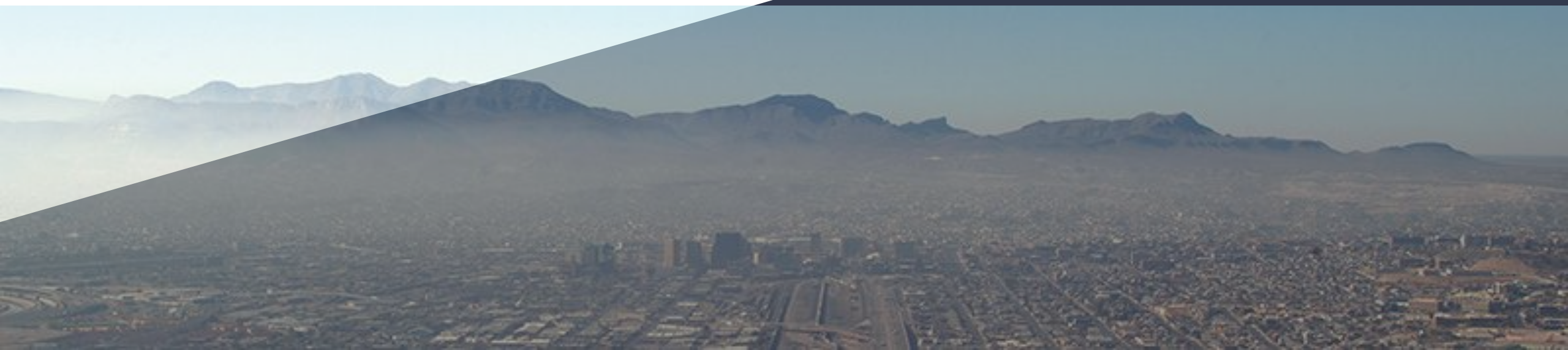


# City of El Paso Climate Action Plan:

Setting Goals To Increase Our  
Community's Resilience  
Through Climate Preparedness

June 8, 2021



# WHAT IS A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

- The City of Houston, Texas Climate Action document defines such a plan as providing *“evidenced-based measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preventative measures to address the negative outcomes of climate change.”*
- Other Cities, like Houston aim to meet the Paris Agreement goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, and lead the global energy transition.



Image from the City of Woodland, California Climate Action Plan

# The Paris Agreement

In 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement has three main objectives:

1. to limit the average global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees centigrade (and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees);
2. to enhance resilience to climate impacts, many of which will be unavoidable due to greenhouse gases already emitted; and
3. to align financial flows in the world with these objectives.

(Source: Yale Sustainability, Yale Experts Explain The Paris Climate Agreement, <https://sustainability.yale.edu/explainers/yale-experts-explain-paris-climate-agreement>)



*Image from the Yale Sustainability Website*

# A Resilient El Paso

- As of September 2019, half of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. by population had adopted local climate action plans.
- Since then, more Cities have adopted their own plans.
- Almost all of the cities with climate action plans were members of at least one climate association, including 100 Resilient Cities, which El Paso is a member.

City	Text of plan	Date adopted or updated
Atlanta, Georgia	<a href="#">City of Atlanta Climate Action Plan</a>	September 21, 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>
	<a href="#">Clean Energy Atlanta</a>	Modified March 4,
Austin, Texas	<a href="#">Austin Community Climate Plan</a>	June 4, 2015 <sup>(2)</sup>
Baltimore, Maryland	<a href="#">Baltimore Climate</a>	November 29, 2012
Boston, Massachusetts	<a href="#">City of Boston Climate Action Plan 2019 Update</a>	October 8, 2019 <sup>(4)</sup>
Charlotte, North Carolina	<a href="#">Towards Resilience: Charlotte Strategic Energy Action Plan</a>	December 2018
Chicago, Illinois	<a href="#">Chicago Climate Action</a>	September 19, 2008 <sup>(5)</sup>
Cleveland, Ohio	<a href="#">Cleveland Climate</a>	Updated September
Columbus, Ohio	<a href="#">The Columbus Green Community Plan: Green Memo III</a>	2015 <sup>(6)</sup>
Denver, Colorado	<a href="#">Denver 80 x 50 Climate Action Plan</a>	July 17, 2018 <sup>(9)</sup>
Detroit, Michigan	<a href="#">Detroit Climate Action</a>	October 24, 2017
Indianapolis, Indiana	<a href="#">Thrive Indianapolis</a>	February 21, 2019
Kansas City, Missouri	<a href="#">Climate Protection Plan</a>	July 24, 2008 <sup>(10)</sup>
Los Angeles, California	<a href="#">L.A.'s Green New Deal</a>	April 29, 2019 <sup>(12)</sup>
Miami, Florida	<a href="#">MiPlan: City of Miami Climate Action Plan</a>	June 2008
Minneapolis, Minnesota	<a href="#">Minneapolis Climate</a>	June 28, 2013
New York, New York	<a href="#">1.5°C: Aligning New York City with the Paris Climate Agreement</a>	Second printing, December 2017
	<a href="#">Climate Mobilization</a>	April 18, 2019 <sup>(15)</sup>
Oakland, California	<a href="#">City of Oakland Energy and Climate Action</a>	Updated March 2018
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Clean Energy Vision Action Plan</a>	September 2018 <sup>(16)</sup>
Phoenix, Arizona	<a href="#">2015-16 Sustainability</a>	March 27, 2017
Portland, Oregon	<a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a>	June 2015
Sacramento, California	<a href="#">Appendix B: General Plan Climate Action Plan Policies and Programs</a>	March 3, 2015
San Diego, California	<a href="#">City of San Diego Climate Action Plan</a>	Amended July 12, 2016
San Francisco, California	<a href="#">San Francisco Climate Action Strategy</a>	Updated 2013
San Jose, California	<a href="#">Climate Smart San</a>	February 27, 2018 <sup>(17)</sup>
Seattle, Washington	<a href="#">Seattle Climate Action</a>	April 2018

# Examples of Climate Action Plans:

## Texas Cities:

- Dallas
- Houston
- Austin
- San Antonio

## Other Cities:

- Denver, Colorado
- Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Oakland, California

# Austin

COMMUNITY  
2015  
CLIMATE PLAN



# Texas Climate Action Planning

- According to the U.S. Green Building Council of Texas, in 2017, six Texas cities (Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, San Marcos, Smithville) signed onto the Climate Mayors' National Climate Agreement in support of the Paris Agreement and its international emission reduction targets set in 2016 and the goal to keep warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin have all developed Climate Action Plans.
- Each of these plans include multiple strategies to address issues across the spectrum of a city's operations, investments, and infrastructure.



*Image from the USGBC Website*

# 4 Key Factors Climate Action Plans Seek To Address



1. Industry Standards
  - a. Oakland aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 83 percent by 2050. (*City of Oakland, "Energy and Climate Action Plan," (page 2)*)
2. Building Energy Efficiency Design
  - a. Denver goals included 100% renewable electricity usage in municipal buildings by 2025 (*DenverGov.org, "Denver 80 x 50 Climate Action Plan," (pages 2-3)*)
3. Transport
  - a. Charlotte included that "100% of city-owned buildings and fleet be fueled by 100% zero-carbon energy by 2030. (*City of Charlotte, "Charlotte Strategic Energy Action Plan: Sustainable and Resilient Charlotte Update July 2019," July 20, 2019*)
4. Energy Sector
  - a. Austin states goals set for Austin Energy to have reached 35% renewable energy by 2020 and 55% renewable energy by 2025. (*AustinTexas.gov, "Austin Community Climate Plan," (page 24)*)
5. Solid Waste Sector
  - a. Las Cruces aims to incentivize waste minimization by 25 percent by 2030 and 70 percent by 2050. (<https://www.las-cruces.org>, *Climate Action Plan*)



# Where Do We Go From Here?

- Starting This Conversation
- Goal Setting
- Financial Impact
- Logistics behind the creation of a Climate Action Plan
  - Cross Functional Effort
  - 100 Resilient Cities
  - RREAC/ Stakeholder Engagement
- Reporting back in 60 days.

Our **FUTURE** is at stake.

