

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Annual work plan report
August 25, 2026

Presented by Chair Susannah Hill

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) report to City Council

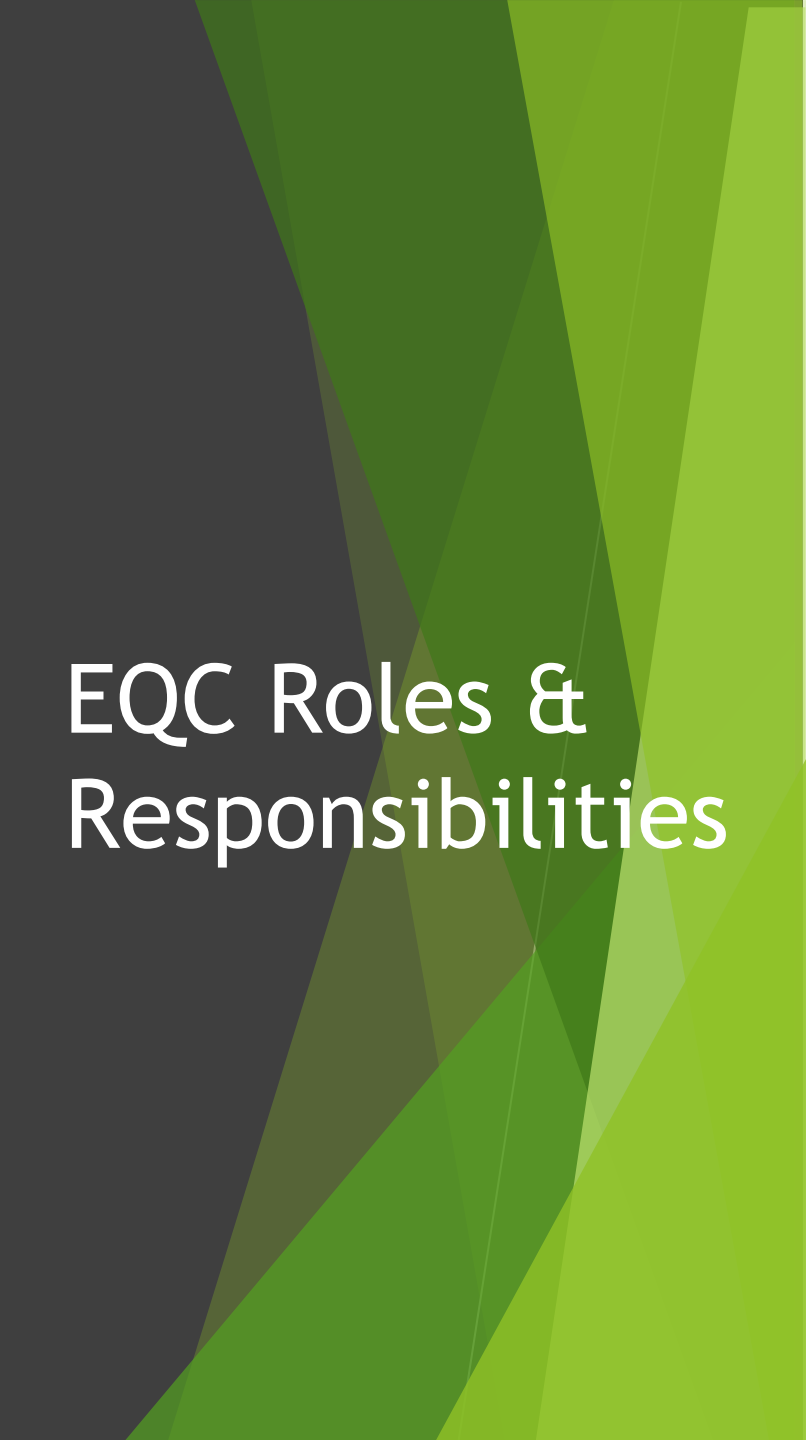
Agenda

EQC roles, responsibilities and priorities

Review of EQC fiscal year 2025-26 activities

Proposed EQC fiscal year 2026-27 work plan

Guidance from City Council



EQC Roles & Responsibilities

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) is committed to helping the City of Menlo Park be a leading sustainable city that inspires institutions and individuals and that is well positioned to manage present and future environmental impacts, including the grave threat of climate change.

The EQC is charged primarily with advising the City Council on matters involving climate change, environmental protection, and sustainability.

2025-2026 Environmental Quality Commission

EQC experience + fresh perspectives

Commissioners	
Nicole Angiel	Appointed April 2025
Brittany Goodwin	Appointed April 2026
Vice Chair Eduardo Lopez Hernandez	Reappointed April 2026
Chair Susannah Hill	Reappointed April 2025
Brian Kissel	Appointed April 2023
John McKenna	Reappointed April 2024
Nabil Saad	Appointed June 2026
Staff liaisons	
Rachael Londer	Sustainability Manager
Liz Tapia	Management Analyst II

Looking back:

Review of EQC activities
July 2025 - August 2026

Fiscal year 2025-2026 EQC work plan goals

Work plan goals

1. Provide feedback to staff and advise the City Council on 2025-2030 scope of work implementation for Climate Action Plan (CAP) strategies No. 1 through No. 6
2. Ensure that our most vulnerable communities have a voice in policies and programs to protect their communities from environmental impacts.
3. Leverage best practices to advise/recommend on the preservation of heritage trees, city trees and expansion of the urban canopy; and make determinations on appeals of heritage tree removal permits.
4. Support sustainability initiatives, as needs arise, which may include city-led events, habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction.
5. Maintain an annual commission calendar to provide transparency and allow adequate time to prepare agenda items related to the commission's work plan; update and post for public review monthly.
6. Encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings.
7. Foster a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all members of the diverse Menlo Park community.
8. Support the filling of openings on the Commission and the effective onboarding of new Commissioners.
9. Participate in an ad hoc subcommittee of the Complete Streets Commission comprised of both Complete Streets and Environmental Quality Commissioners to evaluate metrics to measure progress on and set specific long term and annual goals. The subcommittee shall consist of no more than three EQC commissioners and no more than three CSC commissioners so as not to violate the Brown Act.

1. Advise on Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation
2. Ensure a voice for communities vulnerable to environmental impacts
3. Preserve urban canopy
4. Support sustainability initiatives
5. Maintain public calendar to provide transparency
6. Facilitate robust public participation & comment
7. Foster an inclusive public meeting environment
8. Support recruiting and onboarding new commissioners
9. Participate in Complete Streets ad hoc subcommittee

Review of EQC activities

Work Plan Goal 1: CAP implementation

Public Engagement

- ▶ Provided feedback on the annual Climate Action Plan progress report
- ▶ Provided feedback on enhancing community engagement to achieve CAP goals
- ▶ Developed project for Stanford Sustainable cities course to create CAP dashboard

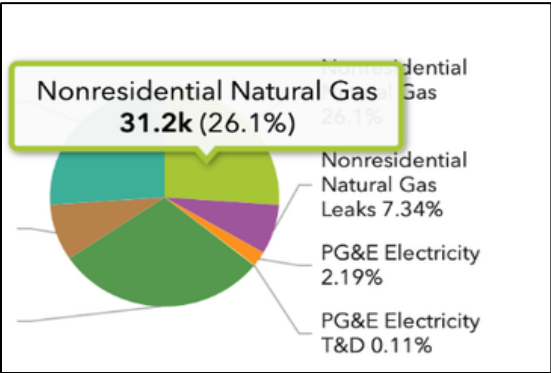
Example

CAP online dashboard

Created by Stanford students Skye Adams, Lily Glazer, Sammy Smith

Review of EQC activities

Carbon Emissions Reporting



Carbon Emissions Reduction Projects

Arrillaga Gymnasium
At Arrillaga Gymnasium, the facility is city operated and currently includes solar energy systems; space...

Arrillaga Gymnastics
At Arrillaga Gymnastics, the facility is city operated and currently includes solar energy systems; space...

Arrillaga Recreation Center (ARC)
At Arrillaga Recreation Center (ARC), the facility is city operated and currently has electrified water heating...

Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
At Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC), space heating, water heating, cooking, and pool heating...

Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCDC)
At Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCDC),...

Burgess Pool
At Burgess Pool, the facility's city-operated status is currently unclear and it already has electrified wate...

Menlo Park Library is now energized by rooftop solar!

The Menlo Park Library is now powered by solar energy. As of March 1, the library's new rooftop solar system is fully operational and generating clean electricity for the community.

The system is expected to produce approximately 300,000 kWh of renewable electricity each year—enough to significantly offset the library's energy use while saving the City an estimated \$600,000 in energy costs over the next 20 years.

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goal 1: CAP implementation

CAP strategy #1 Building electrification

- ▶ Recommended enhancements to the Menlo Park Home Upgrade Services program including matching rebates for WestLight Energy's incentives
- ▶ Recommended continuation of the electrification permit fee waiver
- ▶ Recommended exploration of efficiency and electrification ideas for building code

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goal 1: CAP implementation

CAP Strategy #4 Reducing vehicle miles traveled

- ▶ Formed ad hoc subcommittee with the Complete Streets Commission to explore metrics

CAP strategy #5 Municipal operations

- ▶ Provided feedback on public engagement for installation of solar at City facilities
- ▶ Recommended pricing updates for EV charging at City facilities
- ▶ Received updates on decarbonization projects across City facilities including: installation of EV chargers and heat pumps (water heaters & HVAC systems) and Burgess Pool electrification

CAP strategy #6 Climate adaptation and resilience

- ▶ Provided feedback on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and established working relationship with city's emergency preparedness coordinator

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goal 2: Environmental Justice (EJ) Element

- ▶ Recommended next steps for implementing the EJ Element community-identified priority 2: promote access to high quality and affordable food
- ▶ Recommended accepting grant funds through BayREN's decarbonization showcase to complete construction of electrification upgrades to the Belle Haven Child Development Center
- ▶ Recommended ways to improve community engagement and outreach to increase participation in the Home Upgrade Services program
- ▶ Held EQC meetings August 2025 and June 2026 at the Belle Haven Community Campus

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goal 3: Urban canopy

- ▶ Received annual arborist report and update on urban forest management plan
- ▶ Reviewed appeals for heritage tree removals for two development projects
- ▶ Evaluated the pressure on Menlo Park's urban canopy
- ▶ Attended Arbor Day celebration and Mayor's tree planting with Canopy at Hamilton Park

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goal 4: Sustainability initiatives

- ▶ Advised staff on planning the Love Our Earth Festival
- ▶ Collaborated with the Youth Advisory Committee on report and involvement
- ▶ Provided feedback on City efforts related to Senate Bill 1383 to reduce organic waste
- ▶ Provided feedback on education and enforcement of the Zero Emission Landscape Equipment (ZELE) ordinance

Review of EQC activities

Work plan goals 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- ▶ Developed and presented work plan to City Council
- ▶ Recruited, onboarded, and welcomed new commissioners
- ▶ Invited community members to attend and garnered large attendance
- ▶ Coordinated with Complete Streets Commission
- ▶ Maintained a commission calendar

Looking forward:

EQC Work Plan Summary Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 work plan goals

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Activities & subcommittees continuing into 26-27

- ▶ Accelerate building electrification and energy efficiency
- ▶ Accelerate EV adoption and reduce car dependence
- ▶ Support City leadership to decarbonize municipal operations
- ▶ Elevate protections for disadvantaged community members
- ▶ Finish Stanford project for CAP dashboard
- ▶ Study CAP strategy 4 with the Complete Streets Commission
- ▶ Goals 4-8 ongoing

**Still under
discussion**

Activities & subcommittees new in 26-27

- ▶ CAP planning for 2030 & beyond
- ▶ Preparation for the Bay Area Air District's residential rule changes for 2028/2029 re: water heaters & furnaces
- ▶ Planting trees in Belle Haven
- ▶ Food systems ad hoc subcommittee focused on engagement with Belle Haven Collective
- ▶ Explore ways to improve outdoor air quality

The background features a large, abstract geometric design on the right side, composed of overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The left side of the image is a solid white background.

Thank you