



Sunnyvale

## News Release

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### **CITY OF SUNNYVALE EXCEEDS 2020 CLIMATE TARGETS**

#### ***City hits climate goal ahead of schedule, plans ambitious new goals***

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale has surpassed a state target for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020, according to the City’s Climate Action Plan 2018 Biennial Progress Report, approved by the City Council on July 17. As of 2016, Sunnyvale has achieved a 12 percent reduction below 1990 levels. This exceeds the state’s 2020 target, even as population and jobs have grown by 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively, since 2008.

Sunnyvale’s Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2014, has served as a roadmap for reducing community-wide GHG emissions and achieving the state’s target of cutting GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. For Sunnyvale, this target is measured as a 15 percent reduction in emissions from the baseline year of 2008 – the first year that the City conducted a community-wide inventory.

The CAP contains almost 130 distinct actions for reducing GHG emissions locally. The community’s most notable accomplishments include:

- Sourcing carbon-free energy. Sunnyvale led the way to develop a community choice energy program that provides clean electricity to residents and businesses. Launched in 2017, Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) offers 100 percent carbon-free (with an option to opt up to 100 percent renewable) electricity to local customers. With SVCE, the City has reduced community-wide emissions from electricity consumption from 24 percent to 6.5 percent. Ninety-eight percent of residential accounts are participating in the program.

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- Diverting 64 percent of waste from landfills through recycling and recovery in 2016. With the December 2017 implementation of the residential FoodCycle food scraps recycling program and continued expansion of the commercial food scraps program, diversion is expected to increase to about 68 percent this year.
- Upgrading all 9,500 City-operated streetlights to more energy-efficient LEDs—a project that will be completed in summer 2018. Converting to LEDs reduces greenhouse gas emissions, cuts down on maintenance costs and is projected to reduce streetlight energy use by up to 75 percent.
- Promoting non-motorized transportation through partnerships such as Safe Routes to School. In 2016, 38 percent of students biked or walked to school.
- Increasing the number of electric cars on the road. Between 2014 and 2016, the use of electric cars in Sunnyvale more than doubled, from 810 in 2014 to 1,860 in 2016. The number of public and workplace car chargers jumped from 467 chargers in 2014 to 2,034 in 2016.

To achieve more aggressive, longer term GHG reductions between now and 2050, the City is developing an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP 2.0), which will build on the efforts of the original CAP and incorporate new ideas contributed by our community. CAP 2.0 is expected to go before the City Council in December 2018.

To read the [Climate Action Plan 2018 Biennial Progress Report](#), visit *Sunnyvale.ca.gov* and search “Sustainability.”

### **About Sunnyvale**

The seventh largest city in the Bay Area, Sunnyvale is both a center of technology and innovation, and a town of family neighborhoods. Sunnyvale was a leading city in the formation of a community choice energy program, and through multiple sustainability programs, the City is demonstrating that community action is key to making an impact for the environment.

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