

City of Ashland
Climate and Energy Action Plan
Progress Report
2018



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Purpose

In March, 2017 Ashland City Council unanimously adopted a Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). This purpose of this progress report is to provide an update on implementation of that plan. It is divided into the following sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Background
3. CEAP Actions Taken: Initial Implementation (2017)
4. CEAP Current Actions: Phase I Implementation (2018-2019)
5. CEAP Future: Timeline and Milestones

Executive Summary

The community of Ashland has made significant progress in committing to positive climate action by developing a comprehensive climate and energy action plan. The community is in the initial stages of implementing the plan, and significant City Staff energy is being put toward developing the communication and tracking systems that will be critical for successful rollout of actions identified in the plan. The ad-hoc CEAP Implementation Committee has convened and is working with Staff to complete its charge. Key implementation tools, including CEAP website, performance indicators, and community engagement resources are under development.

Seventeen CEAP actions have begun some aspect of implementation. Three CEAP actions have been implemented (note that many CEAP actions may require ongoing follow-up):

- BE-4-1. Expand the current net meter resolution to include and incorporate virtual net metering.
- ULT-3-3. Provide information about electric and hybrid vehicles and rebates on the City's website.
- CC-1-3. Assess the feasibility of a City-sponsored carbon offset program.

Background

Vision

Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. Read more about City of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan at www.ashland.or.us/climateplan.

Goals and Targets

The CEAP lays out a foundation for the City of Ashland to reduce its emissions and improve its resilience to future impacts of climate change on its environment, infrastructure, and people. The plan's overarching goals and targets focus on addressing climate change risks by reducing Ashland's emissions of climate pollution ("climate mitigation") and preparing the city for unavoidable impacts ("climate adaptation"):

CEAP Overarching Goal 1 - Reduce Ashland's contribution to global carbon pollution by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with City, residential, commercial, and industrial activities.

- For the Ashland community: Reduce overall Ashland community greenhouse gas emissions by 8% on average every year to 2050.

- For City of Ashland operations: Attain carbon neutrality in City operations by 2030, and reduce fossil fuel consumption by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

CEAP Overarching Goal 2 - Prepare the city's communities, systems, and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts.

Focus Areas

The CEAP is primarily organized by focus areas. Each focus areas contains associated goals, strategies, progress indicators, and identified actions. The CEAP identifies six focus areas for climate action:

- Buildings and Energy
- Urban Form, Land Use, and Transportation
- Consumption and Materials
- Natural Systems
- Public Health, Safety, and Wellbeing
- Cross-Cutting Priority Actions

The CEAP identifies more than 60 priority actions. Each of these actions offer a meaningful path to emissions reduction and have been evaluated based on relative cost, efficacy, and co-benefits. Actions that result in direct emissions reduction merit added focus.

Implementation Timing

Each individual action is assigned to an implementation phase, either:

- Phase I: complete by 2020
- Phase II: complete by 2025

Phase I Actions are slated for near-term commencement and were determined to have met one or more of the following criteria:

- Easy, early wins
- Foundational steps
- Complex, but important initiatives
- Windows of opportunity

Phase II actions include all actions identified in CEAP, that do not meet Phase I criteria above. Phase II actions may be initiated in Phase I, but not at the expense of completing Phase I actions. Priority actions not meeting these criteria are assigned to Phase II.

CEAP Actions Taken: Initial Implementation (2017)

The CEAP document includes a “Year 1 Implementation Summary” to guide City staff during the initial implementation. The majority of these activities have been completed and are detailed in the table below. Staff expect the remainder of the year 1 implementation activities will be completed in March or April 2018, close to the first anniversary of the plan’s adoption.

Table 1. Ashland CEAP Year 1 Implementation Summary

Item	Year 1 Implementation Milestones	Status
1	Formalize City’s commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City Council adopted the CEAP document - City Council adopted the CEAP ordinance 	In place – March 2017 In place – September 2017
2	Create and hire a full-time, permanent City CEAP staff position	In place – November 2017
3	Form and convene CEAP Implementation committee	In place – January 2018
4	Create an internal City Climate Team	In progress
5	Designate potential funding sources	Planning
6	Establish CEAP progress indicators	In progress
7	Begin priority near term CEAP actions	In place – Ongoing (see Table 2.)

Table 2. Climate Actions Undertaken in 2017

Item	CEAP Action	Summary	Status
1	BE-4-1. Expand the current net meter resolution to include and incorporate virtual net metering.	Amended Net Metering Resolution to enable Virtual Net Metering	In place – Dec 2017
2	ULT-3-3. Provide information about electric and hybrid vehicles and rebates on the City’s website.	Created informational resource ashland.chooseev.com	In place – Dec 2017
3	CC-1-3. Assess the feasibility of a City-sponsored carbon offset program.	An Ashland-tailored carbon offset program will soon be available through Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Additional City sponsored programs will be evaluated as they become available.	In place – Nov 2017
4	BE-1-2. Promote switching to lower-carbon fuels.	Improve and expand Ashland’s EV charging infrastructure. (Sub-action BE-1-2-2.)	Ongoing
5	BE-1-3. Facilitate and encourage solar energy production.	Adjusted Resolution to optimize annual solar production accounting window. Feasibility studies for new Utility and Municipal solar installations scheduled for 2018.	In place – Dec 2017 In progress

6	BE-1-4. Enhance production of on-site solar energy from City facilities.	Feasibility studies for new Utility and Municipal solar installations scheduled for 2018.	In progress
7	BE-2-1. Increase outreach efforts to expand participation in energy efficiency programs and promote climate-friendly building and construction.	Staff are researching methods and programs in facilitate program uptake and reach new potential participants.	Ongoing
8	CC-4-1. Engage with other governments and organizations around regional, statewide, national, and international climate policy and action.	CEAP Staff engage with community, regional, state, and national groups on a daily basis. Ashland's climate plan has received substantial attention from other communities looking to build a plan.	Ongoing

CEAP Current Actions: Phase I Implementation (2018-2019)

Phase I implementation will be the focus of CEAP activities in 2018-2019. The CEAP identifies more than 25 specific actions for Phase I implementation, all of which are high priority and slated for completion by 2020. Phase I actions are intended to provide initial climate action momentum, leverage windows of opportunity, and begin setting the stage for longer-term actions.

CEAP staff hired in late 2017 has begun coordinating with City Departments and community members to establish times lines and project leads for all Phase I actions. The ad-hoc CEAP Implementation Committee is working alongside staff to recommend key performance indicators, which will be used in future reports to track incremental progress toward adopted CEAP goals.

To lend focus to initial 2018 implementation efforts, major CEAP activities for 2018 are grouped into the following themes:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Outreach
- Planning

Energy

Saving energy and building more renewable energy resources are essential components of Ashland's carbon reduction goals. Ashland has offered energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives to the community for many years, but there is substantial room for additional uptake.

Changes in Ashland's Net Metering resolution mean there is substantial opportunity for community-driven, or other types of group solar projects. Efficiency measures and net-metered solar are especially valuable as they reduce Ashland's overall electricity usage and create direct reductions in GHG emissions.

There are several proposals for developing larger community and utility solar resources, which could allow Ashland to incorporate additional low carbon energy in the electric utility portfolio. Costs and feasibility of these larger renewables projects will be assessed in 2018.

Key Actions

- BE-1-3. Facilitate and Encourage Solar Energy Production.
- BE-1-4. Enhance Production of on-site solar energy from City facilities.
- BE-2-1. Increase outreach efforts to expand participation in energy efficiency programs and promote climate-friendly building and construction.
- BE-3-1. Use results from City Facilities Energy Audit to prioritize City Facilities Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) and maintenance improvements.

Table 3. Potential CEAP Energy Projects in 2018

Item	Project	Summary	Related CEAP Action
1	Utility scale solar (1-12 MW)	Feasibility studies to assess several different Utility-scale solar developments. Development of solar and other renewable resources is an essential strategy in meeting long term climate change mitigation goals.	BE-1-3.
2	City Solar Rooftops (1 MW)	Harnessing solar on City facilities will reduce Municipal energy consumption and result in direct reduction of emissions.	BE-1-3. BE-1-4.
3	Community Solar (TBD)	Recent changes to Ashland's Net Metering Resolution allow several new pathways to developing community solar. Staff will work with community members to encourage investment in new community solar resources.	BE-1-3.
4	Reeder Reservoir Hydropower efficiency improvements (0.3-0.5 MW)	Infrastructure upgrades will improve efficiency and increase power production at the dam.	BE-3-1.
5	City Facilities Energy Efficiency Improvements (TBD)	Departments will utilize facilities audits to improve efficiency and reduce emissions from City facilities.	BE-3-1.

6	Ashland housing inventory energy efficiency programs (TBD)	Staff will explore strategies for increasing participation in City efficiency and renewable energy programs. Staff will also explore longer term programs to incentivize or require building energy performance scores.	BE-2-1.
7	High efficiency building code amendments	Advocacy and planning to ensure that state and local building codes are supporting CEAP goals.	BE-2-1.
8	New programs for electric utility customers	Exploring opportunities to create new programs and services for Utility customers, for example bundling renewable energy certificates or creating new electric rate tiers to support a particular program.	BE-2-1.

Transportation

Two primary opportunities for Ashland include reducing the number of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and to facilitating the use of higher-efficiency vehicles, especially electric vehicles (EV). In practical terms, this means helping Ashlanders drive less and walk/bike more. The Ashland community has a substantial opportunity to reduce emissions by electrifying transportation, which is more efficient than fossil fuel alternatives and has the ability to be fueled from low-carbon sources such as from solar or wind energy.

Key Actions

- BE-1-2. Promote switching to lower-carbon fuels.
- ULT-2-1. Implement bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly actions in the City's Transportation System Plan and Downtown Parking Management Plan.
- ULT-3-2. Revise land use codes to require EV charging infrastructure at multifamily and commercial developments.
- ULT-3-3. Provide information about electric and hybrid vehicles and rebates on the City's website.

Table 4. Potential Transportation Projects

Item	Project	Summary	Related CEAP Action
1	Improve EV charging infrastructure	Update and improve existing public charging Advocate and explore options for public DC fast charging infrastructure	BE-1-2.
2	City fleet electrification	Evaluate existing fleet and plan for phased in hybrid/EV integration	BE-1-2.
3	Additional EV incentives	Explore programs to expand workplace and home charging. Explore programs to facilitate EV market penetration, such as financing incentives or group purchases.	BE-1-2.
4	Multimodal transportation improvements	Implement multimodal transportation improvements listed in City plans.	ULT-2-1.
5	Long term planning	Evaluate land use code opportunities	ULT-3-2.

Outreach

Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan is comprehensive and offers guidance to citizens, businesses, and City operations alike. There is a significant amount of outreach and education needed to ensure broad understanding, continued public support of the plan.

CEAP staff are working to build a website and Community Engagement Plan to increase the plan's exposure and provide a comprehensive resource. Both the website and the engagement plan will be significant projects in 2018 and serve as a foundation for initial (and future) implementation.

The Implementation Committee will receive frequent updates on the status of CEAP actions and will be an important conduit for relaying updates to other Commissions. In addition, the committee will be involved in the creation of the Community Engagement Plan and will have the opportunity to engage with CEAP action leads.

Key Actions

- CC-1-1. Create a formal public outreach and education plan to inform the community about climate actions and progress.
- CC-1-2. Support capacity of neighborhood and community groups to implement climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- CC-1-3. Assess the feasibility of a City-sponsored carbon offset program.

Table 5. Potential Outreach Projects

Item	Project	Summary	Related CEAP Action
1	CEAP Web Portal	Dashboard of CEAP projects and key progress indicators Detailed information on CEAP actions and contact info for project leads Opportunities for community engagement and information gathering Develop community information and advocacy resources	CC-1-1. CC-1-2.
2	CEAP Community Engagement Plan	Messaging Communication plan	CC-1-1.
3	City-sponsored Climate Mitigation Programs	Ashland-focused Carbon Offset and Renewable Energy Certificate programs	CC-1-3.

Planning

Planning is a key area of ongoing work for staff. Key implementation tools, including website, performance indicators, and community engagement resources are under development. In addition to implementation of near term CEAP actions, staff are planning and developing systems necessary for future CEAP projects.

Key Actions

- CC-3-1. Consider climate change in all City Council policy, budgetary, or legislative decisions and as part of the Council Communication document template.
- CC-3-2. Incorporate CEAP goals and actions in future updates of city plans.
- CC-3-3 Include consideration and perpetuation of climate action goals within the scope of every appropriate City Advisory Commission.
- CC-4-1. Engage with other governments and organizations around regional, statewide, national, and international climate policy and action.

Table 6. Potential Planning Projects

Item	Project	Summary	Related CEAP Action
1	Internal Project tracking platform	Build and develop systems to track project details and progress made	
2	GHG Inventory Update	Planning and coordination of upcoming GHG inventory, years 2015-2018.	
3	Ad-hoc CEAP Implementation Committee advisory work	Support Phase I implementation activities Advise on key progress indicators (KPIs) Development of Community Engagement Plan	

List of other actions slated for 2018-2019

- BE-1-1. Develop a comprehensive plan for the Municipal Electric Utility.
- ULT-1-2. Work with RVTD to implement climate-friendly transit.
- ULT-2-2. Explore opportunities to convert to shared streets where appropriate to provide multimodal connectivity.
- ULT-4-1. Regulate new development in the Wildfire Lands Overlay part of the urban growth boundary.
- CM-2-1. Partner with nonprofit organizations to promote the purchase of climate-friendly food and products.
- CM-2-2. Expand community gardening and urban agriculture opportunities
- NS-1-3. Undertake restoration efforts to retain and restore native fish and riparian species.
- NS-2-2. Explore water-efficient technologies on irrigation systems and consider requiring them during the permitting process.
- NS-1-1. Manage forests to retain biodiversity, resilience, and ecosystem function and services in the face of climate change. Use best available science to inform fire

management and planning to manage ecosystem health, community safety, and carbon storage.

- PHSW-2-1. Engage leading employers in a dialogue on climate action, for example, by organizing and facilitating roundtables.
- PHSW-3-1. Work with vulnerable populations to create specific adaptation strategies to address public health risks.

CEAP Future: Timeline and Milestones

Below is a timeline of key CEAP events, past and future. As the CEAP is a living document, it is expected that future milestones and specific plan actions may change over time.

2015 - Baseline year for GHG Inventory
- Formation of Ad-hoc Climate and Energy Action Plan Committee

2016 - Completed GHG Inventory #1 (years 2011-2015)

2017 - Adoption of Climate and Energy Action Plan
- Adoption of CEAP Ordinance
- Hired City staff

2018 - Formation of ad-hoc CEAP Implementation Committee
- CEAP Progress Report 2018 (this document)

2019 - GHG Inventory Update

2020 - Formation of long term CEAP Advisory Commission
- Climate and Energy Action Plan Update
- Phase I Actions Complete

2022 - GHG Inventory update

2023 - Climate and Energy Action Plan Update

2025 - Phase II Actions Complete