



# CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING UPDATE

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# What is a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

- A strategic framework for **reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.**
- A CAP includes measures **aligned with existing municipal priorities** to reduce GHG emissions and face current and future climate hazards.

## 4 Critical Components:

1. Community-wide **inventory** of existing emissions;
2. a **resilience and adaptation** focus;
3. prioritized mitigation and adaptation **actions**;
4. **funding** mechanisms; and **implementation** pathway.

## Benefits

- **Health benefits:** improved air quality as a consequence of reducing GHG emissions will positively impact respiratory illnesses; heat mitigation strategies will result in better quality of life.
- **Equity:** **opportunity to use the CAP as a decision-making and implementation tool to address inequality in El Paso.**
- **Economic development:** a comprehensive CAP would enable access to funding opportunities for strategic projects, including important infrastructure and emergency response projects for El Paso.

# Building a **Successful CAP**

**Emissions Reduction  
Impact Mitigation to Hazards**

**Climate  
Resilience**

**Operational  
Savings**

**Energy  
Water  
Improved Health**

**Advocacy  
Metrics  
Networks  
Partners**

**Funding,  
Resources +  
Timeline**

**Civic  
Empowerment**

**Equity  
Engagement  
Education  
Transparency**

# CAP Benchmarking

## legend

Yes	✓
No	X



## Analysis by City

components

	San Antonio	Dallas	Houston	Austin	Las Cruces	C.Juarez	Albuquerque	Phoenix	Santa Fe	Denver	Oakland	El Paso
	2019	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2021	2020	2018	2018	2020	
CAP												X
Equity	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Mitigation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Resilience-Adaptation	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Funding	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X
Timeline			✓					✓			✓	X

## Carbon Neutrality Goals by City

	San Antonio	Dallas	Houston	Austin	Las Cruces	Albuquerque	Phoenix	Santa Fe	Denver	Oakland
Timeline	2050	2050	2050	2040	2050	2030	2050	2040	2050	2050
Goal	Carbon neutral	Carbon neutral	Carbon neutral	Carbon neutral	78% reduction	45% reduction	Carbon neutral	Carbon neutral	80% reduction	83% reduction



**El Paso's Climate Action Goals need to make sense for our community with our people in mind.**

# Municipal Benchmarking

## Staffing

	FTEs
Austin	12
San Antonio	9
Houston	4.4
Las Cruces	2
El Paso	1

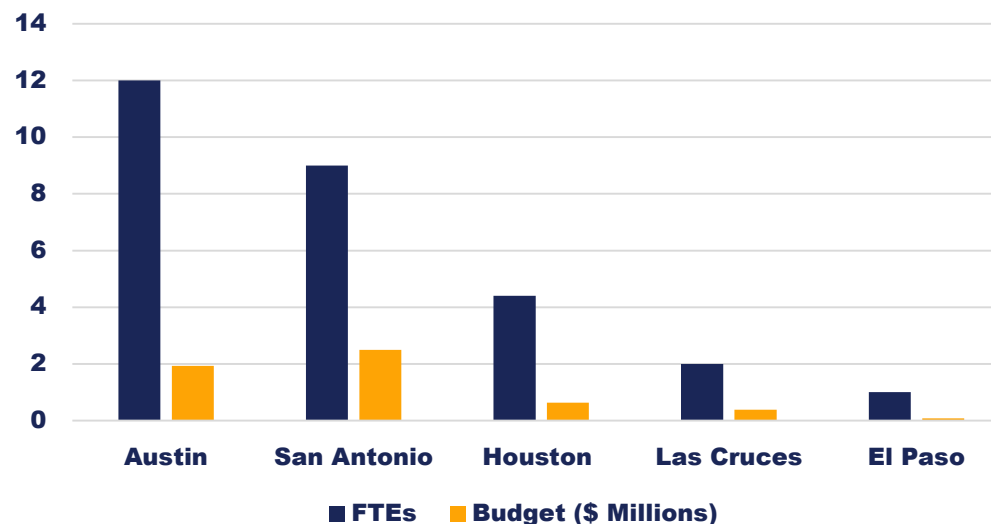
## Sample Budgets

	San Antonio
Total Budget	\$2,500,000
Energy program	\$1,300,000
Salaries	\$700,000
Programatic	\$500,000

	Las Cruces
Total Budget	\$380,000
Salaries	\$180,000
Programatic	\$200,000
	Houston
Total Budget *	\$626,700

	Austin
Total Budget	\$1,933,000
Salaries	\$1,500,000
Programatic	\$433,000

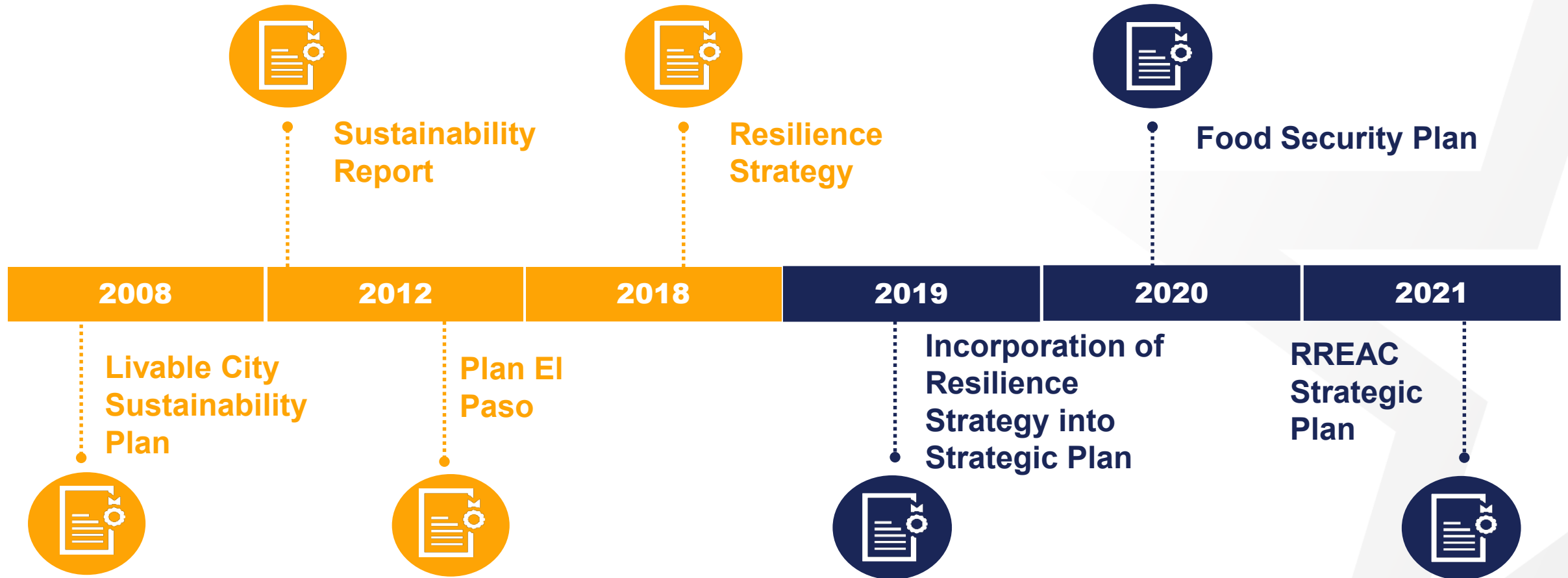
## Staffing and Budget Benchmarking





# Building El Paso's First Climate Action Plan

PAST TO PRESENT



# Building **El Paso's First** Climate Action Plan

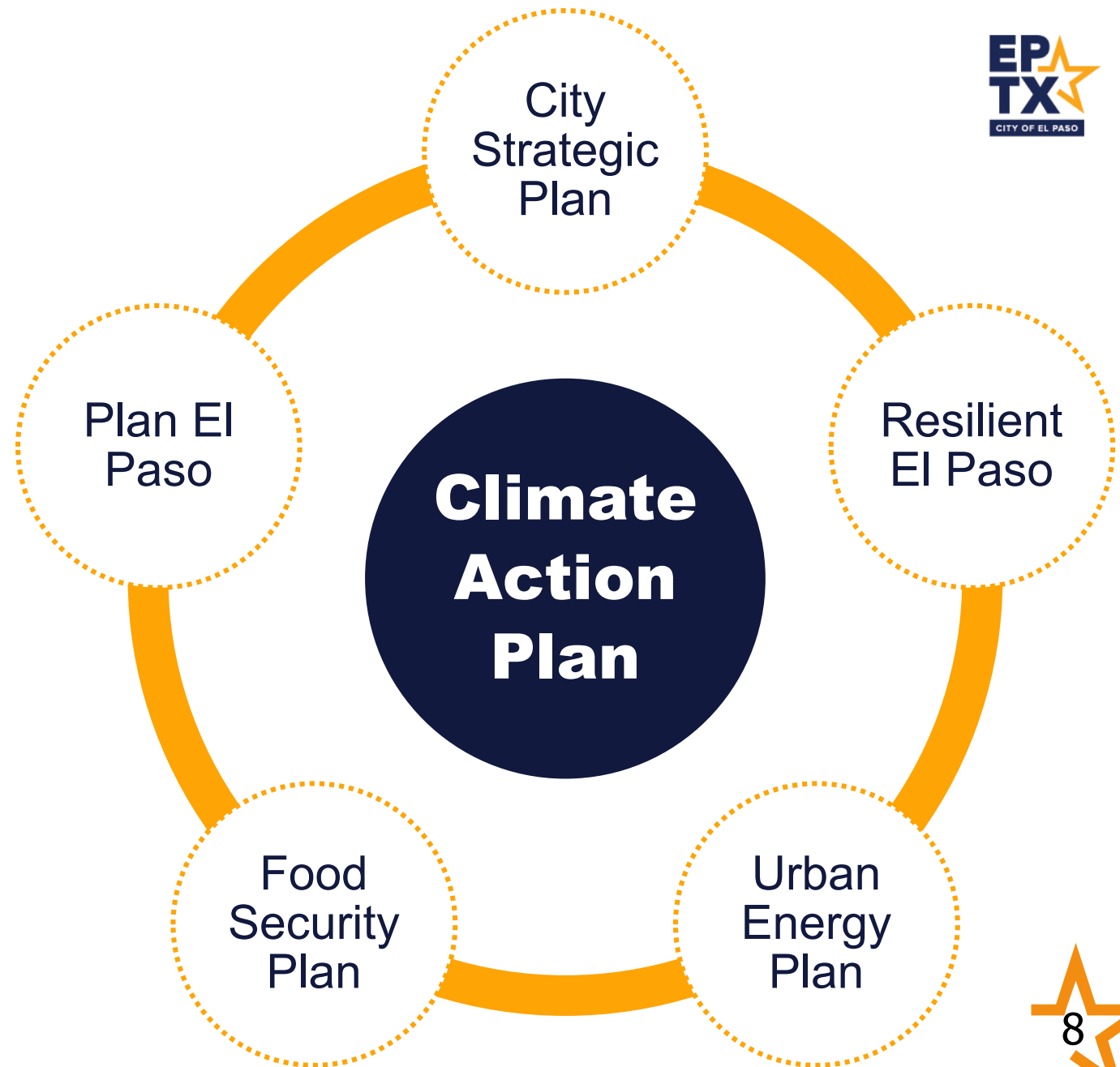
PRESENT TO FUTURE



The City of El Paso has already taken great strides toward addressing climate action. All climate action planning moving forward will be informed and driven by existing plans adopted since 2012.

## Basis for the CAP

- Plan El Paso
- Resilient El Paso
- Food Security Plan
- Urban Energy Plan
- City Strategic Plan





# Plan **El Paso**

## A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING APPROACH TO CLIMATE

Plan El Paso provides the basis for El Paso's regulations and policies that **guide its physical and economic development.**

### **Sustainability + Climate**

- Network of Open Space, Protect and Restore Nature
- Strengthening the “Blue Network”, Make the most of available water and water management tools
- Greener Buildings + Strengthening the Urban Green Network
- Energy Demand and Renewable Energy



# Resilient **El Paso**

## IDENTIFYING CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES IN CONTEXT

The resilience strategy is not a climate plan, it is an assessment of community vulnerabilities and a set of clear actions in the areas of **city infrastructure, economic development, civic empowerment and governance.**

### **Linkages to Climate Action**

- Extreme heat, very likely to occur and can have severe consequences specifically among the most vulnerable.
- Drought, varying river allocations and continued drought remain a critical concern for the region.
- Flash floods and freezing conditions, 2021 events are clear example of these risks.



# Food Security Plan

MOVING BEYOND RELIEF + RESPONSE TOWARD SECURITY

## Policy Recommendations

### Create an Urban Agriculture Policy

- Increased local food production
- Implement Environment & Food Waste Policies

### Food System Prioritization within Public Budgets

- Sustainability Specialist Position
- Ongoing investments to make food security a priority

**Natural resources** used and **emissions generated** by the current food system have a significant impact on the environment.

### Food Security Task Force

- Convened over **16 community organizations** in June of 2020 to develop the Food Security plan to inform future policy and funding opportunities to support our food systems.
- Recommendations focused on the overall objectives of **reducing food insecurity and strengthening our food system** for long-term sustainability and resilience.



# Urban Energy Plan

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ENERGY MANAGEMENT

## Climate Related RREAC Goals

- Enhance and increase **EV fleet** and chargers at municipal facilities
- Advocate for **equitable access to solar for the community**, prioritizing disadvantaged communities historically impacted by environmental concerns, including incentive programs and enhanced permitting and inspection processes.
- Promote collaboration between the City of El Paso and El Paso Electric to expand and enhance equitable, **affordable access to community solar for commercial and residential customers.**

# Congresswoman's Climate Action Committee

## Purpose

Determine the focus sectors for Climate Action in our region under the umbrella of Equity, Resilience, Environmental Justice and Economy as core values.

## Partners

Municipal, County, State and Tribal Government, Non Profits, Private Sector, Utilities, Academia, Advocacy Groups

## Deliverable

To develop a Climate Action Framework Paper for the El Paso Region focused on recommendations and identification of needed resources to proceed with regional climate action.





# Partner Networks: Resilient City Network

The **Resilient Cities Network (RCN)** consists of cities that are committed to building and investing in urban resilience, located in five geographical regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.



**RESILIENT**

**CITIES  
NETWORK**

For a safe and  
equitable world

**Urban Resilience** is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to **survive, adapt and grow** no matter what kinds of stresses and acute shocks they experience.

- Extreme weather, refugee crises, disease pandemics, supply chains, cyberattacks; **today's new normal requires models of governance that mitigate risk and respond to evolving challenges.**
- Business-as-usual models of **reactive planning and siloed decision-making** will not generate the fundamental strength and flexibility essential for us to thrive in the face of the acute shocks and chronic stresses of the 21st century.



# Partner Networks: USDN

USDN governments are leading the way to a **sustainable, low-carbon future** by developing, adopting, and sharing practices that create equitable and prosperous communities and a healthy environment



**Peer exchange and collaboration** between local government sustainability leaders catalyze the creation and implementation of urban sustainability solutions.

The network creates change in the world by connecting members to share and learn from each other, **incentivizing collaboration, and collectively leveraging resources.**

## High Impact Pathways

1. Manage Climate and Environmental Risk and Reduce Exposure Disparities
2. Accelerate the Transition to Clean, Accessible, Resilient, and Equitable Mobility Systems
3. Catalyze the Construction and Retrofit of Healthy, Resilient, Zero-Carbon Buildings
4. Accelerate an Equitable Transition to Clean and Resilient Energy Sources
5. Invest in Ecosystem Regeneration and Access

# Partner Networks: USGBC Texas

The U.S. Green Building Council Texas is a community-benefit nonprofit (501c3) committed to **ensuring a better built environment** for current and future generations of Texans.

Focused on uniting all stakeholders involved in the **development, design, construction, operation and use of the built infrastructure** to achieve equitable practices and policies in our state for the long-term economic, environmental and social benefit of our communities.



The USGBC TX mission is to accelerate the **adoption of green building and sustainable development** policies and practices.



# Resourcing Climate Action: **Planning + Implementation**

1

**Formalize Resource Structure for Planning + Implementation**

2

**Establish Baseline Data Set (i.e. GHG Inventory)**

3

**Formalize a Plan and Identify Actions, Resources and Timeline**

4

**Identify Globally Recognized Tools to Measure Progress**

5

**Leverage Networks and Partnerships for Appropriate Benchmarking**

# Areas of Focus: **Planning + Implementation**

- GHG emissions inventory
- Coordination with community actors
- Adaptation and vulnerability assessment

## **Climate Baseline Development**

**1**

## **Energy + Water Management**

**2**

- Demand Reduction
- Renewable Energy Building Environment Performance Guidance
- Water resources

## **Food Systems**

**4**

- Urban agriculture Policy
- Programs related to local food, food waste, emergency food.

## **Active Transportation**

**3**

- Community Programs related to active living + transportation
- Electrification

# Leveraging Networks for Benchmarking



## Climate Mayors Network

National organization with 470 members dedicated to creating real climate action at the local level

- U.S. cities' commitment to climate progress.
- Build political will for federal and global climate action.
- Links local efforts to federal action.

*"Cities are on the front line of climate change, but they also are uniquely positioned to lower emissions. Mayors around the world are eager to lead and the Global Covenant of Mayors helps them to take action."*

### Michael Bloomberg

Former New York City Mayor

Co-Chair Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

## Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Making a commitment to measure our progress in alignment with national and international benchmarks:

1. Measuring and reducing GHG emissions.
2. Prepare for the impacts of climate change.
3. Increase access to sustainable energy.



# Leveraging Networks: Setting Goals

C40  
CITIES

Representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe.

1. **Connect city officials** with their peers around the world to help deliver solutions to climate challenges;
2. **Inspire innovation** by showcasing the ideas and solutions of leading global cities;
3. **Advise city peers** based on experience with similar projects and policies; and
4. **Influence national and international policy** agendas and driving the market by leveraging the collective voice of cities.







# Membership Guidelines

## 1. Megacities

- **Population:** City population of 3 million or more, and/or metropolitan area population of 10 million or more, either currently or projected for 2025. OR
- **GDP:** One of the top 25 global cities, ranked by current GDP output, at purchasing power parity (PPP), either currently or projected for 2025.

## 2. Innovator Cities

- Cities that do not qualify as Megacities but have shown **clear leadership in environmental and climate change work.**
- An Innovator City must be internationally recognized for **barrier-breaking climate work**, a leader in the field of environmental sustainability, and a **regionally recognized “anchor city” for the relevant metropolitan area.**

## ★ 3. Observer Cities:

- A short-term category for new cities applying to join the C40 for the first time; all cities applying for Megacity or Innovator membership will initially be admitted as Observers until they meet C40’s year-one participation requirements, for up to one year.



## Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



## Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People