Climate Action Plan is vital first step

Energy capital of the world must lead way in fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By The Editorial Board

Houston's climate action plan is vital for the city's and region's future. The ambitious goals outlined in the plan will not only help the city achieve its climate goals but also provide a model for other cities around the world.

The plan sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050. This is a significant step towards achieving the city's carbon neutrality goal by 2050. The plan also includes initiatives to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste, and promote renewable energy sources.

The city's commitment to sustainability is commendable. It is vital that other cities follow suit and take similar actions to reduce their carbon footprint. The city's example will set a positive precedent and encourage others to take similar steps towards a greener future.

An eco-friendly goal for energy capital

By Dylan McGinnis

Houston's climate plan enlists oil firms, residents in aim for carbon neutrality by 2050.

City climate plan enlists oil firms, residents in aim for carbon neutrality by 2050.

By Dylan McGinnis

Houston's climate action plan is a major step in the city's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. The plan aims to achieve 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is a significant goal and one that has the potential to make a real difference.

The plan includes a range of initiatives to reduce emissions, including the development of a smart grid, the expansion of renewable energy sources, and the promotion of energy efficiency. It also includes measures to increase the use of electric vehicles and to promote public transportation.

The city's commitment to sustainability is commendable. It is vital that other cities follow suit and take similar actions to reduce their carbon footprint. The city's example will set a positive precedent and encourage others to take similar steps towards a greener future.

Houston Climate Week

August 24-28

Join us for a series of conversations about Houston's Climate Action Plan!
Learn how you can help!
BACKGROUND
Globally -- Houston is one of C40 96 “Mega-cities” committed to global climate action

Nationally -- 481 Climate Mayors represent nearly 20% of the U.S. population

Texas -- Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston are all launching climate action plans
### CLIMATE IN HOUSTON

2015 Memorial Day Flood, 2016 Tax Day Flood, 2017 Hurricane Harvey, 2018 4th of July Flood, 2019 Tropical Storm Imelda, 2020...

#### Low vs High Emission Climate Projections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1970-1990</th>
<th>2050</th>
<th>2100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Temp</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>104 - 106</td>
<td>104 - 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days above 100</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>12-23 days</td>
<td>14-54 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights above 80</td>
<td>.6 nights</td>
<td>20-50 nights</td>
<td>30-96 nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Wave Length</td>
<td>2.5 days</td>
<td>15 – 27 days</td>
<td>19 – 47 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Rain Fall</td>
<td>Average remains the same, but extremes range from 5 to 100 inches</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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[Image of flood scene and climate projection map]
Baseline Emissions

Total Annual Emissions Per Capita (Metric Tonnes CO\textsubscript{2}e)

- Portland - 10.1
- San Francisco - 5.8
- Pittsburgh - 15.9
- Chicago - 11.4
- Philadelphia - 12
- Washington DC - 12.7
- Dallas - 13.5
- Houston - 14.9
- Austin - 11.6
- Boston - 9.7

www.c40.org/other/gpc-dashboard

GHG Emissions Source (by Sector)

- Energy: 49% of 16,873,994 metric tonnes CO\textsubscript{2}e
- Transportation: 47% of 16,140,987 metric tonnes CO\textsubscript{2}e
- Waste: 4% of 1,301,322 metric tonnes CO\textsubscript{2}e
SUSTAINABILITY + RESILIENCE

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES & IMPACTS
- Fossil-Fueled Power Plants
- Development Sprawl
- Landfill Waste
- Traffic
- Flooding
- Heat
- Poor Air Quality

SOLUTIONS: MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
- Energy Efficient Buildings
- Renewable Energy
- Complete Communities
- Waste Solutions
- Urban Gardens
- Multimodal & Efficient Transportation
- Flood Proofing
- Trees
- Room for the Bayou

MITIGATION: Process that help to reduce the impact and rate of future climate change by minimizing emissions of heat-trapping gasses and removing them from the atmosphere.

ADAPTATION: Adjustments to various systems in response to the anticipated effects or impacts of climate change.
A science-based, community-driven strategy for Houston to reduce greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions, meet the Paris Agreement goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, and lead a global energy transition.

12 goals, 12 targets, 36 strategies, and 96 actions

COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

• Advance mobility and transportation safety
• Improve air quality
• Reduce energy costs
• Address environmental justice concerns
• Create resilient, equitable communities
• Spur regional economic growth
A DATA AND STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN PROCESS

Update Schedule:
• GHG inventory updated annually
• CAP updated every 4-5 years
• Resilient Houston KPI Dashboard
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

• Complementary Initiatives
• +30 stakeholder meetings
• 25 working group meetings
• 500+ one-on-ones
• 700+ comments from 400 individuals and organizations
CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050

INTERIM TARGETS:

- 2030: 40%
- 2040: 75%
- 2050: 100%
TRANSPORTATION

**GOAL 1** Shift Regional Fleet to Electric and Low-Emission Vehicles.

**GOAL 2** Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Per Capita.

**GOAL 3** Provide Equitable and Safe Mobility Choices.
ENERGY TRANSITION

**GOAL 1** Grow Houston’s Investment in Renewable and Resilient Energy Systems.

**GOAL 2** Make Houston The Leader In Carbon Capture Technology and Energy Innovation.

**GOAL 3** Restore, Protect, and Enhance Houston’s Natural Ability to Capture and Store Carbon.
BUILDING OPTIMIZATION

GOAL 1  Reduce Building Energy Use and Maximize Savings.

GOAL 2  Expand Investment in Energy Efficiency.

GOAL 3  Invest in Skilled Local Jobs to Optimize Building Operations.
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

GOAL 1  Reduce Waste and Transform the Circular Economy.


GOAL 3  Ensure Safe and Cost-Effective Long-Term Disposal Capacity.
IMPLEMENTATION
• bp partnership
• METRONext + BRT
• Climate Impact Assessment
• Walkable Places Ordinance
• 100% Renewable Energy
• Community EV Charging
• 4.6 million native trees
• 50 Energy 2.0 Companies
• Electrify City Fleet Vehicles
Establish a Climate Action Plan (CAP) Sec. 2-523:

• Require the city to establish, adopt, implement, and regularly update a CAP (at least every 5 years) and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory (at least 4 years)

Establish an Official Office of Sustainability Sec. 2-521. That will

• Coordinate city-wide ghg emissions, climate, energy, and sustainability reporting,

• Educate the public and private sectors regarding best practices to reduce ghg emissions from building, energy, transportation, and materials management activities

• Develop policies and procedures to guide city departments in implementing the CAP and reducing municipal ghg emissions

• Establish an open, inclusive, public process for engaging the diverse ethnic, cultural, and economic communities in the development, implementation and update of the CAP

Departmental Requirements Sec. 2-526:

• Require city departments to designate a sustainability liaison and coordinate with the Sustainability Office on emission reduction programs and the CAP
QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!

Learn more:
WWW.GREENHOUSTONTX.GOV