



To: Megan Campbell, City of Pleasanton

From: Andrea Martin and Maddie Seibert, Cascadia Consulting Group

Date: March 13, 2020

Re: Pleasanton Climate Action Plan Update – Baseline Assessment

Overview

This memorandum summarizes findings from a review of Pleasanton’s past and current climate-related activities and context. Understanding this background will help inform and guide an effective Climate Action Plan Update that reflects, leverages, and is consistent with Pleasanton’s current plans, programs, and goals.

The memorandum includes findings from a literature review of related City and regional plans, policies, and other available documentation. It includes only a brief review of the 2012 Climate Action Plan and does not include a review of the 2012 CAP’s City progress report, as that will be conducted as part of Task 3 of the consultant scope of work.

Findings in this memorandum are organized (and color-coded) by the following focus areas:

Focus Area	What’s Included
Cross-cutting (general)	Cross-sectoral opportunities to build resilience to climate change impacts and reduce emissions.
Transportation & land use	Strategies to reduce transportation emissions and enhance community mobility.
Buildings & energy	Options to increase renewable energy use and energy efficiency.
Materials management & waste	Pathways toward sustainable consumption, zero waste, and increased recycling.
Natural systems	Strategies to enhance resilience and carbon sequestration of natural systems, green spaces, and water resources.

This document presents summary tables that describe:

- **Relevant Plans, Programs, and Policies** that inform current or future direction of climate activities in the City.
- **City Progress to Date**, including climate achievements that City has already made and notable climate activities within the City.
- **Identified Challenges and Gaps** that could hinder progress towards climate goals.
- **Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities**—as identified only through review of the documents—to consider when developing strategies and actions for the Climate Action Plan Update.

Literature Review

Background research included review of available information and documentation related to City activities.

Cross-cutting (general)

[Tri-Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(2018\)](#)

[StopWaste's Climate Change Adaptation Measures: Building and maintaining soil health to assist in climate change mitigation \(2018\)](#)

[Emergency Operations Plan \(2018\)](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Air Quality and Climate Change Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Economic and Fiscal Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Housing Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Community Character Element \(2005\)](#)

Transportation and Land Use

[Downtown Pleasanton Parking Strategy & Implementation Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Downtown Specific Plan \(2019\)](#)

[Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan \(2010\)](#)

[Trails Master Plan \(2019\)](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Land Use Element](#)

Buildings and Energy

[City greenhouse gas inventories for 2012 and 2017](#)

[Pleasanton General Plan – Energy Element \(2005\)](#)

Materials Management and Waste

[The Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Plan \(amended 2017\)](#)

[SB 1383 Draft Text](#)

Natural Systems

[Zone 7 Water Agency Stream Management Master Plan \(2005\)](#)

[StopWaste's Climate Change Adaptation Measures: Building and maintaining soil health to assist in climate change mitigation \(2018\)](#)

[Urban Water Management Plan - Pleasanton Municipal Code \(amended in 2016\)](#)

[City of Pleasanton Recycled Water Use Guidelines \(2015\)](#)

[Pleasanton's General Plan Water Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton's General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton's General Plan Land Use Element \(2005\)](#)

[Pleasanton 2018 Annual Water Quality Report](#) and [Pleasanton's Water Quality webpage](#)

Cross-Cutting (General)

Relevant Plans, Programs, and Policies

- The **Climate Action Plan (2012)** is a framework for addressing climate change and recommends strategies to mitigate carbon emissions within city operations and the community. The goal was to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- **Tri-Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)**, created in collaboration with the cities of Livermore and Dublin, aims to reduce or alleviate the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster in the Tri-Valley area. It notes that management of natural resources is needed to address hazards and mitigation.
- **StopWaste’s Climate Change Adaptation Measures: Building and maintaining soil health to assist in climate change mitigation (2018)** lists measures to build soil health to both sequester carbon and improve resilience of green spaces. Planning for stormwater management, sea level rise, higher temperatures, precipitation changes, and landslides can protect natural systems and increase their resilience.
- **City of Pleasanton Emergency Operations Plan (2018)** lists response protocols in the case of a natural disaster.
- **City greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories** for 2012 and 2017 quantify GHG emissions from transportation, energy, solid waste, and water/wastewater sectors.
- **Pleasanton General Plan – Air Quality and Climate Change Element (2005)**: “provides a guide to reduce air pollution, to meet federal and State air quality standards, and to address Pleasanton’s efforts to become a more sustainable community.” The Element assesses air pollutants and their sources and odors, lists policies relevant to climate change, and notes the relationship between sustainable development and air quality planning. It acknowledges overlaps with the Land Use Element, Circulation Element, Conservation and Open Space Element, Energy Element, etc.
- **Pleasanton General Plan – Economic and Fiscal Element (2005)** aims to maintain the City’s strong and stable economic position. It acknowledges relationships to the Land Use Element and other planning elements.
- **Pleasanton General Plan – Housing Element (2005)** contains an assessment of housing needs and identification of sites for future housing development. It acknowledges connections to the Air Quality and Climate Change Element, Water Element, Community Character Element, and Energy Element.
- **Pleasanton General Plan – Community Character Element (2005)** addresses streetscapes, architecture, natural landscapes, and special interest areas integral to Pleasanton’s character. It acknowledges relationships with the Land Use Element, Circulation Element, Conservation and Open Space Element, and Air Quality and Climate Change Element. It encourages preservation of natural spaces, sustainable landscaping, higher density, and trails, bike lanes, and other pathways to connect neighborhoods and provide an alternative to car travel.

City Progress to Date

- The City uses periodic GHG inventories to track emissions over time.
- The City has identified major regional environmental hazards and climate change hazard mitigation strategies.

Identified Challenges and Gaps

- CAP:
 - Limited ability to mobilize hard-to-reach populations, such as communities of color and non-English speaking communities.
 - A long list of actions with limited prioritization.
- Tri-Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:
 - Some uncertainty in data and modeling behind local hazard mitigation assessment.
 - Some uncertainty in projected climate change impacts.
- GHG inventories:
 - Mixed data sources and frameworks used make inventories difficult to interpret (this is being addressed through the current CAP Update process).

Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

- Include focused measures and build a strong implementation plan for the next CAP.
- Rely on local partnerships and a varied engagement strategy to reach previously uninvolved communities.
- The City’s General Plan already acknowledges the intersections and overlaps among different Elements, which enables the City to advertise cross-cutting benefits of climate actions.

Transportation and Land Use

Relevant Plans, Program, and Policies

- **Climate Action Plan (2012)** contains measures related to transportation, with goals to reduce VMTs, promote active transportation, and manage parking demand.
- The **Downtown Pleasanton Parking Strategy & Implementation Plan (2017)** aimed to describe the existing travel and parking behaviors within the downtown core and identify solutions to align parking supply and demand. It forecasts demand and proposes implementation strategies.
- **The Downtown Specific Plan (2019)**'s goal is to improve upon the commercial and residential vitality of the downtown while preserving the traditions of its small-town character and scale.
- The goals of the **Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (2010)** were to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and encourage active forms of transportation by creating networks of lanes and pathways, establishing design guidelines, and educating residents.
- The **Trails Master Plan (2019)** is an update to the Community Trails Master Plan in 1993 to identify and improve the City's trail system, establish standards for existing and proposed trails, rank priority projects, identify funding for those projects, identify opportunities to complete the regional trail system, and inform future trail development.
- The **Pleasanton General Plan – Land Use Element (2005)** provides a description of planned residential, commercial, and industrial lands and provides guidance for the use of public and open-space lands. It addresses growth management, the relationship between jobs and housing, smart growth strategies, mixed use development, and transit-oriented development. Document goals include:
 - Create a land use pattern that promotes resource sustainability and environmental quality.
 - Achieve and maintain a complete well-rounded community of desirable neighborhoods, a strong employment base, and a variety of community facilities.
 - Develop in an efficient, logical, and orderly fashion.
 - Encourage the participation of residents, businesses, and neighboring jurisdictions in planning for community development.

City Progress to Date

- City Council adopted a **Complete Streets** policy in December 2012.
- **School traffic calming** measures are in place. The Pleasanton Police monitor the school crossing guard program, as well speeds and traffic safety; the Traffic Engineering Department reviews the need for signing and striping; and the School District can recommend site redesign to promote safety.
- Acquisition of the **Alameda County Transportation Corridor**. The Downtown Pleasanton Parking Strategy and Implementation Plan notes that this enables the City to design the corridor for increased parking and biking and pedestrian travel.
- **Transportation emissions** appear to have decreased between the 2012 and 2017 GHG inventories by approximately 4 percent.

Identified Challenges and Gaps

- Many of the people traveling through Pleasanton are commuters to SF/Oakland/South Bay/Peninsula.
- There is limited funding for initiatives at schools, and projects at schools are out of the City's purview.
- The Downtown Specific Plan restricts the installation of parking meters in the Downtown area.

Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

- None identified.

Buildings and Energy

Relevant Plans, Program, and Policies

- **Pleasanton General Plan – Energy Element (2005)** aims to guide the City towards a sustainable energy future. The plan lists several strategies to reduce community energy use and promote renewable forms of energy. **Goals of the document include:**
 - Move toward a sustainable energy future that increases renewable energy use, energy conservation, energy efficiency, energy self-sufficiency, and limits energy-related financial burdens in Pleasanton.
 - Save transportation energy by implementing a more effective transportation system.
- City **greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories** for 2012 and 2017 quantify GHG emissions from transportation, energy, solid waste, and water/wastewater sectors. These also address forecasts and monitoring.

City Progress to Date

- In 2019, Pleasanton joined **East Bay Community Energy**, which enables procurement of electricity from clean, renewable energy sources.
- The City’s website offers several regional energy efficiency programs and incentives that businesses and residents can use.
- Pleasanton has an **ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager program** account to record and track consumption data of municipal buildings.
- Energy emissions appear to have decreased between the 2012 and 2017 GHG inventories, by approximately 9 percent.

Identified Challenges and Gaps

- The greenhouse gas inventories use different frameworks and estimates for population and jobs.

Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

- Leverage EBCE membership.

Materials Management and Waste

Relevant Plans, Program, and Policies

- The **Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Plan (amended 2017)** identifies solid waste facilities and watersheds within Alameda County. It describes the countywide plan for reaching the state-mandated 50% recycling goal and the county-mandated 75% recycling goal.
- Upcoming regulation **SB 1383** requires organics recycling, procurement of organics recycling products, edible food rescue, and public outreach and education.

City Progress to Date

- The City enforces Alameda County Waste Management Authority’s **Mandatory Recycling Ordinance**.

Identified Challenges and Gaps

- Waste is not identified in Pleasanton’s General Plan as an Element alongside energy, water, etc.

Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

- SB 1383 is a significant opportunity to boost organics recycling and edible food donation.
- There is opportunity for a consumption-based inventory and greater focus on single-use materials.

Natural Systems

Relevant Plans, Program, and Policies

- **Zone 7 Water Agency Stream Management Master Plan** aims to create a flood protection program by protecting and enhancing natural riparian landscapes.
- **StopWaste’s Climate Change Adaptation Measures: Building and maintaining soil health to assist in climate change mitigation (2018)** lists measures to build soil health to both sequester carbon and improve resilience of green spaces. Planning for stormwater management, sea level rise, higher temperatures, precipitation changes, and landslides can protect natural systems and increase their resilience.
- The **Pleasanton General Plan – Land Use Element (2005)** provides a description of planned residential, commercial, and industrial lands and provides guidance for the use of public and open-space lands.
- The **Pleasanton General Plan – Water Element (2005)** presents information related to conservation and management of water resources, riparian corridors, and watershed lands. It also addresses water and wastewater capacity and stormwater facilities. Goals include “restoring and retaining the health of water courses and riparian corridors, conserving water supplies, storing surface waters, recharging the groundwater basin, and retaining water quality at healthy levels.”
- The **Pleasanton General Plan – Conservation and Open Space Element (2005)** provides guidance to conserve and manage natural resource and open space areas for preservation, production of resources, and recreation. It covers conservation and management of animal and plant life; soil, sand, and gravel resources; cultural resources; water habitats; agriculture; public health and safety; and wildlands.
- **Urban Water Management Plan - Pleasanton Municipal Code (amended in 2016)**: This document presents a guide for planning for a safe and adequate water supply with the recognition that the City was committed to conserve water and carefully manage existing resources.
- **Pleasanton Recycled Water Use Guidelines**: this document works in conjunction with the City’s Recycled Water Standard Specification to outline design, installation, operation, and maintenance regulations and guidelines for on-site recycled water facilities.
- **2018 Pleasanton Water Quality Report and the Pleasanton Water Quality web page** present water quality information to comply with state health regulations. The Water Quality Report is also known as a consumer confidence report (CCR). The web page contains some information about PFAs that will be included in the 2019 CCR.

City Progress to Date

- The **Arroyo del Valle** and its protected open space riparian buffer are the last remaining protected open space in Pleasanton and border the downtown area.
- The **Recycled Water Use Guidelines** are a forward-thinking and comprehensive reference that can be used immediately by on-site recycled water facilities. In 2016, Pleasanton began installation of a recycled water pipe system for irrigation; it’s projected to save 450 million gallons of potable water.

Identified Challenges and Gaps

- Work regionally with the Tri-Valley cities to integrate **landscape management**.
- The Pleasanton **Water Quality** web page notes that in 2019, **PFAs** were found in all three wells serving Pleasanton, and Well 8 in particular has tested above the notification level of PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid. This is an ongoing management and communication challenge.

Potential Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

- Promote open space preservation and land management strategies as a way to preserve scenic hillside and ridge views and Pleasanton’s small-town character.