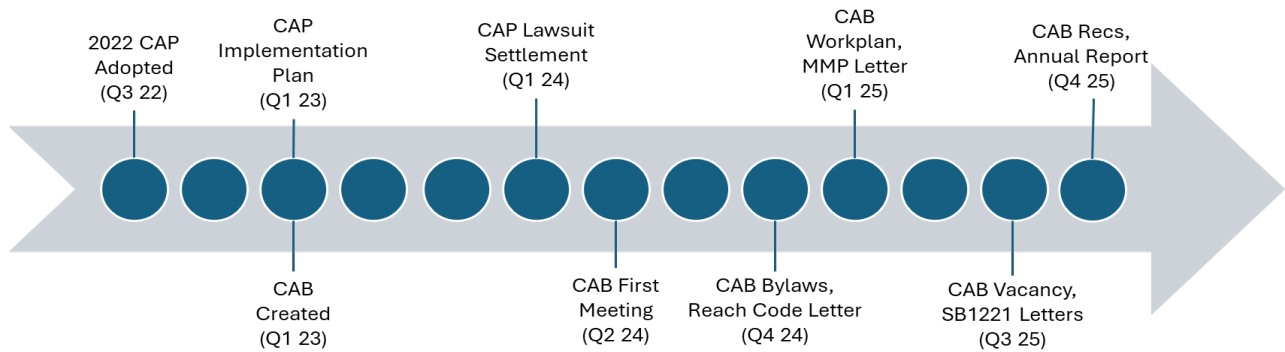


CITY OF SAN DIEGO
CLIMATE ADVISORY BOARD

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, City departments responsible for implementation, 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, City Council, and relevant City departments 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 plan for 2025. The Board adopted an annual work plan for 2025 on January 7, 2025, and approved five letters providing recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. This Annual Report aims to highlight the Board's accomplishments since it was seated, challenges faced and next steps for the upcoming year.

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

Board Membership

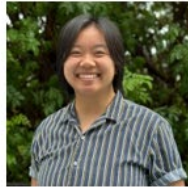
The Climate Advisory Board (Board) membership is governed by San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) [Section 26.40](#). The Board consists of 15 volunteer members. The Mayor appoints six members, and nine additional members to represent each Council district based on nominations provided by each Councilmember. 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 Anderson¹
Mayoral Member



Cristina Marquez
Mayoral Member



Cindy Lin
D1 Member



Josh Dean
D2 Member



Mahayla Slackerelli
D3 Member



Madison Swayne
D4 Member



Alexa Marie Kerr²
D5 Member



Whitney Pearce
D7 Member



Vacant³
D8 Member



Vacant⁴
D9 Member

Notes:

1. A Mayoral seat is vacant as of October 2025
2. The seat for Council District 5 is vacant as of September 2025.
3. The seat for Council District 8 has been vacant since the Board was seated and member was appointed in November 2025.
4. The seat for Council District 9 has been vacant since the Board was seated and member was appointed in November 2025. 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

Being an Afro-Latina native that was born and raised in San Diego's District 4-Southeastern San Diego neighborhood, it has been an honor to serve as the First Chairperson for the City of San Diego's Climate Advisory Board (CAB). As a purpose driven ambassador for climate change and environmental justice in Communities of Concern, this was an opportunity to advocate for climate equity and be a voice for those that have historically been systemically disregarded when it comes to discussions that impact their communities.

Given my experience of being from the Redlined area of San Diego and venturing throughout all the districts in the city, I have experienced firsthand the various social and environmental climates of each district for more than 4 decades. I made the conscious decision to introduce the recommendation that this board have monthly meetings in each district in an attempt to offer an opportunity for all the CAB members to experience each district's climate, especially districts they rarely or have never been to. Climate advising is our purpose, so it was important to acknowledge our bodily senses within the various district climates, as well as inequities when it came to public transportation struggles and inefficient community resources. I am extremely grateful that the CAB board members accepted the unheard-of suggestion to become a mobile board in an effort of discovering equity, and appreciative to city staff that assisted with the unique endeavor.

The CAB demonstrated strength in consistently advocating and advising for:

- Equity - Labor - Transportation - Electrification - Community Health

Although it weakened the board's advising strength when we were given staff updates with too little time to offer recommendations before specific committee deadlines, the fact that we had to withstand having vacant seats since our inception and throughout our entire duration as a board for the year was the foremost problem the CAB endured. This led to frustrating months with lack of quorum resulting in meetings being cancelled which hindered opportunities to have discussions to advise the city before being presented to certain committees. The voices in these districts have been silenced and restrained by not being represented at meetings and the CAB hopes this letter is positively received and responsible parties are held accountable if they continue to create barriers for community voices to be heard, but even worse, was voices being held hostage to represent 2 of the 9 city districts in San Diego and it was out of the board's control despite our valiant efforts to assist and support council members and mayor to fulfill the vacant seats.

There is always room for improvement, therefore the board's recommendations are:

- For an improved strategy to be considered due to voices in certain districts being silenced and restrained by not being represented at meetings and to encourage that responsible parties are held accountable if they continue to create barriers for community voices to be heard.
- Increase board equity by appointing a youth member to a board seat.
- Have the city prioritize incorporating into their design and planning stages that Climate Action Plan issues come through CAB early to increase efficient resolve in CAB advising opportunities and capabilities.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the CAB Board Chair and lead meetings that offered thought provoking advising suggestions and letters of recommendation to the City for the advancement of meeting San Diego's Climate Action goals, and I look forward to the upcoming year to learn from our first year as a board and continue supporting San Diego in the advancement of climate justice for all of San Diego.

-Tanisha-Jean Martin, City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board Chair 2024-2025

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 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 council for 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, staff to issue annual report on exceptions	Schedule 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 Capital Improvement Program.
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	SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots	Staff wrote supportive comment to CPUC at 8/7/25 PPH	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 implementation pathways for 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 Allow opportunity for board and public feedback on major changes to Net-Zero Target Dates and Strategies prior to measure/action development.

	Issue	City Actions Taken (2025)	Recommendations to Council Regarding Follow-Up Action
8	Benchmarking Ordinance update	None	Update without coupling to a BPS ordinance. Start assessing non-compliance fees to fund building decarb activities

Summary of Meetings

All meeting agendas, materials and minutes can be found of the City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board website.⁶ Below is a summary of the meetings.

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 ⁷
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” ⁸
	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	Staff Presentation on draft update to Zero Emissions Municipal Buildings and Operations (ZEMBOP).
Jan 2025	Action	Re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
	Action	Board adopted the 2025 workplan ⁹ . 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	Staff Presentation on Draft Master Mobility Plan

⁶ <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/public-hearings-meetings/climate-advisory-board>

⁷ https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/climate_advisory_board_bylaws_adopted_08-06-24.pdf

⁸ <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/cab-strong-support-for-high-performance-reach-code-oct-2024.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/cab-2025-workplan-approved.pdf>

Month	Activity	Description
Mar 2025	Public	Lori Saldaña non-agenda: short presentation regarding UCSD research on heat impacts.
	Info	Presentation on Neighborhood Decarbonization and SB 1221 by Beckie Menten of the Building Decarbonization Coalition.
	Action	Board approved and sent a letter to Council President Joe LaCava "Recommendations for the City of San Diego's Draft Mobility Master Plan" ¹⁰
	Info	Staff Presentation on draft Energy Cooperation Agreement
	Public	Multiple written and in-person public comments providing feedback on the draft Energy Cooperation Agreement
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 seats on this board ¹¹
	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" ¹²
Aug 2025	Public	Katrina Oprisko non-agenda: spoke about upcoming San Diego Climate Week
	Info	Boards & Commissions staff described the process for filling board vacancies and answered board questions.
	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	Action	Board approved and sent a letter "Climate Advisory Board Recommendations" ¹³ Board Approved CAB 2025 Annual Report with amendments Board approved Chair to meet with D5 & D8 regarding vacant seats on this board

¹⁰<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025-03-04-city-of-sd-mobility-master-plan-final-cab-letter.pdf>

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

¹²https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/final_cab-sb1221-letter_070125.pdf

¹³<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/item-8-final-recommendations-letter-100725.pdf>

Challenges

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

	Challenge	Impact	Recommendations
1	Ongoing D8 & D9 vacancies, two new vacancies	Lack of representation Difficult to meet quorum.	Councilmembers and Mayor prioritize filling these positions
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 this board before city 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 2% over 2022	City is 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, City Council, and relevant City departments 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.