



Diamond Bar Climate Action Plan Fact Sheet

The City of Diamond Bar is preparing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) as part of its General Plan Update. The CAP will represent City's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and complying with State GHG reduction standards. Numerous co-benefits are associated with CAPs, including water and natural resource conservation, air quality and community health improvement, and the reduction of utility bills and maintenance costs. Additionally, as a Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy, the CAP will also enable streamlined environmental review of future development projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

What is a Climate Action Plan?

A CAP is a roadmap that outlines policies, programs and implementation strategies designed to reduce a city's GHG emissions. CAPs are made up of three broad components: an inventory of current emissions, GHG targets and forecasts, and corresponding GHG mitigation measures.

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The GHG emissions inventory is the starting point of the CAP planning process. The inventory will identify the major sources and overall magnitude of GHG emissions in Diamond Bar by sector based on information collected from utility providers, regional agencies, and transportation data from the General Plan Update process. The inventory will be developed consistent with the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2013).

State Reduction Targets

The CAP will identify relevant GHG targets for the community in order to determine whether additional measures will be required in order for the City to comply with State GHG reduction laws. The CAP's targets will be based on statewide GHG reduction targets of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Emissions Forecasting

Emissions will be forecast for the General Plan Update's horizon year of 2040 for a range of scenarios to illustrate the effects of various measures and policies on the city's GHG emissions. These scenarios will include "business as usual," which will assume the draft General Plan Update's land uses and circulation system with no changes to existing City policies; a forecast of reductions from State actions such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard, building efficiency improvements, and waste diversion; a forecast of reductions from proposed policies in the draft General Plan Update; and a forecast that combines the effects of the draft General Plan Update's land uses and circulation system, State actions, and the draft General Plan Update's policies.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures

If the forecasts show that the City would not meet State targets through the combination of the draft General Plan Update and State actions, the CAP will establish additional GHG reduction measures to be implemented by the City in order to meet or surpass the targets. Measures may address topics such as energy efficiency and conservation, alternative energy sources, waste reduction and diversion, and education. Each measure included in the CAP will be evaluated for its estimated reduction impact and its corresponding contribution to the city's attainment of the State reduction target.

How could climate change affect Diamond Bar?

Several of the effects of climate change seen statewide, including drought and impacts to water supply, heat waves, fire risk, and extreme weather events, are likely to have local ecological and social impacts in Diamond Bar, as changing weather patterns can contribute to a loss of biodiversity in the area while also posing public health concerns such as increasing vulnerability for the city's younger, senior, and ill community members; threatening sustainable access to food and water; heightening risk of injury or damage from disasters such as floods and fires; and increasing energy usage in a manner that contributes to poor air quality in the region.

Why does Diamond Bar need a Climate Action Plan?

In response to research showing that the State of California is increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change, the State has taken an aggressive stance on the reduction of GHG emissions in order to mitigate the impacts. Local governments such as Diamond Bar are uniquely positioned to implement effective GHG reduction strategies through planning and permitting processes, local ordinances, municipal operations, and public engagement. By quantifying the city's current and potential future emissions and establishing concrete actions to reduce future emissions, the CAP will be an integral tool in ensuring that the City of Diamond Bar is doing its part to meet State targets and ensure quality of life for the Diamond Bar community over the long term.