



Councilmember Cheryl Davila
District 2

**Climate Emergency Declaration
Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
Approved Minutes** October 24, 2018 from 11:30-1pm

In Attendance:

- Councilmember Davila and Sara Kershner, Legislative Aide
- Councilmember Harrison and Chris Naso, Legislative Aide
- Councilmember Hahn
- Isaac Silk, Nicole Harris and Armando Davila, The Climate Mobilization
- Martin Borque, Berkeley Ecology Center
- Steve Nadel, Sunflower Alliance and Berkeley citizen
- Jack Lucero, 350 East Bay
- Richard Rollins, Sierra Club
- Karen Rusiniak and Linda Currie, Transition Berkeley
- Tom Kelly, Kyoto USA
- Cate Leger, Berkeley Energy Commissioner
- Phillip Sutton, Darebin Climate Emergency Coalition, Australia (via Zoom)

Approved minutes from October 10

Review LA materials and identify opportunities for Berkeley to leverage the example

Click here for [LA Climate Mobilization Resolution](#) and [the Department Summary](#)

- Interested in how we can adapt the measures outlined in the LA resolution for Berkeley (scale and in relation to current measures used to assess our work)
 - Revisit timeline to set our work and measures to
 - Proposal to orient toward 2030 for zero emissions rather than 2050
 - Focus on carbon drawdown – don't believe that this is part of the Climate Action goals, benchmarks or work and therefore not measured
 - What hazard mitigation funding exists in Berkeley? Could it be used to support climate emergency work?
 - The switch to 85% renewable happening in Berkeley in November. People can upgrade to 100% (opt-up) and people can opt-out. Of course we want to encourage people to opt-up and prevent them from opting-out. If people opt-out we cannot market to them (we will not have their contact information). So, we need to do public education.

- Moving toward Climate Mobilization and mass engagement of stakeholders as outlined in first action of Resolution which prioritized “a robust climate emergency public education and outreach stakeholder process.”
 - Noted that neighborhood and community outreach is a labor and time intensive process based on relationships.
 - Question of how we are motivating people – Berkeley and the broader Bay Area are not likely to feel the pressure of climate change as urgently as other places. What does this mean for how we are motivating people?
 - We need to help people envision a brighter and better future. We need to offer a vision of what’s possible.
 - We also need to inform people of the reality of climate change and the scale of impact for all living things on the planet – we may experience a tipping point around climate stabilization more quickly and at a more global scale than we think. We are also going to feel the pressure of climate refugees, the impact on our food systems and reactionary government and popular reactions to climate change. We are interconnected – more so on this than almost any issue facing the planet.
 - Tom Kelly produced a report that shows that people understand that climate change is happening, that it’s a pressing and serious issue, and they want government to do something about it and are willing to pay for them to do it.
 - Clean Power Alliance in LA already has 10 cities going with 100% renewable. Albany, Hayward and Piedmont all did 100%.

- Climate Mobilization Department, Staff and Resources
 - The boldest move LA made was to create a Climate Mobilization Department with allocated staff and resources. The resources, given LA’s size and budget, are minimal but can be used in a consolidated way to move all the parts of government already in motion around environmental and climate issues toward mass mobilization.
 - Questions for City of Berkeley
 - Are you still managing the Climate Action Plan or has this been reassigned? If so to who and do they/you have time for the kind of investment needed to move it forward and even accelerate and expand it?
 - What would be most helpful in supporting faster, expanded action? Dedicated staff? A dedicated department? More resources? Alignment from City Council and City Department heads on an accelerated timeline and an updated plan toward that?
 - Could we ask that one of the two Deputy City Manager positions that are to be filled (for which there is already funding set aside) be someone with a demonstrated commitment to and competencies in addressing climate emergencies/climate change?

- Developing a Climate Mobilization Item as a follow-up to the Climate Emergency Declaration
 - Include focus on a Just Transition – like LA summary but make sure to explicitly include protecting impacted workers

- Add a Commission with key stakeholders across sectors (see LA list in summary)
- Include outward facing resolutions as well
- Accelerate timeline across Departments and Commissions
- Set aside additional funds for either a department, additional staff, support for collaboration with BCAC and other community stakeholders and conveners
- Focus on government roles: regulations to reduce harm and “force” alternatives; incentives and subsidies to make alternatives affordable and accessible; public education and inspiration
- Include mass mobilization in form of Town Halls, public education, stakeholder convenings, neighborhood council sustainability alliance, cool blocks, etc.
- Include passing Climate Emergency through regulatory bodies and demanding adherence to standards for emissions goals

Darebin Presentation and Discussion:

[click here for Darebin Climate Emergency Strategy Plan](#)

- Local climate action group in 2016 lobbied local council to commit to Climate Emergency approach
- Worked on candidates in upcoming City Council election – by time of election 7 of the 9 had committed so once election passed it was easier and quick to move it
- A committee of 4 of the 9 Councilmembers worked on a strategic plan but it wasn’t until the third iteration that it included practical action items
- They set up an agency/foundation called Fund Emergency Darebin and funded it with \$250,000. This is the vehicle moving the Climate Mobilization forward.
- Goal is to restore climate to a safe condition while ensuring maximum protection for those who are most “climate vulnerable” through a mass mobilization analogous to a wartime mobilization.
 - Established benchmark of zero emissions by 2020 but nowhere near this goal
- Four strategies for mobilization: Inwards, Outwards, Downwards & Upwards (see The Climate Emergency Darebin Strategic Plan)
- Local government has very little ability to regulate so building power to influence higher levels of government: Need a political and community mobilization in order to do this effectively
- Need to work with activist community to build trust with government – distrust that government can play a positive role
- Darebin is having an easier time moving the private sector as alternatives become more affordable or even more cost effective than natural gas but need more work around drawdown

Updates & Urgent Items

- **City Council Items:** Climate Mobilization, PG&E to incentivize people to move to electric, Urban Forest and Wildlife Habitat, BUSD Climate Change Plan, set aside transfer tax income to subsidize residential moves from natural gas to electric

- **Fossil Fuel Resolution at Energy Commission meeting 10/24:** Cate Leger was part of a team of Energy Commissioners who put together very specific recommendations to move Fossil Fuel Free Resolution
- **Suggestion to contact Transportation Commission Chair and representatives to move that Commission to do the same**

Next Meeting: *Meetings will be every 3 weeks*

- November 14 from 11:30am-1pm
- Presentation from and discussion with BCAC