

Environmental Quality Commission



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA – AMENDED

Date: 6/17/2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Locations: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 879 3070 9093 and
Belle Haven Community Campus
100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025

This amended agenda includes the Brown Act location for Commissioner Kissel.

Commissioner Kissel will be participating from:
4459 Avenue Del Mar
Carpinteria, CA 93013

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 Belle Haven Community Campus
- 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 cancelled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the city website www.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 (www.menlopark.gov/agendas).

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call

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. 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 May 20, 2026 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#))
- D2. Review and discuss the annual City Arborist report ([Attachment](#))

- D3. Discuss Belle Haven Child Development Center electrification project and grant funding from Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) ([Attachment](#))

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

F. Informational Items

- F1. 2025-26 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.

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 prior to, 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. 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: 5/20/2026
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 McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Angiel, Goodwin, Hernandez, Hill, Kissel (remote), McKenna
Absent: None
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

C. Public Comment

- Brian Schmidt spoke on concerns related to tenant protections.
- Mary Goodwin spoke on concerns related to bulky item debris boxes for the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Karen Williams spoke on concerns related to a scientific lab building development project.
- Aurelia spoke on concerns related to the tree appeal at 68 Willow Rd.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Welcome new commissioner Brittany Goodwin
- D2. Approve the March 18, 2026, and April 15, 2026, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hernandez/ Angiel), to approve the March 18, 2026, and April 15, 2026 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

D3. Stanford Sustainable Cities project update (Attachment)

Stanford students Skye Elizabeth Adams, Lily Glazer, Sammy Smith and Sustainability Manager Londer made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on what actions residents can take, keeping the dashboard updated, other dashboard examples and access to the dashboard at city facilities.

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of the dashboard, future capabilities and ability to add vehicle data.
- Bruce Karney spoke on keeping the dashboard updated weekly, adding single-family home data and electrifying City facilities to inspire residents.



The Commission discussed regular updates to the dashboard, additional data and sharing in city facilities.

- D4. Building Emissions Saving Ordinance (BESO) and Building Performance Standards (BPS) ad hoc subcommittee report out (Attachment)

Chair McKenna made the presentation (Attachment).

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of the subcommittee recommendations and spoke on implementation and timelines.
- Bruce Karney spoke on considering a tax on home buyers.

ACTION: Motion and second (Hernandez/ Angiel), for staff to seek City Council direction to evaluate based on feasibility in Menlo Park and for staff to seek City Council direction to advance the regional BPS action noted in the presentation, passed unanimously.

- D5. Select Chair and Vice Chair

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Hernandez), to select Commissioner Hill as Chair, passed 5-1 (Hill abstaining)

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Hill), to select Commissioner Hernandez as Vice Chair, passed unanimously.

- D6. Discuss Environmental Quality Commission annual report out to City Council and form subcommittee to develop work plan (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hill/ Hernandez), to create an ad hoc subcommittee to develop the Environmental Quality Commission's fiscal year 2026-27 annual work plan with Vice Chair Hernandez and Commissioners Goodwin and McKenna, passed unanimously.

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the multifamily workshop May 16, electric vehicle and e-bike voucher program launching May 25, ribbon cutting for solar systems June 1 and Juneteenth at Belle Haven Community Campus June 19.

Commissioner Hernandez reported on the housing resource fair May 16 and zero waste party packs.

Commissioner McKenna reported out on organizations and individuals that supported the research of the BESO/BPS ad hoc subcommittee.

F. Informational items

- F1. 2025-26 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

G. Adjournment

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

Skye Adams, Lily Glazer, Sammy Smith

D3-ATTACHMENT



SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

Tracking and Displaying CO₂ Emission Reduction Efforts Throughout the City of Menlo Park

OUR OBJECTIVE



- 1. Track Data
- 2. Easy to Maintain and Update
- 3. Inform & Inspire Local and Neighboring Communities

OUR PROCESS

1. **The Vision**
 - Intuitive
 - Minimalist (not overwhelming)
 - Inspiring/motivating
 - Heirarchical

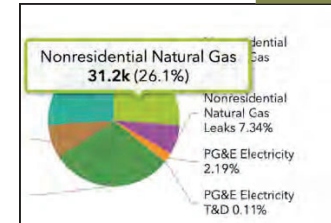
2. **The Data**
 - Accurate
 - Digestible
 - Concise
 - Easy to update

Menlo Park Library is now energized by rooftop solar!

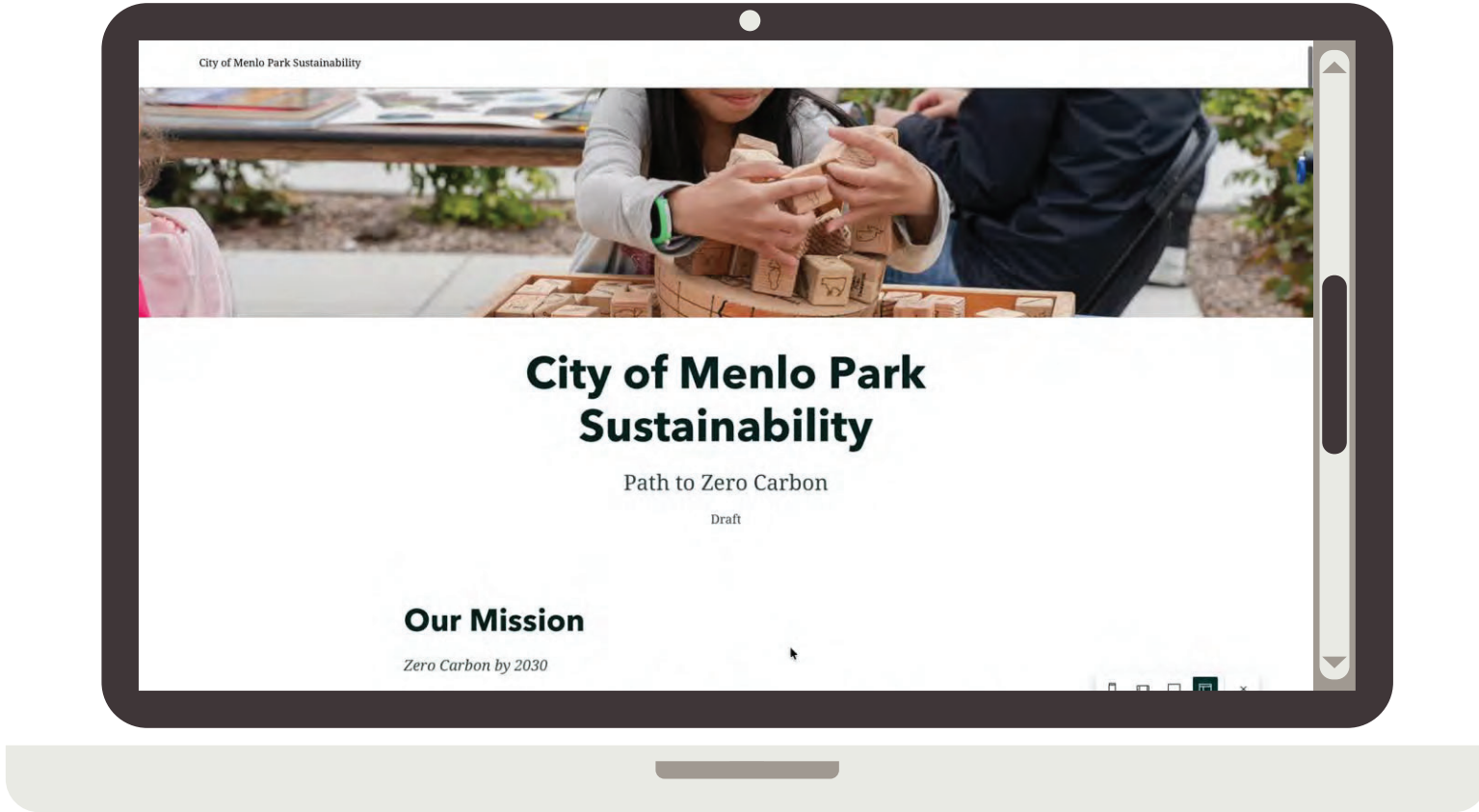
The Menlo Park Library is now powered by solar energy. As of March 1, the library's new rooftop solar system is fully operational and generating clean electricity for the community.

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.

- 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 (BHCCDC)**
At Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC)...
- Burges Pool**
At Burges Pool, the facility's city-operated status is currently unclear and it already has electrified wate...

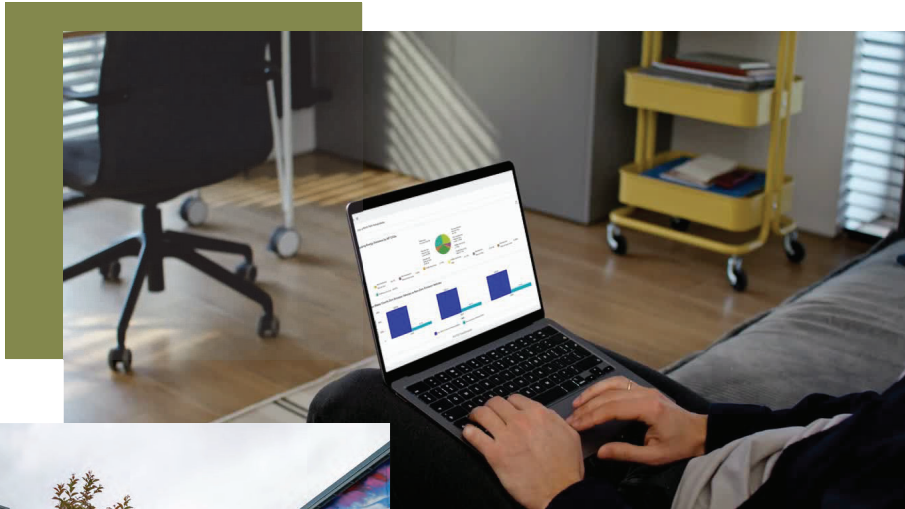


The Menlo Park Project



THE DASHBOARD

The Menlo Park Project



IN ACTION



Date*

MM/DD/YYYY

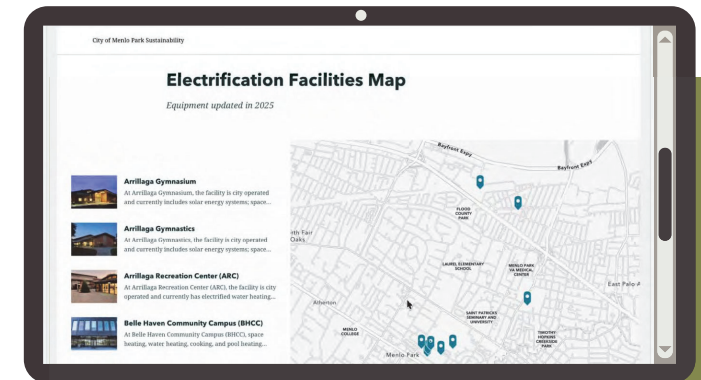
Are you updating building electrification information?*

Yes




No

Works to

- Inform local communities
- Enable stakeholders to directly update via automated form
- Inspire actionable change
- Serve as a replicable model for other cities



IN SHORT

- 1. Track Data 
- 2. Easy to Maintain and Update 
- 3. Inform & Inspire Local and Neighboring Communities 



BESO and BPS ad hoc subcommittee report

Commissioner Angiel, Commissioner Hill, Chair McKenna

May 20, 2026

Agenda

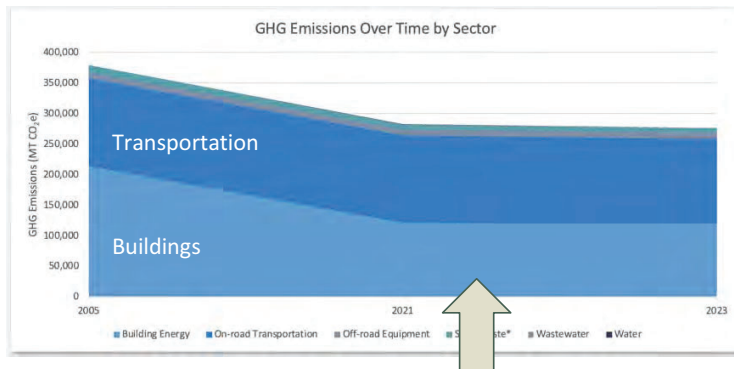
1. Subcommittee scope
2. Context
3. BESO (Building Emissions Saving Ordinance)
4. Regional BPS (Building Performance Standards)
5. Other considerations
6. EQC discussion

Scope

Research adoption of Building Emissions Saving Ordinance (similar to Berkeley) and how the City can collaborate with state and regional partners to study, adopt, implement, and enforce a Building Performance Standard

Context: Menlo Park 2030 net zero goal

Menlo Park Carbon Emissions 2005-2023



Menlo Park building emissions are a carbon reduction opportunity

- City could use regulation to reduce building emissions
- **Small Residential (1-4 Units)**
 - BESO: When sold, upgrade/electrify
 - eg Berkeley
- **Commercial & Large Multifamily**
 - BPS: Benchmark then improve
 - eg Brisbane, Boulder, California
 - State - Buildings 50K+ SF
 - Local / Regional - Buildings X+ SF (TBD)

Context: CAP & past EQC discussion

- CAP Strategy #1 - Explore policy/program options to electrify 95% of existing buildings by 2030
 - Reach codes, BESO, BPS, Home Upgrade, etc.
- AC2HP (replacement), Flexpath (renovation), BESO (sale)
- BPS fills gaps (building size, type)
 - September 18, 2024 - presentation by James Burton from the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) on BPS
 - ECQ discussed proposing BPS goals to City Council, benchmarking and public outreach

Berkeley BESO

- Covered Buildings - Residential (1-4 units)
- Effective January 1, 2026, upgrade requirements coupled w/existing time of sale energy disclosure requirements
 - Improve indoor air quality, comfort, health & safety
 - Help homeowners prepare for Air District appliance rules
 - Install zero NOx heat pump(s) or electric-readiness

Berkeley BESO - Building Emissions

Building Type	Berkeley: % Building Stock	Berkeley: % Building - based Emissions	Menlo Park: % Building Stock	Menlo Park % Building- based Emissions
Small Residential with 1-4 units	84%	34%		
Commercial/Industrial	6%	49%		
Other Residential	8%	23%		

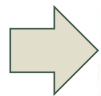
Berkeley BESO - History

- First adopted in 2015 (following previous similar energy efficiency measures as far back as 1987)
 - Required energy/electrification assessment prior to listing single-family home for sale
 - Home Energy Score (HES) - BayREN
 - Referred owners to local incentive programs for voluntary upgrades
- Beginning in 2026
 - Seller completes HES prior to listing
 - Seller completes upgrades w/in 5 yrs prior to sale OR
 - Buyer completes upgrades w/in 2 yrs of sale (using escrow \$)

Berkeley BESO - Compliance

- List of possible upgrades w/corresponding credit value
- Heat pumps, energy efficiency, electric readiness
- Six credits needed

Measure	Credits*	Measure	Credits*
Heat Pump Water Heater	6	Window Replacements	2 or 4
Heat Pump HVAC	6	Wall Insulation	2 or 4
Knob + Tube Replacement	6	Attic Insulation	2
Smart Service Panel	6	High Home Energy Score	2
Electrical Service Panel Upgrade	6	HVAC Duct Improvements	2
Solar PV	3	Whole-house Fan	2
Battery Energy Storage System	3	Electric Clothes Dryer	1 or 2
EV Charger	2	Prewiring & 240v receptacles	1 or 2
Electric or Induction Range	2	Floor/Crawlspace Insulation	1
Greywater System	1	Air Sealing	1



Berkeley BESO - Escrow Deposit

- \$5,000 deposit sent from escrow to City split between buyer and seller
- Buyer has up to 2 years to complete upgrades, additional extensions may be granted
- Refunded once property is compliant
 - Ability to refund early if work is underway
- Forfeited escrow deposits will be used for low-income electrification programs



Berkeley BESO - Phases

- **Phase I (January 1, 2026):**
 - Single-family & Duplexes



- **Phase II (January 1, 2028):**
 - 3-4 Unit Residential Buildings



Berkeley BESO - Additional Info/Progress

- Exemptions/support
 - ADUs & condos
 - Income qualified **First Time Home Buyers**
 - **All-electric homes** w/capped gas
 - Refinances, partial & inheritance transfers
 - **Hardship** extensions & deferrals
- Progress since January 2026
 - 53 escrow deposits / 45 certificates of compliance issued
 - 14 complied in 2026 (9 heat pumps) / 31 complied prior (16 heat pumps)
- Engage with realtors

BESO - Alternate Approach

- Title co. deposits \$6K of sale price into city escrow account (reduces capital gains tax - \$900)
- Buyer has three years to perform upgrades and receive rebates
- Unused \$ transferred into city-run low-income electrification fund

Measures Supported	Refund	Measures Supported	Refund
Heat Pump Water Heater	3,000	Circuit Splitter or Circuit Pauser	500
Heat Pump HVAC	6,000	Solar PV + Storage. (\$0 w/o storage)	3,000
Induction Range	1,000	Window Replacements (per window)	500
Combo All-in-one 120V W/D	1,000	Attic Insulation	2,000
EV Charger	1,000	Wall Insulation	3,000
Bi-Directional EV Charger	3,000	Floor Insulation	1,000
Prewiring per 240v Receptacle or Branch	500	Duct Sealing & Replacement	2,000
Smart Panel	2,000	Air Sealing	2,000
Small Panel (<90A) upsizing to <130A	3,000	Power Efficient Electrification Plan	500

BESO - Menlo Park

- Would compliment City's building code (i.e. time of replacement/renovation)
- Likely requires less than 1 FTE to administer
- Berkeley recommends starting with assessment & disclosure - add upgrade requirement a few years later
- Being considered in jurisdictions in other locations (WA, CO, Canada, SF)
 - Berkeley presented to USDN (Urban Sustainability Directors Network) & CCEC (Climate Change & Energy Collaborative) Forum

Regional BPS - What is BPS?

- A BPS policy is a set of standards designed to reduce carbon emissions in larger commercial & multifamily buildings (typ. 10K+ SF) by improving energy, gas and water use, and peak demand. These standards become stricter over time, driving continuous, long-term improvement in the building stock, and complementing building energy codes
- State currently requires benchmarking for 50K+ SF buildings (not incl. science, mfg, ind.)
 - Benchmarking can be step one of a BPS

Regional BPS - Why local/regional?

- SB48 - state BPS strategy requirement (2026?)
 - Policy adoption / implementation dates unknown
 - Likely mirror 50K+ SF benchmarking req'ts, 17 res units
- Local/regional - speed/size/type
- Regional
 - Share resources & lower adoption/implementation/enforcement burdens on individual local jurisdictions

Regional BPS - Possible Resources

- [Peninsula Clean Energy](#) - exploring BPS concept
- San Mateo County - technical assistance & workshops ([RICAPS](#))
- [USGBC-CA](#)
 - [California Building Performance Hub](#)
 - [Model BPS policy guidance](#) & model ordinance (pending)
 - [Peer Learning Collaborative](#)
- [Brisbane Building Efficiency Program](#) (benchmarking)
 - [The Energy Coalition](#)
 - [Benchmarking & Decarbonization Policy Crossroads](#) - Brisbane blog post
- City of Boulder - [Building Performance Ordinance](#) (possible simpler approach)
- [California Energy Codes & Standards](#)
 - [Cost-Effectiveness Explorer](#)
- Touchstone

Regional BPS - Actions for Menlo Park

- Participate in RICAPS workshops on BPS
- Work with PCE
- Actively engage with CalBPS PLC (USGBC-CA)
 - Encourage County, PCE, and other jurisdictions to engage
- Follow Brisbane's lead & develop "first-step" benchmarking policy

Other considerations

- Outreach / timelines for BESO & BPS
 - Multiple stakeholder workshops (hybrid: in-person & virtual)
 - City staff to outline goals, framework, timeline
 - Stakeholders provide input
 - City staff makes study session presentation to City Council
 - Followed by first / second readings and adoption

Possible recommendations

- City staff to request permission from City Council to study feasibility of BESO in Menlo Park
- City staff to request permission from City Council to take regional BPS actions noted on earlier slide
 - Subcommittee to monitor BPS resources and update EQC and staff in six (6) months

EQC discussion and recommendation?

- BESO
- Regional BPS



EQC annual report out to City Council and work plan

Rachael Londer, Sustainability Manager



Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC):
 1. Select a presenter for the EQC annual report out to the City Council; and
 2. Establish a subcommittee to develop the EQC's annual work plan



Background on the annual commission report out

- Each commission will have a representative make a presentation to the City Council by the end of August
- This presentation is near the beginning of the meeting
- At this time, commissions can present recommendations or status reports and request direction and support from City Council
- This annual report out can include:
 - What has been done in the past year
 - Upcoming plans
 - Specific discussion items that the representative of the advisory body would like to relay to City council



Section of a presenter

- The EQC is scheduled to deliver the report out to City Council during their Aug. 26 meeting
- The report out at City Council typically includes a 5-minute presentation and 10-minutes of discussion
- Presenter is responsible for developing slides
- Staff will provide support including template slides used for previous years' presentations
- Presenter can be the Chair, Vice Chair or any commissioner



EQC annual work plan development

- Work plan to be developed by EQC Commissioners in coordination with staff liaison and needs to be approved by EQC during or before the Aug. 19 EQC meeting.
- The work plan includes:
 - Annual goals
 - Topics and presenters for EQC meetings
 - EQC role
 - List of active ad hoc subcommittees
 - Regular annual items (election of chair/vice chair, city arborist report, presentation to City Council, ZELE report out, etc.)



EQC annual work plan development

- City Council to approve EQC's annual work plan during the September 8 City Council meeting

Environmental Quality Commission work plan

City Manager's Office
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park CA 94025
Approved



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 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.

Example of 2025 – 2026 work plan approved by City Council



Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC):
 1. Select a presenter for the EQC annual report out to the City Council; and
 2. Establish a subcommittee to develop the EQC's annual work plan



Thank you!



ANNUAL ARBORIST REPORT

Jillian Keller, City Arborist

Joanna Chen, Management Analyst II

AGENDA

1. Urban forest canopy
2. City tree team overview
3. Heritage and street tree regulations
4. Community events
5. Ongoing projects
6. Recent developments
7. Next steps





URBAN FOREST CANOPY



- 18,906 street and park trees
 - 5,524 park trees
 - 12,382 right-of-way/street trees
 - WCA provides routine maintenance every 5 years
 - Residents may request an evaluation of work needs outside of 5-year cycle, too
- Fiscal year 2025-2026
 - Number of Trees planted: 132
 - Number of Trees pruned: 2,952
 - Number of Trees removed: 135





PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION TREE TEAM OVERVIEW



- City staff
 - Three maintenance workers, City Arborist, Management Analyst
 - Tree maintenance contractor
 - Permit review contractor
- Tree City USA for 27 years
 - Maintain a tree board or department
 - Have a community tree ordinance
 - Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
 - Celebrate Arbor Day
- Growth Award for 11 years
 - High level of tree care and community engagement



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Uphold the heritage tree ordinance and street tree ordinance
 - Review building and demolition permits for compliance
 - Help ensure protection of trees during construction
 - Investigate potential heritage tree violations
 - Review and update administrative guidelines
 - Provide root pruning consultation for city hardscape work
 - Maintain public trees
- Act as disaster service workers, such as during stormy weather
- Organize annual Arbor Day celebration with EQC



HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE

Purpose

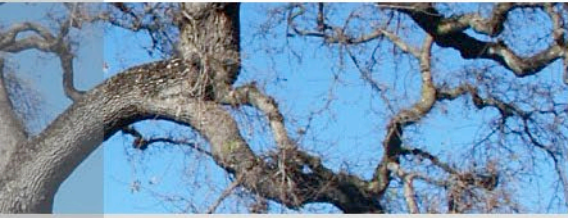
- To ensure that there will be a significant population of large, healthy trees over the long term; and
- To protect and preserve the scenic beauty and natural environment, prevent erosion of topsoil and sedimentation in waterways, encourage quality development, provide shade and wildlife habitat, counteract pollutants in the air and decrease wind velocities and noise.





HERITAGE TREE DEFINITION

- Any tree other than oaks that has a trunk with a circumference of 47.1 inches (diameter of 15 inches) or more, measured at 54 inches above natural grade
- Any oak tree native to California that has a trunk with a circumference of 31.4 inches (diameter of 10 inches) or more measured at 54 inches above natural grade
- A tree or group of trees specifically designated by the City Council for protection because of its historical significance, special character or community benefit



PERMIT PROCESS



Type of heritage tree permit	Application requirement	Replacement tree requirements	Appeal process
Non-development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead • Tree risk • Tree health • Low desirable tree species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • City-approved arborist report • Replacement tree plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlates to trunk diameter size 	Only the permit applicant may appeal
Development-related	Additional requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed construction plans • Alternative design • Cost analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlates to the tree's appraisal value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any community member may appeal • Notices are mailed out within 300 feet of the property • On-site postings are required
Emergency removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents contact city arborist directly • Tree must show signs of overall extreme risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlates to trunk diameter size 	Not applicable

RESOURCES

- For more information about applying for a permit, visit: menlopark.gov/trees
- To submit and search for a heritage tree permit application, visit: Menlopark.org/permitcenter
- For statistics for permit application submittals, visit: menlopark.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/90ab3ab183ad4ece9a936c9446d3bd59

Home Building Planning **Public Works** Special Event Permits

Search Applications

Search for Records
Enter information below to search for records.

- Site Address
- Parcel Number
- Record Information

Select the search type from the drop-down list.

General Search General Search ▾

Record Number: Record Type: Heritage Tree Permit ▾

Project Name:

Start Date: End Date:

Street No.: - Street Name: Unit No.:

City: State: Zip:

Parcel No.:

▶ Search Additional Criteria

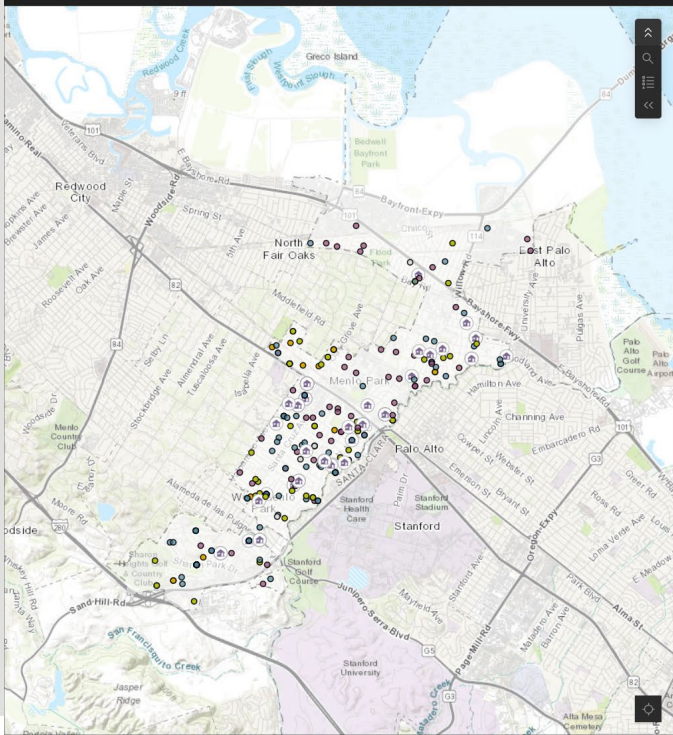
FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 DASHBOARD



FY2025-26 Heritage Tree Permit Applications

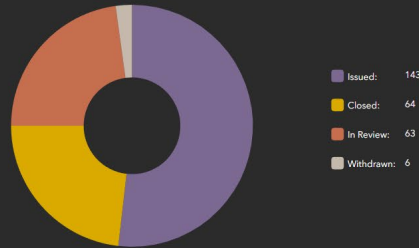
Last update: June 10, 2026

District All 1 2 3 4 5

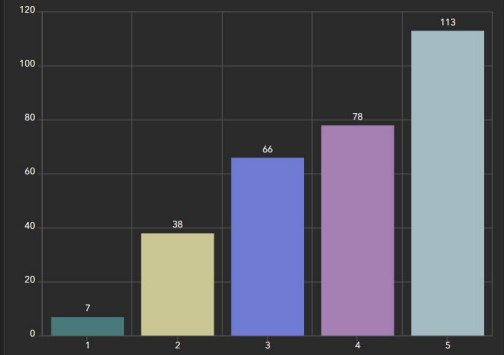


Permit application status

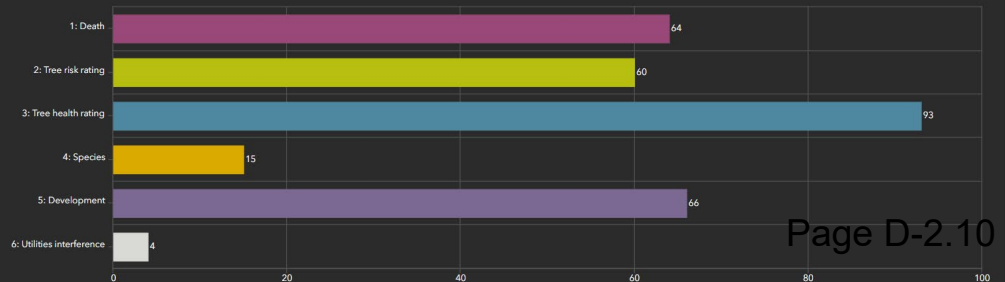
*Applications may have multiple tree removal requests.
**This graph does not show all tree removal requests.



Tree requests by district



Primary removal reason



STREET TREE ORDINANCE

Purpose

- Define the City's responsibilities for the maintenance of street trees; and
- Establish protections for city street trees. No person shall plant, remove, or prune a street tree without permission from the city.

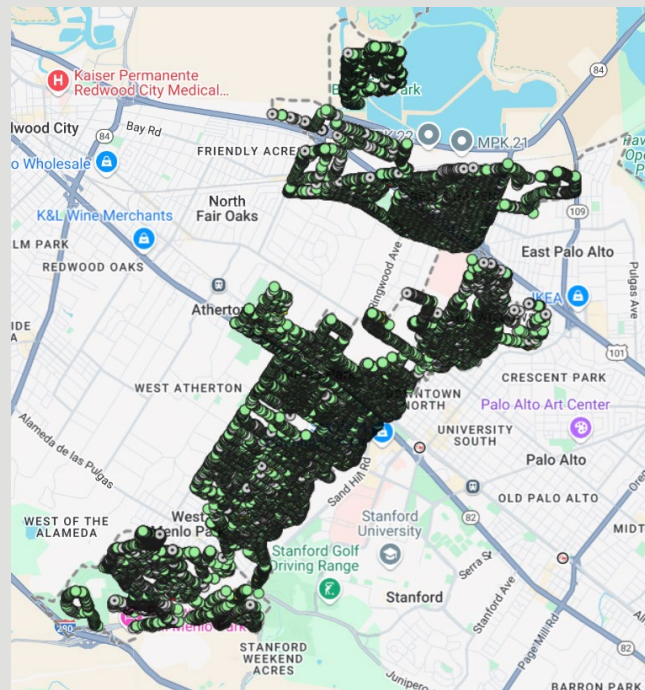




STREET TREE REQUESTS AND REPORTING



- Residents can request that street trees be planted in front of their property in the public right-of-way
 - City's street tree management plan
 - Partnership with Canopy
- Residents can also report tree-related issues to ACT Menlo Park
 - menlopark.gov/actmenlopark



FISCAL YEAR 25-26 CITY TREE DATA

- Planted: 132
 - Replacement trees and property owner requests

- Removed: 135
 - Mainly due to tree death/severe decline
 - Other reasons include conflict with existing/proposed infrastructure, tree risk/compromised structure

STORM DAMAGE 2025-2026

- Compared to previous years, this past year's storm damage was minimal
- All storm-related tree emergencies were related to branch failures and whole tree failures
- Storm damage stats:
 - FY25-26: Approximately 55 tree-related calls
 - FY24-25: Approx. 55 calls
 - FY23-24: Approx. 80 calls
 - FY22-23: Approx. 340 calls



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Tree plantings with local groups
 - Tree Care with Summer of Service kids
 - Tree Plant with Boy Scouts at Burgess Park
 - Arbor Day Planting with Canopy Teen Urban Foresters and Boy Scouts



PROJECTS

- Early Action Tree Planting Plan
 - Planting ~70 trees around Belle Haven with community outreach and education
 - Canopy selected as contractor
 - Kick-off meeting was held on 5/5
 - Currently working on developing outreach materials and identifying planting sites

2025-26 DEVELOPMENTS

- Added one new tree maintenance worker to the team
- Added more consulting arborists to the city's approved list
- Continuing to update administrative guidelines with City Attorney Office's guidance
- Started Early Action Tree Planting Plan



IN PROGRESS

- Updating the heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines
- Fully transitioning to electric equipment (chainsaws) by 2027
- Executing the Early Action Tree Planting Plan
- Working towards an urban forest management plan





THANK YOU



APPEALS PROCESSED



- 68 Willow Rd.
 - Large development project
 - 13 heritage trees
- 763 College Ave
 - One heritage Southern Magnolia street tree
 - Applicant withdrew the HTR permit application
- 2174 Calyton Dr
 - Tentatively schedule for July EQC meeting



Belle Haven Child Development Center electrification project update

Rachael Londer, Sustainability Manager

Presentation outline

- About the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCDC)
- Electrification project background
- Work to date
- Construction scope
- Funding sources
- Staff recommendation



Constructed in 1998, the BHCDC (401 Ivy Drive) is 8,722 square feet

About BHCDC

- Income based, high-quality child development education services for preschool-aged children (3 - 5 years)
- Open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 5:15 pm
- Preschoolers are provided with a daily breakfast, lunch, and snack



Photo from the City's website:
www.menlopark.gov/BelleHavenChildDevelopmentCenter



Electrification project background

- Electrification project purpose
 - Electrify the facility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve indoor air quality, increase facility's resilience, and showcase electrification retrofit best practices
- Policy context
 - Advances Climate Action Plan strategy no. 5 to decarbonize municipal facilities
 - Implements EJ Element Program EJ1.A (prioritize capital improvements in underserved communities) and Action Item EJ3.G.1 (solar + storage at City facilities)
 - Leverages outside funding



Entrance to the BHCDC



Work to date

- 2023: No-cost electrification of water heaters through the PG&E Government + K-12 school energy efficiency program
- 2025: Applied and accepted into the BayREN decarbonization showcase, assigned technical assistance through kW Engineering
- 2026: No-cost installation of ~33.5 kW solar system through power purchase agreement with Peninsula Clean Energy (soon to be known as WestLight Energy)
- June 2026: Design completed by KPA group and permits issued
- June - July 2026: Advertised construction bids for the project (tentative award at July 14 City Council meeting)



Newly installed solar on the roof of the BHCDC

Construction scope - Fall and Winter 2026



- Replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in four classrooms and the administration area with heat pumps
- Updates to thermostats and HVAC control system with remote operation
- Installation of ductwork and insulation
- Upgrades to interior and exterior lighting to LED with lighting controls
- Replacement of gas range with electric
- Estimated total cost (including design, staff and contract project manager time and construction): \$900,000



Gas stove in BHCDC



Funding sources

Grant program	Funding source	Allocated	Amount
Communitywide electrification program	California Energy Commission	Yes	\$680-780K
Decarbonization showcase	Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)	Funding agreement requires City Council approval	\$100K
GovBE program	Peninsula Clean Energy (soon to be WestLight Energy)	Receive after construction	\$21K
		Total	Up to \$901K

Recommendation

- To advance funding agreement with the Bay Area Regional Energy Network for the Decarbonization Showcase program to advance electrification of the BHCDC

Public works staff identifying existing conditions of HVAC system during a site visit, May 2025



Environmental Quality Commission work plan

City Manager's Office
 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park CA 94025
 Approved



Work plan goals		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. 		
Work plan history		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended to EQC	August 20, 2025	Commission approved
Work plan recommended to City Council	September 30, 2025	City Council approved

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) agenda topics fiscal year 2025-26

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

Month	Topics	Author/Presenter	EQC role
July 2025	Presentation from annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee	Annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Review and discuss recommendations to reduce vehicle miles traveled	Transportation ad hoc subcommittee	Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission
August 2025	Approve EQC 2025-2026 work plan	Annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Annual Climate Action Plan progress report	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission
September 2025	Existing building electrification outreach and update on Home Upgrade Services Program	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission
	Presentation from Matching Rebates ad hoc subcommittee	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
October 2025	Discuss permit fee waiver program	Sustainability staff	Action by Commission
	Review and discuss approach for the Love Our Earth festival	Sustainability staff	Action by Commission
	Receive and file work plan and form ad hoc subcommittees	Sustainability staff	Action by Commission
November 2025	Cancelled		
December 2025	Update on installation of solar at city facilities	Sustainability staff	Informational/no action
	Emissions Reductions Impact Study ad hoc subcommittee report out	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
January 2026	Deny the appeal and uphold staff's decision to approve the permit application to remove thirteen heritage trees at 68 Willow Rd	Sustainability staff	Action by Commission
	Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee report out	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
February 2026	Discuss City efforts related to Senate Bill 1383 to reduce organic waste	ReThink Waste and County Sustainability Department staff	Informational/no action

	Electric vehicle charging rate study	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff
	Food Systems ad hoc subcommittee report out	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
March 2026	Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee report out	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) ordinance implementation update	Sustainability staff	Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission
April 2026	Update on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Informational/no action
May 2026	Update on Sustainable Cities project	Sustainability staff	Informational/no action
	BESO & BPS ad hoc subcommittee report out	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Action by Commission
	Select Chair and Vice Chair	Chair	Action by Commission
	Discuss annual report out to City Council and for subcommittee to develop work plan	Sustainability staff	Action by Commission
June 2026	Annual City Arborist Report	City arborist and public works staff	Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission
	Discuss Belle Haven Child Development Center electrification project and grant funding from BayREN	Sustainability staff	Informational/no action
July 2026	Set fiscal year commission agenda calendar (June-August)	Sustainability staff/Chair and Vice Chair	Action by Commission

Regular items

- Climate Action Plan progress report
- Annual selection of Chair and Vice Chair (May)
- Annual City Arborist Report (June)
- Set fiscal year commission agenda calendar (June-August)
- Chair report to the City Council (July/August)
- Annual update of existing building electrification outreach and education
- Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) Policy progress (requires two years of reporting to the commission directed by the city council starting in 2025)
- Annual update on the permit fee waiver program

Potential topics to add to calendar

- Priorities included in the City Council work plan for fiscal year 2025-26 (Attachment A)

- Heat resiliency
- Community solar and microgrid
- Online electrification education hub

Ad hoc subcommittees (in alphabetical order)

Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research potential engagement with a comprehensive set of stakeholders and explore potential of a community taskforce with purpose of aligning City/communitywide efforts to achieve CAP goals
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in January 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Chair McKenna, Vice Chair Meyer

BESO and BPS ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research adoption of Building Emissions Savings Ordinance (similar to Berkeley) and how the City can collaborate with state and regional partners to study, adopt, implement, and enforce a Building Performance Standard
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in May 2026)
- Commissioners: Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Angiel

Emissions Reductions Impact Study ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Review bi-annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory and identify opportunities for sharing data with a community facing dashboard
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in February 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Commissioner Hill

Food Systems ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research ways to engage community and provide more services to community members with goal of promoting more plant-based eating, greater access to high quality and affordable foods, and reduction of food waste
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in March 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Hernandez, Commissioner Angiel, Commissioner Hedley

Matching Rebates ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research viability and impact of City matching electrification rebates currently offered by Peninsula Clean Energy in order to assist with transition to electric devices, particularly water heater rebates in light of pending Air District rules scheduled to go into effect in 2027
- Duration: 1 month (tentative report out in September 2025)
- Commissioners: Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hernandez

Sustainable Cities Project Ad Hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Work with students as a part of Stanford's Sustainable Cities course to develop an online dashboard of greenhouse gas emissions and other data to improve community visibility into climate action plan progress, enable deeper analysis of emissions reductions, and communicate actions that community members can take to support reaching zero carbon.
- Duration: 6 months (tentative report out in June 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Vice Chair Meyer

Vehicle Miles Traveled Metric ad hoc subcommittee (joint with Complete Streets Commission)

- Scope: Form an ad hoc subcommittee of the Complete Streets Commission comprised of both Complete Streets and Environmental Quality Commissioners to evaluate metrics to measure Climate Action Plan progress on Strategy No. 4 to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25% or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission 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. The subcommittee is tasked to work for a period of up to one year and dissolve upon submitting a report to the CSC.
- Duration: 1 year (tentative report out TBD)
- Commissioners: Vice Chair Meyer, Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hedley

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink – City Council fiscal year 2025-26 work plan, July 8, 2025, Staff Report #25-108-CC:
menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2025-meetings/20250708/i2-20250708-cc-cc-fy2025-26-work-plan.pdf