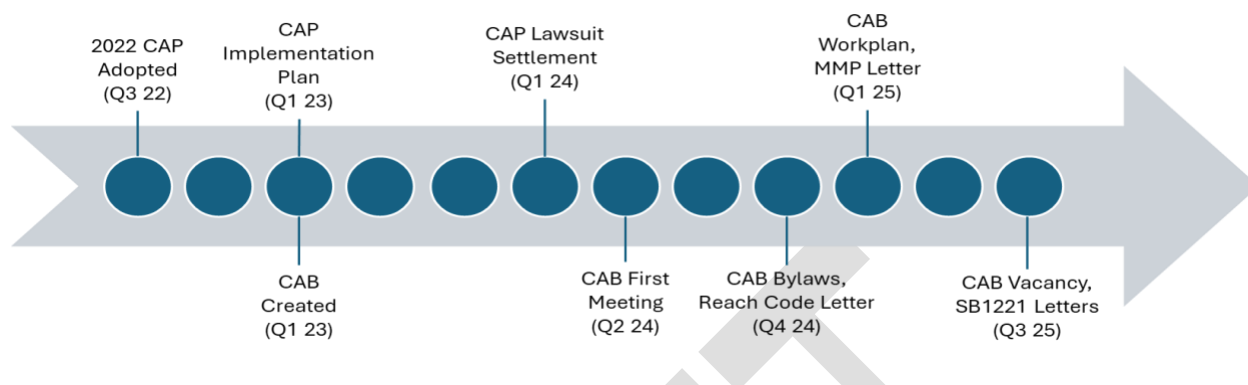


CITY OF SAN DIEGO
CLIMATE ADVISORY BOARD
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction to the Climate Advisory Board



San Diego's Climate Action Plan was adopted on August 10, 2022.¹ The Climate Action Plan is a legally binding document that establishes a community-wide goal of net zero by 2035, committing San Diego to an accelerated trajectory for greenhouse gas reductions. The Climate Action Implementation Plan², a supplement to the Climate Action Plan completed in February 2023, was intended to identify tasks, implementing City departments, cost-estimates, and other details needed to embed climate action into the City's annual budgeting process and routine operations. In addition, on February 20, 2024, the City of San Diego settled a lawsuit³ with Climate Action Campaign and Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation legally obligating it to a series of actions related to the implementation of its Climate Action Plan.

The San Diego City Council established the Climate Advisory Board in March 2023.⁴ The purpose is to serve as an advisory body to the Mayor and the City Council on policies and issues related to climate environment, environmental justice, energy justice, climate equity, sustainability, and energy policy for the City of San Diego and to assist the City in implementing the Climate Action Plan and attaining the City's stated goals in these areas. The Climate Advisory Board consists of 15 volunteer members, which are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The City Council also established a Resiliency Advisory Board to advise the Mayor and City Council, and relevant departments on natural resource conservation, climate resiliency and adaptation, wetlands, habitat preservation, biodiversity, and Climate Resilient SD, and to assist the City in attaining its stated goals in these areas.⁵

The Climate Advisory Board held its first meeting on June 4, 2024. During its initial meetings in 2024 the Board elected a Chair (Tanisha-Jean Martin) and Vice-Chair (Kelly Lyndon), adopted by-laws, established a regular meeting time, a schedule of holding each meeting in a different Council District, and created ad hoc subcommittees to support development of an annual work

¹ https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2022/R-314297.pdf

² https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/draft_climate_action_implementation_plan_022823.pdf

³ https://cdn.climatepolicyradar.org/navigator/USA/2022/climate-action-campaign-v-city-of-san-diego_96de4cb6277b54dd0d919afd391193e5.pdf

⁴ https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2023/O-21624.pdf

⁵ https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2023/O-21625.pdf

plan for 2025. The Board adopted an annual work plan for 2025 on January 7, 2025 and has issued four formal letters.

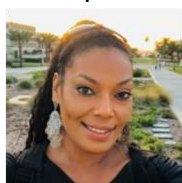
This Annual Report aims to highlight the Board's accomplishments since it was seated, challenges faced and next steps for the upcoming year.

DRAFT

Board Membership

The Climate Advisory Board (Board) consists of 15 volunteer members. The Mayor appoints six members, and nine additional members to represent each Council district based on nominations provided by each Councilmember. In nominating, appointing, and confirming members, the Mayor and City Council give preference to those having expertise in decarbonization, mobility or planning, land use, public health related to climate change, climate or environmental science, or finance or economics; or those representing labor organizations, the renewable energy industry, environmental or energy justice organizations, zero waste or circular economy, as those terms are used in the Climate Action Plan, the clean technology industry, youth climate leadership, or citizen of a federally recognized tribe.

The composition of the Climate Advisory Board during 2025 is provided below.



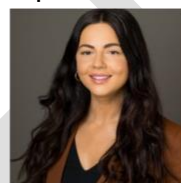
Tanisha-Jean Martin
Chair, Mayoral Member



Kelly Lyndon
Vice-Chair, D6 Member



Amy Ly
Mayoral Member



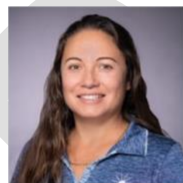
Kelly Mills
Mayoral Member



JD Weidman
Mayoral Member



Jason Anderson
Mayoral Member



Cristina Marquez
Mayoral Member



Cindy Lin
D1 Member



Josh Dean
D2 Member



Mahayla Slackerelli
D3 Member



Madison Swayne
D4 Member



Alexa Marie Kerr¹
Past D5 Member



Whitney Pearce
D7 Member



Vacant²
D8 Member



Vacant³
D9 Member

Notes:

1. The seat for Council District 5 is vacant as of September 2025.
2. The seat for Council District 8 has been vacant since the Board was seated.
3. The seat for Council District 9 has been vacant since the Board was seated. Council District 9 originally nominated a candidate who was a junior in high school as the recommended youth voice, however by the time the board was seated, the candidate was leaving for college and was unable to join.

Note from the Chair

- Honor to serve Statement
- Purpose driven strategy of meeting in every district.
 - Why it was a priority
 - Appreciation to staff and Board
- Strengths and weaknesses
 - Strength: Equity, Labor, Transportation, Electrification, Community Health
 - Attendance Standards & Barriers to participation
- How to increase equity:
 - Youth seat fulfillment and consideration (times we meet/ hybrid capabilities)
 - Meet in places that do not require paid parking and accessible to public transportation
- How city can support better
 - Prioritize in the design/planning that CAP issues come through CAB early during development stages

Summary of the 2025 Work Plan

The Climate Advisory Board adopted its 2025 Work Plan on January 7, 2025.

Priority items, where a 2025 ad hoc committee was created for each

- Advise on CAP Reporting, Implementation, Budgets
- Advise on Citywide Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign for EV Adoption
- Advise on Parking Management and Revenue that can equitably support the City's Mode Shift and Vision Zero goals

On-going items

- Ensure CAB has representation from subject matter experts and community members
- Coordinate with Related Boards & Commissions
- Advise on Climate Equity
- Advise on Building Decarb Plans, Policies, Programs
- Advise on the adopted Mobility Master Plan
- Advise on the 2nd draft of the Complete Streets Design Manual

Backlog items

- Advise on Virtual Powerplant Opportunities & Implementation
- Advise on programs/funding to support increasing the city's:
 - Transit Mode Share goal from 4.5% to 15% by 2035
 - Bike Mode Share goal from 1.4% to 10% by 2035.
- Advise on potentially using recycled plastic in resurfacing projects to reduce virgin oil usage and embodied carbon.

Board Achievements in Its First Year

The board established its foundation by electing officers, creating bylaws, developing a work plan and creating committees. It was able to welcome the public, bring in speakers and advise the city on a number of key matters.

Summary of Meeting Actions

Month	Activity	Description
Jun 2024	Action	Election of Chair and Vice Chair; creation of Bylaws Ad hoc Committee.
Jul 2024	Action	Creation of 2025 Workplan Ad hoc Committee
	Info	Staff presentation on the status of CAP, CAIP, and CAP Dashboard
Aug 2024	Action	Adoption of bylaws ⁶
Sep 2024	Info	Presentation on Reach Codes; Presentation on Measure G
	Action	Board adopted meeting schedule and locations in each of the city council districts
Oct 2024	Action	Board approved and sent a letter to Mayor & City Council “Strong Support for High Performance Reach Code” ⁷
	Action	Creation of three Ad Hoc Workplan Committees for CAP Strategies 1, 2 and 3
Nov 2024		Adjourned due to lack of quorum
Dec 2024	Info	Draft update to Zero Emissions Municipal Buildings and Operations (ZEMBOP) Staff Presentation.
Jan 2025	Action	Re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
	Action	Board adopted the 2025 workplan ⁸ . The three Ad Hoc Workplan Committees were dissolved. Three new Ad Hoc committees were created to address specific workplan items • 2025 Ad Hoc Committee to Advise on CAP Reporting, Implementation, Budgets • 2025 Ad Hoc Committee to Advise on Citywide Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign for EV Adoption • 2025 Ad Hoc Committee to Advise on Parking Management and Revenue that can equitably support the City's Mode Shift and Vision Zero goals
Feb 2025	Info	Draft Master Mobility Plan Staff Presentation
Mar 2025	Info	Presentation on Neighborhood Decarbonization and SB 1221 by Beckie Menten of the Building Decarbonization Coalition

⁶https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/climate_advisory_board_bylaws_adopted_08-06-24.pdf

⁷<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/cab-strong-support-for-high-performance-reach-code-oct-2024.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/cab-2025-workplan-approved.pdf>

	Action	Board approved and sent a letter to Council President Joe LaCava "Recommendations for the City of San Diego's Draft Mobility Master Plan" ⁹
	Info	Draft Energy Cooperation Agreement staff presentation
Apr 2025		Adjourned due to lack of quorum
May 2025		Adjourned due to lack of quorum
Jun 2025		Adjourned due to lack of quorum
Jul 2025	Action	Board approved and sent a letter to the Mayor and D8 & D9 councilmembers urging them to fill the vacant positions on this board ¹⁰
	Info	Staff responded to Ad Hoc Committee initial questions regarding the Climate Action Plan
	Action	Board approved and sent a letter to the Mayor & Environment Committee members "Recommendation to Support SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots" ¹¹
Aug 2025	Info	Staff responded to remaining Ad Hoc Committee questions regarding the Climate Action Plan
	Info	Staff presentation on recently released 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	Info	Staff presentation on CicloSDias Pilot Program
Sep 2025		Adjourned due to lack of quorum
Oct 2025	TBD	Climate Advisory Board Recommendations, Annual Report

⁹<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025-03-04-city-of-sd-mobility-master-plan-final-cab-letter.pdf>

¹⁰https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/final_cab-vacancy-letter_070125.pdf

¹¹https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/final_cab-sb1221-letter_070125.pdf

Summary Issues and Recommendations

The Climate Advisory Board quickly engaged to advise on a number of timely city activities this year, and has the following recommendations to follow-up.

	Issue	City Actions Taken (2025)	Recommendations to Council Regarding Follow-Up Action
1	Pass High Performance Reach code	None	Pass cost-effective reach codes including encouraging homeowners to replace broken air conditioners with heat pumps
2	Limit ZEMBOP Exceptions	Included in ordinance, including annual report	Request annual report on ZEMBOP exceptions, Dec 2025 will be one year mark.
3	Master Mobility Plan (MMP)	adopted	Integrate the MMP with the City's other transportation planning efforts (e.g., Complete Streets Design Manual and Pavement Management Plan) Providing scoring transparency for Appendix B projects, including a Council Policy 800-14 score for CIPs
4	Energy Cooperation Agreement update	Adopted without board input	Clarify which board or commission has jurisdiction to collect public input and make recommendations before the next ECA update
5	SB1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots	Staff wrote supportive comment to CPUC at 8/7/25 PPH	Direct staff to work with SDG&E and other community partners to propose pilots
6	CAP Implementation Plan 2025 Update	pending	Allow opportunity for board and public feedback to be incorporated. Add SB1221 pilots, AC2HP reach code, Benchmarking update and non-compliance fees. Budget funding to implement CAP actions.
7	2027 CAP Update	Work started	Delay until 2028 to prioritize resources on implementing current CAP
8	Benchmarking Ordinance update	None	Direct staff to update without coupling to a BPS ordinance. Start assessing non-compliance fees to fund building decarb activities

Challenges

The board faced a number of challenges this year, which we would like to address moving forward.

	Challenge	Impact	Recommendations
1	On-going D8 & D9 vacancies	Lack of representation Difficult to meet quorum.	Councilmembers and Mayor prioritize filling these positions, as well as D5 which is recently vacant.
2	Five adjourned meetings due to lack of quorum	Time-sensitive actions abandoned. Loss of productivity.	Board to consider options to address
3	Relevant draft plans/ordinances not always brought to board before committee	Inability to take public input and make recommendations. Recommendations made after committee.	City staff build this into their planning.
4	City's 2023 GHG emissions increased over 2022	Not making sufficient progress towards a more sustainable, healthy and thriving city	Update the CAP Implementation Plan and budget funding for the actions

Looking Ahead to 2026

The board has several activities it is planning to undertake in 2026

- Consider making recommendations to improve the ability for the board to achieve quorum for regular monthly meetings.
- Review & Advise on the upcoming Complete Streets Design Manual.
- Hold a joint meeting with related boards (Resiliency Advisory Board, Mobility Board, Community Forest Advisory Board).
- Update the board workplan for 2026, considering recommendations, remaining items and lessons learned from 2025, and aligning with relevant city and committee workplans.

We look forward to increasing our capacity to advise the Mayor and the City Council on policies and issues related to climate environment, environmental justice, energy justice, climate equity, sustainability, mobility, and energy policy for the City of San Diego and to assist the City in implementing the Climate Action Plan and attaining the City's stated goals in these areas.