

Appendix E

Community

Engagement

CAAP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2017, City of Long Beach staff set out to create an inclusive, community-centered planning process that would engage the Long Beach community broadly, but give particular attention to those most affected by climate change. In partnership with other City departments, including Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine and the Health and Human Services Department, staff developed the community engagement strategy based on an equity assessment.

The planning process sought to develop knowledge related to climate impacts and to collaboratively define priorities and solutions that would inform the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and keep residents safe and healthy. The City's community engagement efforts have reached more than 10,000 community members at nearly 60 events, including open house events, community meetings, panel discussions, resource fairs, cultural fairs, and partnerships with local schools and universities.

The community engagement efforts are also a result of collaboration with every City department and Council District office.

Open House Workshops

Three CAAP open house workshops were held. At these educational, family-friendly, and interactive, events, community members were encouraged to share their feedback and generate solutions to local climate change impacts.

At each public workshop, City staff honored the community's time and expertise by offering a sustainability resource fair, refreshments, and free CAAP-branded giveaways. In addition, each workshop was hosted at community-friendly, trusted, and easily accessible locations. Interpreters and translated materials were available at each open house event.

Open House #1

On June 2, 2018, at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the City hosted the first public workshop for the CAAP. At the event, staff shared detailed presentations on the results of the Long Beach greenhouse gas inventory and vulnerability assessment. More than 200 attendees were invited to weigh in on CAAP goals, priorities, and approaches. In addition, the workshop included:

- A sustainability resource fair attended by various City departments, public agencies, and community partners to share wide-ranging sustainability information and resources with attendees
- Augmented-reality mobile games
- Garden tours of the Long Beach Peace Garden
- Free health resources, including dental screenings and blood pressure readings

Open House #2

On January 26, 2019, at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library, the City hosted the second public workshop for the CAAP and convened more than 200 community stakeholders. This event focused on engaging the community on potential mitigation measures and adaptation strategies for consideration in the plan. As part of the event, a free sustainability resource fair was hosted in the Learning Garden at the library. The fair featured sustainability, health, and community resources from various City departments.

Open House #3 (LB ClimateFest)

On June 1, 2019, the City hosted LB ClimateFest, bringing together more than 500 community members, City departments and community partners and activating the Marine Stadium parking lot for the final CAAP workshop. The event included a student showcase of environmental science fair projects from participating Long Beach Unified School District

(LBUSD) students, St. Anthony’s High School students, and participants in the Aquarium of the Pacific’s youth program. The event featured the release of the draft plan, a sustainability resource fair that showcased local student projects, food, and music. The parking lot was transformed into a chalk art exhibit on the 2100 sea level rise prediction and attendees were encouraged to add to the artwork. The event opened with this native land acknowledgement:

We begin today by acknowledging that we are holding our gathering on the land of the Tongva/Gabrieleño and the Acjachemen /Juaneño Nations who have lived and continue to live here. We recognize the Tongva and Acjachemen Nations and their spiritual connection to the ocean and the land as the first stewards and the traditional caretakers of this area we now call Long Beach. As we begin, we thank them for their strength, perseverance, and resistance.

We also wish to acknowledge the other Indigenous Peoples who now call Long Beach their home for their shared struggle to maintain their cultures, languages, worldviews, and identities in our diverse city.

Stakeholder Working Groups

Scientific, business, and community working groups also helped to shape the CAAP and deliberately sought to incorporate environmental justice principles. See page E-6 for a list of individuals who participated in these working groups.

Scientific Working Group

The Scientific Working Group was convened to validate the project methodology and to provide feedback and input on local data as well as to review results and early actions. The Scientific Working Group included 13 independent experts from California State University, Long Beach; Long Beach City College (LBCC); University of California, Los Angeles; the Aquarium of the Pacific; the South Coast Air Quality Management District; and RAND Corporation.

Business Working Group

The Business Working Group was convened to obtain input on the climate-related concerns of business owners and companies that do business and operate in the City and to learn about the sustainability actions they can take currently and the future opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. Members were drawn from approximately 25 businesses representing the various disciplines of architecture, engineering, utilities, and sustainability. The group included firms large and small, global and local, and engaged in consultation with business association leaders and the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the efforts of the Business Working Group, City staff also engaged the business community in partnership with business associations and through the Office of Sustainability’s Green Business Program.

Community Working Group

The Community Working Group was convened to provide input on the public engagement approach and climate-related concerns and actions. The group included more than 20 representatives from local community-based organizations.

Panel Events

The City also hosted panel events on sea level rise and flooding, and extreme heat. Both events were recorded by the City’s LBTv team and have been available for viewing on the City’s YouTube channel:

Sea Level Rise Panel

On January 14, 2019, at Best Western Golden Sails, the City hosted a panel discussion titled “Sea Level Rise in Long Beach and What Residents Can Do to Prepare.” The panel featured Jerry Schubel, CEO and President of the Aquarium of the Pacific, and Jeff Jeannette, Owner/Architect of Jeannette Architects. More than 400

people attended the presentations and panel discussion, which covered sea level rise and the local projections for Long Beach, strategies for adapting homes to sea level rise and flooding, and the City's efforts to develop a CAAP.

Extreme Heat Panel

On March 30, 2019, at Silverado Park in West Long Beach, the City hosted a panel discussion — “Extreme Heat: Staying Safe and Solving Climate Change in Long Beach”— in collaboration with the Long Beach Health and Human Services Department, the Long Beach Fire Department, and the Long Beach Gray Panthers. The event featured information on how extreme heat from climate change causes power outages, heat stroke and heat exhaustion, and missed work/school. It also featured stories from older adults who were living in the city during the 2015 downtown power outages (likely a result from extreme heat), and talks on how residents can prepare for both extreme heat and extreme weather events.

Community Partnerships And Multilingual Outreach

Partnering with local neighborhood associations, faith-based groups, and community-based organizations, staff participated in more than 60 community meetings across the city.

There was a concerted effort to engage directly with Long Beach residents and community members at places where they already gather. For example, to “meet people where they are,” staff coordinated presentations, small group discussions, and in-person interactions at:

- Community events (e.g., health and sustainability resource fairs)
- Council District meetings
- Cultural festivals (e.g., the Cambodian New Year Festival)

- Faith-based groups
- Local farmers' markets
- Neighborhood, civic, and parent associations
- Senior centers
- Youth programs

City staff considered the cultural appropriateness of all engagement activities and outreach materials and adapted them for a multilingual audience.

In June 2019, City staff were invited as featured speakers to the monthly meeting of Latinos in Action. As part of the meeting, City staff gave presentations on the CAAP and facilitated activities that would lead to developing solutions locally. The meeting was entirely in Spanish, with Spanish to English translators. City staff and the Latinos in Action team collaborated on the agenda, which included activities to solicit community feedback on the CAAP, a game of Lotería (similar to bingo), and an extended question and answer portion on the CAAP, the broader planning process, and how the CAAP connects to other city plans. Dinner, raffles, and free giveaways were also provided.

Early in the outreach process, City staff also met with staff from the United Cambodian Community to identify culturally appropriate activities to further strengthen relationships between the City and the local Cambodian community. These activities included participating in the annual Cambodian New Year Festival and health and resource fairs in Cambodia Town, and conducting presentations for the organization's members.

Youth And Emerging Leaders

Recognizing that climate change will impact young people most, now and into the future, the City partnered with local educational institutions and youth programs across Long Beach to engage youth and emerging leaders in developing the CAAP. Partnerships have included:

CSULB Climathon

The City participated in the Climathon Challenge at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). In 2018, the Climathon Challenge focused on solutions to create sustainable housing, specifically solutions that will help meet the objectives set forth in the City’s CAAP. As part of the challenge, City staff provided detailed presentations on the CAAP and a broad overview of sustainable housing across the city. In 2019, the Climathon Challenge focused on creating sustainable solutions to food insecurity, food waste, and food sourcing, and the City participated by sharing a broad overview of the CAAP.

Long Beach City College

On Earth Day 2019, City staff gave a presentation on the CAAP to the Long Beach City College – Environmental Movement Action Club. Long Beach City College has also been involved at resource booths at CAAP events, providing information on the numerous emerging water-saving and recycling efforts by the college’s facilities and maintenance departments at both LBCC campuses in the city.

LBUSD Science and Engineering Fair

In May 2019, City staff participated in LBUSD’s annual Science and Engineering Fair both as project reviewers for sustainability innovation projects and as event exhibitors sharing information on climate impacts to Long Beach. The sustainability innovation projects from the Science and Engineering Fair were featured as part of the student showcase at LB ClimateFest, which was held on June 1, 2019.

St. Anthony’s High School – AP Environmental Science Class

Over the spring 2019 semester, City staff collaborated with the AP Environmental Science class at St. Anthony’s High School on semester-long projects. Project prompts included:

- Create a video based on local science that shows how climate change has impacted your community (e.g., extreme heat, air quality, flooding, power outages, and green jobs).
- Develop, conduct, and present a campaign to engage the local community with solutions according to the vulnerability assessment and climate stressors.
- Develop, present, and lead a half-day summit for local middle school and high school students on topics related to the CAAP.
- Create a marketing campaign through social media, mass emails, and newsletters for citywide distribution.

Final projects were showcased at LB ClimateFest on June 1, 2019.

Public Health Week Career Paths

As part of National Public Health Week in April 2019, the City partnered with the Health and Human Services Department to engage high school students in public health career paths. As part of the event, 230 health and medical path students from Beach, McBride, Long Beach Polytechnic, and Jordan high schools and the Linked Learning Program were invited to the Health Department were invited to participate in interactive stations focusing on emergency management, environmental health, clinical health, and the CAAP.

Youth Leadership Long Beach

In 2019 and 2020, the City partnered with Leadership Long Beach's Youth Institute, an environmentally focused community leadership program for high school students to host a day-long field trip to City Hall with a focus on "Government, Public Service, and Sustaining our City." In both years, City staff participated in the careerforum; shared information on career paths to working in the fields of sustainability, urban planning, and related fields; gave presentations on the CAAP, including interactive activities to provide feedback on CAAP mitigation and adaptation strategies; and took part in a mock City Council debate on micromobility options in the city (i.e., electric scooters).

Aquarium of the Pacific – Teen Science Café

In April 2019, City staff partnered with youth volunteers from the Aquarium of the Pacific to share more information about the CAAP and to host a community conversation on how youth leaders have experienced climate change in their community, what climate action in Long Beach looks like to them and what the City should do to address climate change impacts. Participants included youth and emerging leaders both in middle school and high school.

USC Capstone in Public Administration

In 2020, students in the University of Southern California's (USC's) Master's in Public Administration program completed their capstone project on the topic of cooling centers as an adaptation action of the CAAP. Students assessed the network of cooling centers in Long Beach and developed a survey that could be used to assess residents' familiarity and experience with and access to cooling centers.

ArtCenter College of Design Pasadena

In 2019, the City participated in an ArtCenter DesignStorm on Sea Level Rise in Long Beach coordinated by the Aquarium of the Pacific, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Over three days, student teams created adaptation design models for sea level rise in Long Beach, including design models for amphibious housing, living seawalls, a sea-based park, and aquaculture. In 2020, the City was a knowledge partner for an ArtCenter Image + Idea course, where students created posters, animations, comics, and other materials to communicate issues related to climate change in Long Beach.

Broader Citywide Engagement

Throughout the engagement process, City staff conducted presentations at City Council study sessions and various City commission meetings, including meetings of the Planning Commission, the Sustainable City Commission, the Environmental Committee of the City Council, and the Board of Water Commissioners. In February 2020, City staff also presented to the California Coastal Commission, a highlight of the extensive and inclusive outreach completed to date.

Marketing And Online Engagement

Print and digital engagement included:

- Project website: longbeach.gov/caaplb
- Social media hashtags: #CAAPLB and #ClimateActionLB
- 5x7 Counter cards (translated into Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog)
- E-newsletters
- Animated CAAP videos
- Billboard and print/digital newspaper ads

- Brochures and infographics/fact sheets (translated into Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog)
- Tchotchke/promotion items – tote bags, metal straws, and CAAP caps

Following is a list of individuals who participated in the various working groups:

Scientific Working Group

- Dr. George Ban-Weiss, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, USC
- Dr. Suzanne Dallman, Professor of Geography, CSULB
- Katharine Davis-Reich, Associate Director, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- Dr. David Eisenman, Professor of Medicine and Public Health, UCLA; LA County Public Health Department
- Scott Epstein, Program Supervisor, SCAQMD
- Dr. Timu Gallien, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UCLA
- Kim Hatch, Professor of Geography and Environmental Science, LBCC
- Aaron Klemm, Chief of Energy, Sustainability and Transportation, CSU Chancellor's Office
- Dr. Lily House-Peters, Professor of Geography, CSULB
- Dr. Rob Lempert, Principal Researcher, RAND
- Dr. Jerry Schubel, President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific
- Dr. Dean Toji, Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies, CSULB
- Dr. Christine Witcraft, Professor of Biological Sciences, CSULB

Business Working Group

- Tom Bowman, Bowman Change
- Ann Carpenter, Braid Theory
- Alan Burks, Environ
- Norm Cauntay, Edward Jones
- Megan Christensen, Bryson Financial
- Tiffany Davy, Fourth Street Business Improvement District
- James Delmonaco, P2S Engineering
- April Economides, April Economides Consulting
- Julia Emerson, Sempra Utilities
- Michelle Engelman Berns, Long Beach Grocery Coop
- Ignacio M. Fernandez, Southern California Edison
- Mark Graham, Metropolitan Water District
- Gina Goodhill, Tesla
- Stephen Groner, SGA Marketing
- Sean Gunning, SLS Engineers
- Sara Hickman, Retail Design Collaborative and Studio 111
- Dean Hill, Boeing Facilities
- Agata Hinc, 3COTECH
- Shannon Heffernan, Studio 111
- Aaron Holloway, Moffatt + Nicholl
- Lily House-Peters, CSULB
- Tasha Hunter, Uptown Business Improvement District
- Kat Janowicz, 3COTECH
- John Lee, Southern California Edison
- Dr. Jennifer Lentz, Aquarium of the Pacific

- Jonathan Lo, Virgin Orbit
- Wade Martin, CSULB
- Willetta McCulloh, Environ Architecture
- Ruth Meghiddo, Farm Urbana
- Austin Metoyer, Downtown Long Beach Alliance
- Jan Miller, Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Judy Nelson, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Monorom Neth, Midtown Property and Business Owners Association
- Faviola Ochoa, Southern California Gas
- Jennifer Pezda, Southern California Gas Company
- Alan Pullman, Studio 111
- Greg Robinson, Virgin Orbit
- John Rouse, Aquarium of the Pacific
- Clay Sandidge, Muni-Fed Energy, INC
- Sinara Sagn, United Cambodian Community of Long Beach
- Ryan Serrano, Earth Steward Ecology
- Shruti Shankar, Studio 111
- Marcia Tolentino
- Joshua Torres, Southern California Edison
- Brian Ulaszewski, City Fabrick
- Stella Ursua, Green Education Inc.
- Morgan Wheeler, Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Lisa West, Councilwoman Suzie Price
- Paul Wingco, CSULB
- Susan Wise, Susan Wise Law
- Jerard Wright, BizFed
- Adeline Yoong, Southern California Edison

Community Working Group

- Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE, Don't Waste Long Beach
- Laurie Angel, Jane Addams Neighborhood Association
- Whitney Amaya, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Holland Brown, Alamitos Heights Improvement Association and Ground Education
- Anna Christensen, Long Beach Area Peace Network
- Patricia Chen, Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach
- Kirsten Cox, Long Beach Progressive Revolution
- Tiffany Davy, Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
- Karl Eggers, Walk Bike Long Beach
- Phil Geison, Long Beach Area Peace Network
- Joan Greenwood, Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance
- Elizabeth Lambe, Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
- Dr. Robert Kalayjian, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Pedora Keo, California Nurses Association
- Nelson Kerr, Long Beach Health Department
- John Kindred, Long Beach Environmental Alliance/Long Beach Gray Panthers
- Christa Indriolo, California Nurses Association
- Robert Nothoff, Don't Waste Long Beach
- Sokha Ny, Long Beach Environmental Alliance, LB 350, LB Gray Panthers
- Karen Reside, Long Beach Gray Panthers

- Joel Reynoza, City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services-Homeless Services
- Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, City Of Long Beach
- Victor Sanchez, LAANE
- Kevin Shin, Walk Bike Long Beach
- Dave Shukla, Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
- Bill Sive, Long Beach Gray Panthers
- Alice Stevens, Long Beach 350
- Dinesa Thomas-Whitman, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles
- Taylor Thomas, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Elsa Tung, Long Beach Forward