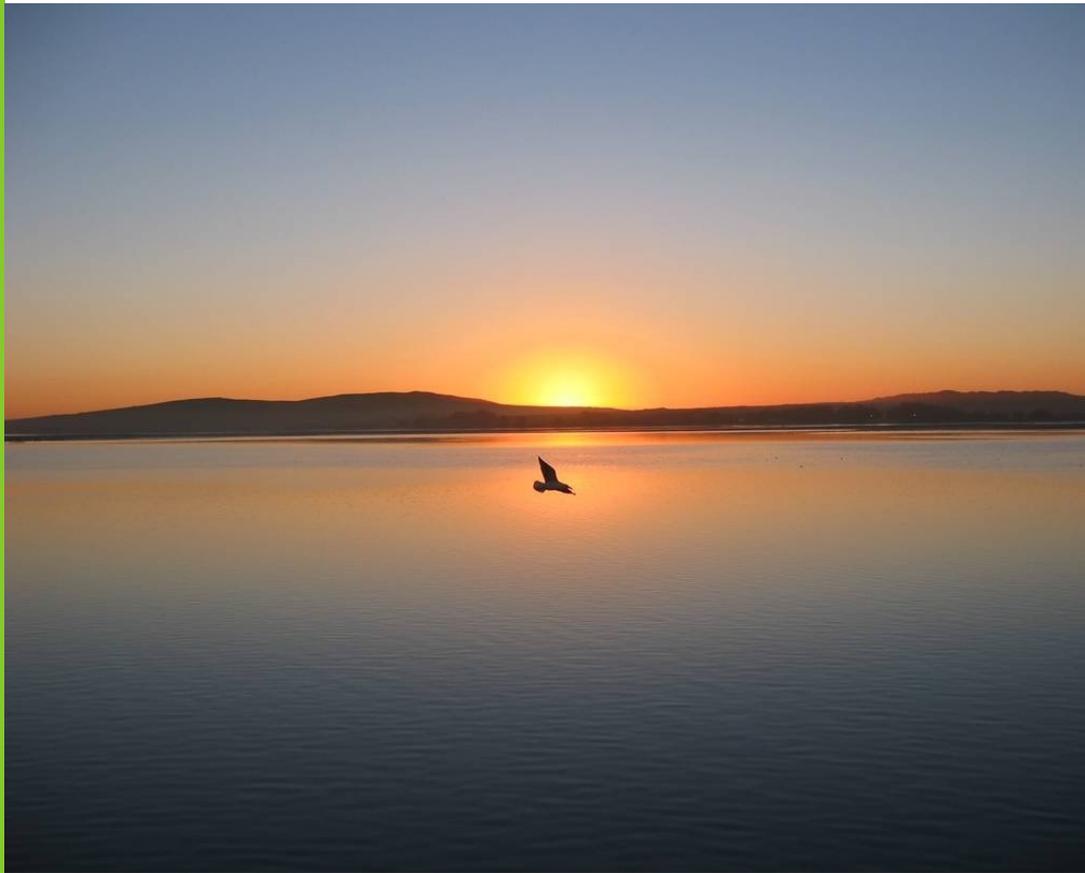


Sebastopol

LOCAL
FLAVOR
GLOBAL
VISION

MARCH
2016



Climate Action Plan

Sebastopol has joined with the County of Sonoma and every other city in the County (with the exception of Santa Rosa, which has already adopted a Climate Action Plan) to create Climate Action 2020, to address the issue of climate change at a local level.

The draft Plan will be going through a major review process over the coming months.

The Climate is Changing

Although changes in global climate have been recorded throughout history, there is strong consensus among the scientific community that recent changes are the result of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions created by the burning of fossil fuels and other human activity.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its 2014 assessment, observed that human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent increases in GHGs emissions are the highest in history. Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850.

Human-induced climate change is a global challenge that demands action at every level, including local government. Sonoma County communities, including Sebastopol are established leaders in locally based efforts to combat global climate change, and the Climate Action Plan takes another step forward as local governments and regional agencies commit to concrete

actions that will further reduce countywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create a better future for Sonoma County.

Local Action

Sonoma County communities have long recognized the need for local action to help meet the global challenge of climate change. The first phase of local climate action included all nine cities and the County setting a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 25% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2015.

Although that ambitious goal was not accompanied by a formal plan, local leaders took initial actions that have made real progress toward reducing countywide GHG emissions, including a community climate action plan prepared by the community-based Center for Climate Protection and local government programs like Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) and the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program.

Climate Action Plan

Climate Action 2020 begins a new phase of local climate action by resetting the countywide GHG reduction goal and focusing on near-term actions that will be implemented through 2020.

These actions will substantially reduce emissions in the short term and put Sonoma County on a solid trajectory to achieve deeper GHG reductions.

After 2020, another phase of local climate action planning will be needed to continue

and expand the actions in CA2020 and to explore new strategies to meet longer-term GHG reduction goals.

These local actions will combine with state and regional actions to reduce community GHG emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and make substantial progress toward even greater reductions beyond 2020.

These local actions will also advance many other community priorities such as economic resilience, public health, water efficiency, air quality, and overall quality of life.

The Plan reflects an innovative, collaborative approach to responding to climate change. The Plan takes a truly regional (countywide) approach that coordinates the climate protection activities of all the cities and the County to achieve a shared GHG reduction goal. This approach recognizes that, by working together, Sonoma County's communities can achieve greater GHG reductions, and do it more efficiently than if each city and the County acted on their own.

The draft Plan will be introduced at a joint study session of the City Council and Planning Commission on April 12, 2016, and will later be the subject of public hearings throughout the County.

For more information about Climate Action 2020, check out the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) web site at <http://www.sctainfo.org/rcpa.htm>



Community Awards

At the annual Community Awards sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, a number of community leaders were recognized for their contributions.

The City's Police Chief, Jeff Weaver was honored as Citizen of the Year. Chief Weaver has contributed to the community in his role as Chief and through many other activities, demonstrating leadership, compassion, integrity and teamwork. Another Police employee honored was Cassandra Pinney, Dispatcher, for Police Employee of the Year.

Traditional Medicinals won for Business of the Year, Dan Smith and Joan Marler were recognized as Patrons of West County for their extraordinary contributions to Sonoma West Medical Center, Mia Del Prete was honored as Volunteer of the Year, Jann Eyrich for Spirit of Sebastopol, local environmental and restoration consultants Prunuske Chatham were recognized for Environmental Consciousness.

John Necker was honored for Outstanding Public Service for his dedicated citizen reporting on City Council meetings, Gloria Kelly was acknowledged for Service to Seniors, Myriah Volk with Shoes for Kidz for was honored for Service to Youth.

Dr. James K. Gude was awarded Humanitarian of the Year, Ives Pool was recognized for Hall of Fame, Harvey and Janet Charnofsky were honored for Contributions to the Arts, The Habitat Corridor Project was honored for Beautification of a Visible Site for their work at the Chamber building, and Tommy Leach was designated Sebastopol Fireman of the Year.

Skategarden Expansion

The half-acre expansion to the Sebastopol Skategarden Park is moving forward. The City expects construction to start this spring, and for the project to be completed in the fall.

The project will add green space, benches, and barbecues, and make several enhancements to the existing park including lighting and a new small shade structure.

General Plan

Sebastopol's General Plan sets long-term City policy in a wide range of areas including circulation, land use, noise, safety, and urban design. The current General Plan was adopted in 1994.

A complete update of the General Plan Update was initiated and is more than halfway complete. A large General Plan Advisory Committee appointed by the City Council issued a preliminary draft General Plan in December 2015, and the Planning Commission and City Council have provided initial comments and revisions to the draft.

Next, the formal draft General Plan will be prepared, as well as a draft Environmental Impact Report. After a public review period, first the Planning Commission, and then the City Council will conduct public hearings on the Plan.

The current draft as well as other Update materials can be reviewed on the Update web site, at <http://sebastopol.generalplan.org/>

Quick Updates

- The City Council has approved an ordinance to expand the membership of the Planning Commission to include an 'alternate' position, to step in when a member is absent or has a conflict of interest, as well as to broaden community representation.
- The City will be reviewing economic development and public facility opportunities as part of the 'Pine Grove Square' study. This project focusses on the City's South Main parking lot, and potential redevelopment of the site.
- The design of a comprehensive 'wayfinding' sign project is underway. The project is intended to help guide drivers and pedestrians to major Sebastopol destinations to enhance community identity, and reduce sign clutter.

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