



TO: Mayor Joe Buck
Members of the City Council

FROM: Members of the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)

SUBJECT: Sustainability Advisory Board 2022 Goals

DATE: December 20, 2021

The Sustainability Advisory Board's 2022 goals are centered on advancing timely actions and policies now, to ensure a sustainable future for Lake Oswego. With the recent and ongoing challenges of COVID-19, extreme weather, and social and economic upheaval, we are reminded of the critical importance of investing in sustainable solutions that will minimize environmental impact and enhance our resilience, improve community access to resources, and benefit our City's economic position. We are confident that these goals and associated actions will significantly improve the well-being of our community.

The Sustainability Advisory Board's primary objective is to promote a sustainable economic and ecological quality-of-life in our community. To this end, the Sustainability Advisory Board shall:

- **Advise and assist the City Council** in efforts to make City operations more sustainable. The Sustainability Advisory Board is guided by the Sustainable City Principles embodied in the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan for Lake Oswego.
- **Promote plans and policies** that enhance the sustainability of the City as a whole.
- **Educate and engage the public** in efforts to make the community of Lake Oswego, including residents, businesses, and institutions, more sustainable.

For 2022, the SAB will focus our efforts on the following specific goals and our ongoing advisory and outreach functions.

1. Goal 1: Advocate for Sustainable Design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

SAB aims to ensure that sustainable design principles and sustainable future uses are considered throughout the design and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The plant should be designed to provide “purple pipe” (reclaimed) irrigation water for use at the WWTP, Foothills/Roehr/George Rogers parks, and the future Foothills redevelopment.

In addition to ensuring that the WWTP operates efficiently with a small environmental footprint, ability to provide reclaimed irrigation water, and relatively low greenhouse gas emissions, we also aim to ensure that the WWTP is resilient in the face of a changing climate and other potential natural and manmade disasters. Resilience of the new WWTP aligns also with SAB Goal 2 – Improve Resiliency and Adaptation in the City’s Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP).

SAB will implement this goal by continuing to participate in design charrettes and other opportunities to provide feedback on design elements of the WWTP.

2. Goal 2: Improve resiliency and adaptation strategies in the City’s Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

SAB intends to strengthen our community’s resilience by bolstering the SCAP to include more robust strategic planning and actions toward the goal of improved resiliency and climate adaptation measures. The City’s strategies should include natural and passive solutions, and ecosystems services, as well as hardening our infrastructure to withstand increasingly severe impacts from climate change and other natural disasters, such as wildfires, ice storms, extreme temperatures, heavy rains and flooding, earthquakes, windstorms, droughts, and airborne pathogens.

Strategies can include:

- Protecting and preserving natural areas—such as wetlands, woodlands, significant trees—all of which enhance resilience and adaptation through ecosystem services like water retention and filtration, erosion mitigation in heavy rains, and passive cooling through shade and reduced heat island effect during heatwaves.
- Leveraging existing Emergency Response Planning and incorporating climate-related adaptation and resilience, through partnering with LOFD, PrepLO, and Neighborhood Associations.

- Supporting citizens in preparing for potential disaster scenarios, such as “tightening” residential spaces to deal with extreme temperatures or hazardous air quality.
- Coordinating with LOSD and City Departments to use schools and public facilities as essential facilities or “safe zones” in a variety of emergency / disaster scenarios.
- Ensuring that all citizens can access emergency support, including those without cars or those with mobility challenges or disabilities.
- Working with the Lake Oswego Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board to ensure that the City’s adaptation and resilience strategies and outreach efforts are comprehensive and supportive for all community members.
- Beginning to plan for a changing climate, by considering future climate when making recommendations for mitigation trees, building orientation, rainwater harvesting, or roofs pitches, etc.
- Enabling and advancing solar and battery installations and other renewable energy sources on new public and private construction projects through design standards for solar-ready roof pitches and related considerations, offering solar incentives, and/or requiring solar on publicly funded construction projects.
- Evaluating the increased electrical demand that will be created by electrification of fossil fuel-based equipment, such as electric vehicles, electric building systems (HVAC, water heating), and electric landscaping equipment. Adding on-site renewable energy generation and/or storage can help to meet this demand and improve resilience during a power disruption.
- In the longer term, the City should plan for “hardening” its infrastructure to withstand more frequent and more severe weather events and natural disasters, which can include nature-based solutions, like seasonal wetlands for water management, and passive strategies, like traffic circles without traffic lights, in addition to upgrading conventional infrastructure, such as burying power lines.

SAB will implement this goal by reviewing and recommending updates to the Climate Adaptation section of the SCAP to include additional strategies that enhance resilience and adaptation in the face of a changing climate, with a particular focus on community resilience and protecting and preserving natural resources—wetlands, woodlands, and significant trees—with a recognition of the ecosystem services they provide.

3. Goal 3: Protect and Preserve Trees and Natural Resources

SAB recognizes the importance of significant trees to the character and quality of life in Lake Oswego. Trees offer many important ecosystems services and benefits^{1 2} to our community members and local wildlife, including:

- Stormwater management
- Improved water quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Energy conservation (less heating and air conditioning in tree-protected homes)
- Improved air quality (both providing oxygen and intercepting particulate matter)
- Noise abatement
- Health benefits of being in nature
- Shade and reduced heat island effect
- Wildlife habitat
- Increased property values
- Neighborhood character and historical value in our Tree City

Therefore, SAB recommends that the City undertake, in coordination with the Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC), the following recommended goals:

- Protect and enhance the Lake Oswego Urban Forest as defined on the [Urban and Community Forestry](#) website.
- Adopt a Natural Resource Management Plan for City Natural Areas and an annual State of the Urban Forest Report (last updated in 2009).
- Review and revise the Urban and Community Forestry Plan (2007) based on results from the State of the Urban Forest Report and new threats presented by a changing climate.
- Develop a leadership structure to promote communication and coordination between departments (Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Engineering) to support Urban Forest protection and enhancement.
- Review and update the Community Development Code to coordinate development requirements with the Tree Code.
- Implement Development Review Commission non-regulatory tree preservation recommendations (February 4, 2020) as presented to City Council.

¹ <https://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/tree-equity/>

² <https://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

SAB further recommends that the City expand the discussion of trees and natural resources in the SCAP, by including these goals as strategies and action items, alongside strategies to incentivize voluntary tree preservation.

SAB will implement this goal by (a) supporting the City to more fully incorporate trees and natural areas into the SCAP section on Natural Resources and (b) continuing education, outreach, and engagement with developers, planners, and community members in partnership with other community groups.

4. Goal 4: Accelerate the Transition Away from Gas-Powered Landscape Equipment

SAB will continue to encourage a transition away from gas-powered landscape equipment (GPLE) to improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, and minimize health impacts from use of gas-powered engines. The City has already taken the important step of eliminating gas-powered equipment from its contracted landscape services for 200 city-owned sites and has replaced some of the gas-powered equipment used by Parks and Recreation and Public Works. SAB would like to partner with the City and affected stakeholders to facilitate a similar, voluntary transition for community groups, landscapers, and residents throughout the City.

By taking action now to support a voluntary transition away from GPLE, the City can improve health impacts of affected stakeholders, while enabling these stakeholders to be well-positioned for compliance with future regional and/or State legislation that would eliminate GPLE equipment. SAB will review the actions neighboring cities are taking and will engage with residents and landscapers to inform our recommendations.

SAB will implement this goal by creating a 1-3 year plan for the City to support the Lake Oswego community in transitioning away from GPLE, built on voluntary measures and educational outreach, informed by a community survey and engagement efforts, including options such as equipment demonstrations, voluntary trade-ins, bulk purchase discounts, incentives or rebates.

5. Goal 5: Advance the Adoption of Electric Vehicles

SAB will continue to advance the adoption of electric vehicles throughout Lake Oswego by supporting the City in continuing to electrify the City fleet vehicles and vehicles for contracted City services through implementing goals EV1 and EV2 of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. Additionally, SAB will evaluate options for how the City can best support community transition to EV, such as through public charging stations, preferred parking, and infrastructure investments for EV charging at multi-family housing.

SAB will also partner with community groups to support the City in undertaking a curbside charging infrastructure pilot project and will continue to build on past years' community outreach and engagement initiatives, such as the Annual LOSN EV Fair.

SAB will implement this goal by (a) supporting the City to electrify its vehicle fleet and to undertake a pilot demonstration of curbside charging infrastructure and (b) continuing education, outreach, and engagement with community members in partnership with other community groups.

6. Goal 6: Host Community-wide Earth Day Celebration (April 22, 2022)

Lake Oswego has many new sustainability opportunities to share and successes to celebrate. We plan to partner with community organizations and the City to provide a forum for education, outreach, and celebration as a way of coming together to create connection and to further advance sustainability throughout our community.

The Earth Day celebration may include:

- Acknowledgement that we achieved our solar goal – at 1.1 MW as of Oct 2021
- Recognition that the City has converted its landscaping contracts to all-electric.
- Demonstration of electric landscape equipment
- Repair Fair
- EV Demonstration
- WWTP updates
- PrepLO demonstrations and supporting information
- Parks and Rec natural area sustainability and restoration updates.

- Both high school “Green Teams” with demos and information.

SAB will implement this goal by working with the City and community groups to plan a community-wide Earth Day celebration.

Ongoing Advisory and Outreach Efforts:

In addition to the specific 2022 SAB goals outlined above, we will continue to serve in our general advisory and outreach role in the following areas, along with any additional topics the City requests:

- Improve walkability and bikeability, including Safe Routes to Schools.
- Promote high performance, sustainable, green buildings by supporting relevant code updates and incentives for Net Zero buildings, sustainable site design, clean energy, remodeling instead of demolition and/or sustainable deconstruction, and formalizing the LO guidelines for high performance building principles, including participation in design charrettes and planning efforts for the Lake Oswego Recreation & Aquatics Center.
- Partner with other Boards and Commissions, Neighborhood Associations and Community groups to advance sustainability in our community.
- Support our SAB youth members to engage with their school Green Teams, and partner with LOSD to support sustainability in schools.

We appreciate your consideration of these goals and your attention to these important matters that affect our community today and into the future. For further context and background on these goals, we have included as Attachment A, a progress report outlining work completed on our 2021 SAB goals and other priorities established throughout the year.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to a vibrant and sustainable Lake Oswego.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Glazer, Co-Chair

Kathleen Wiens, Co-Chair

Buzz Chandler

Jay Hamachek

Susan Mead

Mark Puhlman

Matt Schaeffer

Kara Orvieto

Kim Roeland

Anna Wallin, Youth

Attachments: Attachment A – Progress Report on SAB 2021 Goals and Related Priorities

Attachment A – Progress on SAB 2021 Goals and Related Priorities

SAB Goals & associated actions	Progress to Date
5-Year Solar Goal, adopted in 2016	
Achieve 1 MW solar goal from Resolution 16-28	Completed – More than 1.1 MW generating capacity from 136 active net metering accounts as of October 2021.
2021 SAB Goal 1 - Advance climate action planning: Continue work on SCAP by making updates, revisions, and providing annual progress report.	
Improve resiliency and enhance climate adaptation in SCAP; Assist with development of strategies and response plans for wildfires.	SAB worked with staff to provide specific recommendations to Council on ways the SCAP should be bolstered to improve strategic planning for resilience and climate adaptation, as presented at a March 16, 2021 study session.
Assess and articulate the sustainability impact of City policies and initiatives.	SAB worked with staff to identify and recommend this concept to Council during a study session on March 16, 2021.
Develop Residential Sustainability Certification Program	City's sustainability interns have developed the EcoHome LO program; the website is nearly finished, and we expect to launch in January 2022.
Monitor and advocate for State legislation affecting sustainability and climate-related considerations	SAB was represented on the Middle Housing Advisory Council, advising Council on local implementation of HB 2001 & 2003. SAB and City provided letter of support for SB 784, which was incorporated into HB 2021.
2021 SAB Goal 2 – Promote cleaner air: evaluate options for limiting use of GPLE in Lake Oswego	
Prepare for City Council study session to identify and recommend options	SAB developed 2019 White Paper for City Council. City Council approved all-electric landscaping equipment for multi-site landscaping contract awarded in Feb 2021, covering over 200 public sites.
Develop materials for landscapers and homeowners on green landscaping	This action is carried forward into our 2022 SAB goals.
2021 SAB Goal 3 – Advocate for electric vehicle adoption in Lake Oswego	
Continue partnering with LOSN and PGE on electric vehicle infrastructure investments at multifamily housing developments	SAB partnered with LOSN to conduct research and outreach to multifamily building managers and property owners; given relatively low interest from multifamily property owners at this stage in EV adoption, SAB is shifting focus to charging infrastructure in public spaces to expand EV access.
Assist the City in transitioning the city fleet to electric vehicles by providing informational resources and reporting on purchasing in annual progress report	SAB provided options for how the City can transition its fleet to EV, as part of the March 16, 2021 Study Session memo. SAB prepared a memo of support for the LO ACC EV Shuttle grant application (June 1, 2021).