



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 1/18/2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall – Downtown Conference Room
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Kabat called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Elkins, Evans, Hedley (Vice Chair), Kabat (Chair), Lin, McKenna, Schmidt
Absent: None
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Public Comment

- David Axlerod spoke on concerns related to gas-powered lawn equipment.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Approve the November 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission regular meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Elkins), to approve the November 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission regular meeting minutes, passed 7-0.

- D2. Receive an informational presentation on the City fleet electric vehicle charging plan

Chair Kabat introduced the item.

Management Analyst Paz made the presentation (Attachment).

- D3. Review and discuss the Environmental Quality Commission quarterly report to City Council

Chair Kabat introduced the item.

Chair Kabat made the presentation (Attachment).

ACTION: Motion and second (Elkins/ McKenna), to approve the presentation of the Environmental Quality Commission quarterly report to the City Council with revisions suggested by the Commission, passed 7-0.

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and Announcements from staff and commissioners

Sustainability Manager Lucky provided updates regarding:

- Upcoming Environmental Justice Element meetings at the Belle Haven Library
- Discussion with City Council subcommittee on Phase II reach codes
- Promotional materials for the upcoming Community Collaboration sessions on electrification
- Building permit fee waivers
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) urban forest grant application
- Outreach for the Zero Emission Landscape Equipment discount program
- A resident request for public electric vehicle (EV) charging

Management Analyst II Paz provided an update on climate action plan (CAP) No. 5 efforts to eliminate fossil fuel from city operations, highlighting fleet EV charging, water heater electrification for City facilities, the CAP No. 5 roadmap status, and Zoning Ordinance updates to facilitate electrification.

Commissioner Evans provided an update on subcommittee discussions on building electrification with the Planning Commission, and shovel ready electrification retrofit projects for Life Moves for Haven House and MidPen Housing that are seeking funding through a crowdfunding campaign in partnership with MenloSpark.

Commissioner McKenna provided updates on the Code Red for Humanity webinar and a heat pump water heater replacement project.

Commissioner Schmidt spoke on efforts of the outreach subcommittee to explore a collaborative model and provided examples from Code Red webinar, the Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) air purifiers and safer bay programs.

Vice-Chair Hedley spoke on crowdfunding for Haven House home electrification.

Chair Kabat provided an update on the Code Red webinar and the BlocPower model.

F. Adjournment

Chair Kabat adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Ori Paz, Management Analyst II

Minutes approved at the February 15, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.



FLEET EV CHARGING PLAN

January 18, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission



AGENDA

- Why EVs?
- Fleet emissions
- EV chargers studied
- Immediate EV charging plan
- FY23-30 EV charging forecast
- Incentives
- Next steps





Reduce
vehicle
emissions



Improve air
quality
Improve health



Reach CAP
goals to fight
climate change



\$0.06/mi fuel
\$130/MTCO₂e
Reduce maint.
costs by ~50%



Carbon cost

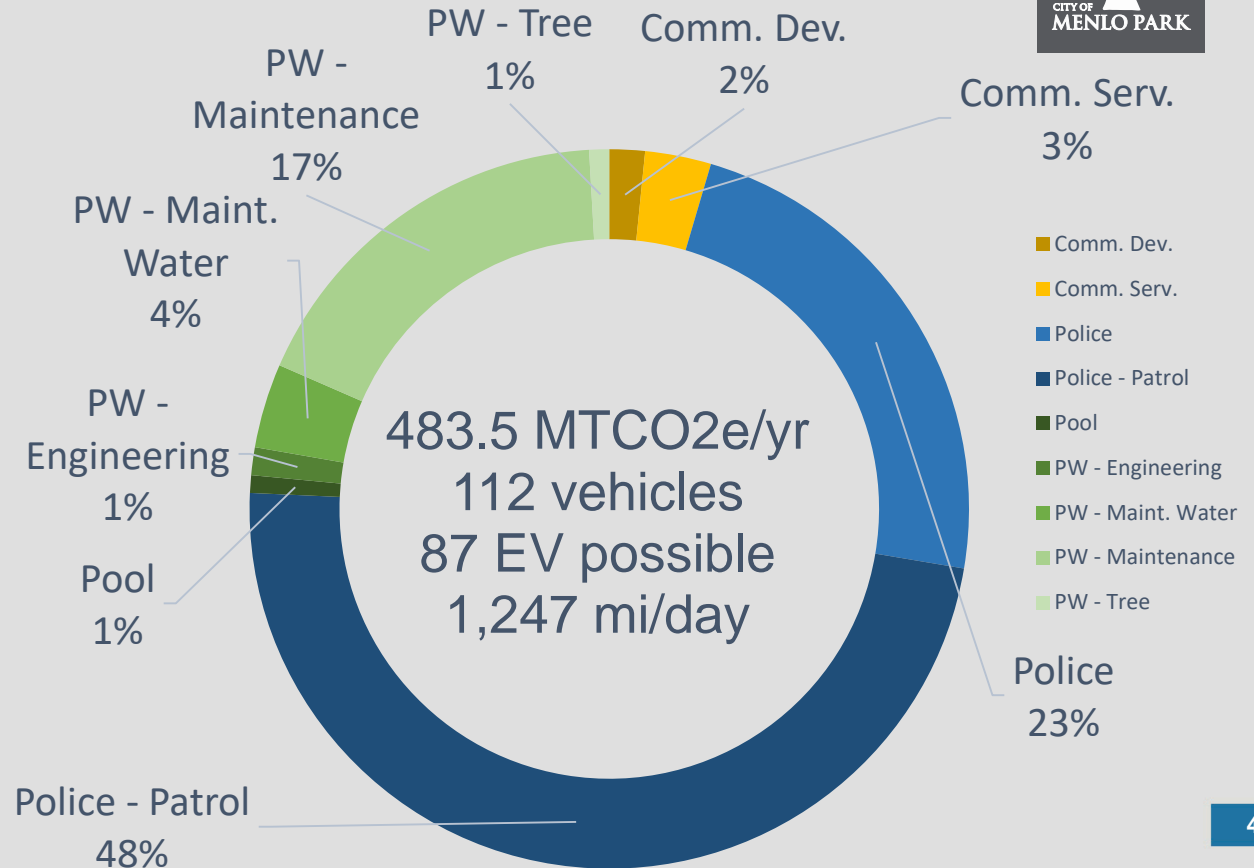
\$62,860/yr

EV fuel savings

-\$19,476/yr

Total savings

\$82,336/yr





L2
(7kW)

57.2
mi/day

\$3,850



L2
(12kW)

99.7
mi/day

\$5,000



DCFC
(25kW)

216.8
mi/day

\$15,746



DCFC
(22.5kW)

195.1
mi/day

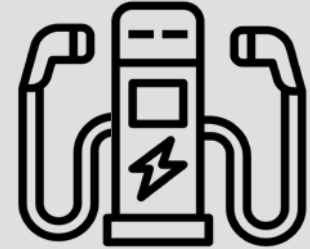
\$25,000



Expandable
CPXP+
(40kW)

346.8
mi/day

\$85,645



Battery-integrated
charger (BIC)
(7-200kW)

1734.1
mi/day

\$172,000



Site	Lvl 2 (7kW)	DCFC (22.5kW split)	Battery Integrated Charger (7-200kW split)	Cost (\$)	Miles/ Day
PD Lower lot		6		\$318,478	650
PD upper lot			2	\$479,215	1,301
Council chambers lot	2			\$124,990	114
Corp yard	2		2	\$441,878	1,415
New port totals	4	6	4	\$1,350,920	4,384 mi

CIVIC CAMPUS & CORP YARD IMMEDIATE BUILDOUT



Existing L2
(7kW)



New
DCFC
(22.5kW)



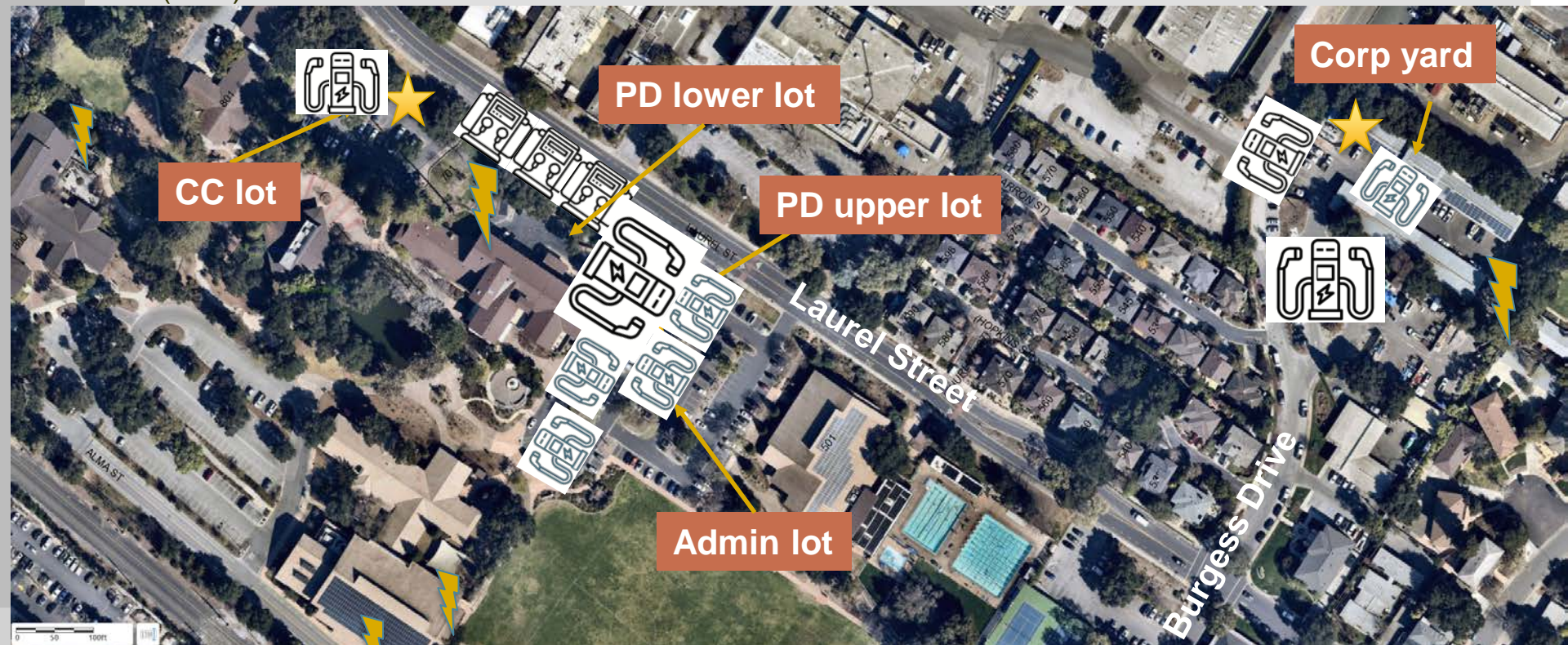
New battery
integrated charger
(7-200kW)



Existing Transformer

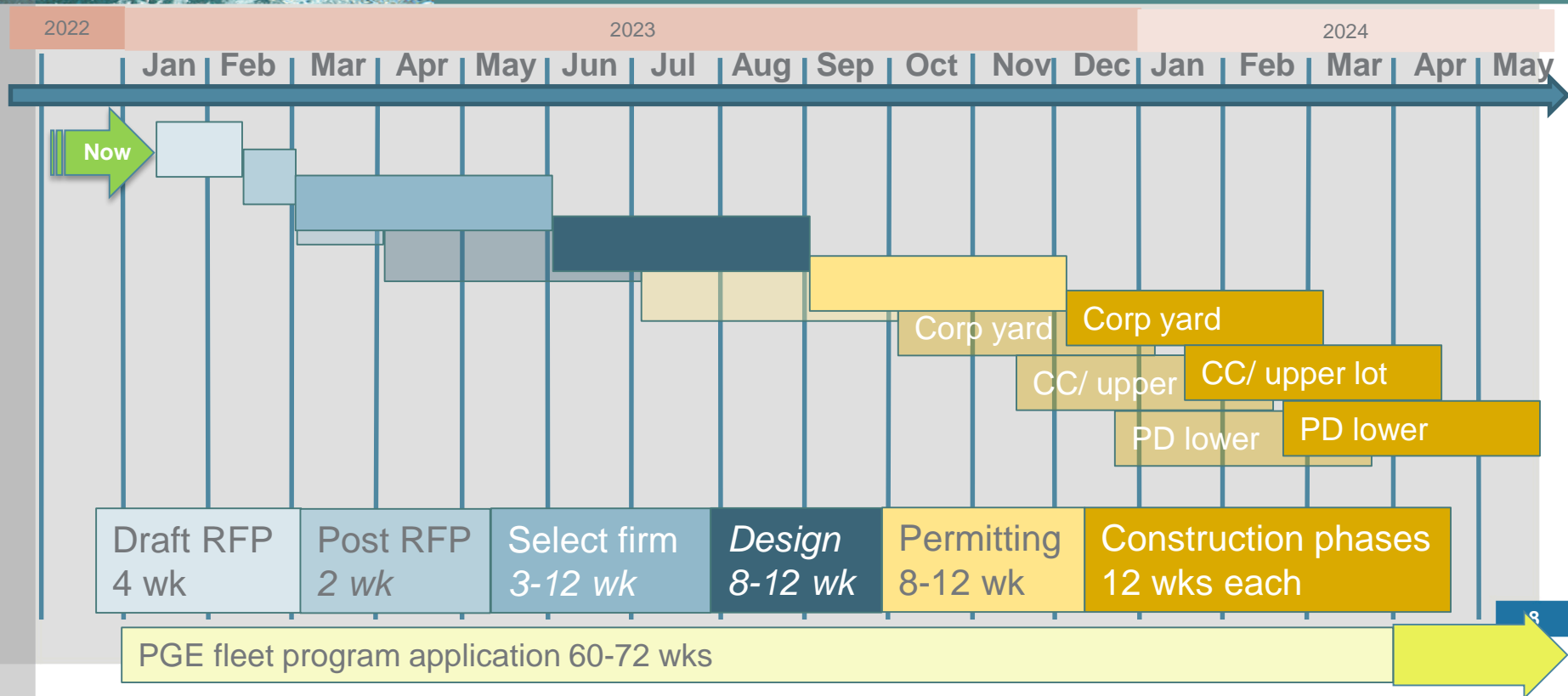


Project site





IMMEDIATE PHASE TIMELINE



CIVIC CAMPUS & CORP YARD 2030 BUILDOUT



Existing L2
(7kW)



New DCFC
(22.5kW)



Future port count



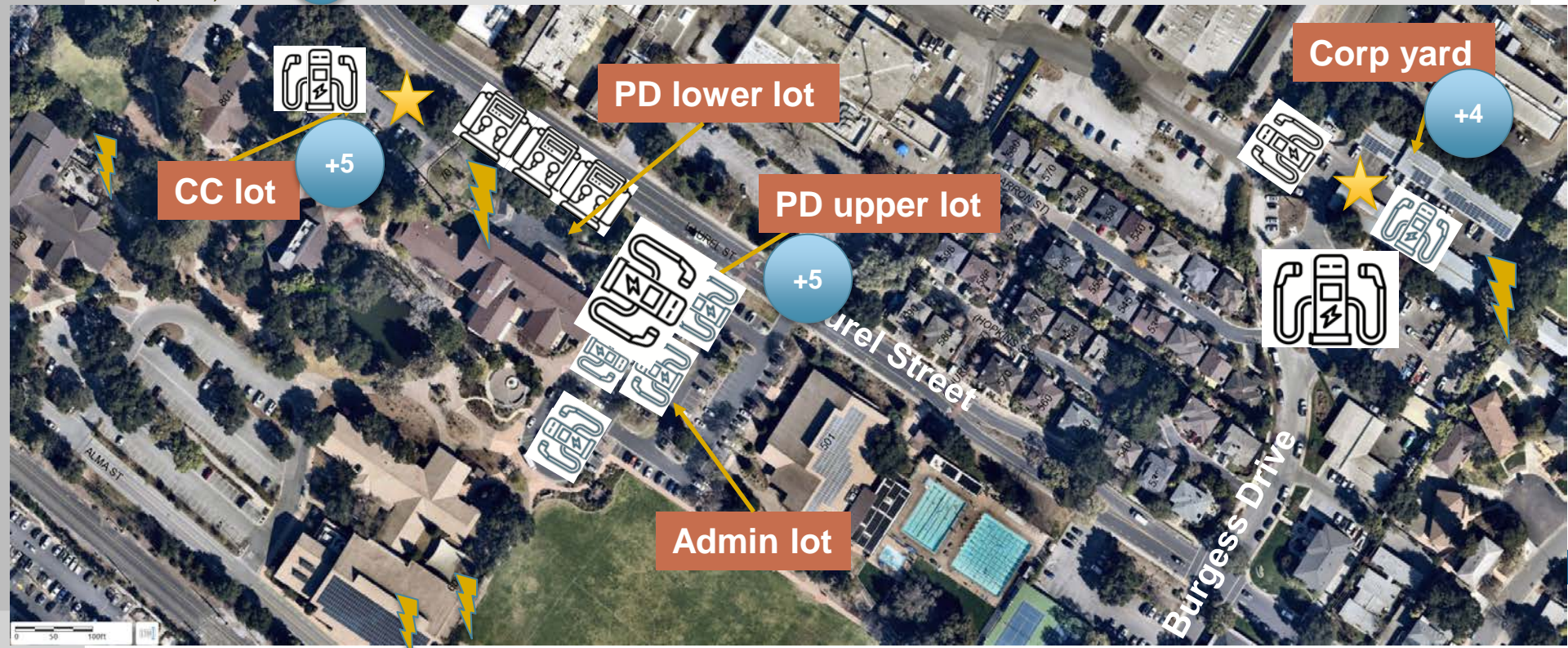
New battery-integrated
charger
(7-200W)



Existing Transformer



Project site





INCENTIVES

There are funding programs for EV charging infrastructure:

- [PGE Fleet program](#) – funding for front-of-the meter equip. (e.g. transformer, wiring, etc.) + \$7K/vehicle
- [PCE EV Ready Program](#) - funding for publically accessible chargers (employee charging counts)
- PCE EV Fleet – technical assistance (e.g. prelim planning, engineering) & chargers
- [Charge!](#) – competitive funding for publically accessible chargers (exceptions available upon request)



- CC info item for immediate phase (January 2023)
- Post RFP for immediate phase design/build (February, 2023)
- Leverage programs for long term EV charging needs
- Update five-year CIP with charging costs



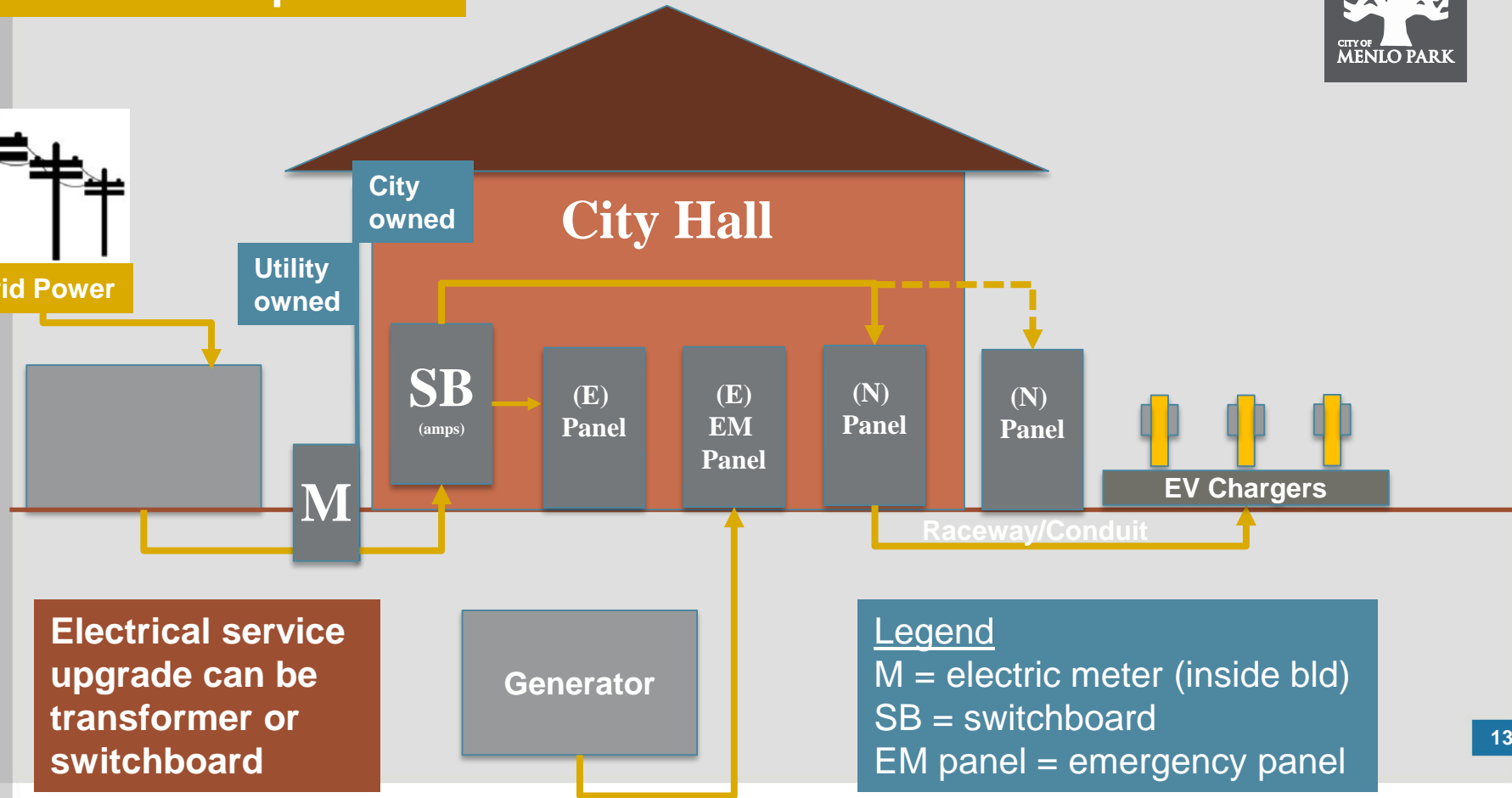
THANK YOU

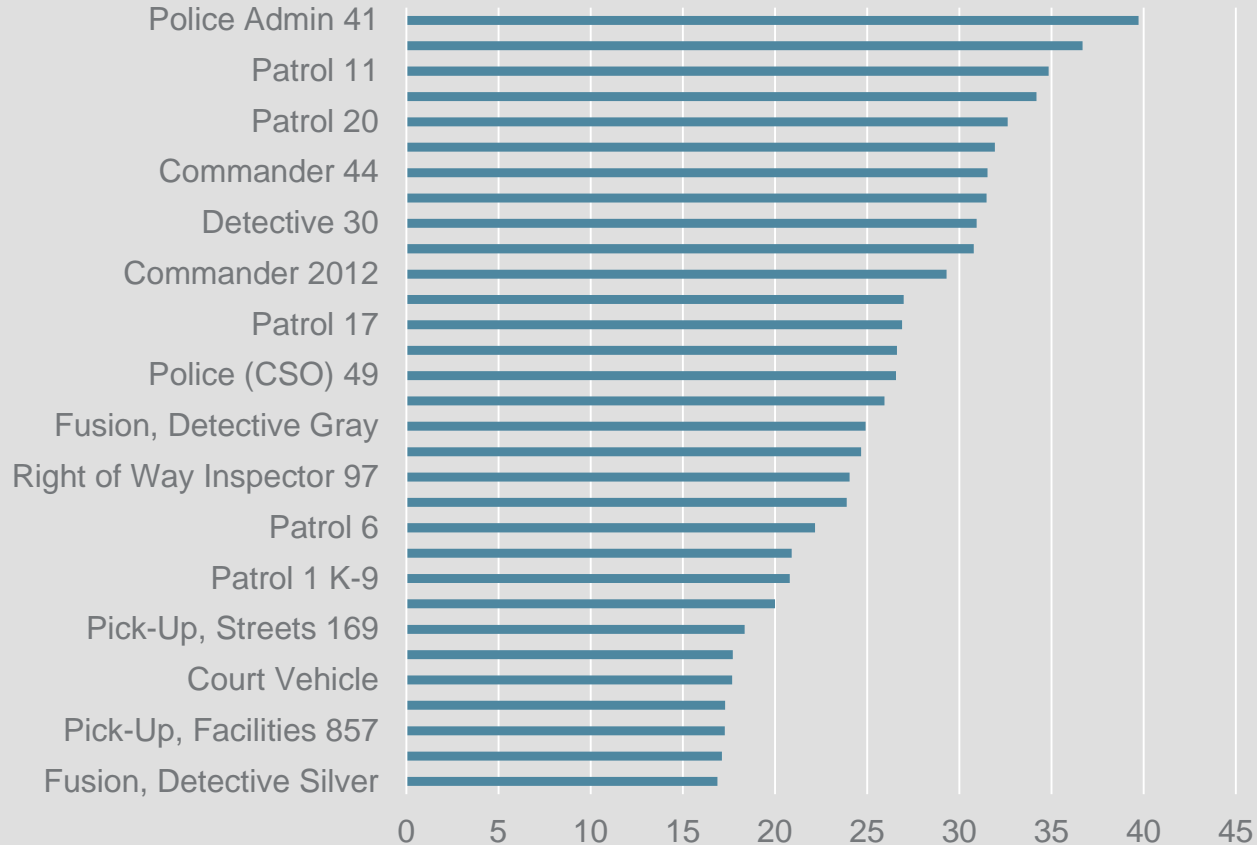


Electrical components



Grid Power





ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Quarterly Update January 2023

EQC Chair Tom Kabat

AGENDA

- ▶ Review of EQC Activities
- ▶ Community Concerns
- ▶ Climate Science Update
- ▶ Surrounding Incentives Improved
- ▶ City Opportunities
- ▶ Seeking Guidance from Council

Environmental Quality Commission

Advise City Council on matters involving environmental protection, improvement, and sustainability.

Commissioners:

- Leah Elkins
- Angela Evans
- Nancy Larocca Hedley
- Tom Kabat
- Jeffery Lin
- John McKenna
- Jeff Schmidt

Review of EQC Activities

► Climate Action Plan

- First year FY 2020-2021 activities are still ongoing, but more are needed.
- August 2021 City Council recommended public outreach ahead of additional actions on existing buildings. (CAP 1)
- EQC members (as individuals) have been doing outreach (electrification workshops, Earthday events, etc., community members are also doing outreach)

- ▶ Climate Outreach Sub Committee held two Community Collaboration Sessions in 2022 (Climate Preservation, Environmental Justice) and one in 2023 (Electrify Your Home) with plans for more.
- ▶ This Sub Committee is actively collaborating with local nonprofits to bring climate education to the community.
- ▶ Focus outreach on education rather than policy proposals: climate science, techniques of electrification, or education on available incentives.

Commissioner Evans is assisting the city's low-income housing electrification projects.

- ▶ In late 2021, Council asked staff/EQC to develop tools to make existing building electrification easier and more affordable.
- ▶ In collaboration with EQC, city staff, Council, and nonprofit partners, city launched program with building retrofit concierge service (project management, financing, maintenance). Includes:
- ▶ Large focus on low-income community, with commitment to raise \$30m for capital/installation costs. Already secured \$4.5m from state.
- ▶ Partnership with local nonprofit, JobTrain, to develop building electrification workforce predominantly from Belle Haven. First cohort: 20 trainees expected mid-2023.
- ▶ Active partnership development with existing contractors to begin work right away, on market rate and on low-income homes.
- ▶ Community Advisory Board with broad representation from city (including several from Belle Haven) to advise on key issues like rental protections. Completed two sessions.
- ▶ Two large “shovel-ready” pilot projects with LifeMoves (HavenHouse) and Mid Pen (Willow Court/Willow Terrace). Awaiting funding for capital costs.

- ▶ Trees Sub Committee working with local nonprofit, Canopy, and city staff to identify grant opportunities to support our urban forest, including funding for a canopy analysis and for tree planting in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- ▶ Planning for Mayor's Tree Planting and Arbor Day celebrations.

- ▶ EQC developed its 2023-2024 work-plan and formed sub committees covering the topics of:
 - ▶ Exploring Collaboration Opportunities (Elkins, Evans, Schmidt)
 - ▶ Building Decarbonization (Evans, Kabat, McKenna)
 - ▶ Transportation Decarbonization (Schmidt)
 - ▶ Climate Outreach (Hedley, Kabat, Schmidt)
 - ▶ Climate Adaptation (Elkins)
 - ▶ Trees and Sustainable Initiatives (Elkins, Hedley, Schmidt)
 - ▶ Work Plan (Hedley, Lin)
- ▶ EQC would like to update its Roles & Responsibilities to reflect increased focus on climate change, resilience, and adaptation.

The Environmental Quality Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on matters involving environmental protection, improvement and sustainability.

Commission priorities

- Preserving heritage trees
- Using best practices to maintain city trees
- Preserving and expanding the urban canopy
- Making determinations on appeals of heritage tree removal permits
- Administering annual Environmental Quality Awards program
- Organizing annual Arbor Day Event; typically a tree planting event
- Advising on programs and policies related to protection of natural areas, recycling and waste reduction, environmentally sustainable practices, air and water pollution prevention, climate protection, and water and energy conservation

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) is committed to helping the City of Menlo Park to 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.

Commission priorities

- **Climate Action Plan** - Advise and recommend on the implementation of the climate action plan.
- **Climate Resilience and Adaptation** - Ensure that our most vulnerable communities have a voice in policies and programs to protect their communities from environmental impacts.
- **Urban Canopy** - 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.
- **Green and Sustainable Initiatives** - Support sustainability initiatives, as needs arise, which may include but not be limited to organizing the annual Arbor Day event, habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction.

Community Concerns

Climate change

- High level of urgency
- Concerns regarding climate equity, climate action equity and affordability
- Accelerated progress on CAP is needed to meet science-based goals
- Increased urgency in climate adaptation and resilience for underserved areas
- Need for electrification permit application streamlining

Inclusion of volunteers outside of commissioners to address climate action in Menlo Park

- Desire of residents to volunteer for assisting the city with climate preservation.
- There is a Friends of the Library volunteer group, is it a model for friends of climate preservation?
- Residents organized the “We Love Earth Festival” on 4/16/22 Exploring doing so again.
- Showing more motivational information to residents (e.g. how many homes could be heated with Burgess pool’s gas)

Heritage trees and urban tree canopy are valued, expansion is desired

More public charging for EVs is desired



Climate Science Update

- ▶ Temp Rise has been 1.1 degrees C so far. Each 0.5 degree we add has 4X more costly damage
- ▶ IPCC Scientists, and International Energy Agency agree: Current fossil fueled machinery's normal device life emissions fill the 2 degree C limit.
- ▶ There is no more climate space (below 2 degrees) for new or re-installed fossil fueled equipment.
- ▶ Every new fossil device is over the limit on day one.
- ▶ Delay means loss. Now we are in the action time.

Implications for Cities

- ▶ To hold to 2 degrees rise... society must immediately pivot to electric alternatives at time of:
 - A) new construction, and when adding cooling
 - B) at time of additions and remodels
 - C) at time of device burnout & replacement
- ▶ We would need to replace devices before burnout to stay under 2 degrees.
- ▶ CAPs are lacking policies that keep up with the evolving climate science

Menlo Park: Mixed Bag

Menlo Park's CAP closed the Ambition Gap

- (The 90% reduction by 2030 goal is science based, in proportion with holding to 1.5 degree rise)

Menlo Park still has Policy & Achievement Gaps

- Policy Gap: Our codes still permit failure.
- Achievement Gap: We are still installing gas stuff, gaps in the policy actions and community achievements that are needed to stay on track to meet the science-based targets.

Surrounding Incentives Improved

- ▶ The Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) recognizes the importance of building and vehicle electrification with large new incentives for now through 2032.
 - ▶ 30% Tax Credits for: heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, heat pump dryers and induction cooking.
 - ▶ Up front Medium and Low Income incentives starting 2024 for families earning less than \$207k
- ▶ PCE has also started >\$3,000 incentives for heat pumps needed for hot water and space heating (\$7500/home) and Zero interest loans up to \$10,000
- ▶ 3 cities adopted various existing buildings codes

City Opportunities

- ▶ Given the support provided by PCE + Federal + State + BayREN incentives making electrification more cost effective than continued stranding of new gas assets:
 - ▶ The city has a chance to demonstrate science-based policy by starting the timeline to no longer permitting the installation of gas fired equipment.
 - ▶ The city could also explore setting a science-based end of flow date for pipeline gas.

Important City Actions for 2023

Adopt Electrification Reach Codes to pursue CAP Action 1

- (Electrification of 90% of buildings by 2030) Including existing

Improve New Construction
Reach Codes to remove
costly exemptions to
avoid expensive retrofit
situations

Reach Codes are needed
for remodels, additions
etc.

Reach Codes are needed to prevent

- costly installation of fossil fired replacement equipment
- one-way air conditioners where electric alternatives are affordable.

In lieu fees may assist
applicants with difficult
situations

Seeking Guidance

The background of the slide features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons. These shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some areas appearing darker due to the overlap. The overall color palette is various shades of green, ranging from light lime to deep forest green. The text 'Seeking Guidance' is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the white background and the green geometric shapes.

Seeking Guidance From Council

- We ask City Council to direct staff to change the roles and responsibilities of the EQC to better reflect activities over the last several years and going forward over the next 7 years to achieve CAP goals.
- We seek approval from the City Council on the EQC work plan for 2023.
- Any additional City Council guidance?

THANK YOU