

# Environmental Quality Commission



## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** 9/18/2024  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 879 3070 9093 and  
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods.

- How to participate in the meeting
  - Access the meeting, in-person, at the Downtown Conference Room
  - Access the meeting real-time online at:  
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) –Meeting ID 879 3070 9093
  - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:  
(669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID 879 3070 9093  
Press \*9 to raise hand to speak

Subject to change: The format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the city website [menlopark.gov](https://menlopark.gov). The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information ([menlopark.gov/agendas](https://menlopark.gov/agendas)).

### Regular Session

#### A. Call To Order

#### B. Roll Call – Hill, Hedley, Kissel, Meyer, Vice Chair McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Chair Schmidt

#### C. Public Comment

Under “Public Comment,” the public may address the Commission on any subject not listed on the agenda. Each speaker may address the Commission once under public comment for a limit of three minutes. You are not required to provide your name or City of residence, but it is helpful. The Commission cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, the Commission cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under public comment other than to provide general information.

#### D. Regular Business

- D1. Approve the August 21, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#))
- D2. Presentation from the Institute for Market Transformation on Building Performance Standards (BSP) ([Presentation](#))

- D3. Update on the Menlo Park City School District Climate Action Plan ([Presentation](#))
- D4. Provide recommendation on student engagement plan
- D5. Consider appointing additional commissioners to Environmental Quality Commission ad hoc subcommittees

**E. Reports and Announcements**

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

**F. Informational Items**

- F1. 2024-25 Environmental Quality Commission work plan ([Attachment](#))

**G. Adjournment**

At every Regular Meeting of the Commission, in addition to the Public Comment period where the public shall have the right to address the Commission on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during the Commission's consideration of the item.

At every Special Meeting of the Commission, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during consideration of the item.

For appeal hearings, appellant and applicant shall each have 10 minutes for presentations.

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or before, the public hearing.

Any writing that is distributed to a majority of the Commission by any person in connection with an agenda item is a public record (subject to any exemption under the Public Records Act) and is available by request by emailing the city clerk at [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov). Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in attending or participating in Commission meetings, may call the City Clerk's Office at 650-330-6620.

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# Environmental Quality Commission



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

**Date:** 8/21/2024  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Teleconference and  
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

**A. Call To Order**

Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Hill, Hedley, Meyer, Vice Chair McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Chair Schmidt  
**Absent:** Kissel  
**Staff:** Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

**C. Public Comment**

None.

**D. Regular Business**

D1. Approve the July 17, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Hedley/ Hill), to approve the July 17, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, with a modification to remove the Education and Outreach Subcommittee from the Commission work plan for 2024-2025, passed 6-0 (Kissel absent).

D2. Presentation from San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) (Presentation)

Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

Sam Fishman and Sarah Atkinson with SPUR made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on site designations and State Bill 272.

- Cagla Ruacan spoke in support of building electrification and collaboration with SPUR and requested clarification regarding the analysis of rainwater reuse.
- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of SPUR’s work, the importance of microgrids, local examples of building electrification and support for groundwater overlay.

The Commission discussed the interrelated policy issues of climate adaptation, housing, transportation and the work outlined in SPUR’s presentation.

D3. Discuss student engagement goals and plan (Presentation)

Chair Schmidt introduced the item (Attachment).

The Commission discussed equity, engaging Menlo Park Youth Advisory Committee, building a pilot program and involving youth in the Climate Action Plan implementation.

- D4. Extend duration of the Heritage Tree Ordinance Administrative Guidelines Ad Hoc Subcommittee to October 2024

Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

The Commission received clarification on the sequencing of the administrative guidelines.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (McKenna/ Hedley), to extend the Heritage Tree Ordinance Administrative Guidelines Ad Hoc Subcommittee, passed 6-0 (Commissioner Kissel absent).

## **E. Reports and Announcements**

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the San Mateo County Youth Ambassador climate action and leadership education opportunity, Washington Post article review chat bot tool, upcoming Planning Commission meeting on the Environmental Justice Element on August 26, City Council August 27 discussion on the 2025 – 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation scope of work and cross-county work on an Inflation Reduction Act federal grant.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported out on the City's progress on the Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) GovPV reroofing and solar projects, the Tesla pilot update report to the City Council on August 27, electric vehicle (EV) charging and County electrification education/public awareness campaign, and GovBE project.

Commissioner McKenna reported out on the California State Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) program for a statewide direct install electrification program for low-income residents and the Menlo Park Home Upgrade Program in partnership with PCE.

Commissioner Hill reported out on opportunities to do joint commission meetings to discuss topics that relate to multiple commissions such as transportation.

Chair Schmidt reported out on the CALFire grant, school electrification and climate action bond measure, Senate Bill 1374 on solar for schools, opportunities for future recruitment and meetings in District 1.

## **F. Adjournment**

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz



# Advocating for a sustainable, resilient, and equitable Bay Area

*Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission  
August 21, 2024*

27 STORIES • 303,760 SQ. FT. AVAILABLE • ALL-GLASS CURTAIN WALL • 33 FOOT COLUMN-FREE BAY CEILING  
PRE-CERTIFIED LEED GOLD • ON-SITE PARKING • AVAILABLE FOR TENANT IMPROVEMENTS OCTOBER 2024

535 MISSION

**Sam Fishman**  
Sustainability & Resilience Policy Manager

**Sarah Atkinson**  
Hazard Resilience Sr. Policy Manager

# Agenda

- SPUR's Mission, History, & Policy Areas
- Overview of SPUR's Sustainability and Resilience Policy Priorities
- Deep Dive Priority #1: Decarbonization
- Deep Dive Priority #2: Multi-hazard Resilience



# What is SPUR?

An urban planning & public policy organization



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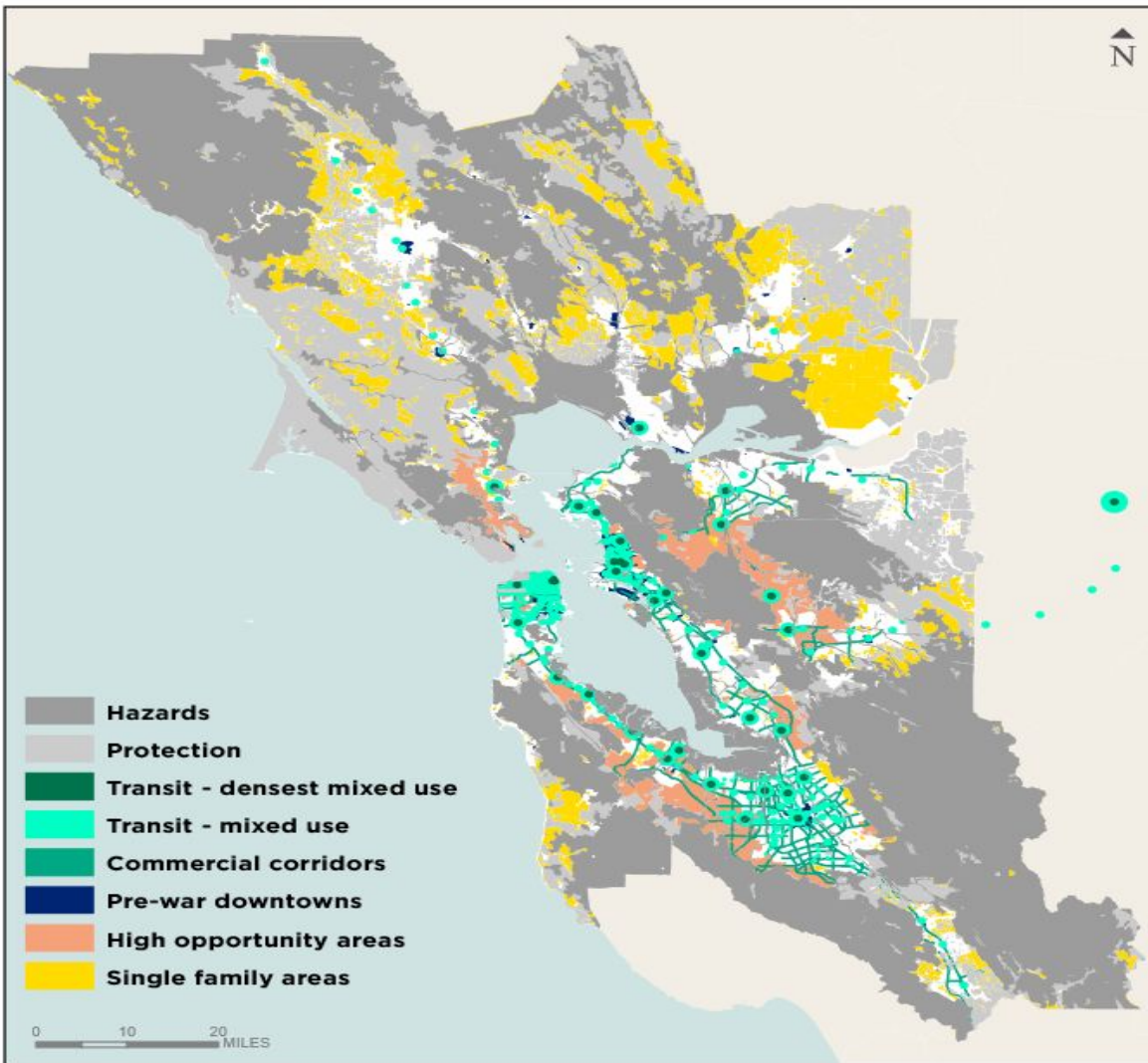




## SPUR's Mission

Through research, education and advocacy, SPUR works to create an equitable, sustainable and prosperous region in which all people thrive.





SPUR works at the intersection of **housing, transportation, planning, good governance, & sustainability & resilience** to create a better future for the Bay





## Planning

We Believe: Growth can be good and should be directed to areas that will support equitable development and sustainability.

[Read More >](#)



## Housing

We Believe: Housing is a human right and should be affordable to everyone.

[Read More >](#)



## Transportation

We believe: Walking, biking, and taking transit should be the safest and best ways to get around for people of all ages and abilities.

[Read More >](#)



## Good Government

We believe: The public sector can and should serve the collective good.

[Read More >](#)



## Sustainability and Resilience

We believe: The region should be environmentally just, carbon-neutral, and resilient to climate change and earthquakes.

[Read More >](#)



## Economic Justice

We believe: Prosperity is essential to a thriving region and should be planned for, supported, and shared so that all people can participate in and benefit from economic growth.

[Read More >](#)



SPUR  
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# Sustainability + Resilience

**Platform:** The region should be environmentally just, carbon-neutral, and resilient to climate change and earthquakes.

**Plank 1: Decarbonize buildings.** Eliminate the use of fossil fuels in buildings to make the air healthier and reduce climate pollution.

**Plank 2: Make the region resilient to sea level rise and other climate-driven natural disasters.** Support coordinated, community-led sea level rise plans and prioritize nature-based solutions to address the region's climate hazards.

**Plank 3: Improve communities' resilience to earthquakes.** Enhance the seismic safety of buildings and communities to help the region recover quickly and equitably.

# Plank 1: Decarbonize buildings. Eliminate the use of fossil fuels in buildings to make the air healthier and reduce climate pollution.

## A Toolbox for Transitioning to Zero-Pollution Equipment

*Five strategies and thirty actions policymakers and advocates can take to affordably, equitably, and smoothly transition off gas heating in buildings*

### Summary

Gas-powered space and water heating in homes and businesses is a significant driver of unhealthy air quality in the Bay Area, responsible for more lung-damaging nitrogen oxide pollution than the region's passenger cars. This pollution disproportionately burdens communities of color and low-income communities.

To improve air quality, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District passed an air standard in 2023 that will ensure that only pollution-free HVACs and water heaters can be sold or installed in Bay Area homes and businesses, starting in 2027 for residential water heaters and 2029 for residential HVAC systems. Other jurisdictions throughout California and the country are now actively considering similar standards.

In the years before the standard goes into effect, local, regional, and state policymakers have a critical window of opportunity to develop implementation strategies that will ensure the transition to pollution-free heating equipment advances as smoothly and equitably as possible.

The Toolbox was created to enable policymakers and advocacy groups to identify action steps they can take to support the successful implementation of the Bay Area's nation-leading air quality standard. The toolbox is also available for other jurisdictions outside of the Bay Area considering similar zero-pollution heating equipment standards.





## Focus Area 1: Panel and Service Upsizing

- **Research:** Solutions and tools to avoiding, and streamlining, costly and time consuming electrical panel and service upsizing
- **Advocacy:** Working with the Panel Optimization Work and Electrical Retrofits (POWER) group to advocate for panel optimization strategies. Engage at CPUC to implement state level solutions.
- **Education:** Host briefings with city officials, CCAs, and state agencies on panel optimization; Media outreach



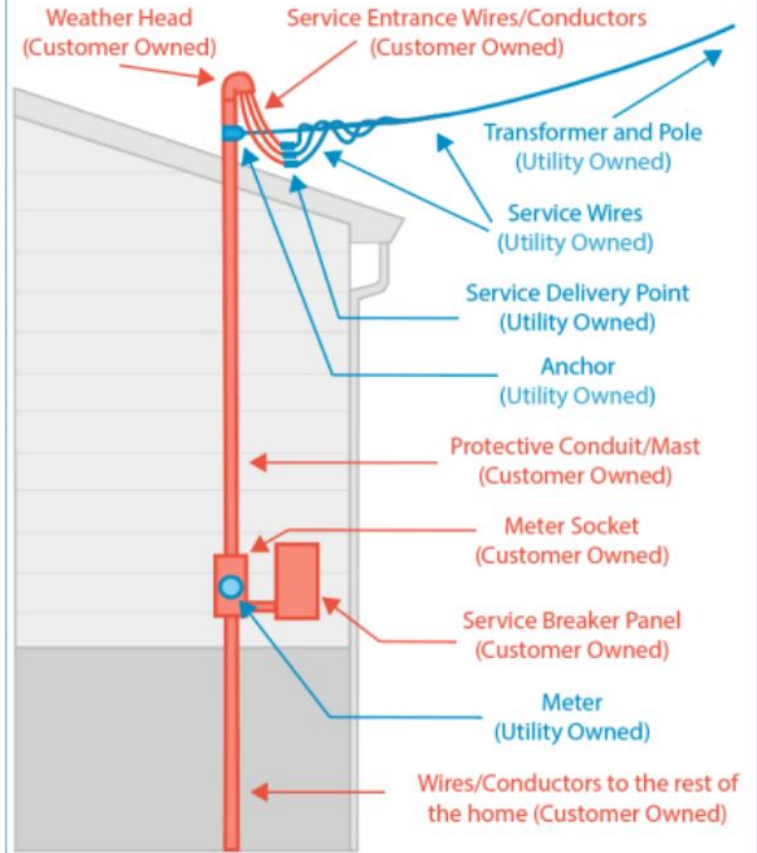
POLICY BRIEF MAY 2024

### Solving the Panel Puzzle

Avoiding and streamlining electric panel and service upsizing to accelerate building decarbonization

# Barrier: Electrical panel and service upsizing is costly and time consuming

## Customer vs. Utility Owned Electrical Service



## Modify Electric Underground less than 400 amp

Print



### Low end range

- No Right of Way or Easement Required
- No Upgrades to Infrastructure Required
- Trenching Outsourced

### High end range

- Right of Way or Easement Required
- Upgrades to Infrastructure Required
  - Trenching Completed by PG&E
  - Difficult Conditions or Long Trench Required

Feedback

## Modify Electric Overhead Service less than 400amp

Print



### Low end range

- No Right of Way or Easement Required
- No Additional Infrastructure Required

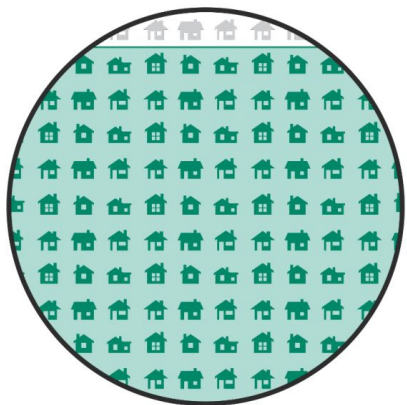
### High end range

- Right of Way or Easement Required
- Additional and/or Upgrades to Infrastructure Required

Feedback

The range is based on historical project costs.

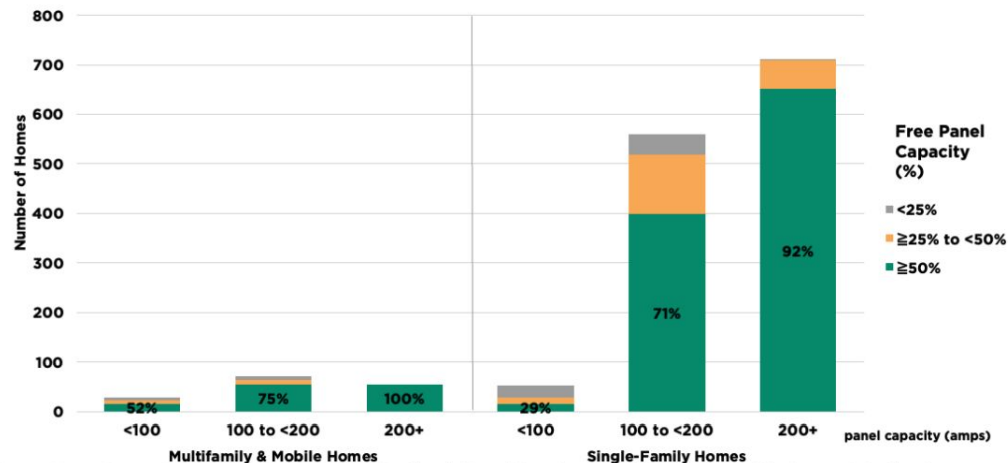
# Avoiding Unnecessary Panel Upsizing



With thoughtful  
policy and  
design decisions,

**MOST HOMES**

could electrify without  
complicated and expensive  
panel upgrades.



Source: Home Energy Analytics (HEA), "Dataset on Residential Panel Capacity and Utilization." Shared by Steven Schmidt of HEA.

Note: Data are from 1,477 homes in PG&E service territory.

# Right Sizing Equipment, and Optimizing Panels

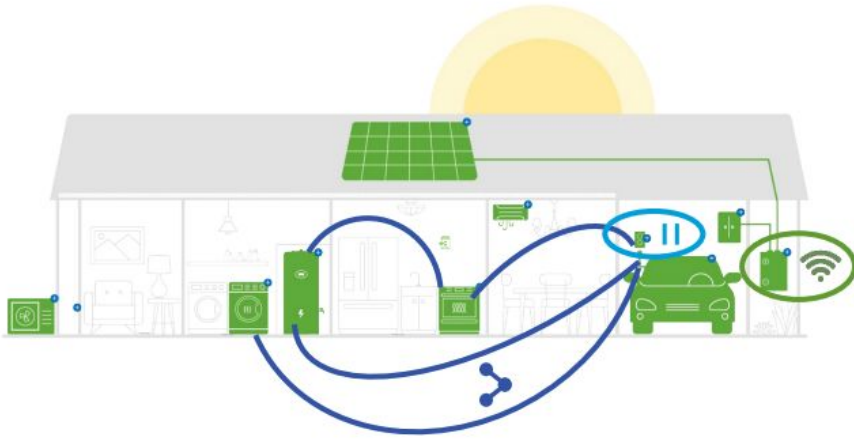


Image courtesy of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE)

## Option 1

### Control



Use a circuit pauser on the Level 2 EV charger

## Option 2

### Control



Use a **circuit-sharing** device with  
EV charger + range  
EV charger + water heater  
EV charger + clothes dryer  
Range + water heater

## Option 3

### Control



Use a smart panel



Image by ClipperCreek



Image by Rheem

# SPUR's Plan of Action

## Recommendations for local, Regional, state, and national decision makers

### Example recommendations

- Rec 1: Incorporate subsidies in incentive programs for load management technologies that mitigate the need to upsize a panel.
- Rec 9: Direct electric utilities to authorize any meter collar adapter that meets a set of minimum specifications.
- Rec 12: Direct electric utilities to adopt best practices to process service modification applications, along with target and maximum timelines that reflect streamlined processes.

Some forums and actors SPUR's engaged with:



CALIFORNIA

### Public Utilities Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to  
Establish Energization Timelines.

Rulemaking 24-01-018

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding  
Building Decarbonization.

Rulemaking 19-01-011  
(Filed January 31, 2019)



CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION



## Focus Area 2: Smoothing the transition to clean heating - permitting and city codes

- **Research:** Where are contractors running into trouble trying to navigate city rules to permit and install heat pumps
- **Advocacy:** Working with cities, CCAs, digital permitting companies, and advocates to identify recommendations for cities and state lawmakers
- **Education:** SPUR articles, speaking events, and SPUR organized events focusing in on these barriers

### Smoothing the Transition to Heat Pumps — Part 1: Code Changes

By Sam Fishman, Sustainability and Resilience Policy Manager

August 6, 2024

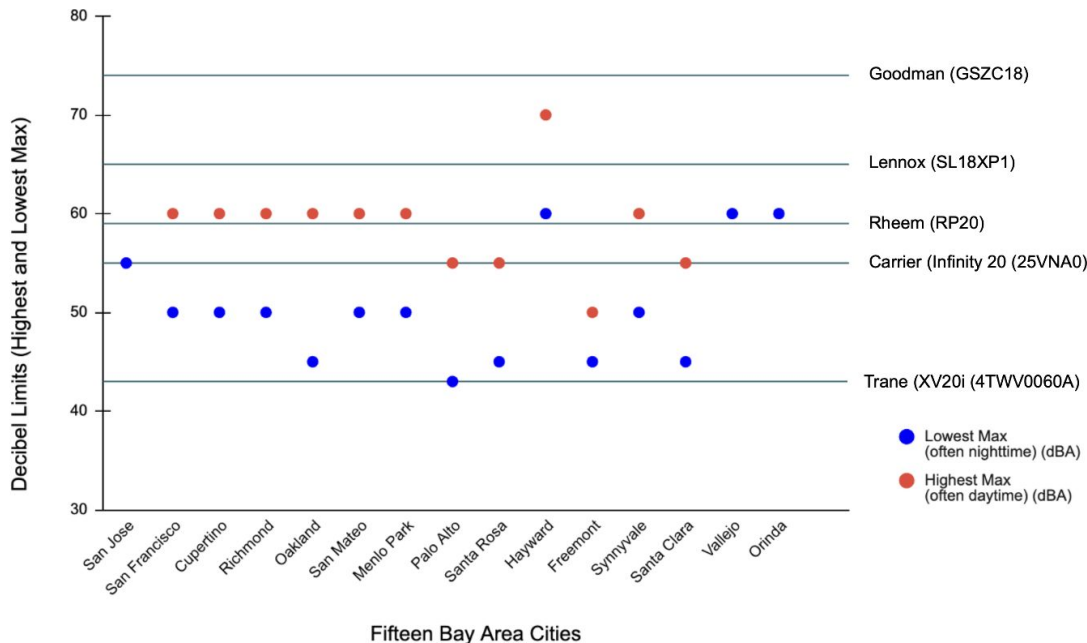


Bay Area planners need to amend municipal codes and permitting processes to accelerate home electrification in the Bay Area. One task is making it easier to install compressors for heat pumps in yards.  
Photo courtesy of [rawpixel.com](https://rawpixel.com)

# Example: Noise Ordinances

- Noise levels of heat pumps not well aligned with city codes
- Inverter technologies are changing the game!
- Recommendations: increase decibel limits, add exemptions, eliminate sound engineering requirements

Bay Area Noise Ordinances and Heat Pump Noise Ratings for Single-Family-Home Zones



Source: SPUR.

Note: Table only reflects exemptions impacting heat pumps.



# Example: Zoning codes

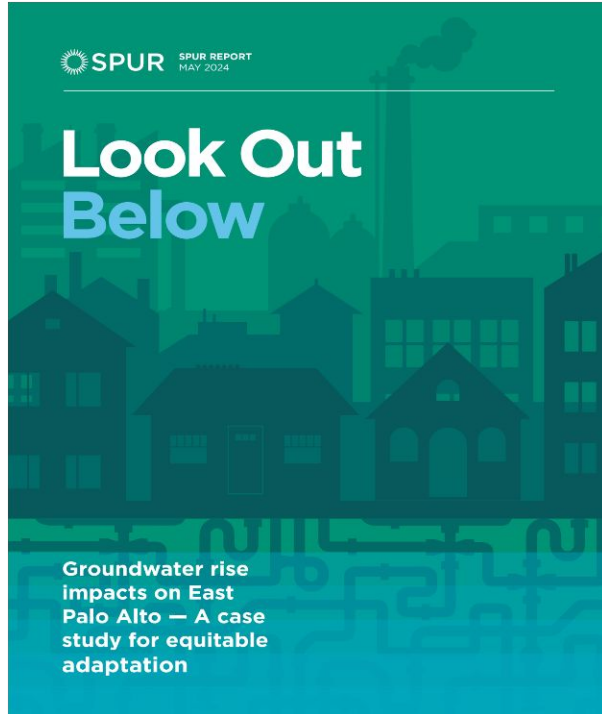


## REMOVING KNOWN BARRIERS: CHANGING ZONING TO HELP ELECTRIFY EXISTING HOMES

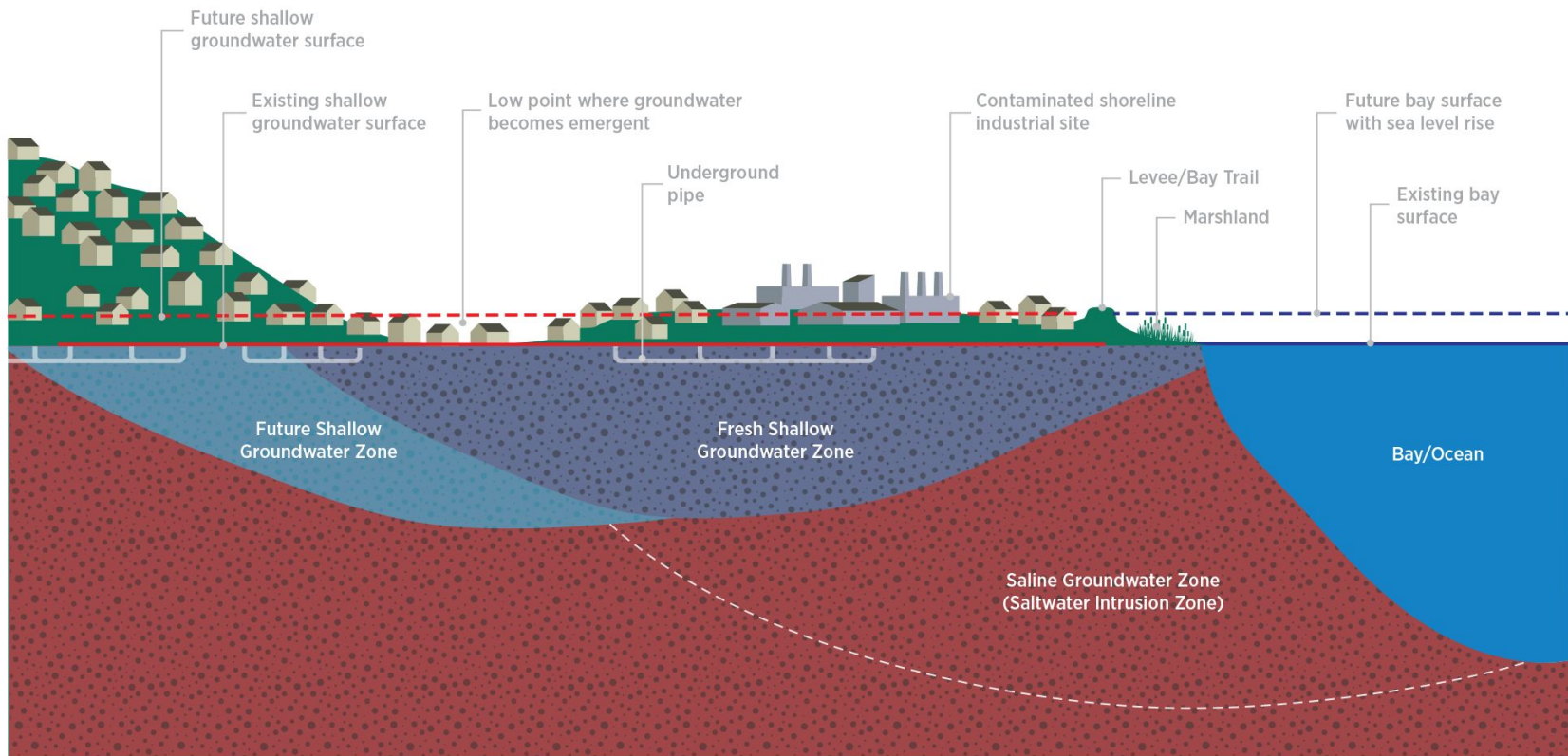
December 7, 2023 BAYREN Forum – Presented by Ori Paz



## Plank 2: Make the region resilient to sea level rise and other climate-driven natural disasters.



Bay Area communities are planning for sea level rise resilience with a focus on equity, nature-based solutions, the compounding effects of groundwater rise, and cooperation across jurisdictions.

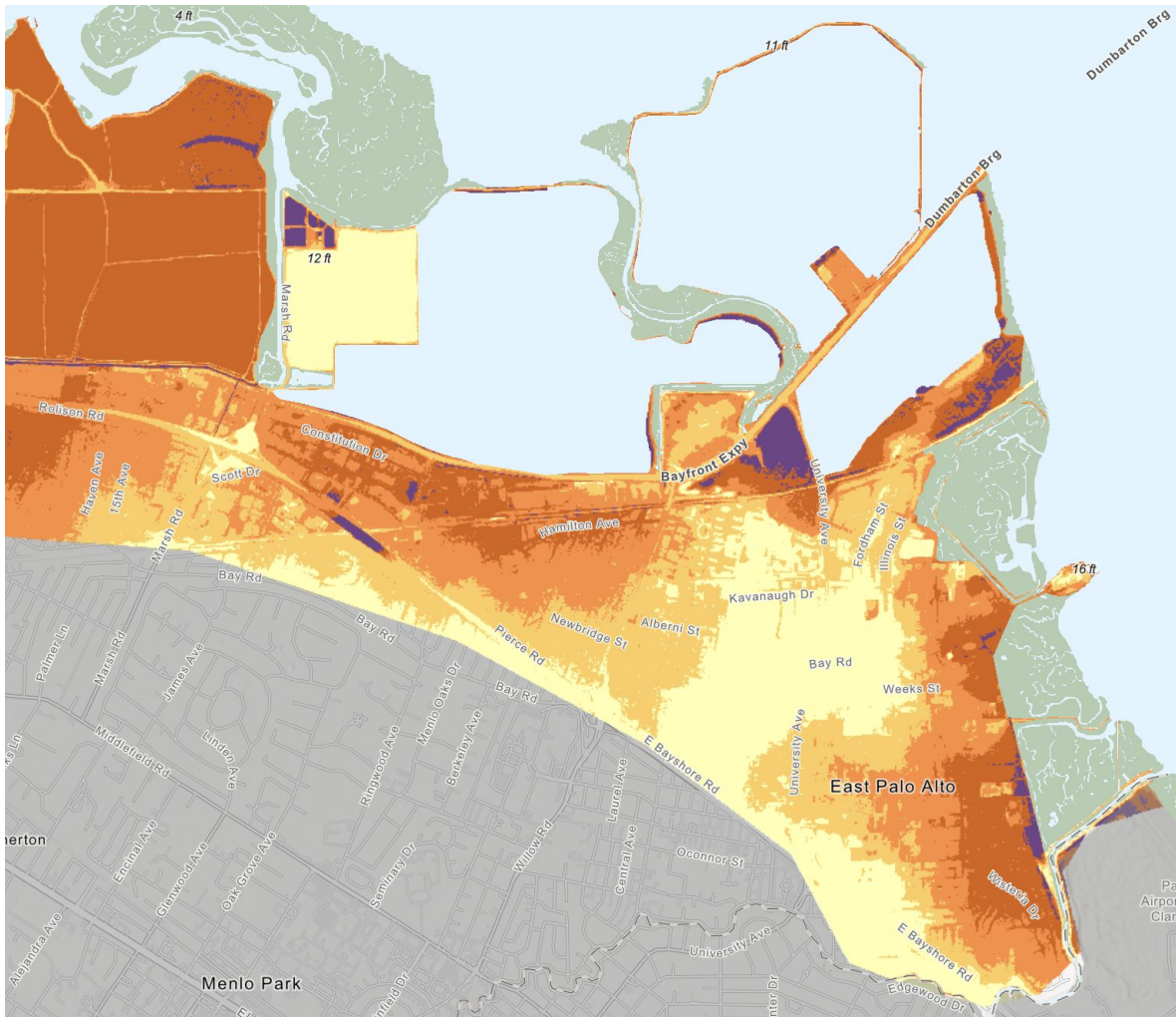
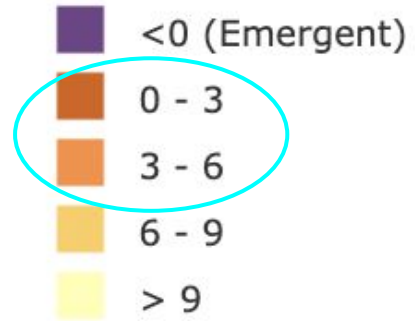


# Depth to Groundwater Existing Conditions, Menlo Park

## Depth to Groundwater

Current Conditions (Wet Winter)

Depth to water (ft)



# Depth to Groundwater Projection, 1 foot of Sea Level Rise

## 12" Sea-Level Rise

12" SLR: Coastal Flooding & Emergent  
Groundwater



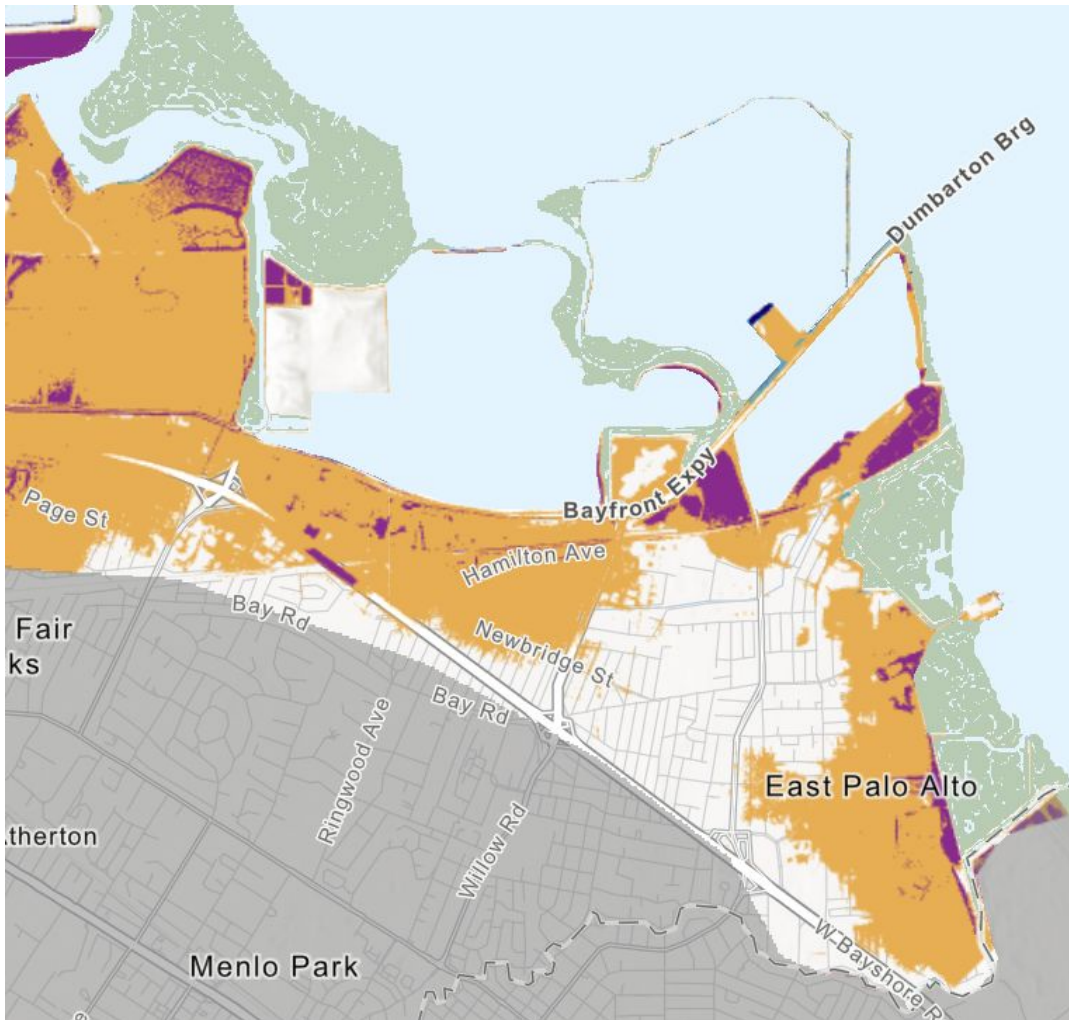
12" SLR: Emergent Groundwater



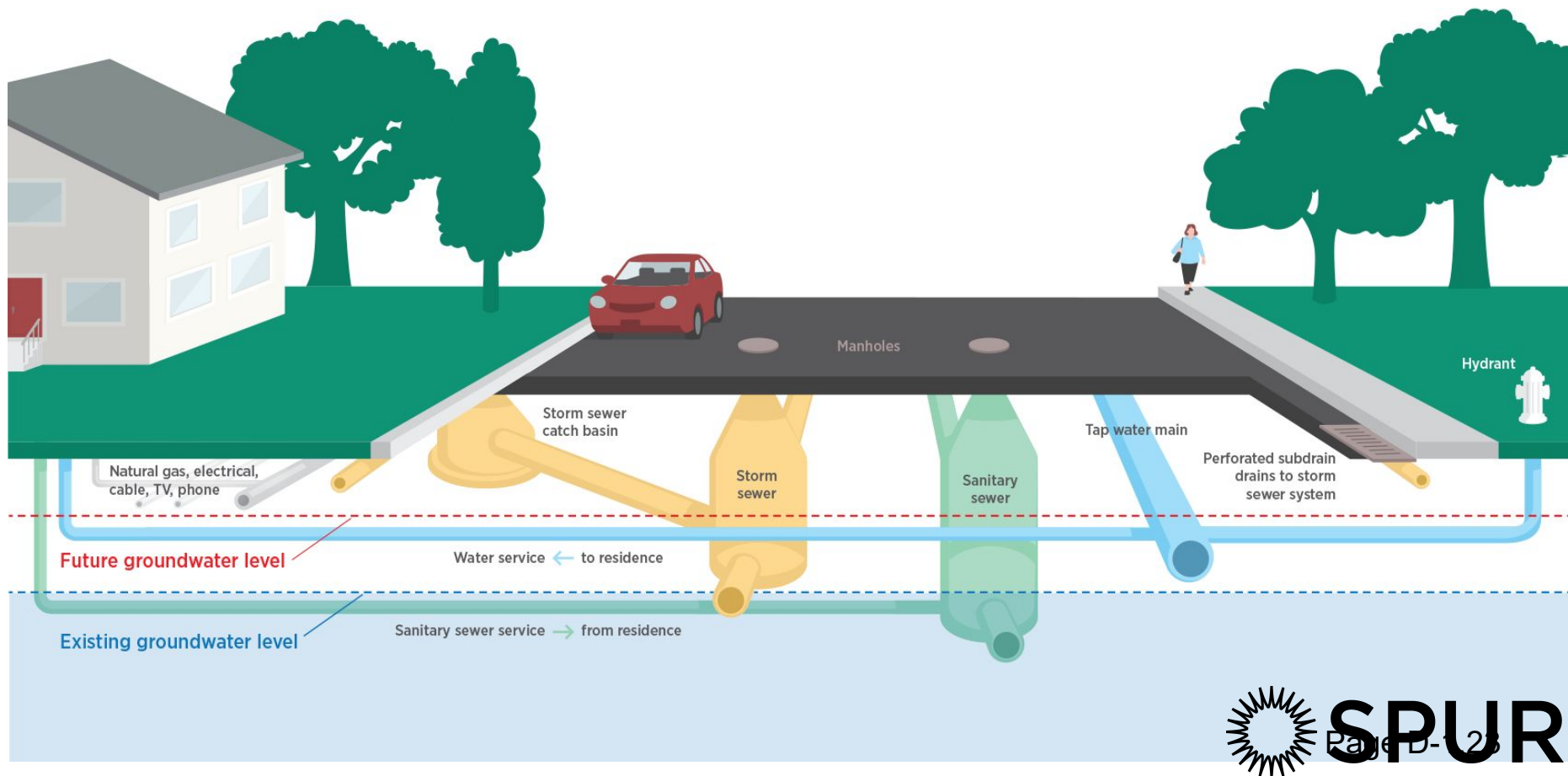
12" SLR: Coastal Flooding (BCDC Adapting to  
Rising Tides)

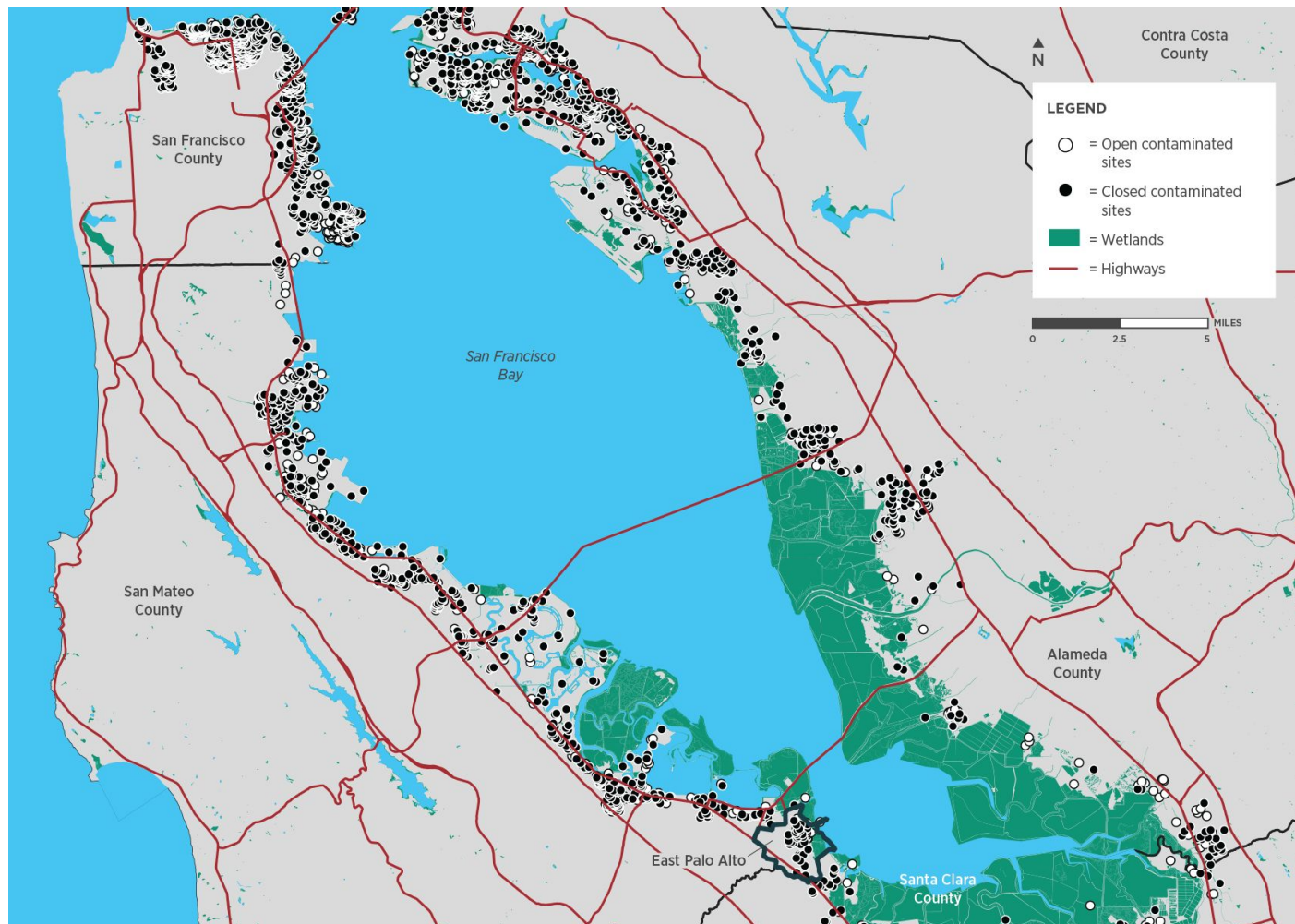


12" SLR: Groundwater Within 6ft of Ground  
Surface









# Bayshore Contaminated Sites

# Menlo Park Contaminated Sites

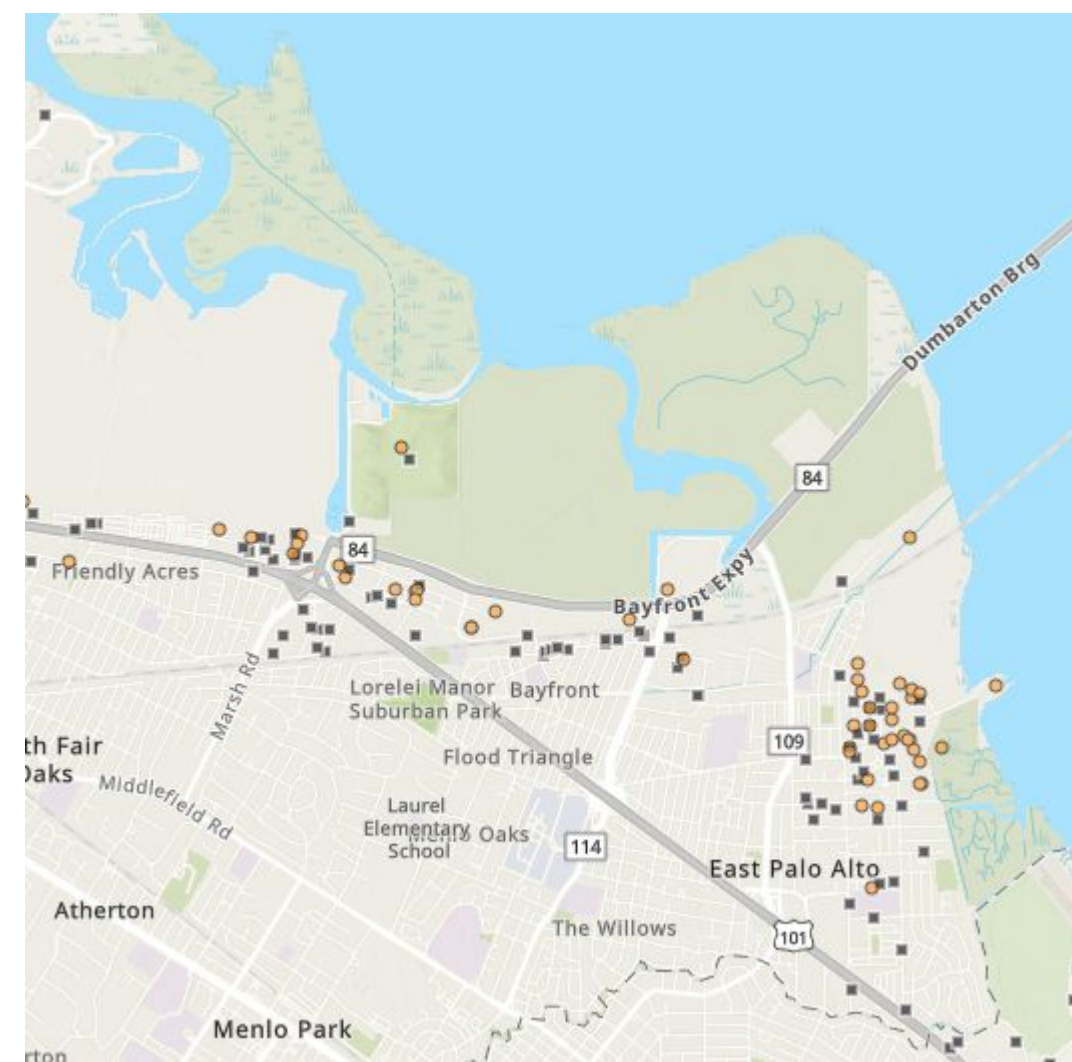


Image: KQED

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# Look Out Belows Policy Recommendations

## Recommendation 1

Require all city plans and infrastructure projects to assess the risks of groundwater rise and compound flooding.

## Recommendation 2

Consider adopting Shallow Groundwater Rise Overlay Districts, which specify design and retrofit requirements for underground infrastructure, roadways, and new shoreline development in high-hazard areas.

## Recommendation 3

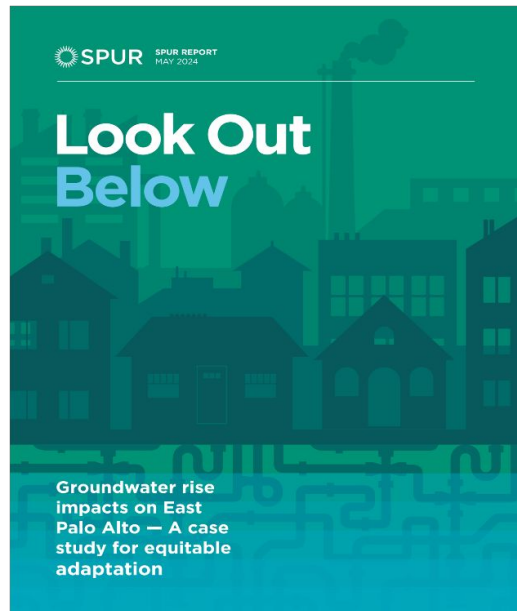
In partnership with impacted communities, update guidance for remediation requirements of shoreline sites to incorporate risks of contaminant mobilization from groundwater and sea level rise.

## Recommendation 4

Update sea level rise and flood maps to reflect shallow groundwater rise so that relevant agencies can begin planning processes to address it.

## Recommendation 5

Pursue a variety of innovative funding mechanisms to support groundwater rise research, adaptation planning, and implementation projects.

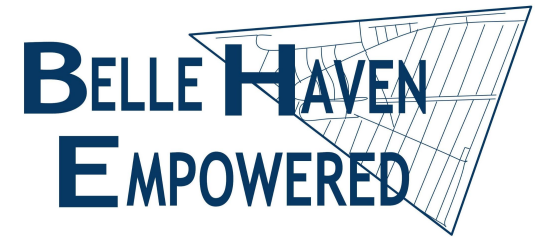




# Peninsula Accountability for Contamination Team (PACT)

## Mission Statement:

Our mission is to advocate alongside community members to advance **contaminated site clean-up and infrastructure resilience**, addressing the impacts of sea level and groundwater rise in **low-lying areas of the Peninsula**. Through this work, we aim to safeguard the health and well-being of our community for generations to come.



# Partnership Opportunities: SPUR & Menlo Park EQC

- **Citywide climate planning**
  - SPUR working with San Jose on CARP
- **Community & stakeholder engagement**, coalition partnerships
- **Regional, state, & federal funding applications**
  - SPUR has partnered with other cities on federal grants (Climate Pollution Reduction Grant App with South Bay Cities)
- **Document/Policy Review**
  - SPUR has worked with cities on plan and policy development (e.g. Safety Elements, LHMP, CAP, seismic ordinances)
- **Regional leadership and collaboration**
  - Menlo Park can be a regional leader! Work with SPUR on sharing lessons with other municipal leaders
  - **Research partnerships** and policy piloting

# Thank You!

**Sam Fishman**

Sustainability & Resilience Policy Manager  
sfishman@spur.org

**Sarah Atkinson**

Hazard Resilience Sr. Policy Manager  
satkinson@spur.org

## Questions?

# Building Performance Standards and Alternatives



September 18th, 2024

# Why BPS?



Building Performance Standards are the most powerful policy tool available to drive improved performance, including decarbonization, in existing buildings

# BPS Impact

**Washington, DC** estimates that its BPS will **reduce energy** use in buildings **by 20%**, over 1M tons of CO2 annually

**Washington State** projects its BPS will reduce annual **CO2** emissions by **14M tons by 2035**

New York City projects a reduction of 6M tons of CO2 annually by 2030 and the creation of **~126,000 green jobs\***

Expert panel predicts the NYC energy retrofit market represents a mid range market opportunity **of \$20B**

Source: Urban Green Council  
[https://www.urbangreencouncil.org/sites/default/files/urban\\_green\\_retrofit\\_market\\_analysis.pdf](https://www.urbangreencouncil.org/sites/default/files/urban_green_retrofit_market_analysis.pdf)





# What is a Building Performance Standard?

- Establishes successively more ambitious requirements for building to improve performance across one or more quantitative objective measurements (e.g. to reduce site energy use intensity)
- Applies to a large swath of public and private buildings over a certain size (usually 25-50k sq. ft.) on preset dates (no trigger needed)
- Complements building codes



# What Makes a BPS Different?

Requires  
Improvement  
Across a Wide  
Range of  
Buildings

Yields Deep  
Retrofits at  
Scale

Drives Private  
Value-Creating  
Investment in  
Private  
Buildings

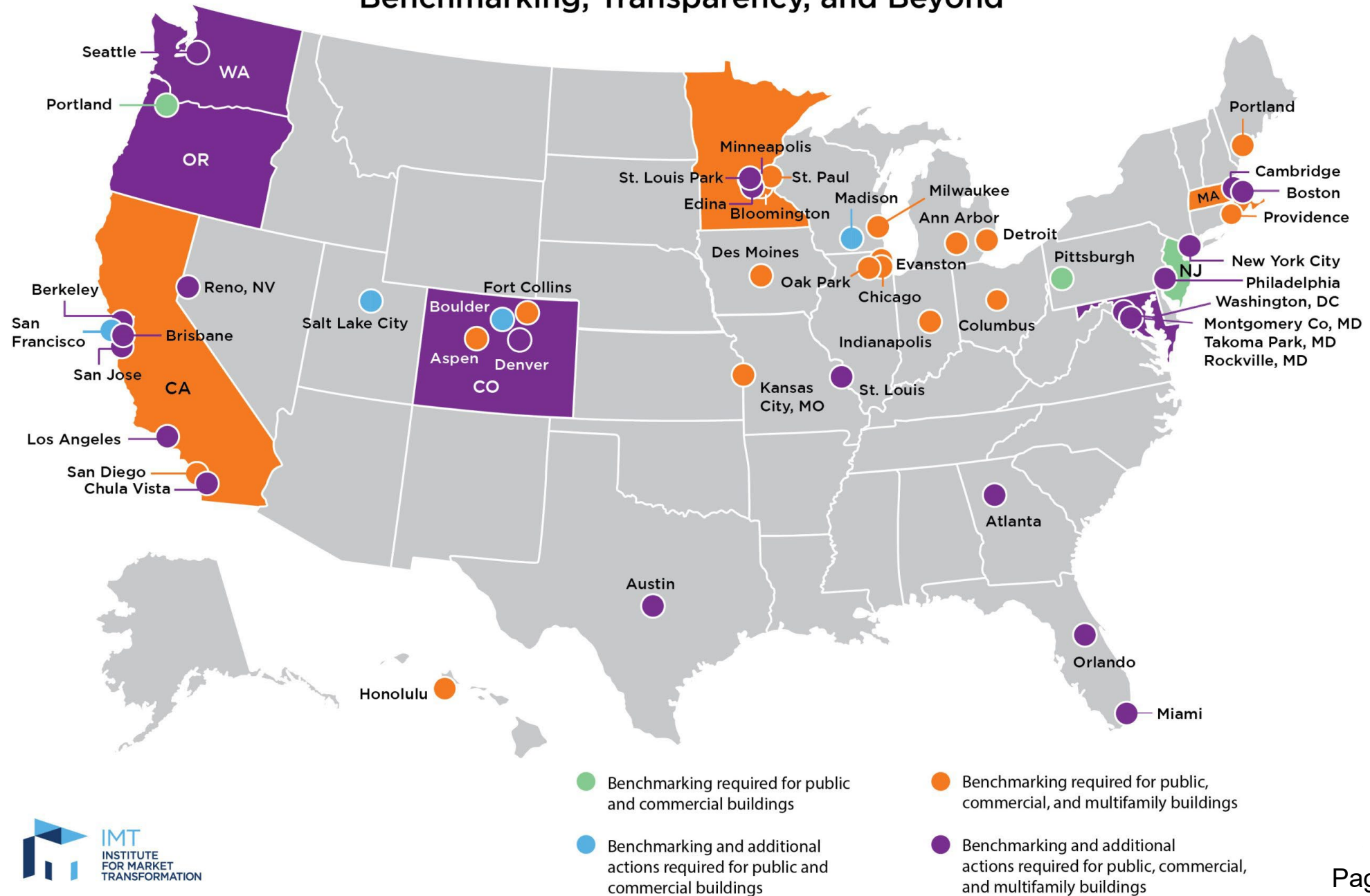
Provides  
Comprehensive  
Approach to  
Performance

Balances  
Flexibility and  
Immediate  
Action

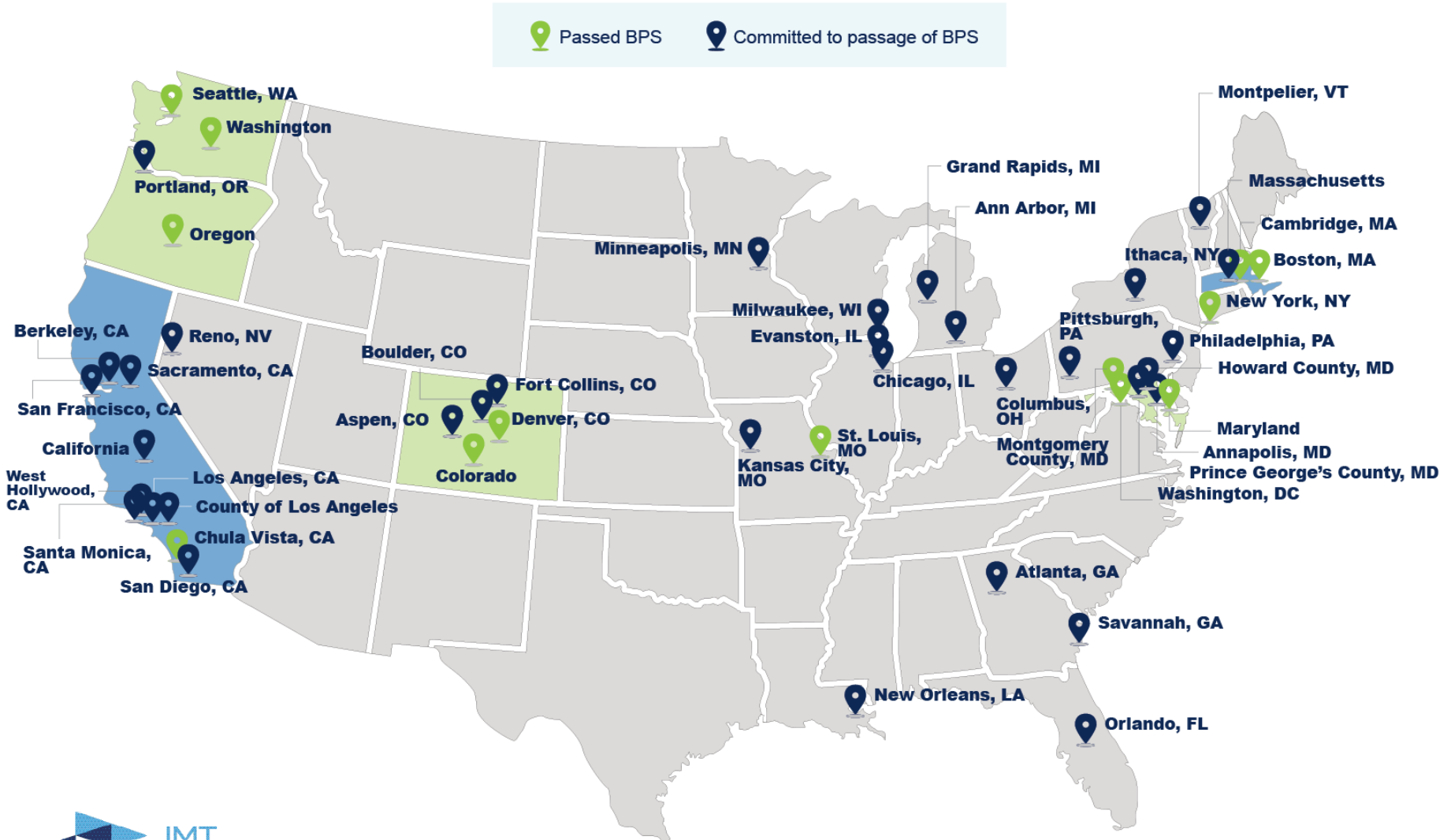
Sends Long-  
Term Signal



# U.S. City, County, and State Policies for Existing Buildings: Benchmarking, Transparency, and Beyond



The State of Building Performance Standards (BPS) in the U.S.  
Members of the National BPS Coalition as of July 2024



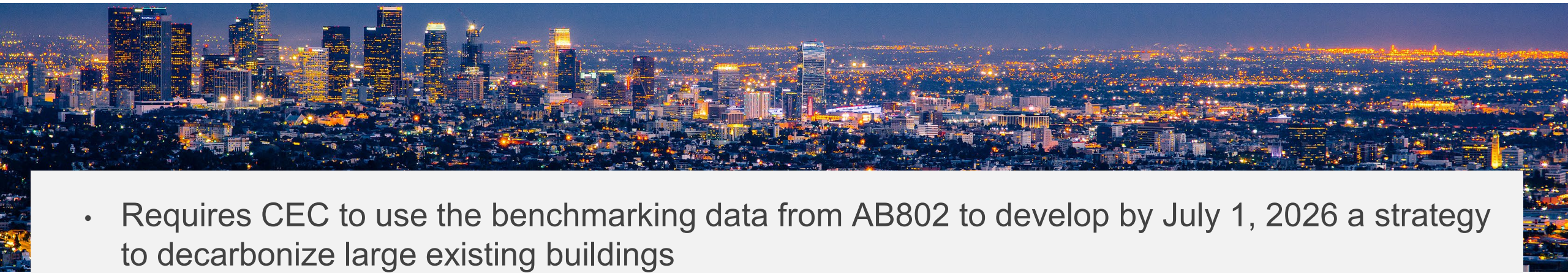
The background of the slide is a photograph of various wooden blocks and geometric shapes. On the left, there are several blocks stacked to form a wall-like structure with arches. To the right, there are more blocks, including a large one with a semi-circular cutout and a smaller one with a triangular top. The blocks are light-colored wood, and the background is a solid reddish-pink color.

## BPS Principles

1. Align with goals/commitments
2. Social and racial equity
3. Regulatory fairness
4. Jobs and economic growth
5. Maximize certainty
6. Transparency
7. Drive early action
8. Accommodate building life cycle events
9. Simplicity
10. Ease of compliance/implementation



# CA Senate Bill 48, the Building Energy Savings Act



- Requires CEC to use the benchmarking data from AB802 to develop by July 1, 2026 a strategy to decarbonize large existing buildings
- Does not explicitly require BPS as part of the strategy, but CEC has already called for a BPS as part of its EIPR
- Gov. Newsom signed on October 7, 2023
- A CA-wide BPS will likely follow the model of AB 802 and not preempt strong local BPS
- IMT was a co-sponsor of SB48



# SB48 Community Collaboration

"SB 48 is necessary and important: California needs to make building decarbonization a core part of its climate effort. But the law must protect tenants from displacement. We cannot let building retrofits or renovations lead to evictions or rent raises or we will make our affordable housing crisis much worse and even harder to solve."

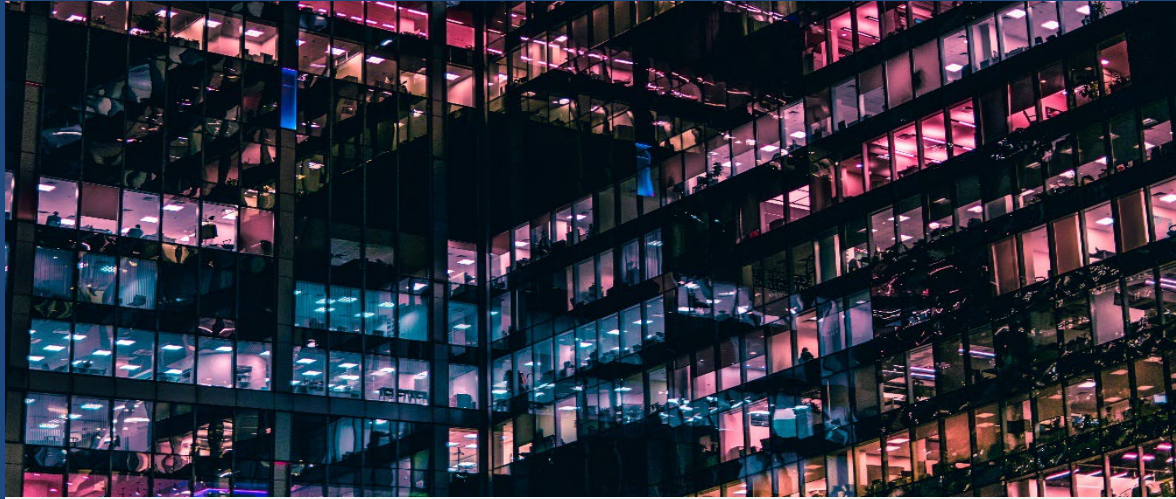


- Requires that CEC consult affected stakeholders starting with “community-based organizations representing tenant advocacy, equity, and environmental justice concerns.”
- CEC’s strategy must: “Avoid increasing utility and rental cost burdens for, or causing evictions, harassment, or displacement of, tenants of covered buildings.”

# IMT's Model BPS Law

- IMT published first model law for building performance standards in January 2021
- Incorporates lessons learned from adopted BPS
- Reviewed by expert stakeholders in government, real estate, social equity, building science, building performance policy
- Serves as the starting point for most new BPS laws
- [www.imt.org/bps](http://www.imt.org/bps)

# How IMT's BPS Laws Address Building Performance/Decarb



## Standards Based on Performance Metrics

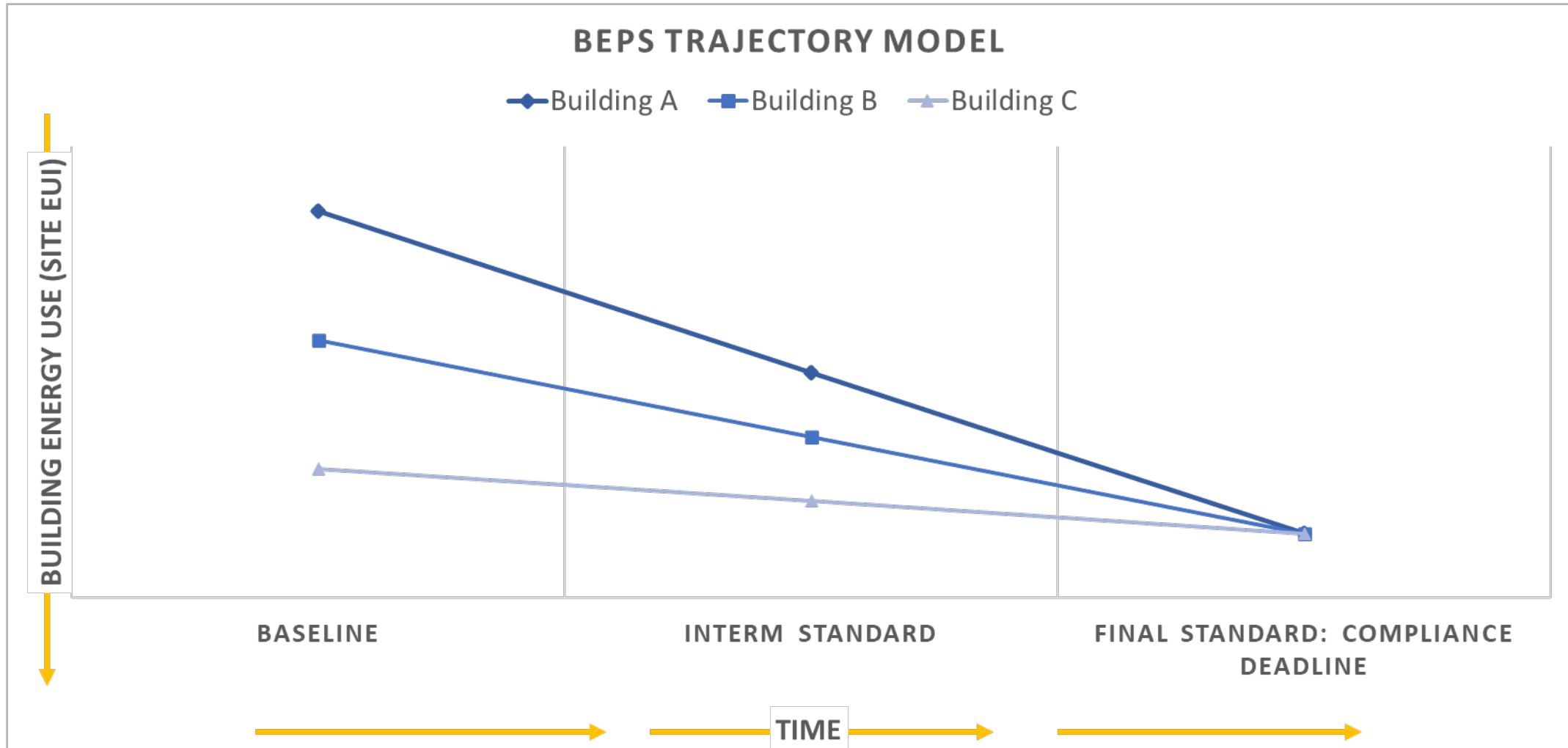
- Site Energy Use Intensity
- Onsite and District Thermal GHGs
- Water Use Intensity
- Coincident Peak Demand
- Indoor Air Quality



## Actions to Advance Social Priorities

- Anti-displacement, affordable housing protections packaged with law
- Owners seeking additional flexibility required to advance other community priorities

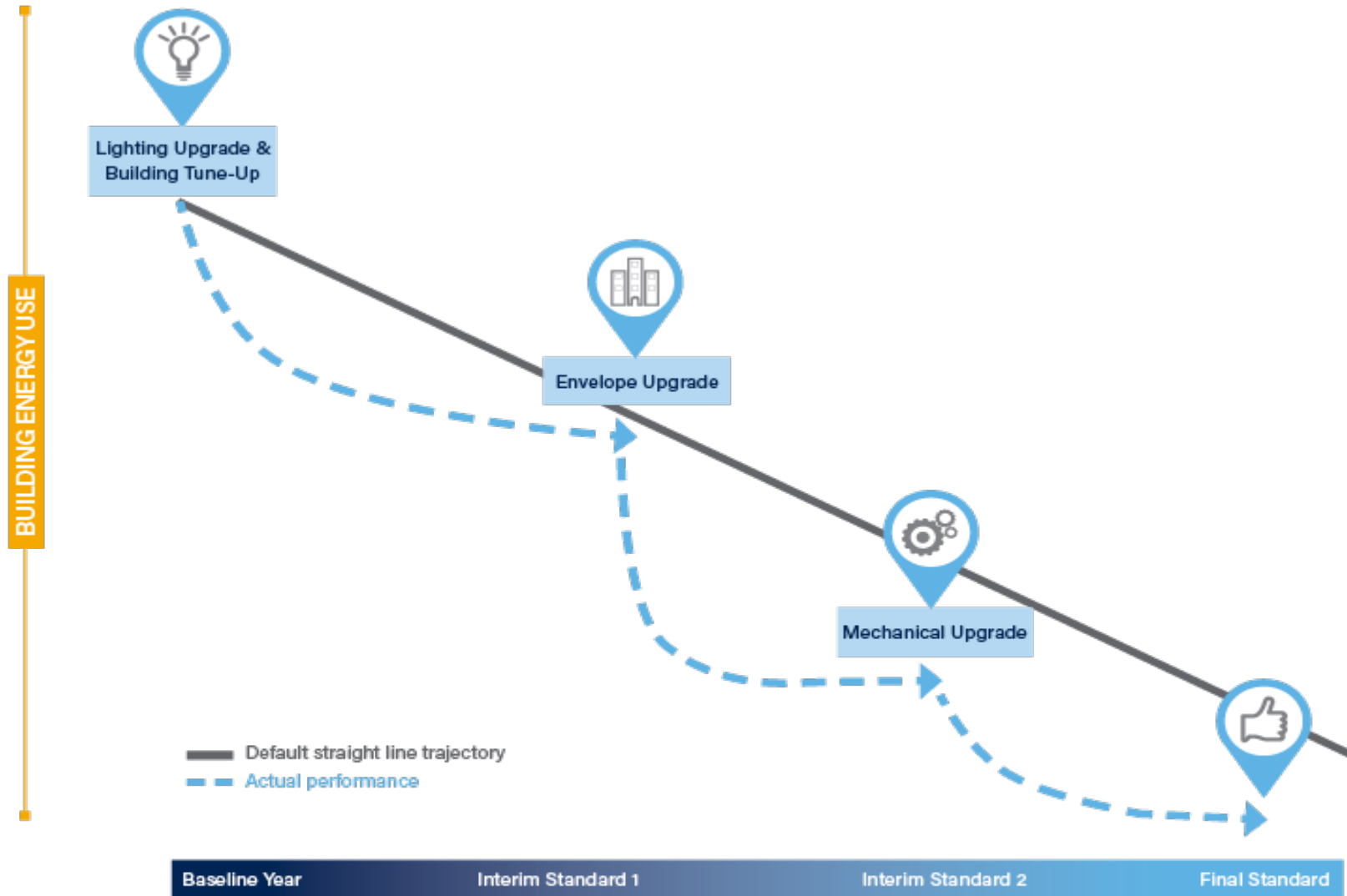
# BPS Trajectory Approach Example: Final and Interim Standards for 3 Office Buildings





# Compliance Example

## Owner decides when and how to improve building



# Additional Free Resources: [www.imt.org/bps](http://www.imt.org/bps)



# Independent vs Dependent on Number of Covered Buildings

## Independent:

- Overseeing BPS implementation
- Annually assessing building performance
- Internal technical resourcing
- Maintaining & updating a compliance web portal
- Ongoing program & policy outreach
- Supporting equity & responsibilities

## Dependent:

- Handling communications & supporting building owners
- Auditing & validating building performance reports
- Reviewing exemptions, alternative compliance pathways, & special cases
- Enforcement

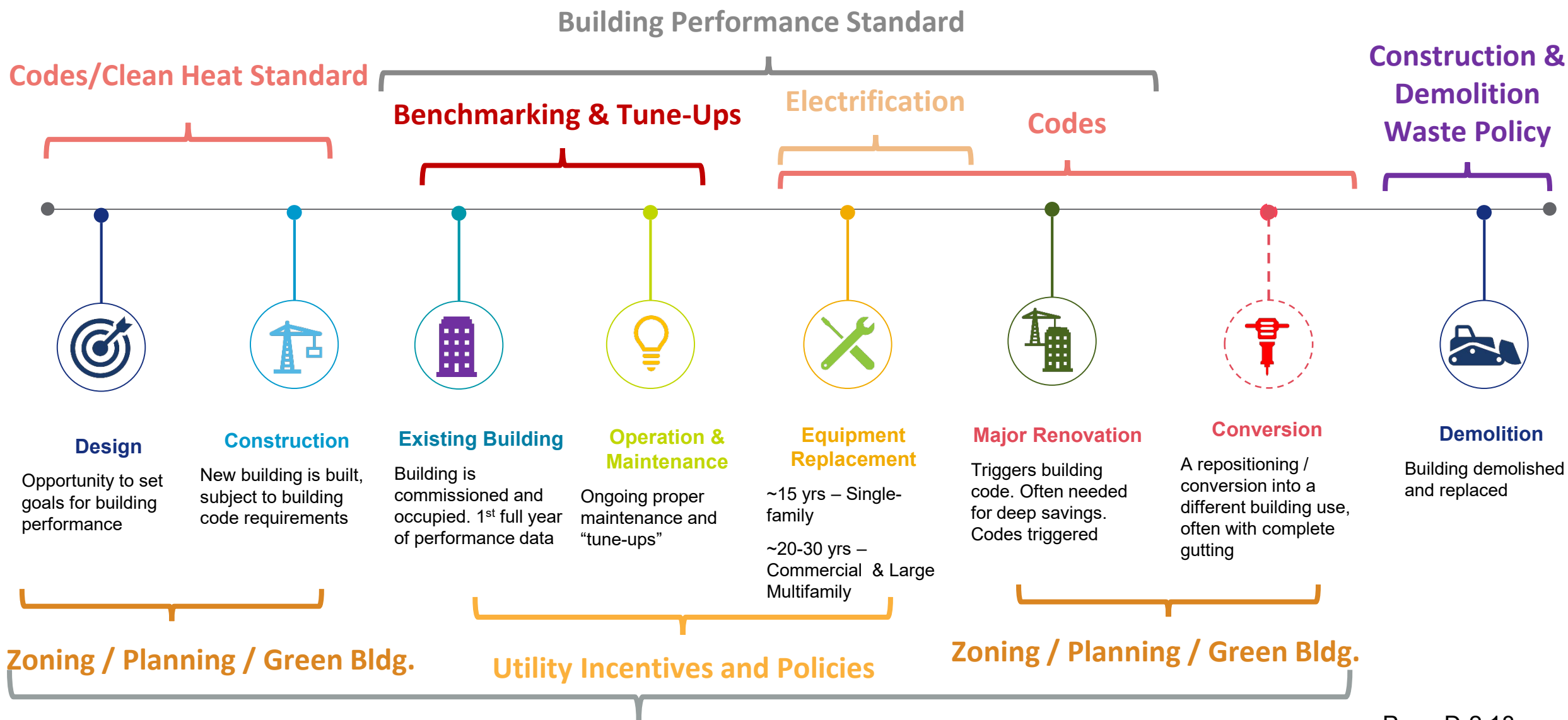
# Level of Effort

## Staffing Examples

Jurisdiction	Number of Covered Properties	BPS Staff	Budget (including non-personnel costs)
Montgomery County MD	1,850	7 FTEs	\$1.1 million annually
St. Louis MO	~900	4 FTEs	\$299,600 (personnel costs only)
Washington, DC	1,662 in 1 <sup>st</sup> compliance cycle; increasing to 5,000 by 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle	7 FTEs	\$1.1-1.2 million annually



# Intervention Opportunities and Policy Alternatives



## Residential building performance policies (single-family homes / small multifamily buildings / multifamily units)

<b>Residential labeling policy</b>	Residential home labeling policies require sellers or property managers to publicly disclose verified, standard energy performance data at the time of sale, listing, or request for occupancy. Labeling policies can apply to both new and existing single-family, small multifamily buildings, and/or manufactured homes, and may apply to rental and/or owner-occupied homes. The information included in the labeling can vary from utility bill disclosures to more detailed home energy scores or audit/assessment findings that include energy efficiency data, recommended upgrades, and other details on home characteristics.
<b>Residential energy retrofit policy</b>	Energy retrofit policies require sellers or property managers of single-family and small multifamily buildings to either install prescriptive measures or meet an energy performance requirement at a certain point in time, such as time of sale, time of renovation or retrofit, or time of request for rental license.
<b>Rental heating and cooling policies</b>	Policies that mandate rental property owners to provide and maintain heating and/or cooling systems capable of keeping rental units within safe and livable temperature ranges during both winter and/or summer. These policies mandate that heating systems must maintain a minimum, safe temperature during cold months, and/or cooling systems must prevent the temperature from exceeding a certain threshold during hot months, ensuring tenants' comfort and safety year-round.
<b>Utility bill protection for heating and cooling</b>	A policy that prevents utility companies from shut-offs due to missed payments during extreme cold or heat. The policies typically set a time of year where no shut-offs can occur.

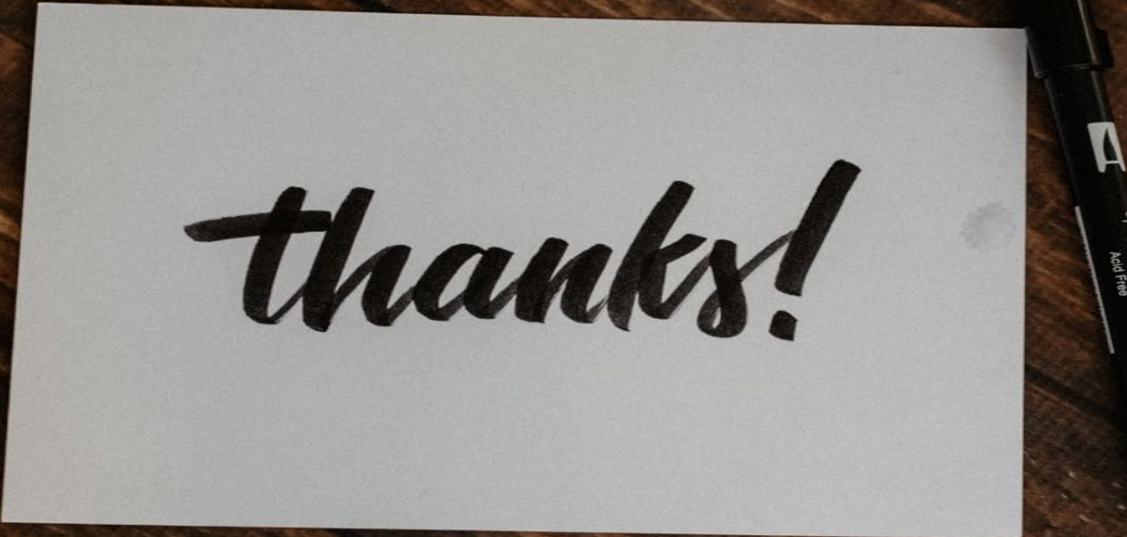
# Boulder SmartRegs

- SmartRegs requires all licensed rental housing in Boulder to meet a basic energy efficiency standards
  - This is just one part of the rental license approval process
  - Performance path requires a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score of 120 or lower
  - Prescriptive path involves a checklist designed as an alternative to the SmartRegs performance path
- [Boulder Model Lease](#)
- [SmartRegs Guidebook](#)

# Ann Arbor

- Ann Arbor is undertaking some pretty amazing work
- This [page](#) is a central hub that then links into their other programs (some still in development):
  - [Commercial Building Benchmarking](#)
  - [Green Rental Housing](#) (still in development)
    - Resources to come for landlords and renters
  - [A2ZERO Sustainability Concierge](#) (recently launched)





*thanks!*

James Burton

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For more info: [www.imt.org/bps](http://www.imt.org/bps)

# Menlo Park City School District Climate Action Plan

EQC Discussion  
Chair Jeff Schmidt

# A Guide to Support MPCSD's Strategic Planning Process

## **Potential steps to create a multi-year Climate Action Plan for MPCSD**

1. Working team chooses Areas of Opportunity (pages 4-6) that are the most relevant and appealing
2. Activities chosen by the team become an annual plan for each school in the district
3. Annual plans are integrated and progress is tracked as part of the district's strategic planning process
4. Nonprofit, government, and education partners engaged (e.g. Jeff to involve Stanford students, professors, and staff)
5. Funding - find related grants and strategic donors. Consider tax incentives and bonds if needed
6. Effectiveness of different strategies assessed and adjusted as needed

## **Goals (first draft ideas)**

1. Create a more sustainable and environmentally responsible school environment
2. Provide opportunities for student leadership and learning
3. Engage the MPCSD community

## **Strategies (first draft ideas)**

1. Develop and implement a multi-year Climate Action Plan for the district
2. Integrate teaching, learning, and student leadership into each part of the CAP process
3. Create roles in the CAP process for all MPCSD stakeholders

# Areas of Opportunity - 10 Categories

<b>Engage and Educate the MPCSD Community</b>	<b>Assess MPCSD's Environmental Impact and Crisis Readiness</b>	<b>Implement Energy- Saving and Efficiency Measures</b>	<b>Encourage Waste Reduction and Recycling</b>	<b>Save Water With Conservation Practices Across the District</b>
<b>Strengthen MPCSD's Green Purchasing Protocols</b>	<b>Purchase Green Energy for the District</b>	<b>Lower MPCSD's Transportation Footprint</b>	<b>Invest in Green Spaces and Trees</b>	<b>Prepare Students for Green Careers</b>



# Areas of Opportunity - Potential Ideas for Team Consideration

Engage and Educate the MPCSD Community	Assess MPCSD's Environmental Impact and Crisis Readiness	Implement Energy-Saving and Efficiency Measures	Encourage Waste Reduction and Recycling	Save Water With Conservation Practices Across the District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide students with leadership roles and opportunities to develop and implement the CAP</li> <li>• Integrate climate change and sustainability topics into curriculum</li> <li>• Create targeted awareness campaigns for the entire school community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect baseline data</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate progress</li> <li>• Benchmark with 3rd-party programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an energy audit</li> <li>• Implement a school-wide energy efficiency program</li> <li>• Upgrade lighting</li> <li>• Reduce energy demand of computers, appliances, and equipment</li> <li>• Minimize heating and cooling costs</li> <li>• Consider energy efficiency for new construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve each school's waste reduction policy and set <a href="#">a zero waste goal</a></li> <li>• Reduce waste in administrative offices</li> <li>• Implement a composting program</li> <li>• Expand access to locally-grown, healthy, sustainable food</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for food donation, food rescue, and composting</li> <li>• Create a reuse and recycling culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a school water audit</li> <li>• Initiate a water conservation policy and program</li> <li>• Educate students on water conservation measures</li> <li>• Detect and repair leaks at schools and install water efficient devices</li> <li>• Eliminate unnecessary water use outside</li> </ul> <p>Page D-3.4</p>

# Areas of Opportunity - Potential Ideas for Team Consideration

Strengthen MPCSD's Green Purchasing Protocols	Purchase Green Energy for the District	Lower MPCSD's Transportation Footprint	Invest in Green Spaces and Trees	Prepare Students for Green Careers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement an <a href="#">Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)</a> program</li> <li>• Use online resources to assist with purchasing decisions</li> <li>• Advocate green purchases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint an energy team</li> <li>• Increase on-site renewable energy generation</li> <li>• Learn about and advocate for renewable and non-renewable energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create vehicle optimization protocols</li> <li>• Create vehicle substitution protocols</li> <li>• Create more pedestrian- and bike-friendly routes to school</li> <li>• Develop and share guidelines on maximizing vehicle efficiency</li> <li>• Encourage students, staff, administrators, and families to drive less and drive clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and maintain green spaces on school campuses across the district</li> <li>• Use organic mulch in landscaping around trees and shrubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare youth for jobs in the clean economy</li> <li>• Set up local workforce development partnerships to train students</li> </ul>

**Thank You**

# Environmental Quality Commission work plan

City Manager's Office

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA 94025

Approved Sept. 24, 2024



## 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.

## Work plan history

Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended to EQC	7/17/2024	
Work plan City Council approval	9/24/2024	



## Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) agenda topics fiscal year 2024-25

**Agenda schedule may change based on City Council, Chair and Vice Chair and staff requests/direction**

Month	Topics	Author/Presenter	EQC role
July 2024	Discuss fiscal year 2024-25 agenda calendar, work plan and subcommittees	Sustainability staff/ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Annual City Arborist Report and review of heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines	City arborist and public works staff	Feedback to staff on ideas, policies and programs
	Discuss opportunities for student engagement in EQC	Chair	Action by Commission
August 2024	Review student engagement goals and plan	Student engagement ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Presentation on the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association's (SPUR) relevant research and programs	Guest speakers	Informational/no action
September 2024	Review and discuss student engagement ad hoc subcommittee recommendations	Student engagement ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Presentation from the Institute for Market Transformation on Building Performance Standards		Informational/no action
	Consider appointing commissioners to subcommittees		Action by Commission
	Update on the Menlo Park City School District Climate Action Plan		Informational/no action
October 2024	Presentation from Sustainable San Mateo County	Guest speakers	Informational/no action
	Recommend updates to heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines and discuss CAL FIRE grant results	Heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines ad hoc subcommittee	Informational/no action
November 2024	No meeting due to holiday		
December 2024	Review and discuss recommendations to promote solar and battery storage	Distributed energy resources ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission

	Review of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) offerings	PCE staff	Informational
January 2025	Report out on Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment Voucher Program	Sustainability staff	Informational/provide feedback to staff
	Review and discuss recommendations from the impact of plastics on the environment ad hoc subcommittee	Impact of plastics on the environment ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
February 2025	Transportation presentation/joint EQC meeting with Complete Streets Commission	City staff	Informational/provide feedback to staff
	CAP metrics	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff
	Discuss climate bond	Chair	Informational
March 2025	Receive CAP progress report	Sustainability staff	Informational/no action
	Review and discuss recommendations for developing a climate change resilience and adaptation plan	Climate change resilience and adaptation ad hoc subcommittee, sustainability staff	Action by commission
April 2025	Report out on Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment Voucher Program	Sustainability staff	Informational, provide feedback to staff
	Discuss state, federal and additional grant opportunities	Chair	Informational, provide feedback to staff
May 2025	Select Chair and Vice Chair	Chair	Action by Commission
	Update on building electrification outreach and education and provide feedback on second round of programming (\$4.5 million grant)	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff
June 2025	Discuss annual agenda calendar/ work plan to submit to the City Council	Sustainability staff/Chair and Vice Chair	Action by Commission
	Annual City Arborist Report	City arborist and public works staff	Informational
July 2025	Approve of the fiscal year 2025-26 agenda calendar	Sustainability staff	Informational

	Review and discuss recommendations to the impact of plastics on the environment ad hoc subcommittee	Impact of plastics on the environment ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Review and discuss recommendations to reduce vehicle miles traveled	Transportation ad hoc subcommittee, sustainability and public works staff	Provide feedback to staff

#### Ad hoc subcommittees

- Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: To identify opportunities, recommend programs, and discuss ways to engage students in Menlo Park.
  - Duration: Three months with an expected report to EQC by August 2024
  - Commissioners: Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair McKenna, Commissioner Meyer
- Community Education and Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Explore and make recommendation for a new city commission for community engagement and ways that the city can encourage participation and engagement.
  - Duration: Two months with an expected report to EQC by September 2024
- Heritage Tree Ordinance Administrative Guidelines Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Review and present recommendations to amend the heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines to protect heritage trees and the city's tree canopy.
  - Duration: Three months with an expected report to EQC by October 2024
  - Commissioners: Chair Schmidt, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Larocca Hedley
  - Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Commissioner Meyer, Commissioner Pelegri-Llopert
- Distributed Energy Resources Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Identify and implement programs that can increase the amount of solar and battery storage in Menlo Park.
  - Duration: Two months with an expected report to EQC by December 2024
  - Commissioners: Commissioner Pelegri-Llopert, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Kissel
- Impact of Plastics on the Environment Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Research and present recommendations on programs and policies to prevent stormwater pollution prevention in the city including artificial turf and single use plastics.
  - Duration: Two months with an expected report to the EQC in January 2025
  - Commissioners: Vice Chair McKenna
- Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Provide feedback to inform the development of a Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Plan
  - Duration: Two months with an expected report to the EQC in March 2025
  - Commissioners: Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair McKenna
- Transportation Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Scope: Work with Complete Streets and Planning Commissions to develop, implement, and communicate programs that support public transit, bicycling, walking, and rolling to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
  - Duration: Two months with an expected report to the EQC in July 2025
  - Commissioners: Commissioner Larocca Hedley, Commissioner Meyer, Vice Chair McKenna

Other topics to be determined

- Identify grant funding opportunities
- Track Menlo Park School District electrification efforts and CAP development
- Promote the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Provide recommendations for workforce training related to building electrification
- Urban forest management plan
- Electrification reach codes and policies

#### Regular items

- Annual selection of Chair and Vice Chair (May)
- Chair report to the City Council (at minimum once per year)
- Set fiscal year commission agenda calendar (June/July)
- Annual informational presentation on existing building electrification outreach and education (annual)
- Annual City Arborist Report (spring)
- Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) Policy progress (requires two years of reporting to the commission directed by the city council starting in 2025)