We need them closer together. And we need to stop pretending that developer arguments represent good science or good policy. The developers, associated with the local oligarchy, are harming this community. They have been trying to increase the street tree distances for year. It's baffling that they almost got the distances to 45 feet. As you know, factual data and research is

paradoxically opposed to the arguments made by developers. Please, make a sound and equitable decision to decrease street tree distances.

- Street Tree Spacing

Reduce maximum allowable distance between street trees from 30 feet to 20 feet. Closer spacing improves canopy coverage, shade, and pedestrian safety while reducing heat exposure.

Wide spacing prioritizes profits over community health and environmental sustainability.

Water Usage and Drought Tolerance

Native drought-tolerant species like palo verde and mesquite require minimal long-term irrigation.

Replace non-native, high-water species with regionally adapted native trees and plants.

Native options improve aesthetics, support pollinators, and enhance soil health.

Tree Health and Competition

Native desert trees form cooperative ecological networks that enhance resilience and canopy health.

Developer claims about unhealthy competition among closely spaced trees are scientifically unfounded.

Infrastructure Concerns

Native trees with appropriate root systems avoid damaging roads, sidewalks, and utilities.

Utilize region-specific, scientifically informed tree lists to mitigate infrastructure issues.

Water Harvesting and Floodplain Management

Pair tree planting with water harvesting systems for stormwater management and improved irrigation.

Reduce localized flooding through curb cuts, infiltration systems, and pollutant filtration.

Equity and Public Health

Street trees help mitigate severe urban heat island effects and save lives in underserved regions.

Reduced heat lowers energy grid strain and utility costs, especially for vulnerable populations.

Trees improve air quality, mental health, and overall urban livability.

Rejecting Misinformation and Developer-Driven Policy

Developer arguments prioritize profits and misinform the public, delaying climate action progress.

Misinformation undermines urban forestry, climate resilience, and public health goals.

Generational Change

Set a new standard for cooler streets, healthier neighborhoods, and equitable public health outcomes.

Prioritize community needs over developer preferences to ensure long-term benefits.

- expand popularity and usage by doing events to promote and giving coupons of this great service. Perhaps consider too, coupons in exchange for other volunteer-work in the city, such as trash pickups/tree planting . (timebanking!)
- This one will incur a lot of pushback- especially if transit solutions are not addressed first. outreach will need to be priority 1 here. and WEATHER will also be a limiting factor to planning such car-free events, as extreme heat and wind will not do well to promote car free lifestyle.
- Transit Solutions

Concerns raised about the need for transit solutions to precede car-free events.

Pushback likely if transit infrastructure isn't addressed first.

Outreach Strategy

Outreach must be prioritized to address community concerns and gain buy-in for car-free events.

Weather Considerations

Extreme heat and wind could hinder adoptability and planning of car-free lifestyle events.

- For 15 years, I crossed the border daily for work. Too many times it took me as much as 5 hours to get home due to long lines at the bridges. The frustrating part was that when I got to the customs gates, I would find only two of twelve lanes open. There were hundreds of cars belching exhaust on the bridges. Surely, with all the additional manpower Trump is sending, they could have more gates open.
- Border Crossing Delays

Daily commutes often took up to 5 hours due to long lines.

Limited customs lanes open despite high demand (e.g., only 2 of 12 available).

Environmental Impact

Traffic congestion led to significant exhaust emissions from idling vehicles on bridges.

Resource Allocation

Frustration over unused manpower, with potential to open more customs gates.

- This program is great; however, we need to make sure the trees stay healthy and growing, they are not very efficient until 5-10 years after planting. Many projects implemented around town to increase tree canopy have failed because it did not get continual support over the years. The trees were planted and abandoned.
- Tree Health and Growth

Trees need time (5–10 years) to become efficient after planting.

Ensure trees stay healthy to sustain their long-term benefits.

Long-Term Support for Initiatives

Ongoing support is crucial for tree canopy projects to avoid failures.

Avoid abandoning planted trees to maintain project success.

- consider supporting the BranchesToRoots.ecoelpaso.org project :D
- This is understandable from the developer's perspective, however, at the Enchanted Hills Park #2 currently plants/trees were planted without irrigation systems in place and many large expensive trees have died. Accountability is a large process of this entire thing and holding developers accountable should be key.
- Development Challenges

Lack of irrigation systems in place for planted trees.

Many large, expensive trees have died due to inadequate water supply.

Accountability

Developers should be held accountable for project outcomes.

Accountability must be a key priority in the process.

- would this be a new code or an alternative code that provides incentives to builders?
- Kelly center for hunger comes to mind as an ideal HUB location. Id say start crowdsourcing ideas for this in a document! better to prep early!
- wetlands also have a Noticeable ambient cooling effect. Many people do not know about the existing wetlands in El Paso. Assisting Keystone and Rio bosques efforts directly or indirectly would greatly help climate action and health, and it may be worth emphasizing access to these green spaces during extreme heat events. - don't go hiking on Franklin mnt on 100 degree days, but do visit the wetlands!
- Environmental Benefits

Wetlands provide a noticeable ambient cooling effect.

Wetlands contribute to positive climate action and public health.

Awareness and Advocacy

Many people are unaware of existing wetlands in El Paso.

Supporting Keystone and Rio Bosques efforts aids conservation and community well-being.

Practical Suggestions

Promote wetlands as accessible green spaces during extreme heat events.

Avoid hiking on Franklin Mountain during 100-degree days; visit wetlands instead.

- are there existing?
- The numerous car washes that keep popping up around the city is a great location to not only incentivize the usage of recycled water but should be mandated given the large strain it puts on the local system.
- is base data available?
- stormwater
- Implementation is nice, however, what about current negative infrastructure, would that be a part of this overhaul?
- stormwater
- , design,
- ..and / or develop new manuals specific to Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- green stormwater infrastructure projects / installationbe sure to distinguish the difference or even separate the two
- I see preservation of open space stated here on page 142, but I have not seen it stated anywhere in the document where you implement this practice. It is critical to have a plan to keep arroyos and natural spaces open to address flooding, water recharge, air and water quality. Why mention it if it is not a part of the plan and is will not be implemented?
- Preservation of Open Space

Preservation mentioned on page 142 but lacks implementation details elsewhere in the document.

Need for a clear plan to maintain arroyos and natural spaces for environmental benefits.

Environmental and Practical Impact

Open spaces address flooding, water recharge, air, and water quality concerns.

Importance of aligning stated goals with actionable plans in the document.

- I see here that open lands are to be preserved. Is there a plan that is in play with the City OSAB to preserve the lands? Are they identified in order of priorities?
- Reduction from ??? base data ???
- Please consider adding a section on local energy credit initiatives such as presented at the recent summit by El Paso Water - there is probably more than a single incentive credit scenario out there
- Consider mentioning the various sources of funding such as Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), etc.
- While sources of funding have greatly dried up, our local innovation and creativity haven't and if we utilize a timebanking system to incentivize action in the areas that

need man-power, volunteering in eco-restoration, we can stretch local funding pools to the maximize with a money multiplier effect, and create local employment. Models to follow include denmark which has a program for ecotourists visiting to volunteer at a community garden or trash pickup event and get services from gov such as public transit or museum tickets or other "ACCESS" only services that do not cost additional money. This would greatly fill the gap many great orgs are experiencing as volunteer power dwindles due to the hard economic times. Moreover it can further evolve into network and resilience in and of itself that shall catapult El Paso much further to economic development. Read Resources on Eco El Paso Page on timebanking.

- Funding Challenges and Solutions

Funding sources are drying up, requiring creative utilization of local resources. Timebanking system proposed to incentivize manpower in eco-restoration efforts.

Community Engagement and Volunteer Incentives

Engage volunteers through timebanking to address eco-restoration and community projects.

Example: Denmark's eco-tourism model rewards volunteering with access-based services (e.g., transit, museums).

Economic and Employment Benefits

Timebanking could maximize funding via a money multiplier effect and create local employment.

Resilience networks offer potential to enhance economic development in El Paso.

Recommended Actions and Resources

Study Denmark's eco-tourism model for implementation ideas in El Paso.

Explore resources on the Eco El Paso webpage regarding timebanking strategies.

- 55 occupations are identified as impacted by the CAP mitigation actions. 14 occupations are identified as high priority for workforce planning.

None of the identified occupations relate to Food Systems, especially organic and low water use landscaping and organic food production, recycling and neighborhood distribution. Such occupations would be labor intensive and associated with a more holistic lifestyle than simply Industrial specialties. Please consider.

- Impacted Occupations

55 occupations affected by CAP mitigation actions.

14 high-priority occupations identified for workforce planning.

Omission of Food Systems Occupations

No identified occupations related to food systems, organic landscaping, or food production.

Highlighted labor-intensive roles tied to holistic lifestyles, differing from industrial specialties.

Suggestions for Consideration

Include organic food production, recycling, and neighborhood distribution in workforce planning.

- A plan of this magnitude must have community "buy-in" from all of the major stakeholders. In this case in particular, many of the key stakeholders appear to be absent from the process. I encourage the CAP participants and leadership to engage the following organizations for their input before pursuing any final document for presentation to city council for approval: El Paso Chamber of Commerce, El Paso Hispanic Chamber, Borderplex Alliance, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, El Paso Association of Builders, El Paso Apartment Association.
- Community Engagement

Ensure "buy-in" from all major stakeholders for successful plan implementation. Address absence of key stakeholders in the planning process.

Stakeholder Involvement

Engage El Paso Chamber of Commerce for input on the project.

Include El Paso Hispanic Chamber to represent diverse community interests.

Consult Borderplex Alliance to align project with regional economic goals.

Obtain feedback from Greater El Paso Association of Realtors for real estate considerations.

Collaborate with El Paso Association of Builders on construction-related aspects.

Include El Paso Apartment Association for housing market insights.

- The Plan is a good start but lacks specific performance metrics that should be an integral part of the plan - many of the actions are very general
- finally a word about our Prop C climate bond. It says that Prop C money will be directed through a framework that prioritizes projects benefiting disadvantaged communities. Do you have a breakdown of what communities voted for Prop C, since it only narrowly passed. You might want to consider that when awarding bond money to projects and see that everyone sees some benefit.
- Prop C Climate Bond Framework

Prioritization of projects benefiting disadvantaged communities emphasized in the framework.

Voting Analysis and Transparency

Request for a breakdown of communities voting for Prop C.

Noting that Prop C narrowly passed as a factor to consider.

Suggestion to ensure equitable distribution of benefits across all communities.

- Consider an annual report via a public forum - at a minimum an opportunity for continued engagement / public comment such as this online method for the Draft Plan but for the implementation of the Plan
- To refer to my previous comment; tree planting is great, but it is a 5–10-year plan otherwise they die and the effort and money is wasted. This has been demonstrated as an issue at Ascarate park before.