2024-25 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

SUSTAINABILITY

SA CLIMATE READY: CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

SA Climate Ready is San Antonio's plan to meet the present and future challenges of a changing climate, building on actions already enacted for a low-carbon future. Mitigation and adaptation strategies in this plan address the needs of all residents while supporting the systems that advance our city's sustainability.

COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Increase Carbon-Free Energy
Reducing the carbon impact of our energy generation is one of the single most impactful actions we can stake to slow climate change.

Reduce Building Energy Consumption
Reducing the energy consumption of our buildings will reduce the need for energy generated by high carbon sources.

Reduce Transportation Energy Consumption
To reduce GHG emissions from our transportation system, we need to promote cleaner vehicles, reduce vehicle miles travels and transform how people get around.

Advance the Circular Economy
San Antonio needs to reduce consumption, minimize waste, and encourage material reuse to reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by the waste stream and landfills.

Promote Biodiversity and Health Ecosystems
Healthy, properly functioning natural ecosystems can absorb emissions and by protecting and preserving existing natural ecosystems we can promote the development of solutions to mimic natural responses.

Educate and Empower
Educating residents and businesses about climate action as well as enabling San Antonians to make behavorial and technological changes is an essential element of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information about The City of San Antonio's sustainability efforts visit
SanAntonio.gov/Sustainability

CLIMATE INITIATIVE
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TEXAS
Powered by San Antonio

We're thrilled to share our journey so far. You'll discover the significant progress we've achieved through our impactful mitigation strategies and our widespread community engagement, education, and outreach. We have created a foundation forged from collected community input, community partner engagement, community buy-in through education and empowerment efforts, and brand recognition.

TOP ROW, FRONT TO BACK

Leslie Antunez, Patricia McWilliams, Golda Obinzu
Douglas Melnick, Zabrina Rodriguez Rapozo, Tony Aguilar, Rafael Lozano, Richard Bautista Vasquez
Cameron Cosey, Esteban Jimenez, Ricardo Ambriz
David McCary

BOTTOM ROW, FRONT TO BACK

Jennifer Di Cocco, Andra Nava-Garcia, Olga Montellano, Ally Longoria, Tamarra Callahan, Campos, Carina Trevino, Kate Jaceldo, Ashley Williams

A WORD FROM OUR CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

While climate change is a global issue, the causes and impacts are experienced locally.

That's why our community's ongoing commitment to implementing the SA Climate Ready Plan is so critical. This commitment is as important than ever, as we not only continue to see the impacts of climate change increase in frequency and severity, but at the same time, we are experiencing a roll back of federal policies and programs that provided essential funding and direction in support of immediate climate action.

In the pages of this 18-month report, you will find an overview of not only what the City of San Antonio's is doing, but our community partners as well. From CoSA's Municipal Onsite Solar Program and Fleet Electrification Initiative to the work of community and neighborhood organizations who are building resilience through CoSA's Community Action Fund and our Climate Ready Neighborhoods Network, solving climate change is everyone's job.

This coming year provides another opportunity to rise to the occasion and work together to do our part to combat climate change and make San Antonio equitable, resilient, and climate ready. We'll begin updating the SA Climate Ready Plan this September and throughout 2026, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible around the table as we chart our path to meet the climate challenge head on.

DOUGLAS MELNICK
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

ENERGY

MUNICIPAL ON-SITE SOLAR

In November 2023 city council approved the Municipal On-site Solar Project. The scope of this project includes the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at city-owned facilities and parking lots. This is the largest on-site solar project by a local government in Texas and is one of the largest in the country (second only to New York City). The city completed six installations in FY24 to total 1.3 MW.

ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS:
The projected electricity generated annually from the **42 sites** is expected to create an **18% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

SHADE AND WEATHER PROTECTION:
The installations include **23** parking canopies that will **power on-site municipal buildings** and provide shade and hail protection to people and vehicles.

"The shade is helping our employees enter a more comfortable and cooler vehicle, after a long hot workday. Our employees are also arriving to work earlier to get a good parking spot under the canopy."

-RICK MASTERS
SOLID WASTE MANAGER

The On-Site Municipal Solar Program will provide approximately 11% of electricity for the City's building portfolio.

FY 2025 Outlook: 2.8 MW have already been installed at 7 sites. FY25 Outlook includes the completion of 15 additional projects, 3.2 MW of solar installed

Animal Care Facility	North Police Substation
Brook Hollow Library	North St. Mary's Substation
Cuellar Community Center	Northeast Service Center
Culebra HHW	Northwest Police Substation
East Police Substation	Parks Headquarters (Ron Darner)
Fire Station #34	Rosedale YMCA
Fire Station #49	South Police Substation
Harlandale Community Center	

JEAN YATES COMMUNITY CENTER
Rooftop - 35 KW

MELENDREZ COMMUNITY CENTER
Rooftop - 75 KW

CLIFF MORTON DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CENTER - Rooftop & Canopy - 35 KW

NORTHEAST SENIOR CENTER
Rooftop - 191 KW

SOUTHSIDE LIONS SENIOR CENTER
Rooftop - 140 KW

WEST POLICE SUBSTATION13
Rooftop - 111 KW

COMPLETED MUNICIPAL SOLAR PROJECTS

SOUTHWEST SERVICE CENTER
Rooftop - 660 KW

GARZA COMMUNITY CENTER
Rooftop - 104 KW

PRE-K4 SA
Rooftop - 275 KW

FIRE STATION 37
Rooftop - 52 KW

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT
Rooftop & Canopy - 1199 KW

SAFD SERVICE GARAGE
Rooftop - 391 KW

Kilowats (KW) = 1,000 watts

Promote Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems

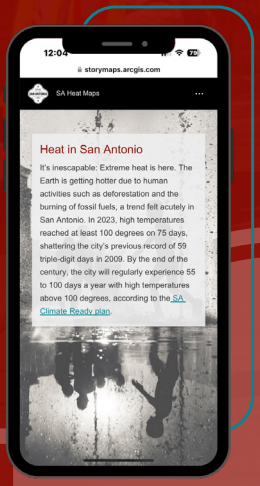
COOL NEIGHBORHOODS

San Antonio can get hot. Some parts of the city, especially those with a lot of buildings and roads but not much natural shade, can get even hotter – sometimes, by as much as 20 degrees. This is called the “urban heat island” effect. Rising temperatures can be contributed to the heat trapped by asphalt, transportation emissions, lack of trees or green cover, lack of building improvements such as insulation.

The Cool Neighborhoods Program is helping San Antonio beat the heat with projects like cool roofs, cool pavement, and added shade and trees in four neighborhoods.

Cooler days are here for San Antonio's hottest neighborhoods! Our Cool Neighborhoods program is a data-driven, community-focused effort,thanks to our ongoing research with UTSA. They helped us identify Districts 2, 3, and 5 as the hottest districts in our City. The impact?

UTSA's Cool Roof Study found a 7% reduction in electricity use and a 10-degree drop in attic temperatures! Additionally, UTSA's cool pavement study found we can lower surface temperatures by 6 to 12 degrees against traditional asphalt.



Scan to learn more about our heat planning initiatives.
Storymaps.Arcgis.com

FY 2025 outlook:

- $5.8 million to apply cool pavement applications Citywide to 22.35 miles of pavement in Urban Heat Island areas.
- $1 million to provide shade structures for bus stops in target Urban Heat Island areas.
- $1 million to support up to 75 “cool” roofs
- A total of $1 million to help up to 8 homeowners add weatherization improvements to their rehabilitation projects.

Reduce Building Energy Consumption

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

The Office of Sustainability's Energy Management Program (EMP), launched in 2011, reduces the City's energy use and costs through efficiency projects. Savings and rebates from these projects fund future upgrades in municipal buildings. To date, EMP has completed 427 projects, avoiding $1.7 million in utility costs and securing over $3 million in CPS Energy rebates. Reducing building energy use is key to meeting the City's emissions goals.

In FY2024, several interior and exterior lighting projects were completed, including Animal Care Services (ACS), Kennedy Park, and Apache Creek Phase 2. These projects improved visibility and reduced electricity consumption. Additionally, the City Tower Parking Garage (CTPG) Lighting Retrofit is underway, bringing new LED lighting to a facility used by tourists, Council attendees, and City staff.

FY 2025 outlook includes a collaboration with the Library and Parks departments to bring interior lighting retrofits to the following facilities:

GUERRA LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT
$150,000

RON DARNER LIGHTING RETROFIT
$650,000

MAVERICK LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT $140,000

SEMMES LIBRARY LIGHTING RETROFIT
$140,000

ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is, and will continue to be, a major contributor to carbon pollution. According to the EPA, carbon pollution accounts for nearly 72% of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the US.

As more goods are shipped, and in smaller quantities than ever before, the need for efficient transportation is growing. Efficiency in vehicle technology, alternative transportation, and the broader use of lower-carbon fuels are needed to achieve the goal of reducing GHGs in San Antonio.

There are three routes to reducing GHGs from transportation: increasing the efficiency of vehicle technology, changing how we travel and transport goods, and using lower-carbon fuels. We need all three to help achieve our societal goals on climate.

SA LEADING THE CHARGE!

111 EVs/ PHEVs

COSA FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

The City of San Antonio's Building and Equipment Services Department is working toward their 2025 goal to convert 20 percent of the City's hybrid administrative sedan fleet to electric vehicles.

The City's fleet currently includes:

- 98 EVs (all-electric)
- 13 PHEVs (plug-in hybrid electric)
- 589 HEVs (hybrid)

*fleet inventory is subject to change as additional vehicles are acquired or reach their end of life.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
NUMBER OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

2023	55
2024	98
2025	125*

79 (NUMBER OF CHARGING PORTS AT 43 EV CHARGING STATIONS)

blink Charge On!

The Department's partnership with BLINK charging stations yielded 24 charging stations at 11 City of San Antonio owned sites.

6,357 hrs used in 2023

8,008 hrs used in 2024 (***26% increase***)

FY2025 outlook: Over the next few years, the Office of Sustainability will prioritize expanding EV charging infrastructure, potentially using EECBG or CMAQ funds. The City's current partnership with Blink Charging has already upgraded EV stations at key public sites, but further improvements are needed to maximize station reliability and public benefit. Currently, many Blink charging stations are offline, hindering the program's effectiveness. Moving forward, the City will evaluate options for ensuring consistent operation. By improving infrastructure and ensuring accessibility, the program will build a more robust, equitable, and sustainable EV network for San Antonio's future.

ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Educating and empowering all San Antonio residents around climate action is the driving force behind our robust and innovative climate education initiatives. As one of the major strategies within the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the Office of Sustainability is dedicated to ensuring that communication, outreach, and engagement efforts reach all residents, particularly frontline communities and those that have been historically under-represented.

The SA Climate Ready Public Engagement & Communications initiative informs the greater San Antonio community about the benefits of climate action and adaptation. The goals targeted in this initiative are to achieve reduced energy use and utility costs; reduced greenhouse gases; and improved quality-of-life and equity for all residents in San Antonio.

Our Social Sustainability Ambassador campaign tapped into the incredible power of our own community. We empowered local residents to share their personal sustainability journeys—from brilliant recycling hacks to eco-friendly commutes and even sustainable cooking tips. This series snagged our department a 2024 PRSA Del Oro Award!

Participation in **100** outreach events.

Resident engagement at outreach events reached **10,500** residents.

CLIMATE TRAINING

COSA MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING

The department was also thrilled to be able to teach other members of COSA what it means to be more sustainable, both at home and at work. The municipal training program was launched in mid 2024 with four new modules to educate coworkers and the general public on sustainability best practices. The four modules launched were:

- **Module 1: Climate Outlook in San Antonio**
- **Module 2: Source of Emissions**
- **Module 3: Top 3 Immediate Solutions**
- **Module 4: The Why to Our Work**

94% or 12,400 employees completed all 5 training modules

It's your turn!

Take the Sustainability Training

SASustainability.com/Climate-Training

or scan the QR code

FY2025 outlook:

The upcoming virtual training modules will utilize COSA's own production facilities through the Communication & Engagement department, also known as C&E. C&E will shoot and edit the next round of these amazing videos to teach colleagues and citizens about the sustainability framework being used to better prepare our city our city for extreme weather and conservation goals.

GRANTS

Scan to learn more about SA Climate Ready
SanAntonio.gov/Sustainability/SAClimateReady/CAAP

CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

The City of San Antonio was awarded a $1 Million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). The grant will be used to update the city's CAAP or Climate Action Adaptation Plan. Our city's first climate plan was approved by city council in 2019.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT

The City was awarded $1.2 million from the Department of Energy through EECBG. This grant is allocated to three programs:

The Energy Master Plan, developed by the Department of Aviation, will chart a course for enhancing energy reliability, resilience, and efficiency at the San Antonio Airport (SAT); The Low-Income E-bike Rebate Pilot Program will empower San Antonio residents by offering $1,000 point-of-sale vouchers on Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes; and The EV Charging Incentive Program will install Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across San Antonio.

These initiatives align with the City's goals to enhance air quality, decrease carbon emissions, and promote sustainable transportation.

SOLAR FOR ALL

The city was awarded a $21.7M grant as part of a Texas coalition with Harris County and other municipalities. The goal of this coalition is to bring solar energy to low-income households in Texas by increasing access to Community Solar, reducing families' energy burden by 20% and reduce electricity-generated greenhouse gas emissions. The city will utilize its allocation and collaboration with CPS Energy to provide solar benefits to qualified low-income San Antonio residents. In FY24, we secured the grant. In FY25, we will hire a program administrator to assist in implementation.

Looking ahead in FY26, the city, CPS Energy, and community partners will design the program.

SA CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT GRANT

The Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability (REES) fund also offered funding to local community- based organizations who sought to provide climate action and sustainability education to under served and front-line San Antonio community-based organizations. These programs ranged from lunch and learns, to sustainable fashion shows and a Spanish language sustainability themed newscast aimed at school aged children.

15

Projects were awarded funds up to **$10,000**

Projects include:

Ghisallo Cycling Initiative offered trail etiquette and safety classes for bike riders. Participants also received tips and tricks to use the bikes and how to navigate downtown.

Eco Kids Club provided bilingual education to local students. Students worked on a newspaper, news broadcasts and enlisted help of local media professionals in their curriculum.

The San Antonio LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce launched the Sustainability Education Program for All. The program offered inclusive trainings and information to their members and the community.

Blessed Sacrament Academy Child Development Center created the Climate Action is for Kids comic book to educate young learners on the effects of climate change.

CBO AWARD WINNERS

- Blessed Sacrament Academy
- Eco-Centro at San Antonio College
- Eco Kids Club
- EcoRide Youth Innoations
- Ghisallo Cycling Initiative
- Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas
- Maestro Entrepreneur Center
- Neighborhood Housing Services of San Antonio
- Project Bloom
- San Antonio Botanical Garden
- San Antonio LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio River Association
- Society of Native Nations
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Bexar County
- UT Health San Antonio

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GRANTS

106 grant projects **$2M** total funding

The Office of Sustainability awarded over two million dollars to fund projects in our local community from the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability (REES) fund to support local businesses and neighborhood and community organizations to implement sustainable initiatives. 106 projects were awarded grants to pursue projects in one of these five categories, 1) Promoting Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems, 2) Building Energy, 3) Transportation Energy, 4) Climate Adaptation and Resilience and 5) Promoting Circular Economy. Of San Antonio's 10 districts, there is at least one project being implemented in each increasing community resilience and awareness of sustainable practices.

Funding assisted restaurants, neighborhood associations and religious organizations with upgrades to existing HVAC systems, upgrades to energy efficient lighting and tree canopy planting.

The 106 funded projects supported the SA Climate Ready Plan by:

- Promoting Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems (28 projects)
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience (5 projects)
- Promoting Circular Economy and Waste Reduction (10 projects)
- Building Energy (55 projects)
- Transportation Energy (8 projects)

Projects included a wide variety of sustainable initiatives such as community gardens, solar panels, building weatherization, educational campaigns on EVs and e-bikes, and ecosystem preservation across San Antonio's 10 districts.

"This grant, is part of The SA Climate Ready Community Action Fund, supports innovative projects within San Antonio to build a greener future. With grants up to $20,000 available, we're eager to make a tangible impact on our community. Here's to a sustainable future for all residents!"

-TERI CASTILLO,
CITY COUNCILWOMAN, DISTRICT 5

The African/Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) created 5 new gardens to provide fresh year-round produce to the local community.

Gardopia Gardens installed a solar energy system and expanded its Community Tool Library

Scan for the full list of awardees
SASustainability.com/Category/Grant-Opportunities

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The objective of climate adaptation is to create actions that reduce the negative effects of climate change. Strategies to meet this objective include Increase Infrastructure Resilience; Promote, Restore, and Protect Green Infrastructure & Ecosystems; and Increase Resilience Awareness and Outreach.

SOUTH SAN HEAT RESILIENCE

The Office of Sustainability in partnership with Fuerza Unida and Adaptation International, are addressing extreme heat in the South San neighborhood through the South San Heat Resilience Project. This pilot project focuses on developing community driven neighborhood cooling solutions, while empowering leadership in climate resilience. The project aims to create long-term, equitable solutions for climate adaptation in the South San neighborhood and beyond. The Office will continue to work with Fuerza Unida and other community members in implementing future projects.

This project provided funding for grassroots planning through a partnership with trusted community organizations who worked with citizens to identify the needs of vulnerable neighborhoods and engage residents in shaping sustainable solutions. Residents from the South San Community participated via surveys, workshops, and data collection. The community identified extreme heat as the top climate risk. Community engagement over the summer and fall of 2024 led to a report outlining priority projects for implementation.

- Design and project development assistance
- Community engagement support
- Partnership development with the City of San Antonio, Fuerza Unida, and others
- Community budget prioritization to ensure neighborhood investments align with the community's needs

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Convene the South San Steering Committee Enhance Accessibility for City Programs
- Invest in After-School, Workforce Readiness and Community Science
- Implement Residential Weatherization and Cooling Programs
- Create Outdoor Spaces
- Create a Resilience Hub

Scan to read the South San Heat Resilience Project Report

SASustainability.com/Category/Climate-Adaptation#South-San-Heat-Resilience-Project

CLIMATE READY NEIGHBORHOODS

A strategy of Climate Ready Neighborhoods is to Enhance Emergency Management and Community Preparedness, as well as support everyday neighborhood resilience.

2024 also saw the launch of the Climate Ready Neighborhoods (CRN) Network. CRN is a network of community partners linking climate-resilience information, trainings, resources, and funding through a network of trusted community groups and spaces called Neighborhood PODs (Points of Distribution).

CRN's primary focus is develop a network of Communication, Resource and Shelter PODs. in order to increase climate readiness and community resilience throughout San Antonio. By working with existing organizations from the grassroots to institutional level to build capacity and create tools, CRN strives to meaningfully involve underserved communities, diverse groups and vulnerable populations.

The Climate Ready Neighborhoods Network supports community-based organizations who in turn support their community as Neighborhood PODs. Neighborhood Associations, houses of worship and nonprofits can apply to become a Neighborhood POD. Neighbors or Individuals who want to get involved and serve their community by providing resources, communications or shelter during extreme weather events can be linked into the POD network. The program is designed to build climate resistance and increase equity in underserved communities while providing much needed resources and access to programs for the entire city. With equitable access for all, Climate Ready Neighborhoods connect the city to Neighborhood PODs which provide Information, resources, and partnerships to increase climate resilience. There are currently 19 active pods with more planned for 2025.

FY2025 outlook

As the need for Climate Adaptation increases, the Office of Sustainability will continue to work across City departments and community networks to increase skills.knowledge, and access to resources. Based on lessons learned through these pilot projects and new programs, we will continue to leverage city and community resources to ensure that San Antonio is proactively planning for climate adaptation and community resilience for all residents, especially our most vulnerable.

Scan to learn more about climate ready neighborhoods

ThelmpactGuild.com/Climate-Ready/

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO — TEXAS —

SUSTAINABILITY

For more information about The City of San Antonio's sustainability efforts,
visit the Office of Sustainability website at **SanAntonio.gov/Sustainability**
and the SA Sustainability Dashboard at **SAClimateReady.org**