

LAGUNA BEACH CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

The City of Laguna Beach is working with PlaceWorks to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), an update to the City's Climate Protection Action Plan adopted in 2009. The CAAP will include a comprehensive set of strategies to reduce Laguna Beach's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to improve resilience to changing climate hazards. This document contains a list of draft strategies.

The CAAP document will present these strategies (following revisions by City staff, members of the Working Group, members of the public, and elected and appointed officials) and their associated actions, organized by topic and goal. The CAAP document will describe each topic, including information about the issue, summaries of existing City and State/regional programs that address the topic, and the gaps and opportunities presented by the topic. For each strategy, the CAAP will describe the strategy, present the associated actions, identify responsible/supporting agencies and core benefits, and present the GHG reductions achieved (if applicable). The CAAP will also include a glossary and list of abbreviations. PlaceWorks will provide City staff and the Working Group with a CAAP outline and template to confirm the organization and layout before preparing the CAAP document.

Strategy hierarchy

The draft strategies are organized under the following hierarchy: Topic, Goal, Strategy, Action.

Topic: A topic is a broad issue to be addressed in the CAAP (for example, solid

waste). It is a general category used for organizational purposes. It does not direct the City to take any action. Each topic has one or more goals under it.

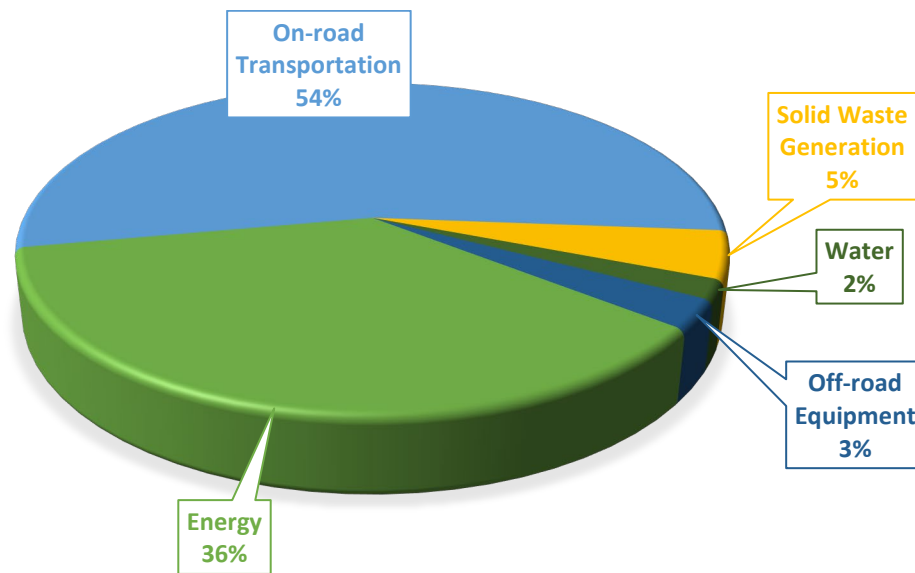
Goal: A goal is an ideal future state for the community and is an expression of community values. Usually, it is not linked to a specific timeframe or performance metric. A goal should be expressed as a desired end, not an action. Each goal has one or more strategies under it.

Strategy: A specific statement to guide decision making. It should be based on and help to implement the goal that it falls under. It should include verbs directing the City and community to make progress on a particular topic. Each strategy has one or more actions under it. Each strategy identifies applicability, which is who or what in the community the strategy applies to, or who or what is directly affected by the strategy. This may include new or existing building, residential building, businesses, the City government, visitors, etc.

Action: A particular course of action that the City will take to implement the strategy it falls under. It should clearly describe what the City needs to do, with enough specificity that the action can be used in a departmental work plan. For example, it should direct the City to enact a particular rule, establish a program, etc. Each action includes a brief description and a designation. There are three designations: 1) municipal (directed at City services, facilities, operations, etc.); 2) policy (as a policy or regulatory change); and 3) education (partnerships, outreach, engagement, and education).

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Draft Goals, Strategies, and Actions

TOPIC: ENERGY

Goal: Homes and businesses of all types across Laguna Beach are energy efficient.

Strategy 1: Increase residential energy efficiency in new and existing homes.

Applicability: New and existing residential development

Actions

Action 1.1: Mandatory Energy Efficiency Audits (Policy):

Require a whole-building energy efficiency audit to be completed during major structural renovations or expansions. This policy ensures that energy efficiency improvements are identified and implemented during significant building projects.

Action 1.2: Promote Green Building Standards (Education):

Encourage the adoption of CALGreen Tier 1 and Tier 2 green building ratings, including Passive House, LEED, Build It Green, and Energy Star certifications, for all new developments and renovations. Use pre-approval consultations and educational initiatives to promote these standards.

Action 1.3: Outreach to Vulnerable Households (Education):

Prioritize direct outreach to residents of older, less energy-efficient homes, low-income households, and households with seniors to promote energy efficiency improvements. This targeted outreach aims to support those in most need of energy-saving measures.

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Action 1.4: Increase Awareness of Tax Credits, Benefits, Utility Programs and Rebates (Education):

Expand property owners' awareness of and access to state and federal tax credits and benefits, including those from the Inflation Reduction Act. Publicize energy efficiency improvement programs and rebates offered by SoCalGas, SDG&E, and SCE. Educating property owners on available financial incentives will encourage more energy-efficient upgrades.

Strategy 2: Increase energy efficiency in existing and new nonresidential buildings, including retail, hotels, offices, and municipal facilities.

Applicability: New and existing nonresidential development, municipal buildings and facilities

Actions

Action 2.1: Cal Green Tier 1 Compliance (Municipal):

Pursue Cal Green Tier 1 compliance for all new City buildings where feasible. This policy ensures that new City constructions meet high energy performance standards, contributing to sustainability and energy efficiency.

Action 2.2: Energy Audits for City Buildings (Policy):

Conduct energy audits of existing City buildings and facilities to identify opportunities for energy conservation and efficiency upgrades or retrofits. These audits will help pinpoint areas where the City can improve energy efficiency and reduce operational costs.

Action 2.3: Short-Term Lodging Ordinance Update (Policy):

Modify the City's Short-Term Lodging Ordinance to require the completion of an energy efficiency audit as a condition for application approval. This update will ensure that short-term lodging facilities operate efficiently and contribute to the City's overall energy conservation goals.

Action 2.4: Increase Participation in Green Initiatives (Education):

Enhance awareness and participation in the City's Green Business Certification Program. By promoting this program, the City encourages local businesses to adopt sustainable practices and improve their environmental impact.

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Action 2.6: Hospitality Industry Partnerships (Education):

Work with the hospitality industry to promote sustainable practices within the hospitality sector and enhance the industry's overall environmental impact.

- i. Encourage energy-efficient property renovations.
- ii. Provide educational information on energy conservation to guests.
- iii. Increase participation in sustainable tourism certification programs like those from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. This collaboration aims to promote sustainable practices within the hospitality sector and enhance the industry's overall environmental impact.

Action 2.8: Promote Energy Efficiency for Businesses (Education):

Collaborate with the Laguna Beach Business Club and Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of energy efficiency opportunities and benefits for local businesses. This initiative aims to educate businesses on how to reduce energy consumption and costs while contributing to environmental sustainability.

Action 2.10: Coordinate Regional GHG Reduction Efforts (Municipal):

Implement the CAAP in coordination with other Orange County jurisdictions to create a consistent regional approach to GHG reduction and climate adaptation as outlined in the PCAP. Participate in regional initiatives to promote and incentivize GHG reduction efforts.

Goal: Buildings across Laguna Beach transition to using renewable and zero-carbon energy sources.

Strategy 3: Construct new, and retrofit existing, residential buildings to use zero-carbon energy sources.

Applicability: New and existing residential development

Actions

Action 3.1: Develop a Reach Code (Policy):

Create a reach code that surpasses the California Building Standards Code, mandating high energy performance for new construction and remodels. Reach codes are advanced building codes that require higher energy efficiency and performance than state standards, supporting local climate action and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

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- Action 3.2: **Development Incentives (Policy):**
Identify and offer development incentives and streamlined permitting processes for new development projects. This approach can facilitate the adoption of energy-efficient building practices by reducing administrative barriers and costs for developers.
- Action 3.3: **Zero Emissions Program Awareness (Education):**
Collaborate with community partners to educate residents, business owners, and developers about the zero emissions water and space heater program, ensuring that the Laguna Beach community is aware of the program and available incentives, thereby supporting the transition to zero-emission appliances and contributing to improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Action 3.4: **Community Tours of Green Buildings (Education):**
Conduct community tours of all-electric and other innovative green buildings to showcase sustainable building practices and technologies.
- Action 3.5: **Raise Awareness of Indoor Air Quality (Education):**
Partner with Orange County Public Health Services to raise awareness about the relationship between gas appliances and indoor air quality. Educate the community on how to improve indoor air quality by transitioning to electric appliances.
- Action 3.6: **Information Website for Incentives and Programs (Education):**
Create a website that hosts information on electrification and programs available for weatherization. Promote this information through events, social media, and community groups, helping residents access available resources.

Strategy 4: Construct new, and retrofit existing, nonresidential buildings to use zero-carbon energy sources.

Applicability: New and existing nonresidential development, municipal buildings

Actions

- Action 4.1: **Transition to Carbon-Free Energy in Municipal Buildings (Municipal):**
Initiate the shift of municipal buildings and facilities to carbon-free energy sources, focusing first on those with outdated fossil fuel appliances and infrastructure. Prioritize buildings equipped with solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems.

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- Action 4.2: **Carbon-Free Energy for New City Buildings (Municipal):**
Where feasible, ensure that new City buildings are powered by carbon-free energy sources, supporting the City's commitment to sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Action 4.3: **Replace Business Appliances with Zero-Emission Options (Policy):**
In accordance with regulations from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board, mandate the replacement of water heaters and space heaters in businesses with zero-emission appliances at the end of their life cycles.
- Action 4.4: **Share Green Building Practices (Education):**
Work with the Orange County chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council to disseminate information on green building opportunities and best practices to the Laguna Beach development community. This collaboration aims to foster the adoption of sustainable building practices in local developments.
- Action 4.8: **Highlight Sustainable Hospitality Practices (Education):**
Work with Visit Laguna Beach to promote hotels and other hospitality businesses that commit to sustainable practices, in coordination with the Green Business Certification Program. This will encourage more businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices and attract eco-conscious tourists.

Strategy 5: Accelerate the transition to renewable power sources.

Applicability: New and existing residential development, new and existing nonresidential development, municipal buildings

Actions

- Action 5.1: **Explore Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Programs (Municipal/Education):**
Investigate options to join or establish a CCA program. Promote community participation in 100 percent renewable energy tiers for any program that the City establishes or joins. CCAs allow communities to procure power from alternative suppliers while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility.
- Action 5.2: **Implement Microgrid Resiliency Infrastructure (Municipal):**
Follow the recommendations from the City's Microgrid Resiliency Assessment to install solar photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems on key City facilities. This will enhance the resilience of the City's energy infrastructure.

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- Action 5.3: **Install Solar PV Shade Structures (Municipal):**
Install solar PV systems as shade structures at City-owned parking lots and recreational facilities. This dual-purpose approach provides renewable energy while offering shaded parking and recreational areas.
- Action 5.4: **Create Interagency Partnership Council (Municipal/Education):**
Explore the formation of an interagency partnership council with the school district, Laguna Beach County Water District, South Coast Water District, and the City. This committee could identify and pursue partnership opportunities for renewable energy projects throughout the City.
- Action 5.5: **Promote Solar PV and Battery Systems (Education):**
Utilize the City’s website, newsletters, e-blasts, magazines, and public events to promote the benefits of solar PV and battery systems. Provide resources to help residents and business owners find local solar panel installers and share information about available solar rebates and incentives.

TOPIC: ON-ROAD TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Community members and visitors reduce their dependence on personal and single-occupancy vehicles.

Strategy 6: Provide sustainable transportation alternatives for residents to reduce the number of home-based vehicle trips.

Applicability: Community residents

Actions

- Action 6.1: **Support Multiple Transportation Modes (Policy):**
Require requiring new developments to accommodate various transportation modes. This includes installing EV charging stations, end-of-trip bike facilities, and bike parking. These measures promote sustainable transportation options.
- Action 6.2: **Enhance Neighborhood Transit Services (Municipal):**
Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of existing neighborhood transit services and work to expand the coverage and hours of the Laguna Beach Local Neighborhood On-Demand Transit service. This includes extending service to the Canyon area and expanding service hours earlier and later in the day, improving accessibility and convenience for residents.

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Action 6.3: **Promote Public Transit (Education):**

Expand promotion and marketing efforts for the Laguna Beach Trolley and Laguna Beach Local services. Focus on attracting more resident trips by highlighting the convenience, environmental benefits, and cost savings of using these public transit options. Increased usage of public transit can reduce traffic congestion and lower emissions in the community.

Strategy 7: Partner with employers to promote sustainable transportation alternatives for commute trips.

Applicability: Community residents, businesses

Actions

Action 7.1: **Expand Utilization of Transportation Demand Management Programs:**

Work with local businesses to connect them with OCTA to expand vanpool services for regional commuters to and from Laguna Beach. Help businesses identify economic incentives for these services. Regular collaboration with large employers (e.g., hotels, Mission Hospital, Laguna Beach Unified School District) will help facilitate vanpool sign-ups and promote the program

Action 7.2: **Promote Connectivity with Laguna Beach Transit Services (Educational):**

Promote the connectivity between OCTA, Laguna Beach transit services, and other coastal city transit services to reduce barriers to using public transit. Improved integration and coordination will make it easier for residents and visitors to use transit options.

Strategy 8: Encourage visitors to use sustainable transportation alternatives to get to/from Laguna Beach and reduce the number of visitor trips within the City.

Applicability: Visitors

Actions

Action 8.1: **Develop Aggregated Parking Sites:**

Create parking structures adjacent to transit stops or within/nearby commercial areas to provide easy parking access and promote non-vehicle transportation throughout the city. This initiative aims to reduce traffic

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congestion and encourage the use of public transit and other alternative transportation modes.

Strategy 9: Enhance the City’s built environment and road infrastructure to support VMT reduction goals.

Applicability: Community residents, businesses, visitors

Actions

Action 9.1: **Update Mobility and Complete Streets Plan (Municipal):**
Revise the City’s Enhanced Mobility and Complete Streets Transition Plan to integrate new findings. This update will guide the development of Capital Improvement Projects and set new City design standards, ensuring that future infrastructure projects align with current best practices in mobility and complete streets design as well as facilitating simultaneous large-scale evacuation and entry of emergency apparatus at scale in the event of major wildfire or other disaster incidents.

Action 9.2: **Improve Sidewalk Network (Municipal):**
Identify and address gaps in Laguna Beach’s sidewalk network where sidewalks are missing or severely damaged. Focus on installing and repairing sidewalks and other pedestrian connections to ensure a continuous and safe pedestrian infrastructure. This initiative aims to promote walkability and enhance pedestrian safety throughout the city.

Goal: On-road vehicles in Laguna Beach transition to zero-emission fuel sources.

Strategy 10: Facilitate the private-sector adoption of zero-emission vehicles.

Applicability: Community residents, businesses

Actions

Action 10.1: **Expand Public EV Charging Infrastructure (Municipal):**
Install more publicly available EV charging ports at City facilities, including DC Fast Chargers. Consider key locations such as public parking lots, parks, recreation facilities, and City offices, including the Glenneyre Structure, metered parking on Cliff Drive, and additional stations at Laguna Beach City Hall. Regularly maintain chargers and monitor usage rates to ensure appropriate distribution throughout the city. This expansion supports the growing demand for electric vehicle charging and encourages the adoption of electric vehicles by providing accessible charging options.

Action 10.2: **Study Amendments to CALGreen (Municipal):**
Investigate amendments to CALGreen that would require new construction to install more EV charging infrastructure than currently mandated by the State.

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Enhancing CALGreen standards would ensure that new developments are better equipped to meet future EV charging needs and support the transition to electric.

Action 10.3: Information Website for Incentives and Programs (Education):

Create a website that hosts information on incentives and programs available for electric vehicles (EVs), e-bikes, and scooters. Promote this information through events, social media, and community groups, helping residents access available resources.

Strategy 11: Accelerate the public-sector transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Applicability: Businesses, municipal buildings and facilities

Actions

Action 11.1: Procure Zero Emissions Vehicles, Trolleys and Buses (Municipal): Develop a procurement process to select vendors that provide zero emissions vehicles and buses as recommended by the Fleet Electrification and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Master Plan. This involves identifying reliable suppliers and evaluating vehicle options to ensure they meet the City's sustainability and operational requirements, especially for vehicles operated by public safety agencies.

Action 11.2: Evaluate Fleet and Replacement Cycles (Municipal): Assess the current condition of the City's vehicle fleet and establish replacement cycles that align with financial constraints. This evaluation will help prioritize which vehicles to replace first and plan for a systematic transition to a zero-emissions fleet.

Action 11.3: Install Charging Infrastructure (Municipal): Install EV charging infrastructure at the City's consolidated maintenance facility consistent with the Fleet Electrification and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Master Plan. This will ensure that the City has the necessary infrastructure to support the charging needs of a growing fleet of electric vehicles.

Action 11.4: Workforce Training (Education): Provide training for mechanics and fleet operators to ensure they can effectively operate and maintain zero emissions vehicles. This training will be crucial for the smooth integration of new technologies into the City's fleet operations.

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TOPIC: SOLID WASTE GENERATION

Goal: There is little or no waste generation in Laguna Beach.

Strategy 12: Reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills.

Applicability: Community residents, municipal businesses and facilities, businesses, visitors

Actions

Action 12.1: **Achieve Zero-Waste at City Facilities (Municipal):**

Implement three-bin waste systems (for recyclables, organic waste, and landfill waste) at accessible locations in all City facilities. Ensure reusable items are used where food is prepared or consumed. This setup promotes proper waste segregation and reduces overall waste.

Action 12.2: **Maximize Use of Recycled Materials (Municipal):**

Explore ways to maximize the use of recycled materials in City operations, including capital improvement projects. This could involve using recycled content in building materials, furnishings, and other City infrastructure projects.

Action 12.3: **Require Zero-Waste Events (Policy):**

Mandate that large events permitted by the City must be zero-waste. This initiative ensures that event organizers implement waste reduction strategies, including the use of recyclable, compostable, or reusable materials, and proper waste sorting and disposal practices.

TOPIC: WATER

Goal: Laguna Beach is a champion of water conservation.

Strategy 13: Reduce potable water use in buildings and urban landscapes.

Applicability: Community residents, businesses, municipal buildings and facilities

Actions

Action 13.1: **Replace Turf with Native Landscaping (Municipal):**

Transition turf at City-owned buildings to native, drought-tolerant, and fire-resistant landscaping options. This strategy reduces water usage and enhances fire resistance, contributing to the sustainability and safety of City properties.

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Action 13.2: **Install Rainwater Catchment Systems (Municipal):**

Identify opportunities for installing rainwater catchment systems at City-owned properties and parks. Develop a plan to implement these systems to capture and utilize rainwater, reducing reliance on potable water for irrigation and other uses.

Action 13.3: **Water Efficiency in New Development Projects & Major Renovations (Policy):**

Mandate that new developments and major retrofit projects reduce potable water consumption by incorporating water-efficient appliances, technologies, and drought-tolerant landscaping strategies. These requirements can support long-term water conservation and resilience against drought conditions, while incorporating fuel modification zones and defensible space around structures in keeping with state “Safer from Wildfire” fire prevention standards.

Action 13.4: **Promote Rebate Programs (Education):**

Actively promote rebate programs, tax credits, and other incentivizes offered by Southern California Edison, SoCal WaterSmart, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, California Water Wise, and similar regional, state, or federal programs. These programs provide incentives for high-efficiency appliances, turf replacement, irrigation equipment, and rain barrels and cisterns, encouraging the adoption of water conservation and efficiency measures.

Action 13.5: **Provide Training for Landscapers (Education):**

Offer training and educational materials to local landscapers on native landscaping as well as water and soil conservation practices. This initiative ensures that landscapers are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to implement sustainable landscaping practices.

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TOPIC: WASTEWATER

Goal: There is greater wastewater efficiency throughout Laguna Beach

Strategy 14: Reduce GHG emissions associated with wastewater processing.

Applicability: Community residents, businesses, municipal buildings and facilities

Actions

Action 14.1: **Install Grey Water Systems at City Buildings (Municipal):**

Where feasible, implement grey water systems at City-owned buildings with landscaping. Grey water systems reuse water from sinks, showers, and laundry for irrigation, significantly reducing the use of potable water for landscaping and promoting water conservation.

Action 14.2: **Streamline Permits for Residential Grey Water Systems (Policy):**

Develop tools to streamline the permitting process for residents to install grey water systems in their homes. Simplifying the permit process and providing incentives will encourage more homeowners to adopt grey water systems, contributing to overall water conservation efforts in the community.

TOPIC: OFF-ROAD EQUIPMENT

Goal: There is little or no pollution from offroad equipment.

Strategy 15: Accelerate the electrification of landscaping, construction, and other outdoor equipment.

Applicability: New development, community residents, businesses, municipal buildings and facilities

Actions

Action 15.1: **Electrify City-Owned Landscaping Equipment (Municipal):**

Transition City-owned landscaping and other off-road equipment to electric models. This change reduces emissions from gas and diesel-powered equipment, contributing to cleaner air and a reduction in the City's carbon footprint.

Action 15.2: **Encourage Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment (Education):**

Promote the replacement of gas and diesel-powered landscaping equipment with zero-emission models among residents and businesses. This encouragement can include providing information on the benefits of electric equipment, such as reduced noise and emissions, and potential cost savings over time.

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Action 15.3: **Promote Rebate and Exchange Programs (Education):**

Partner with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to promote programs like the Residential Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program and the Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange Program. These programs offer financial incentives for residents and businesses to switch to electric landscaping equipment, making the transition more affordable and appealing.

TOPIC: OPEN SPACE

Goal: Healthy and thriving natural lands and green spaces in and around Laguna Beach.

Strategy 16: Increase carbon sequestration on natural and urban lands.

Applicability: Municipal buildings and facilities, park and open space managers

Actions

Action 16.1: **Expand Urban Tree Canopy (Municipal):**

Increase the urban tree canopy by planting native shade trees throughout Laguna Beach, with a focus on urban heat island areas. Expanding the tree canopy helps reduce temperatures, improve air quality, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of urban areas. Native trees are particularly beneficial as they are adapted to the local climate and support local biodiversity and fire safety through use of fire-resistant vegetation.

Action 16.2: **Enhance Carbon Sequestration (Municipal):**

Explore methods to increase carbon sequestration on City-owned facilities and public rights-of-way. This can be achieved through increased composting, mulching, and nutrient management practices. These activities improve soil health, promote plant growth, and increase the amount of carbon stored in vegetation and soil, contributing to the City's sustainability and climate resilience efforts.

Action 16.3: **Encourage Carbon Sequestration Landscapes (Education):**

Develop a community education campaign to encourage planting and managing landscapes that increase carbon sequestration, capture rainwater and enhance fire safety. Include educational materials, workshops, demonstrations, and financial incentives where feasible.

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TOPIC: VULNERABLE AND FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

Goal 8: Improve disaster resilience throughout our at-risk community as climate change materially increases the disaster threat level from a variety of natural and anthropogenic hazards throughout Laguna Beach.

Strategy 17: Increase resilience for residents and persons with disabilities.

Applicability: Public service agencies and services, public spaces and transit agencies, emergency services

Actions

Action 17.1: Home Retrofit Assistance Program (Municipal):

Develop a program that provides physical assistance with energy efficiency upgrades and defensible space maintenance for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. This initiative will help these individuals maintain safe and energy-efficient homes, particularly in the context of disaster preparedness and climate resilience.

Action 17.2: Contingency Plans for Transit Services (Municipal):

Create contingency plans to ensure the continuity of transit services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities during staffing and fuel shortages. These plans will ensure that vulnerable populations have reliable transportation even during crises.

Action 17.3: Accessibility Audit (Municipal):

Conduct an accessibility audit of city-owned public spaces and facilities, public transportation paratransit systems, and city-operated digital platforms. Identify and remedy barriers for seniors and persons with disabilities to enhance accessibility in public services.

Action 17.4: Support Community Emergency Response Efforts (Municipal):

Continue supporting the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Lifelong Laguna's Aging-in-Place, and Habitat for Humanity in performing wellness checks on seniors, completing Home Modification Assessments, and engaging residents in emergency preparation and planning.

Action 17.5: Collaborate with Senior Service Providers (Municipal):

Work with the Susi Q Senior Center, senior transportation services, Age Well Senior Services, Dayle McIntosh Center- South County Branch, and other senior service providers to ensure that the needs of seniors and people with disabilities are included in evacuation and emergency response plans.

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Action 17.6: Provide Emergency Preparedness Information (Education):

Disseminate information about disaster prevention (especially with respect to fire safety), emergency preparedness, and planning, at the Susi Q Community Center, as well as senior-focused community service groups and senior enrichment activities.

Action 17.7: Develop Personalized Emergency/Disaster Plans for Residents (Education/Municipal):

Collaborate with service organizations, neighborhood associations and senior-focused programs such as Age Well Senior Services to develop personalized sustainability, emergency, evacuation, and climate adaptation plans. These plans will address the specific needs of all residents, especially those over age 50 in emergency situations.

Strategy 18: Ensure a resilient and thriving artist community.

Applicability: Artists, new and existing residential development

Actions

Action 18.1: Support Climate Related Improvements for Artists Housing (Municipal):

Assist artists living in unpermitted residences in Laguna Canyon. This program will support the upgrading and retrofitting of their homes to withstand climate-related hazards, ensuring safety and resilience. Additionally, implement an amnesty program for these artists to address the legal and regulatory aspects of their unpermitted residences, offering a pathway to compliance and improved living conditions.

Strategy 19: Increase resilience and adaptation for residents.

Applicability: Water services, health services, new and existing residential development, homelessness services

Actions

Action 19.1: Enhance Flood and Wildfire Warning Systems (Education):

Improve the dissemination of flood and wildfire warnings and emergency information, focusing on reaching those who lack internet access and cell phones, and those for whom English is a second language. Implement strategies such as multilingual alerts, community outreach programs, and traditional communication methods to ensure comprehensive emergency communication systems.

Action 19.2: Incentivize Clean Air and Cooling Centers (Policy):

Support and incentivize owners of hotels, motels, and short-term rental properties to upgrade their facilities to serve as clean air and cooling centers

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for visitors. Ensure these facilities have sufficient backup power supplies to provide safe and comfortable environments during extreme weather events.

Action 19.3: **Accommodate Displaced Individuals (Municipal):**

Collaborate with hotels, motels, and short-term rental property owners to make unused rooms available to residents temporarily displaced by wildfires or other major disaster incidents to provide temporary, short-term shelter for local disaster victims.

Action 19.4: **Collaborate on Medical Services Deployment (Municipal):**

Work with Orange County Public Health Services, Providence Mission Hospital, and Laguna Beach Community Clinic to ensure the timely and effective deployment of medical services in the event of an emergency. This collaboration aims to enhance emergency response and healthcare delivery.

TOPIC: NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE

Goal 9: The natural and built environment in Laguna Beach is safeguarded against damage from hazards.

Strategy 20: Ensure essential services can plan for and adapt to climate change.

Applicability: Municipal operations, emergency services and facilities, hotel and motel operations, businesses

Actions

Fire Mitigation and Safety

Action 20.1: **FireWise Community Certification (Municipal):**

Support initiatives to establish certified FireWise Communities, recognized by the National Fire Protection Association, to enhance fire preparedness in neighborhoods located within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).

Action 20.2: **Underground Utilities (Policy and Municipal):**

Continue working with utility companies to expand efforts to underground utilities, prioritizing high-capacity power lines along evacuation routes and areas with elevated fire hazard risks. Underground utilities to reduce fire risk and enhance safety during evacuations.

Action 20.3: **Promote Fire-Resistant Landscaping (Municipal and Education):**

Collaborate with building owners and residents to construct and maintain firebreaks, fire-resistant landscaping, and other fire resistance improvements around properties. These measures reduce fire risk and enhance property safety.

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- Action 20.4: **Funding for Wildfire Mitigation (Municipal):**
Secure funding and resources to implement the recommendations in the City's Wildfire Mitigation and Fire Safety Report. This ensures that the City can effectively address and mitigate wildfire risks.
- Action 20.5: **Fuel Modification Zones (Municipal and Policy):**
Continue and expand the City's Fuel Modification Zone program to manage vegetation and reduce fire fuel loads in high-risk areas.
- Action 20.9: **Retrofitting for Fire Safety (Education):** Promote the retrofitting of existing structures to reduce vulnerabilities from wildfires and structural fires during wildfire events.
- Action 20.10: **Fire Adaptation Resources (Education):**
Share fire adaptation resources via the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. This network provides valuable information and strategies to improve community resilience to wildfires.

Flood Events and Coastal Adaptation

- Action 20.11: **Shoreline Monitoring Program (Municipal):**
Develop and implement a Laguna Beach Shoreline Monitoring Program in coordination with regional, state, and federal agencies. This program will monitor sea level rise-related hazards and identify thresholds for action.
- Action 20.12: **Coastal Flooding Adaptation Projects (Municipal):**
Integrate coastal flooding adaptation projects into the City's Capital Improvement Program, focusing on resilient transportation, stormwater, and water infrastructure.
- Action 20.13: **Relocate and Floodproof Infrastructure (Municipal):**
Explore the feasibility of relocating and/or floodproofing major wastewater, water, and utility lines and infrastructure in areas at risk of sea level rise adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway.
- Action 20.14: **Floodproof Critical Facilities (Municipal):**
Require floodproofing for City-owned and managed critical facilities in flood hazard or coastal flood hazard areas to ensure their resilience during flood events.

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Action 20.15: Convert Impervious Surfaces (Municipal):

Explore the feasibility of converting impervious surfaces into natural areas, such as converting parking lots to permeable paving at Laguna Main Beach Park, to improve drainage and reduce flood risks.

Action 20.16: Integrate Flood Hazards in Development Review (Policy):

Incorporate potential flood hazards from sea level rise and emergent groundwater in the development review process for transportation projects, critical infrastructure planning, and new development projects in downtown Laguna Beach.

Action 20.17: Evaluate Drainage Issues (Municipal):

Assess and address culvert and road drainage issues in areas identified as vulnerable to coastal flooding to enhance drainage capacity and reduce flood risks.

Action 20.18: Green Infrastructure Design (Policy):

Incorporate options for green infrastructure in the design of transportation infrastructure, including permeable pavement, bioswales, and stormwater best management practices.

Action 20.19: Improve Stormwater Infrastructure (Municipal):

Evaluate and enhance the capacity of stormwater infrastructure to handle high-intensity rainfall events expected due to climate change.

Action 20.20: Consider Projected Water Levels (Municipal):

Account for projected water levels, including sea level rise and rising groundwater, when constructing new or upgraded infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience.

Action 20.21: Update Maintenance Protocols (Municipal):

Revise infrastructure and utility maintenance protocols to include considerations for projected climate change effects, ensuring that maintenance practices support resilience.

Action 20.22: Sea Level Rise Planning and Adaptation (Municipal and Policy):

Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions, regional, and state agencies on sea level rise planning, adaptation, and implementation. Consider establishing a Climate Resilience District in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions. Work with local and regional open space managers to develop a comprehensive management strategy for the Laguna Beach greenbelt.

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Groundwater Emergence

Action 20.23: Engineering Study on Groundwater Impacts (Municipal):

Conduct an engineering study to understand the impacts of potential groundwater emergence in commercial areas between Broadway and Forest in downtown Laguna Beach. This study will address how rising groundwater tables can remobilize legacy contaminants.

Heat

Action 20.24: Heat-Related Risk Education (Education):

Develop multi-lingual outreach and education materials on heat-related risks and strategies to prevent heat-related illness for outdoor workers. Distribute these materials in collaboration with the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce to ensure wide reach and accessibility.

Action 20.25: Promote Cool Roofs (Education):

Educate roofing installers about the benefits of cool roofs and encourage their installation during roof repairs on existing structures. Cool roofs reduce heat absorption, lower energy costs, and mitigate urban heat island effects.

Multi-hazard and Emergency Preparedness

Action 20.32: Reduce Risk to Laguna Canyon Road (Policy):

Continue collaborating with Caltrans to minimize the risk of damage or disruption to Laguna Canyon Road from natural hazards. This partnership aims to maintain critical infrastructure and ensure safe travel routes.

Action 20.33: Community-Wide Climate Education Program (Education):

Develop a comprehensive climate change education program for residents and visitors. This program will educate on natural hazard risks, future risk projections, protective measures, and ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Consider partnering with local arts groups to create engaging public education campaigns and provide educational booths at major public events and festivals.

Action 20.34: Climate Change Education for City Staff (Municipal):

Educate City staff about the effects of climate change and assist all departments in incorporating climate change hazards into their long-term planning. This internal education will ensure that climate resilience is integrated into the City's operational and strategic planning.

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Action 20.35: **Support and Expand Emergency Education Programs (Education):**

Continue to support and expand existing emergency education programs, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Police Department's Cadet/Explorer program. These programs educate and train community members and youth in emergency preparedness and response, strengthening the overall resilience of the community.

Action 20.36: **Incorporate Tourism Needs in Emergency Plans (Policy/Education):**

Work with major hotels and tourist destinations to ensure that the needs of short-term visitors and tourism workers are included in evacuation and emergency response plans. This will improve the safety and preparedness of the tourism sector during emergencies.

Action 20.37: **Prepare Tourism and Recreation Sectors for Hazards (Education):**

Collaborate with the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce to educate and assist the tourism and outdoor recreation sectors in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from hazardous events. This will enhance the resilience and recovery capacity of these sectors.

Strategy 21: Plan for the long-term resilience of open space recreation and developed areas.

Applicability: Municipal operations, emergency services and facilities, visitors, businesses

Actions

Action 21.1: **Preserve Beach Access (Municipal):**

Implement measures to preserve beach access by elevating or protecting public parking lots, existing public staircases, and public boardwalks to withstand mid-term sea level rise projections. Prioritize resilience efforts at high-use and high-risk locations, including Main Beach, and Aliso Beach.

Action 21.2: **Incentivize Floodproofing and Elevation (Policy):**

Develop incentives, such as potential permit streamlining, to encourage floodproofing and the elevation of structures in areas at risk of increased flooding. These incentives will support property owners in adopting measures that reduce flood risks.

Action 21.3: **Protect Pacific Coast Highway (Municipal):**

Plan for the protection of Pacific Coast Highway between Broadway, Park Avenue, and Forest Avenue, where projected sea level rise could impact

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circulation and emergency services. This proactive planning will ensure the highway remains functional and accessible during emergencies.

Action 21.4: **Promote Flood Insurance (Education):**

Coordinate with the Laguna Beach Flood Plain Administrator to educate and encourage property owners in mapped flood hazard areas to obtain appropriate flood insurance. This effort will increase awareness and preparedness among property owners in flood-prone areas.

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