



## 2020 Climate Action Plan Accomplishments

Despite unprecedented challenges in 2020, the City of Walnut Creek continued to make progress in addressing climate change by implementing its adopted 2012 Climate Action Plan (CAP). The following report highlights a number of CAP accomplishments and projects completed in 2020 across multiple City departments. The City of Walnut Creek received several awards and recognition in 2020:

- Award of merit for “Planning Agency” from the Norcal American Planning Association’s Chapter for a number of projects: Rethinking Mobility, West and North Downtown Specific Plans and Community Benefits Program, Climate Action Plan Implementation, Affordable Housing Outreach Campaign, and Blueprint for Success V2.
- Award of merit for “Planning Agency” from the State of California American Planning Association for a number of projects: Rethinking Mobility, West and North Downtown Specific Plans and Community Benefits Program, Climate Action Plan Implementation, Affordable Housing Outreach Campaign, and Blueprint for Success V2.
- Contra Costa Water District annual report ranks the City’s Arbolado Park and Northgate Park as the top leaders in water use efficiency among all parks within its district.
- Boundary Oak Golf Course was first runner-up for the Natural Resource and Conservation Award of the GCSAA/*Golf Digest’s* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

New CAP accomplishments in 2020 are shown under two broad categories: Municipal Accomplishments and Community-wide Accomplishments. Municipal Accomplishments refer to projects and work completed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions specifically from City facilities and operations, such as at City Hall or the City’s vehicle fleet. Community-wide Accomplishments refer to projects and work completed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the entire Walnut Creek community, including businesses, residents, and government. The report generally does not include projects that were previously completed or began in past years and have ongoing implementation, such as the City purchasing 100% renewable electricity from MCE at its facilities since 2018. “Ongoing” projects are ongoing in nature and continue to be implemented (e.g. community outreach and education, implementing a policy), while “One-time” measures are short-term initiatives (e.g. installing a more energy efficient piece of equipment).

The City also looked for other environmental sustainability opportunities. Although not a strategy in the CAP, the Public Works Department began piloting electric alternatives to gas-powered equipment, such as chain saws, leaf blowers, and lawn mowers, in response to community concerns around greenhouse gas emissions and air quality. Since the City uses MCE’s Deep Green 100% renewable electricity, switching to electric-powered equipment has the potential to eliminate emissions associated with energy use. In addition, the Boundary Oak Golf Course worked with the Raptor Relocation Project through Audubon International last year to release four red-tailed hawks and four barn owls at the golf course.

2020 MUNICIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAP Goal Description	CAP Goal	2020 Project Description	One-time or Ongoing	Status (Completed, In progress)	Lead Department
<b>Integrate energy efficiency and other green building practices into new City facilities.</b>	<b>B 1</b>				
	B 1.1	Center for Community Arts improvements to an outdoor space and preschool play area using RecycleSmart funds for recycled tires for surfaces, rubber pavers, recycled plastic fence, and playground equipment.	One-time	In progress. Expected completion in early 2021	Public Works
<b>Conduct energy efficiency audits and implement energy/water efficiency retrofits to existing City facilities</b>	<b>B 2</b>				
	B 2.1	Leshar Center for the Arts chiller replacement (HVAC component) replaced equipment original 1990s equipment with newer, more energy efficient equipment.	One-time	In progress. Expected completion in early 2021	Public Works
	B 2.1	Installed HVAC building management system to reduce energy use at the Center for Community Arts.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	B 2.1	Networked thermostats to assist in energy saving programming of spaces.	Ongoing	Completed	Public Works
	B 2.1	Heather Farm Community Center HVAC Replacement Project replaced inefficient HVAC equipment from the 1990s with efficient HVAC equipment and added a building management system to reduce energy use.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	B 2.1	Focused on installing LED lighting retrofits at smaller facilities, such as park restrooms, sheds, and maintenance yard lighting.	Ongoing	Completed	Public Works
	B 2.2	Installed and retrofitted drinking fountains for bottle fillers at City facilities supporting water conservation and waste reduction.	Ongoing	Completed	Public Works
	B 2.3	Shadelands Museum Roof replacement project at historic Penniman House. Upgraded redwood shingles to 70% post-consumer recycled content aluminum shingles with majority of funds from RecycleSmart to improve fire resistance, energy efficiency, extend roof lifespan, and reduce maintenance costs.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
<b>Establish energy and water management and operations policies and practices for City facilities</b>	<b>B 3</b>				
	B 3.5	Installation of new SMART controllers for downtown irrigation that improve water efficiency.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	B 3.5	Drip irrigation installation and landscaping upgrades at Heather Farm Park to conserve water using Park-In-Lieu funds.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	B 3.5	Heather Farm Park Turf Conversion. Two acres of turf were converted to low-water Bermuda grass using Park-In-Lieu funds.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	B 3.5	Rudgear Park Turf Conversion. A half acre of turf was converted to low-water Bermuda grass using Park-In-Lieu funds and CIP budget.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
<b>High efficiency street lights</b>	<b>S 1</b>				
	S 1.1	Retrofitted decorative lights downtown to LED lights.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
<b>Establish energy-efficiency fleet management and operation practices</b>	<b>MT 2</b>				

2020 MUNICIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAP Goal Description	CAP Goal	2020 Project Description	One-time or Ongoing	Status (Completed, In progress)	Lead Department
	MT 2.2, MEO 1	Created new Administrative Policy for employees to reduce unnecessary idling of City fleet vehicles and equipment.	Ongoing	Approved in 2020, begin training and ongoing implementation in 2021	Public Works
Provide alternative transportation options for all City employees	MT 3				
	MT 3.1	City began participating in the Clipper Direct Program, which allows employees to deduct transportation expenses from their paycheck pre-taxed, up to \$280 per month. City continues providing \$25/month/employee subsidy per employee that participates in the program.	Ongoing	Completed. Launched January 2020	Community Development Department
	MT 3.1	ASD - IT Division rolled out new tools to enable increased telework during COVID-19 for employees.	Ongoing	Completed	Administrative Services Department
Inform City employees of sustainability initiatives/ upgrades to City facilities and engage employees in behavior-based programming to complement these efforts	MEO 1				
		Implemented in conjunction with other strategies.			All
Create and implement environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) categories and practices in City facilities	MEPP 1				
	MEPP 1.1, MEO 1.1	Developed handout on Environmental Purchasing Policy for employees and shared on intranet.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department

2020 COMMUNITY-WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAP Goal Description	CAP Goal	2020 Project Description	One-time or Ongoing	Status (Completed, In progress)	Lead Department
<b>Increase energy efficiency and conservation efforts</b>	<b>EU 1</b>				
	EU 1.1, EU 1.2, EU 1.3	Promoted BayREN, MCE, and PG&E rebates and programs to reduce residential and commercial energy use. Continued promoting the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
<b>Promote and support renewable energy generation and use</b>	<b>EU 2</b>				
	EU 2.1, EU 1.3	Promoted the Bay Area SunShares program, which provides reduced pricing and pre-vetted contractors for solar and battery storage. Continued promoting the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
<b>Reduce energy use through increased water conservation</b>	<b>EU 4</b>				
	EU 1.3, EU 4.1	Promoted EBMUD and CCWD water conservation programs.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
<b>Reduce GHG emissions through use of alternative vehicles, trip reduction and consolidation, and efficient traffic flow</b>	<b>TLU 1</b>				
	TLU 1.1	Installation of 8 new EV charging stations serving 15 parking spots at the Center for Community Arts using CIP funds and \$25,000 in rebates from both MCE and PG&E. PG&E rebate program covered additional infrastructure costs.	One-time	In progress, construction estimated to be complete in early 2021	Community Development Department, Public Works, City Manager's Office
	TLU 1.1	Created a Planning Policy Bulletin clarifying state law on electric vehicle chargers and parking requirements.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
	TLU 1.1	Local green building code amendment adopted by City Council requiring installation of EV chargers in certain types of new development project effective January 1, 2020.	Ongoing	In progress. Ongoing enforcement over 3 year code cycle	Community Development Department
	TLU 1.1	Cobranded marketing campaign with MCE to low-income residents on available electric vehicle incentives.	One-time	Completed	Community Development Department
	TLU 1.2, TLU 3.7	City Council adopted "Rethinking Mobility," a transportation demand management plan.	One-time	Completed	Community Development Department
	TLU 1.3, TLU 1.4	Drafted a Design Review Commission Condition of Approval to require installing 1 anti-idling educational sign at new construction of schools, drive-through service windows, parking lots and garages, designated passenger pickup areas, and multi-family residential that have designated passenger pickup areas. Supports several General Plan Chapter 4 goals.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
	TLU 1.4	MTC grant for traffic signal timing along Treat Boulevard.	One-time	In progress, estimated to be completed in spring 2021	Public Works
<b>Reduce vehicle miles traveled through smart land use and design</b>	<b>TLU 2</b>				
	TLU 2.1, TLU 2.3	State awarded \$310,000 SB 2 Planning Grant to develop a policy on expediting affordable housing and create construction plans for Accessory Dwelling Units.	One-time	In progress	Community Development Department
	TLU 2.1	State awarded \$300,000 LEAP grant, a portion of which will support a Rightsizing Parking Project to accelerate housing production and rightsize parking requirements.	One-time	Grant awarded, work to be initiated in 2021	Community Development Department

2020 COMMUNITY-WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAP Goal Description	CAP Goal	2020 Project Description	One-time or Ongoing	Status (Completed, In progress)	Lead Department
	TLU 2.3	St. Paul's Commons 100% affordable housing development with 44 units completes construction. The project received \$5.7 million in City housing funds.	One-time	Completed	Community Development Department
Convert vehicular trips to non-vehicular or transit trips	TLU 3				
	TLU 3.1	Promoted 511 and CCTA programs, such as e-bike rebates and "Bike to Anywhere" in-lieu of Bike to Work Day.	Ongoing	Completed	Community Development Department
	TLU 3.1	3/4 of a mile of bicycle lane improvements/additions. Improvements included painting lanes green for visibility. Added a northbound bike lane and southbound sharrows on North Broadway near Parkside.	Ongoing	Completed	Public Works
	TLU 3.3	Installed additional bicycle parking throughout downtown.	Ongoing	In progress. As part of Rethinking Mobility, City will continue installing bike parking downtown.	Community Development Department, Public Works
	TLU 3.6	Implemented in conjunction with other strategies.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
	TLU 3.7, TLU 1.3	As part of the "Rebound Program" installed 15-minute parking for quick order pick-up/delivery to reduce circulation and facilitate efficient trips. Curbside pickup signs incorporate "anti-idling" message.	Ongoing	In Progress. Many of the locations selected for the Rebound Program will remain permanent, and the City will look for other locations that can benefit from similar interventions.	Community Development Department, Public Works
	TLU 3.7	Approval to increase parking rates in City garages from \$0.50/hour to \$1.25/hour to manage parking demand.	One-time	Completed	City Manager's Office
	TLU 3.7	Parking occupancy sensor expansion to 1200 spaces in downtown core to provide real-time parking occupancy information reducing traffic, circulation, and emissions.	One-time	Completed	Public Works
Encourage residents in green lifestyles	EPP 2				
	EPP 2.1	Promoted events like Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Coastal Cleanup, Our Water Our World, RecycleSmart initiatives, the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, and more. Participated in and supported Walnut Creek Watershed Council and related creek restoration, and other community participation activities.	Ongoing	Completed	All