

# 2017 Leading the Way to Carbon Zero Forum

## Smart Development Focus Group

Land use city/county development  
Guide to Living Community Challenge

## Sacramento Challenges/Opportunities

### Land Use

Infill—Private sector driven; speculative (value changes)  
Sprawl control priority—Folsom/Roseville; ballot initiatives; VMT bill (State level); Up  
50 acres infill  
Urban housing—demand increase; Del Paso Blvd Project

### Next Steps

Taxation

Freeways

- Inefficient
- Built over and polluting river
- Pedestrian blvd development
- Straighten freeways
- Current Caltrans study
- Public transportation
- Job creation
- Construction labor shortage
- More homes necessary—affordable housing, supportive groups

### 60-year Projection

- 21st century techniques can quicken projection
- YIMBY conferences
- Loss of home ownership for smaller units
- Reduces commute
- Private contracts
- Transit is not appropriate in less dense areas
- Focus has been mobility
- Incentives for building in Sacramento
- Streamline the permit process for development in the city
- Maintaining mobility is a reason for 60 year projects
- Insufficient redevelopment planning
- Lack of community engagement
- Lack of centralized communities

### Regional Planning

- SACOG
- RT
- Air Quality
- 2001 \$500,000
- Created Blueprint

- Became \$7 or \$8 million
- Non-compliance issues

### **Collaboration Next Steps**

Community Outreach—grassroots efforts

- Portland Model PICA
- Integrating community art
- Transportation
- Commerce
- Environment
  - Document in Archives
- Homeless
- Lack of collaboration limiting success
  - 365 ineffective in comparison
- 350 Sacramento—relies on community engagement; needs effective integration
- Chico Sustainability Task Force through University
- Mixed Use Developments
- <sup>a</sup> Action Plans
  - Not enforceable
  - Ordinances necessary
- Long-term residents at risk when redevelopment occurs
- Host Feedback Forums focusing on solutions
  - Focus on “win scenarios”
- Steinberg is an ally integrating redevelopment into City Council
- Create Communication Forums
- ECOS participation
- Contact information; emails?
- Portland’s Mayor was crucial in plan success
- City Council presence
- Neighborhood groups
- Board of Supervisors
- Intersectional Housing—young; low income
- Follow-up meeting (sign up on sheet)
- Oak Park Land Trust—in progress
- June 20th City Council Housing Initiative
- Mission Statement development

### **Next Steps**

1. Dialogue
2. Presence

No current City commitment to carbon zero

## **Let the Earth Help: Soil, Trees, & Habitat Restoration Focus Group**

**Sequestration:** carbon storage/capture carbon from atmosphere

**Carbon sinks:** soil, trees, healthy habitat/wildlife corridors, streams, carbon capture gardens/ food forests, compost!

Reduce the number of tree removals in Sac

- Not only the number of trees that is important, also the canopy (high canopy is better)
- City Master Plan coming soon
  - Targets for trees in Sac
  - City's Climate Action Plan: actual measurable targets—starting in July; process with be 18 months

Rooftop gardening? More of them

Beekeeping—Jeff Harris, city councilmember, is a beekeeper  
Look at Chicago rooftop gardening program

No-till farming—Robin has list of Northern CA no-till farmers

- Cover crops, mulch = alternatives
- Educate public on healthy soil techniques
- Influencing individuals outside our own circles
- Electric mowers
- Goats for weed control/fire control

Ask City to consider environmental impacts of budget decisions

- Be present every week at council meetings for budget decisions
- Workshop with council to influence climate smart decisions in Master Plan & Budget

Large Targets

- Marin Carbon Project

Habitat 2020—working on stream/habitat restoration

### **Actions:**

- Farmland mapping inventory—map degraded farmland and carbon levels in soil
  - SACOG working on this
  - Dept of Conservation
  - Degraded farmland
- Meet with County Supervisors—they have authority over farmland
- Continue conversation in person or online
- Changes to General Plan codes/policies
- Delta/Stone Lake biological preserves
- Contact Los Rios & Local Conservation Corp to discuss compost program
  - Natomas School district has a food waste program

### **Next Steps**

- Meet with Mayor Steinberg and Chief of Staff Mike McKeever
  - Plan a workshop on carbon zero cities
  - Workshop with whole council—have staff come up with actions
- City & County Climate Action Plans
  - County in process now
  - City—next year; part of General Plan
  - Key players in every Council District
- Source separated compost at city level

- Propose city starts compost program
- Tree Master Plan—be involved in the process

## **Transportation Focus Group**

### **350 Sacramento Transit 101 presentation by Glenda Marsh**

May 2016 Measure B-community not part of decision-making

Transit 101: learning about Sac Transit issues, community collaboration, opportunities to work together

Goal: increase community input on transportation money and how they're used.

Re-initiating monthly transportation meeting: next June 7, 6pm, 350 Sac office 909 12<sup>th</sup> St.

Gearing up for new transport initiation; possible ballot measure

### **Transit Riders Union presentation by Russell Rawlings**

TRU needs members like you!

More and better access to service-improve current system

\*resources need to be used better, more equitably

\*Mtgs every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Organize Sacramento 1714 Broadway (near light rail station).

Car-free lifestyle: promote

\*What do our communities need? Become an advocate

Rider survey: on buses, trains asking eg "Why are you using RT?"

### **Sacramento Transportation Choices presentation by Dan Allison**

Organized around Measure B (2015-16)

Main question: how do we get people out of their cars? walk, bike, public transit

Prioritize transportation money for non-car options

Agencies need to learn what public engagement means

Big tent, everyone except fossil and green field developers

Draft of transportation policy

May 20 mtg??

Next mtg June? working on developing policy draft and a great ballot measure for a progressive transportation system

### **Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates/Walk Sacramento presentation by Jim Brown**

Improves access, health, environment

Funding: eg compare Sac expenditures to other cities

Senate Bill 1: moneys into Sac will only fill holes in car-free options; down 23% to meet state goals

50% of trips less than 3 miles

Studying what happened to Measure B? What will increase success of future funding?

Initiative that favors transit, walk, bike?

Lack of community outreach and collaboration among progressive groups.

How does everyone benefit from clean air, trans options, less congestion.

1. What are the broad community benefits that we support?

2. How are we going to be humble and generous? (are we willing to learn from and support each other)
3. What is our bottom line as relates to process?
4. We need to be fact experts.

### **Comments by participants**

Tamika Butler: trans related to justice; [tamikbutler.com](http://tamikbutler.com) referring to keynote address.

1. Problems with Measure B: shopping list, not vision, no evaluation process
2. Electeds lesson: too much money for transit, power of no-tax coalition
3. Autonomous vehicles the answer?
4. Lesson from LA: 1<sup>st</sup> measure defeat-just shopping list; 2<sup>nd</sup> won had clear vision.
5. Examples from Europe: Warsaw free mass transit passes for seniors-safer, convenient
6. Not healthy for anyone driving-air, exercise, share our wealth  
Current vision of RT has vision
7. Current engagement with RT; good motion in positive direction!
8. Prop. 1A money for streetcar? relocate streetcar to H St. \* June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
9. Money for streetcar? what about other priorities? Get involved!
10. Getting more people using alternatives? King's games/ passes for Amtrak arrivals

## **Carbon-free Focus Group**

### **What local issues are of concern re carbon-free**

#### **1. Methane release by natural gas (NG) unregulated (leaks and combustion)**

Actions:

- Aggressively limit release and tax the release and funnel money into renewables to decrease NG dependency.
- Re-think the role of gas in terms of reliability
- Increase regulation
- Emission fee/tax; utility tax on methane by City
- SMUD should lead push to electrify

#### **2. Buildings use of NG**

Action:

- Begin phasing out NG. SMUD incentivizes electrification.
- Uses storage in water and on-site thermal storage
- Increase demand response for when power generation is high and storage—Matching demand and load to availability as a strategy
- SMUD could set an incentive rate to encourage consumption vs the penalty rate to discourage consumption during peak
- SMUD incentivizing batteries, not just solar is where need is.
- SMUD needs to accelerate electric transportation by aggressively promoting. Set aggressive goals for penetration.

Carbon-free energy—what do we want to see?

- Increase use of anaerobic digesters to replace NG (get more involved with Franklin Blvd Project)

- Phase out natural gas—replace with anaerobic digesters.

- Transition buildings that use natural gas and have them use alternatives (policy).

Policy/regulations to promote use of alternatives rather than NG

- Identify a timeline for replacing natural gas.

- Transit to go to NG or electrification entirely. Have transit buses use renewable natural gas or use electric buses.

- Make buildings much more efficient—improve permitting requirements, enforcement, and help people afford upgrades to efficiency.

- Set energy efficiency standards for rental housing by city & county ordinance (Sacramento Housing Alliance)

## **Health Focus Group**

### **Adaptation Strategies for Health**

- Plant growth—allergens

- Worse smog—ozone

- Temperature increase—night

- Ozone goes to NE—Grass Valley

- Heat Wave—deaths, illness

- Increased infections disease

Solutions—avoid exercise when hot, smoggy

Mitigations

- Active transportation—walk, bike

- Design built environment to help—Susan Handy

  - Infill development

  - Mental health—near green space

- Traffic—collisions (problem)

- Helps with cardiovascular illness, increase fitness

- Lower VMT

- Protected bike lanes

- Mixed-use development—compact

- Lower obesity, diabetes, etc

- More traffic collisions, but lower health problems

- Air pollution exposure—health improvement outweighs

- Near-roadway exposure—caveat!

- Community Gardens—healthy food and community cohesiveness

1. Alleys—pedestrians and bikes

2. Smart Densification—gardens at schools open to communities; cooling centers

3. Leaf blowers—reduce

4. Public transit (decrease VMT)

  - Social isolation

- Disabled members of society
  - Family pressure
  - Central healthcare center
  - Sacramento “world class city”—Design competition for
5. Regulate—forbid sprawl in city? and county?
  6. Plant non-allergenic trees
  7. Remind nonprofits to tie in climate change
  8. Community centers—social cohesion
  9. Rooftop gardens
  10. Health in all policies (working group and in all actions)
  11. Safe biking and walking—planting, homeless decrease
  12. Community gardens turn industrial space to garden; nucleated

## **COMMENT SHEETS:**

### **What should we do for soil and trees to help with CO2?**

Mandatory composting for markets

More rooftop gardens

Smarter agriculture. Cover crops between trees in orchards reduce soil erosion and enhance groundwater uptake

Dry composting toilets

Encourage fewer lawns, more gardens

Get tech/office workers involved in gardening...it's fun, easy, relaxing, and you don't have to be athletic/talented

Goats to clear brush by the levee

All public land used for habitat or edible landscapes—no lawns, no pesticides

Preserve region's surrounding farmland from sprawling development through:

1. Farmland mitigation policy
2. Urban growth boundaries
3. Smarter land use policy
4. Agricultural easements

### **Health ideas**

Treat if universally and free (through taxes) and fix people, don't just treat symptoms. It's way cheaper.

Make the connection between public health and health care access AND climate to our elected officials. Many elected officials who care about public health don't currently care half as much about climate change!

More bikes!

And facilities for those who can't bicycle—amenities for pedestrians like shaded sidewalks separated from street by park strips, safety measures

Good quality of life = good health (livable communities)

Tax sugar after removing sugar subsidies

Better inform on the costs and savings to society from climate-based health solutions

Reward health mas: salud

Go vegan



## **What should we do to get carbon-free energy?**

Tell Sac to divest from fossil fuel companies

Carbon tax

Stop supplementing fossil fuels with tax money (trillions)

Community choice energy

How do indoor solar panels under artificial florescent lights work into the building's net energy use and efficiency? E.g., West Sac community center bathrooms.

Create an organic waste collection system that deposits to anaerobic digesters with grid interconnect.

Replace complex taxes with carbon tax

Carbon fee dividend (conservatives as well as environmentalists agree)

At least one of the local gyms captures energy from treadmills, etc. Is that feasible to expand? I can't remember what the cost was to install.

Promote carbon free banking; Beneficial State Bank

## **What should we do for smart development?**

Relocate governmental jobs (usually coastal, inc. DC area) to midwestern urban hubs with struggling economies that can be revitalized and repopulated with existent (underfunded) infrastructure.

Work together among different sectors and include EJ communities.

Invest in affordable and human-sized houses—neighborhoods that provide for real needs.

Look for ways/places to redevelop low density/underutilized neighborhoods throughout Sac, not just downtown. Most of Sac is classic single story strip centers with too much parking—e.g., Franklin Blvd & almost every major boulevard throughout city.

Make the Living Community Challenge a city ordinance. This would the require developers to transform their ways.

Grow food within walking distance of housing

Need to have requirements on rental properties for electric vehicle plugins, solar energy, green heating, AC, green appliances, because there is currently no incentive for landlords to do this and huge portion of people live in rental housing.

Delete fossil fuel subsidies.

Zero = discount rate

Educate public with credential program about how “smart development” works.  
Credential would entitle one to discount on certain products such as solar.

Implement known climate change strategies. Mandate green roofs and rainwater retention for ?? on lot. Passive solar design—mandatory.

Limit urbanization

Efficiency = clean air & water, healthy food, comfy shelter and plenty of sleep and exercise / energy & resources.

Look closer and apply examples from Oakland.