



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Harrison

Subject: Budget Referral: Allocate Funding for a New Project Coordinator Position Within the Public Works Department to Help Implement the Electric Mobility Roadmap and Other Climate Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the June 2021 budget process:

1. Approximately \$198,386 from the General Fund for a new Community Development Project Coordinator position (1.0 FTE) within Public Works.

BACKGROUND

According to the best available science, wealthy nations must achieve near net-zero emissions by 2030 or earlier in order to delay extremely catastrophic warming. Implicit in the U.N.'s global 2050 net-zero targets to keep emissions as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius is the assumption that advanced industrialized nations will near reach zero by 2030.¹

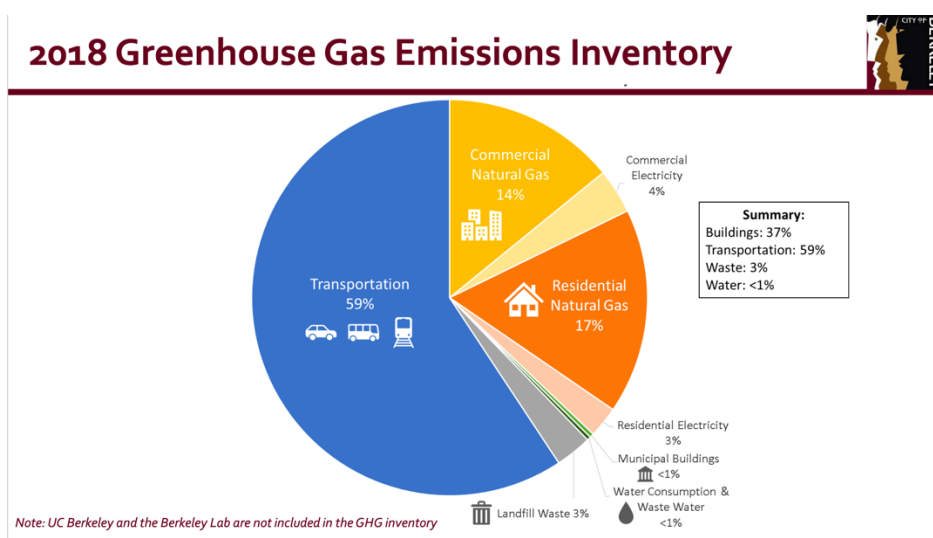
On July 21, 2020 the Berkeley City Council [adopted](#) its first [Electric Mobility Roadmap](#). The Roadmap identifies goals, strategies, and actions to create a fossil fuel-free transportation system that integrates with and supports the City's ongoing efforts to increase walking,

¹ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. *World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 32 pp.*
<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>.

biking, and public transportation, and ensures equitable access to the benefits of clean transportation. The goals include:

- Ensure Equity in Access to Electric Mobility
- Improve Alternatives to Driving
- Achieve Zero Carbon Emissions
- Demonstrate City Leadership

According to the latest Climate Action Plan update, some 60% of Berkeley’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory is related to the transportation sector.



On July 21, 2020, the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development noted that the Community Development Project Coordinator positioned is needed in order to bring:

“needed capacity to convene the Electric Mobility Implementation Working Group, manage City-owned charging infrastructure, track and utilize emerging mobility options, obtain grant funding, and catalyze actions such as electric mobility equity pilot projects, new best practices for curbside charging, and shared electric mobility hubs.”

At the March 3, 2021 Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment, & Sustainability Policy Committee Meeting, Councilmembers heard directly from staff regarding the importance of this position with respect to implementing the City’s 2030 targets for electrifying the municipal fleet and meeting various Electric Mobility Roadmap targets.

The Climate emergency poses an existential threat to all Berkeleyans. Although the City is currently subject to a hiring freeze, it is the public interest to adequately fund the City’s

climate initiatives related to the climate emergency declaration, Climate Action Plan and other relevant City policies. As part of the June 2021 budget process, the Council will have an opportunity to revisit whether to lift the hiring freeze in light of the latest developments in the effort to fight the global COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The item would have a net \$198,386 impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing carbon emissions at an emergency and equitable pace is a necessary step to meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration.

CONTACT PERSON

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