



2020 General Plan Annual Progress Report

City of Berkeley

Submitted April 1, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Government Code Section 65400(a)(2) requires planning agencies to provide an annual report to their legislative body, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the status of their General Plan and progress in its implementation. The report must detail the progress in meeting the jurisdiction’s share of the regional housing need and address efforts by the local agency towards removing governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing.

The purpose for the Annual Progress Report is to: 1) assess how the General Plan is being implemented in accordance with adopted goals, policies and implementation measures; 2) identify any necessary adjustments or modifications to the General Plan as a means to improve local implementation; 3) provide a clear correlation between land use decisions that have been made during the 12-month reporting period and the goals, policies, and implementation measures contained in the General Plan; and 4) provide information regarding local agency progress in meeting its share of the regional housing need.

The City of Berkeley General Plan was adopted on **April 23, 2002**. The General Plan contains the seven State-required elements which are Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise and Safety. The State allows the combining of elements or the addition of new elements as long as the required seven elements are present in some fashion. The Berkeley General Plan contains the following 9 elements:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Housing
- Disaster Preparedness & Safety
- Open Space & Recreation
- Environmental Management
- Economic Development & Employment
- Urban Design & Preservation
- Citizen Participation

Local governments are required to keep their General Plans current and internally consistent. There is no specific requirement that a local government update its General Plan on any particular timeline, with the exception of the Housing Element, which is required to be updated as prescribed by State law. The Berkeley Housing Element was last updated and certified by HCD on January 21, 2015, for the 2015-2023 planning period.

The City of Berkeley continues to actively implement the policies of the General Plan including the goals, policies and programs of the Housing Element. The following represents the progress the City has made towards implementing the General Plan and Housing Element during the **Calendar Year (CY) 2020** reporting period. The information to follow is organized to correspond with the elements of the Berkeley General Plan.

LAND USE ELEMENT

AMENDMENTS

State Law limits the number of times each mandatory element of the General Plan, such as the Land Use Element, can be amended to a maximum of four times per calendar year.

The Land Use Element of the Berkeley General Plan was amended twice during CY 2020.

- July 28, 2020 – Re-designate Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNS) 054-1716-002-00, 054-1716-003-00, and 054-1716-031-00 [Rose Garden Inn] from Low Medium Density Residential to Avenue Commercial.
- December 17, 2020 – Amend the Berkeley Municipal Code to Create the C-Adeline Corridor District Commercial Zone Regulations and Making Conforming Changes to other Code Sections; Adding Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 23E.70

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT

- **Adeline Corridor Specific Plan Specific Plan**
The Adeline Corridor Specific Plan, General Plan and zoning amendments, and environmental review documents were adopted by the City Council on December 8, 2020. The Adeline Corridor Specific Plan articulates a community vision and planning framework that will serve as a guide for the City and other public agency decision-makers, community members and other stakeholders over the next 20 years. The Adeline Corridor Specific Plan Area (“Plan Area”) is located in the southern portion of the City of Berkeley and extends approximately 1.3 miles north from the Berkeley/Oakland border along Adeline Street and a portion of Shattuck Avenue. It serves as an important gateway to Berkeley’s Downtown (to the north) and to Oakland (to the south).
- **Zoning Ordinance Reorganization Project (ZORP)**
In CY 2020 the City of Berkeley made significant progress on Phase I of ZORP. Phase I resulted in the development of a new Baseline Zoning Ordinance (BZO) that improved the existing Zoning Ordinance’s organization, format, and writing style. Planning Commission held a public hearing on the BZO and recommended adoption to City Council. City Council will consider adoption of the BZO in CY 2021. Phase I does not include any substantive policy changes, zoning changes, or changes in existing development standards. Phase I is solely a reorganization and reformatting to make land use regulations easier to understand and zoning information easier to find.
- **Density Bonus Projects**
In CY 2020, the majority of projects greater than 5 units were approved using State Density Bonus provisions. The following Density Bonus projects were either approved, under construction, or completed this past year.
 - 2023 Shattuck
Construct a 24,178 square-foot, seven-story, 73’5” tall, mixed-use building with 48 dwelling

units (including 4 units available to very-low-income households) and 1,250 square feet of ground floor commercial space

- 1367 University
New four-story, 39 unit residential building
- 2099 Martin Luther King Jr.
Construction of a new, seven-story, mixed-use building with a total of 72 dwelling units
- 3000 San Pablo
Demolish the existing commercial building at 3000 San Pablo Avenue, and demolish part of the building at 1042 Ashby that encroaches onto 3000 San Pablo Avenue, to build a new 6-story mixed-use building, with 78 apartments (7 Below Market Rate), 1,248 sq. ft. of commercial space
- 1200 San Pablo
Demolish three existing commercial building, and construct a new, 99,000 SF, 6-story, mixed-use building with 104 units, 3000 SF ground floor retail.
- 2720 San Pablo
Demolition of the former automobile service station and construct a 6 story, 60' high mixed-use building, with 25 dwellings (including 2 dwellings available to very low income households) with a total of 97 bedrooms, and 963 square feet of ground floor retail space.
- 2000 Dwight
Demolition of six non-residential buildings and the construction of a six-story residential building with 113 dwelling units for senior housing.
- 1500 San Pablo
Demolish an existing 24,000 square feet two-story commercial building; and (2) to construct a 197,800 square feet, 5-story, 60'-6' tall, mixed use building with 170 residential units, 10,900 square feet of commercial floor area.
- 2352 Shattuck
Demolish two existing commercial buildings; 2) split the lot into two; and 3) construct two, eight-story, mixed-use buildings with 204 units (including 14 Very Low Income units), 12,154 square feet of commercial space.
- 2590 Bancroft
Demolish an existing two-story commercial building; and 2) construct an eight-story, mixed-use building with 87 dwelling units (including five Very Low-Income units), 4,345 square feet of commercial space.

- **Accessory Dwelling Units**

During the CY 2020 reporting period, the City issued building permits for 120 accessory dwelling units. Of these projects, 73 were finalized.

- **Major Non-Residential Projects**

- Bayer HealthCare LLC Development Agreement Amendment Project

The project location is the Bayer campus in West Berkeley, which has a primary street address of 800 Dwight Way. Bayer's existing 30-year Development Agreement (DA) with the City of Berkeley, covering the North Properties, was approved in 1992 and is set to expire in 2022. The proposed project would amend the existing DA to cover both the North and South Properties, while extending its duration an additional 30 years until February 2052. In November 2020, both the Zoning Administration Board (ZAB) and the Planning Commission (PC) held scoping sessions for the scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and received public comment.

- 3100 San Pablo Avenue – Foundry 31

Establish approximately 17,700 square feet of an oncology testing laboratory and medical office and 69,800 square feet of research and development (R&D) space in an existing 402,742 square foot building.

TRANSPORTATION

AMENDMENTS

The Transportation Element once during CY 2020.

- November 17, 2020 - Replace Level of Service (LOS) with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the metric to analyze transportation-related environmental impacts under CEQA.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

- **Berkeley Vision Zero Action Plan**

Adopted by the Berkeley City Council on March 10, 2020, this Plan recommends 33 actions to achieve the City of Berkeley's Vision Zero policy goal of zero traffic deaths and severe injuries on Berkeley Streets by 2028. The 33 recommendations are further prioritized into 11 near-term actions which are the focus of the ongoing Vision Zero Program. The Vision Zero Action Plan was created through a collaborative effort of agency staff from the City, other public agencies, and an Advisory Committee composed of members of the Berkeley community representing public schools, seniors, business organizations, and walking and biking advocates.

- **Pedestrian Plan**

The Berkeley Pedestrian Plan was submitted to City Council in late 2020 and approved by Council on January 26, 2021. Other completed milestones in 2020 include a public open house for review of Plan recommendations held in February and release of the Draft Plan to the public in September. The Plan prioritizes safety and equity in establishing a clear path forward for pedestrian infrastructure improvements. The Plan also includes a set of goals for improving pedestrian

transportation in Berkeley, performance measures for evaluating and prioritizing streets for future pedestrian infrastructure improvements, maps showing recommended pedestrian infrastructure projects on ten priority streets, recommendations for new citywide programs and policies, and cost estimates for the projects on the aforementioned ten priority streets. The recommendations in the Plan were devised after a multi-year, robust community engagement process.

- **Sidewalk Program**

The City of Berkeley implemented sweeping changes to sidewalk repair initiatives, most notably, the inclusion of sidewalk repairs as a part of a “Complete Streets” approach to Street Rehabilitation/Repaving Capital Improvement Projects. This greatly increased the number of sidewalks the City has been able to repair in comparison to years past. In addition to the repaired sidewalks, the City implemented a concrete shaving program that was effectively able to shave uplifted and hazardous sidewalks down to a flat and compliant state. In 2020 alone, the sidewalk shaving program abated over 10,000 sidewalk hazards.

- **Street Rehabilitation Program**

The City continues to utilize this program to achieve goals beyond simply improving the asphalt quality for automobiles. In 2020, under a “Complete Streets” approach, the City rehabilitated 11.4 lane miles of roadway, installed green infrastructure elements such as bioswale planters for storm water catchment and placemaking, implemented ADA improvements such as updating curb ramps and repairing sidewalks, constructed bicycle and pedestrian improvements such as refuge islands at historically challenging crossings, installed buffered and parking-protected bike lanes, painted bulb-outs, constructed speed tables, and installed high-visibility crosswalks and bus boarding islands.

- **One-Way Vehicle Share Program**

In 2020, a company named Revel acquired parking permits from the City in order to launch a shared electric moped service in Berkeley. This service provides an additional mobility option for residents and visitors to access destinations in Berkeley. The neighboring cities of Oakland and Emeryville also permit Revel mopeds, helping link the service regionally. These electric vehicles offer a mobility alternative to the automobile, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping meet the City’s Climate Action goals.

- **Citywide Demand-Responsive Parking Meter Pricing and goBerkeley Parking Program**

Approximately half of the City’s parking meters are managed under the goBerkeley program, which uses demand-responsive pricing and longer time limits to create more parking options and availability. The most recent goBerkeley price adjustment occurred on February 1, 2020. Starting June 1, 2020 under the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has been managing all parking meters citywide using demand-responsive pricing, with prices at the end of 2020 ranging from \$0.50/hour to \$2.00/hour depending on level of demand.

- **Shattuck Reconfiguration Project**

In 2020, the City of Berkeley reached some key milestones for this major intersection undergoing construction in the heart of Berkeley’s Downtown. A few of these construction milestones completed in 2020 include: installation of a raised concrete (tabletop) intersection at Center and

Shattuck East (renamed Kala Bagai Way), fresh repaving within the project limits, and new traffic signals and street lighting improving vehicular and pedestrian safety. Construction of the project began in January 2019 and was recently completed in January of 2021.

- **Adeline Street Project**

This project on Adeline Street from Ashby Avenue to Shattuck Avenue included improvements such as: roadway rehabilitation, application of high-visibility crosswalks, updated ADA compliance for curb-ramps and sidewalks, and the installation of parking-protected bikeways as well as bus boarding islands. The project construction was completed in 2020.

- **Hearst Avenue Project**

This project, located between Milvia Street and Shattuck Avenue, included roadway rehabilitation and upgrading the existing Class II bike lanes to parking-protected bikeways. The project construction was completed in 2020.

- **Electric Mobility Roadmap:** Berkeley’s first Electric Mobility Roadmap (Roadmap) was adopted in July 2020. The Roadmap supports clean transportation, including walking, biking, public transportation, and a wide range of electric vehicles, with a focus on equitable and affordable access. The Roadmap identifies strategies and actions to achieve these four goals:

- Ensure Equity in Access to Electric Mobility
Maximize electric mobility benefits in underserved communities
- Improve Alternatives to Driving
Shift trips to walking, cycling, and shared electric modes
- Achieve Zero Net Carbon Emissions
Eliminate emissions from private vehicles
- Demonstrate City Leadership
Lead by example and guide the electric mobility transition

- **EV Fleet Assessment:** In 2020, City staff worked with EBCE to conduct a municipal fleet electrification assessment. This assessment presents an EV deployment and associated charging infrastructure plan through 2030 including distributed energy resource (solar and battery storage) charging options. If investments can be made to transition the light duty municipal fleet to EVs over the next 10 years, it will reduce the associated lifecycle (well-to-wheels) GHG emissions of these vehicles from 56.6 to 2.1 metric tons, a 96% reduction by 2030.

HOUSING

AMENDMENTS

The Berkeley Housing Element was last updated and certified by HCD on January 21, 2015, for the 2015-2023 planning period. The Housing Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65400, the City Council is required to prepare an annual report on the status and progress in implementing the City’s Housing Element using forms and definitions adopted by HCD. The completed forms for CY 2020 are attached as **Exhibit A** to this report.

As shown in Table 1, the City of Berkeley’s RHNA for the current planning period is 2,959 residential units, broken down by income category. HCD regulations require that excess units in one income category cannot be used to reduce the unaccommodated need from the other categories.

Table 1: Regional Housing Needs Allocation 2014- 2023

2014-2023	Income Category
532	Very Low Income
442	Low Income
584	Moderate Income
1401	Above Moderate Income
2959	Total

In 2020, the City issued building permits for 590 dwelling units, including 539 above moderate income units, 13 low-income deed restricted units, and 38 very low income deed-restricted units. There is currently an unmet remaining need of 1,563 units, as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Berkeley’s Progress in Meeting Regional Housing Needs

Income Category	Total RHNA (2014- 2023)	Net Units Created (2015- 2020)	Balance Remaining	Percent of RHNA Achieved
Very Low Income	532	173	359	32.5%
Low Income	442	60	382	13.6%
Moderate Income	584	0	584	0%
Above Moderate Income	1,401	2,476	0	176.7%
Total	2,959	2,709	1,325	91.6%

As required by state law, the City must zone land to accommodate the RHNA and develop programs and policies that promote an environment where housing construction is encouraged at all income levels.

Additionally, in 2020, the City implemented the following notable goals and guiding principles from the Housing Element:

- **Rapid Rehousing Rental Assistance:** Provided assistance to 62 households.
- **Rental Rehabilitation Loan:** Issued 1 loan.
- **Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance:** Provided assistance to 440 households.
- **Shelter and Care Housing Vouchers:** Provided 55 vouchers.

For a list of Housing Element Implementation, please refer to Table D of the APR, which is attached as **Exhibit A** to this report.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & SAFETY

AMENDMENTS

The Disaster Preparedness + Safety Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY ELEMENT

- **COVID-19 Response**

Since the beginning of calendar year 2020, the City has been working to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts ramped up significantly in March 2020, when the City issued its first Shelter-In-Place Order to address the community spread of COVID-19 and fully activated its Emergency Operations Center. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the City has mobilized over 550 employees from every department including the City Auditor's Office, the Library, and the Rent Board. Some employees were working in capacities that they were familiar with and accustomed to, however, many others were asked to perform new responsibilities and work under leadership and collaborate with individuals that they may have never met.

At the beginning of the Shelter-In-Place, the days were long and there was tremendous pressure placed on employees to be flexible and balance the needs of protecting the community with the challenges of protecting themselves and managing their families and households. This unprecedented mobilization of City staff united around a focused mission to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of the community and employees. Collectively, employees mobilized and implemented a multi-faceted response that included:

- Disease containment;
 - Keeping the community well-informed;
 - Creating public health and safety protocols and practices that did not previously exist;
 - Providing ample testing that is accessible and available in an equitable manner;
 - Distributing vaccine in an equitable manner;
 - Providing outreach and support to the business community;
 - Supporting vulnerable populations, including the elderly and people who are unhoused; and
 - Implementing new laws and regulations.
- **Additional EOC Activations**

In addition to the ongoing EOC Activation for COVID-19 response described above, the City activated additional Emergency Operations Center structures twice in 2020 to provide coordination and support for separate situations:

 - October: Public Safety Power Shutoff and Extreme Fire Weather
 - November: 2020 Election (readiness for Civil Unrest)
 - **Wildfire Readiness**
 - Safe Passages Program

- Completed evaluation and recommendations for increased parking restrictions and vegetation removal for three pilot street segments.
- Implemented parking restrictions on one of the three pilot street segments.
- Drills and Exercises
 - Wildfire Evacuation Drills: Over 500 Berkeley residents from within Fire Zone 2 participated in the August 2019 Wildfire Evacuation Drills, which included the testing of emergency notification systems, household evacuation, practice of evacuation routes, and gathering at evacuation sites.
 - Tabletop Exercise with surrounding jurisdictions (Kensington/El Cerrito, East Bay Regional Parks District, Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District)
- Vegetation Management
 - Parks Division Vegetation Management (Parks Division FY 2019 budget includes \$406,891 for fire fuel management. The funded work includes regular maintenance of understory and ladder fuels plus tree maintenance)
 - Ongoing: 2020 Hazardous Fire Area Inspection Program
 - Ongoing: 2020 Fire Fuel Chipper Program
- Community Outreach
 - Fire Safety Town Hall Meeting May 2020 (topics included Wildfire Season, Wildfire Evacuation Plan, Zonehaven, Community Efforts)
 - Shifted wildfire readiness presentations to Zoom/online interface to continue outreach during COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Initiated FireWise Community process to Berkeley Neighborhood Group (will continue when Shelter-in-Place Orders are lifted)
- Coordinated Planning Efforts
 - Ongoing collaboration with Disaster and Fire Safety Commission on Outdoor Warning System project
 - Ongoing collaboration with PG&E on establishing sites for PG&E Alert wildfire Cameras in Alameda County
 - Ongoing participation in Alameda's Countywide Evacuation Task Force
 - Entered into contract with Zonehaven to provide Evacuation Mapping Software and Protocols for Alameda County
 - Ongoing participation in Hills Emergency Forum (monthly meetings which allows the City to work with neighboring jurisdictions on the regional goal of a healthy, fire resistive wildland urban interface across the East Bay. The collaborative work of Berkeley, UC Berkeley, East Bay Regional Parks, the City of Oakland, and other agencies is focused through this group)

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

AMENDMENTS

The Parks and Open Space Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT

- **Berkeley Marina Specific Plan**

The Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) Project is a two plus year planning project to provide a path for achieving a financially self-sustainable, publicly owned marina that preserves and enhances infrastructure to support current and future community needs, while adapting to climate change and promoting environmental stewardship. The public process for this project will involve a series of small focus group meetings and large public community meetings to gather public feedback. To-date, four small focus group meetings were held in October 2020.

- **Funding**

Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) capital funding is made up of Recurring Capital¹ from the Parks Tax, General Fund, Marina Fund and the Camps Fund². Below are descriptions of these some of these funding sources.

- Park Tax/ Measure F: The Parks Tax increase approved by Berkeley voters in 2014 has increased parks tax yearly capital by \$750,000, from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, since FY2016. Additionally, Measure F provides a yearly \$450,000 for minor maintenance projects.
- Measure T1: In 2016 voters approved a \$100 million dollar bond measure to repair and improve existing city facilities and infrastructure. The city is currently implementing Phase I of the bond program which includes \$41 million in city wide improvements. Approximately half of which are going towards city parks.
- Measure WW: is a local grant program for the acquisition and development of countywide and regional parks and recreation facilities. It is funded by a bond measure approved by Alameda County and Contra Costa County voters in November 2008. The City of Berkeley's allocation was \$4.876 million and has funded projects through 2019.

- **Recently Completed Capital Improvements Park Projects (last 18 months)**

- Parks – Becky Temko – 2-5 Play Area Renovations and ADA upgrades (WW/Parks Tax)
- Parks – City Wide Irrigation Software Establishment and Controller Replacement (T1)
- Parks – Glendale – La Loma Basketball Court Reconstruction (Parks Tax)
- Parks – Harrison Park – Turf Renovation (Parks Tax)
- Parks – Conceptual Design of Gillman Fieldhouse/Restroom (T1)
- Parks – San Pablo Park – Restroom Building Renovation (Parks Tax)
- Parks – Strawberry Creek Park – Courts Replacement and ADA upgrades (WW/Parks Tax)
- Camps – Berkeley Tuolumne Camp (BTC) Administrative Draft Environmental Assessment and Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (Camps Fund)

- Camps – BTC - Removal of 2000 Hazardous Trees (Camps Fund)
- Camps – BTC - Repairs to Remaining Facilities (Camps Fund)
- Camps – BTC - Removal of Facilities from Archaeological Area (Camps Fund)
- Camps – Echo Lake Camp - Reconstruction of 36 Snow Damaged Cabins (Camps Fund/General Fund)
- Waterfront – Finger Dock Replacement Phase 1 (Marina Fund)
- Waterfront – Rip Rap Replacement at Eastern Side of Cesar Chavez Park (Zero Waste Fund)

- **Berkeley Volunteer Programs**

In 2020 amount of volunteers participated in volunteering events organized by the City. The City of Berkeley has a combination of year-round, monthly or even daily opportunities to volunteer within our department. Below is a brief description of a handful of different opportunities available to Berkeley residents.

- BayIT – Nature Education Training – October 2019 thru March 2020
The Bay Interpretive Training Program was developed to train volunteers in nature education techniques to assist Nature Center staff in teaching Bay ecology to local school groups. The BayIT program involves hands-on training sessions covering such topics as the history of the Bay, marine habitats, and bay shore flora and fauna, with special emphasis on how to teach and use artifacts and live animals.
- Compost Day - Last Saturday of the month February thru October (3rd Sat in July)
@ 7:30am; we work to distribute compost to Berkeley residents at the Meadow Lot along Marina Blvd south of the Doubletree Hotel.
- Volunteer Sports Coaches for Youth Hoops League –November 13, 2019-Feb 2020
Volunteers support our programs by creating a positive learning environment where youth can learn skills and character values. Come volunteer and strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AMENDMENTS

The Conservation Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

- **Regional Networks**

The City participates, often taking leadership roles, in several local and regional environmental management groups including:

- Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)
- Resilient Cities Network (RCN)

- Green Cities California (GCC)
 - California Building Decarbonization Coalition
 - Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC)
 - Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)
 - Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN)
 - StopWaste Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Bay Area Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council and Steering Committee
 - Drive Clean Bay Area (DCBA)
 - The Berkeley Lab Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- **Grants/In-Kind Services**
 - eLab Accelerator on Strategic Electrification and Retirement of Gas Assets: In 2020, the City of [Berkeley participated in the Rocky Mountain Institute's eLab Accelerator Program](#) on strategic electrification and gas distribution system retirement. This project brought together staff from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and other experts. Work continues to develop a proposal for a pilot project for specific location(s) that helps existing buildings switch from natural gas to electric for heating/cooling needs, and to also decommission natural gas infrastructure distribution pipelines. The project seeks to identify regulatory and financial barriers and safe and equitable solutions, though no implementation funding has yet been identified.
 - Building Electrification Institute (BEI): The City is receiving free technical assistance from BEI, to pilot strategies to scale up the electrification of building heating and cooling systems. In 2020 BEI helped conduct a market segmentation analysis of Berkeley's existing building stock to inform the Existing Building Electrification Strategy, and supported Berkeley's eLab Accelerator project to pilot natural gas decommissioning on the neighborhood scale. BEI is supported by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance.
 - Existing Building Electrification Strategy: The City received \$25,000 of in-kind services from the Rocky Mountain Institute to develop a strategy on how to equitably electrify all its existing buildings.
 - Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN):
 - The City received a grant from the USDN to partner with the [Ecology Center](#) and engage [Green the Church \(GTC\)](#), a sustainability initiative led by the Black-run [Church by the Side of the Road \(CBSOR\)](#) in Berkeley, to identify the priorities of frontline communities around the health, safety, resilience, and equitable electrification of buildings. Over the grant period, the Ecology Center built on outreach efforts and deepened relationships with GTC/CBSOR by engaging with church leadership and congregants. This grant allowed Berkeley and the Ecology Center to meet the challenges of COVID-19 by pivoting from traditional in-person outreach to a community-friendly virtual engagement

method, based on a train-the-trainer model that taps the importance of close social knit networks.

- The City was also selected to participate in a USDN Equitable Mobility Workshop series in Nov-Dec 2020 with a community partner, TransForm, to build capacity for our common interest in creating a safe, clean, affordable and accessible transportation system that prioritizes the mobility needs of BIPOC along with low income residents, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, and other oppressed communities. Our work focused on safe, reliable public transit both during and post-pandemic.
- East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW) Partnership: EBEW granted the City \$20,000 to support a utility bill and data management software analysis to improve access to energy and water usage data and streamline the accounts payable process for utility bills for municipal properties.
- East Bay Community Energy (EBCE): EBCE provided free technical assistance to mid-rise multifamily development projects in Berkeley to support all-electric construction. In addition, the City received a \$10,000 grant in Dec 2020 for bringing a reach code, a local amendment to the 2019 California Energy Code, to Berkeley City Council for consideration. Berkeley went beyond the grant threshold with adoption of the reach code, its filing with the California Building Commission, and its approval by the California Energy Commission on February 20, 2020.
- California Resilience Challenge (CRC): Communities along the San Francisco Bay shoreline are preparing for rising sea levels along their respective waterfronts. However, rising sea levels also threaten to cause flooding from below by lifting groundwater tables. The City supported the proposal of, and is participating in the Project Management Team for, the CRC grant with Aquatic Science Center to support research that will help Bay Area communities better understand and plan for the effect of sea level rise on groundwater tables and critical infrastructure.
- **Green Business Program**

The City supports sustainable business practices and partners with the Alameda County Green Business Program to offer support to local businesses that want to improve their environmental practices. The program offers free assistance to businesses to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, conserve water, and divert solid waste from the landfill.
- **Sustainability Outreach**
 - Berkeley Climate Action Coalition (BCAC): The City and local non-profit the Ecology Center co-convene the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition (BCAC), a network of local organizations and community members joining together to help implement the City of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan

- Outreach on clean energy and resilience: The City highlights renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification strategies in outreach efforts. The City continually promotes access to clean energy by educating the community about East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), and the option to opt up to EBCE's Renewable 100 (100% solar and wind) electricity service. The City, in conjunction with StopWaste, promoted workshops about induction cooking, and the BayREN Home+ and BAMBE programs to help homeowners and multifamily property owners access resources and incentives for energy and water saving upgrades to increase savings and resilience, improve indoor air quality and comfort, and decarbonize buildings. The City has increased access to rooftop solar and back-up batteries by streamlining permitting and inspection (nationally recognized with a SolSmart Gold designation in 2018), and by participating in group purchasing bulk discount programs through the seasonal Bay Area SunShares and the new EBCE Resilient Home programs. Both SunShares and EBCE Resilient Home provides time-limited group discounts, vetted providers, community workshops, and a streamlined process to remove barriers to solar adoption.
 - Outreach on clean transportation: Staff conducts outreach on the climate, health and financial benefits of electric transportation, focusing on incentives and special programs for income-qualified drivers. During the pandemic, the City partnered with other non-profits and municipalities through the Drive Clean Bay Area collaborative to host multiple online electric vehicle 101 workshops and virtual electric car and bike showcases, as well as promote financial incentive workshops.
 - Conference/Workshop presentations: In addition to community-facing outreach, the staff from Berkeley's Office of Energy and Sustainable Development spoke at multiple virtual conferences/workshops to share our activities with State regulators and other local governments in 2020. These speaking engagements included a Forth webinar on Right of Way EV Charging, the Zero Carbon Retreat, an Air & Waste Management Association Panel on Building Decarbonization, a Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) webinar on local decarbonization, and a presentation to the California Public Utilities Commission, among others.
- **Vision 2050**
Mayor Arreguin launched [Vision 2050](#), an initiative to encourage long-term planning to meet the serious challenges to our infrastructure, including climate change, inequality, population increases, and obsolescence. The Vision 2050 Task Force was formed in Spring 2018 and included over 40 Berkeley community members with technical expertise and in-depth knowledge. The Task Force released its final report in May 2020 and have convened a Steering Committee that includes City staff as well as community members to lead implementation.

- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory**
In 2020, the City reported¹ to City Council that based on the best currently available data from 2018, the community has reduced overall GHG emissions by 26% since 2000, despite population increasing by 18% and an expanding economy.
- **“A List” City**
The City of Berkeley was celebrated as an [“A List” City by the Carbon Disclosure Project \(CDP\)](#) in 2020 for environmental leadership and action.
- **Covenant of Mayors**
The City of Berkeley in 2020 maintained compliance in the Global Covenant of Mayors.
- **Solar + Storage at Critical Municipal Facilities**
The City is working with EBCE, which received a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to assess the potential for resilient solar + storage systems at critical municipal facilities throughout Alameda County. The City of Berkeley submitted a list of potential critical facilities to the EBCE project portfolio, which totals 300 buildings across Alameda County. EBCE and partners have conducted initial analysis of location and sizing potential for the sites and will launch a territory-wide procurement process that will reduce the cost and complexity of potential system deployment. EBCE plans to release a full Request for Proposals for vendors to bid on the various projects in Summer/Fall 2021. The City will have the opportunity to participate in the procurement and eventual implementation of solar + storage. This project will improve resilience by providing clean renewable back up power when the grid is down and will reduce reliance on polluting diesel generators.
- **Water Consumption**
Water consumption in Berkeley declined by 26% between 2000-2018, as reported in 2020.
- **Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)**
The City of Berkeley continued to enforce the California Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO), regulating the water use of new (500 sq ft or more) or rehabilitated (2,500 sq ft or more) landscapes in projects applying for zoning or buildings permits. In 2020, 16 projects, with a total of 46,165 sq ft of landscaping, were subject to WELO.
- **Urban Greening**
The City of Berkeley received a Prop 84 Urban Greening grant for the [“Trees Build Communities: A Berkeley Urban Forest Expansion Project”](#) in the amount of \$725,878 to focus on expanding the City’s urban forest into the Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Low-Income Communities (LIC) of West and South Berkeley. The project goal is to plant 500 trees.

¹ Report can be found here: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21_Special_Item_05_Climate_Action_Plan_pdf.aspx and presentation can be found here: [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21_Presentations_Item_5_\(6pm\)_Pres_CMO_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21_Presentations_Item_5_(6pm)_Pres_CMO_pdf.aspx)

- **Farmer's Markets**

The Ecology Center Farmers' Markets are open-air marketplaces where California farmers bring fresh, locally-grown produce and farm-processed foods to sell directly to consumers. Our markets feature fruits, vegetables, nuts, baked goods, jams and preserves, juices, olive oils, meat, cheese, prepared foods, nursery plants, and flowers. The markets are committed to supporting small-scale farmers who practice sustainable agriculture, and always accept WIC and EBT.

- **Produce Boxes Pilot:** Produce boxes are now available for preorder and curbside pickup weekly at the Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market. Boxes will have a variety of local, seasonal fruit, vegetables and salad greens from our vendors. Purchases support local farmers as well as youth employment opportunities.

- **Energy Usage Reductions:** As reported in 2020, the Berkeley community's energy usage has declined between 2000 and 2018. The residential sector decreased electricity usage by 20% and natural gas usage by 26%, and the commercial and industrial sectors decreased electricity usage by 32% and natural gas usage by 2%.

- **Municipal Building Retrofits:** Several municipal buildings were undergoing energy efficiency and electrification retrofits in 2020 including:

- Mental Health Clinic – All electric, zero net energy
- North Berkeley Senior Center - Electric water heaters and space heating/cooling, induction cooking range, solar PV-ready
- Live Oak Recreation Center – Solar PV installation, electric heat pump water heaters, energy storage battery-ready
- Public Safety Building - LED lighting, automated demand response (ADR)
- James Kenney Recreation Center - Automated demand response

- **Building Emissions Saving Ordinance:** The City of Berkeley initially adopted the Building Energy Savings Ordinance (BESO) in 2015 to accelerate energy savings in Berkeley's existing buildings. Since its 2015 adoption over 1,600 BESO assessments were completed, more than 1,400 residential units completed an energy upgrade program, and more than 100 large buildings have been regularly tracking and reporting their energy use. However, BESO has relied on voluntary uptake of the assessment recommendations and to achieve Berkeley's climate action goals.

On December 15th, 2020, Berkeley City Council approved amendments to BESO. The name was changed to the Berkeley Emissions Saving Ordinance and several updates were made to align BESO with building electrification goals, leverage upcoming rebates and incentives, improve transparency in real estate sales process, and develop mandatory energy requirements which will be phased in following development, review, and Council approval.

- **East Bay Community Energy:** The City participates on the Joint Powers Agency Board of Directors for the community choice aggregation (CCA) program in Alameda County called the

East Bay Community Energy Authority (EBCE). EBCE began providing electrical account holders with electricity services beginning in June 2018 for commercial, industrial, and municipal customers and to residential customers in November 2018. In April 2018, the City opted up its municipal accounts to receive 100% carbon-free electricity, reducing municipal greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50%. Starting in March 2021, the City's electrical power for municipal buildings will be generated from 100% renewable sources. Authorized by California law in 2002, CCA enables cities and county governments to pool the electricity demand within their jurisdictions in order to procure or generate electrical power supplies on behalf of the residents and businesses in their communities.

- **Natural Gas Prohibition**

In July 2019, the City Council adopted the first ordinance in the nation to prohibit the use of natural gas in newly constructed buildings. The Natural Gas Prohibition became effective on January 1, 2020, and applies to new building applications for land use permits or zoning certificates. New buildings subject to the prohibition use highly efficient heat pumps, for water heating and for heat and air conditioning, and electrical appliances such as induction ranges. This policy supports State and City efforts to decarbonize buildings, removing not only the GHGs produced by the combustion of natural gas (methane) within buildings, but new methane pipeline connections as well, and the leakage associated with this potent, and persistent, GHG.

- **2019 Electric-Favored Energy Reach Code**

In December 2019, Berkeley City Council adopted local amendments to the California Energy Code. This electric-favored "reach code," approved by the California Energy Commission in February 2020, requires newly constructed buildings to include solar PV systems and feature either all-electric systems or mixed-fuel construction that exceeds the efficiency requirements of the Energy Code and includes electric-readiness. The reach code and prohibition work in tandem to support building electrification and its health, safety, and climate benefits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT

The Economic Development and Employment Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ELEMENT

- **Kalag Bagai Way in Downtown Berkeley – Street Renaming**

The City initiated a project renaming two blocks of Shattuck Avenue, Shattuck Square and Berkeley Square in Downtown Berkeley to Kala Bagai Way. This project involved extensive community and business engagement, and satisfies the goals of improving wayfinding and signage in the Downtown Berkeley Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan (SOSIP).

- **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**

The City of Berkeley's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is federally funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and provides access to capital for businesses that don't qualify for traditional commercial loans. All current RLF recipients (8 active loans) were offered a six month pause in monthly payments due to the pandemic.

- **COVID-19 Resiliency Loan Program**

Recognizing the enormous negative impact of COVID-19 on businesses' finances, OED applied for a federal CARES Act grant to provide additional funding to existing businesses. The City was awarded the grant and launched the COVID-19 Resiliency Loan Program (RLP) for Berkeley businesses that are at least two years old and have less than 50 employees. This program streamlines the approval of 0%-1% interest loans for businesses in need of working capital, to provide additional assistance and support for Berkeley's entrepreneurs.

- **Business and Arts Continuity Grant Program and Berkeley Relief Fund**

The Business and Arts Organization Continuity Grant Programs were funded through a \$2M allocation of the City's catastrophic reserve fund on March 17, 2020 to provide assistance to small businesses and arts organizations significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.. \$1 million was allocated to create the Business Continuity Grant Program and \$1 million was allocated to create the Arts Organization Continuity Grant Program, in addition, community leaders launched the Berkeley Relief Fund, a campaign to raise private donations to match the City's contribution. Within six weeks, \$2.6M in grants were awarded and disbursed to 763 recipients in Berkeley's business and arts community.

- **Business Outreach and Technical Assistance**

In calendar year 2020, the Office of Economic Development (OED) conducted the following outreach and technical assistance activities:

- Established an Emergency Business Outreach Team (April 2020) which conducted 5,000 business surveys and approximately 800 phone calls to assess preliminary COVID-19 impacts on Berkeley's business community.
- Fielded thousands of direct business inquiries by phone & email
- Hosted 40+ recovery listening sessions for key industry sectors and arts organizations
- Issued 24 OED newsletters (viewed 33,000+ times) with relevant information and opportunities for businesses
- Partnered with the Berkeley Chamber to organize 13 digital Berkeley Business Forums for the business community at large to gain information, ask questions and share resources
- Conducted field surveys in Berkeley's commercial districts to document business closures, pivots and vacancies
- Published COVID-19 resources for businesses & arts organizations on the City of Berkeley and partner (i.e. Berkeley Chamber, Visit Berkeley) websites
- Published a coordinated a webpage and guide to assist businesses with outdoor commerce installations and worked with local architects and designers to provide accessible design templates and pro-bono assistance.

- **Outdoor Commerce**

Berkeley’s City Council authorized an urgency ordinance in June 2020 to permit outdoor dining and commerce, which the Office of Economic Development was instrumental in coordinating. OED also provided technical assistance to outdoor commerce applicants, including field visits and consultation with permit staff. Over **40** installations of both public and private outdoor commerce were established in Berkeley in 2020.

- **#BerkeleyHolidays Gift Guide and Marketing Campaign – Local Shopping**

A partnership between OED, the Berkeley Chamber, Visit Berkeley and business districts citywide, the #BerkeleyHolidays Gift Guide and marketing campaign promoted safe local shopping during the holiday season. The Gift Guide featured **155** Berkeley businesses, including 86 Woman-owned and 36 Minority-owned businesses

- **Discovered in Berkeley – Local Marketing**

The City seeks to encourage shopping opportunities close to residential neighborhoods, which reduces the need to drive for short trips. Efforts are underway to support expansion of district-based niche marketing campaigns that recognize local strengths and “district identity.” This year, the City continued its marketing initiatives to highlight businesses in several districts. The ‘Discovered in Berkeley’ local marketing campaign featured a thoughtful roster of unique local-serving storefront businesses and the business districts in which they reside, by highlighting Berkeley businesses that fall into the categories of “Food Forward,” “The Upcycle,” and “Dare to Share.”

- **Business Improvement Districts**

The City facilitates five business improvement districts (BIDs) in the Downtown, Telegraph, Elmwood, North Shattuck, and Solano commercial districts that generate funds through a self-assessment to help promote and maintain their districts. There is also a city-wide Tourism BID which is funded by the self-assessment of Berkeley’s hotels and motels and directly supports Visit Berkeley, the City’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. Over the past year, the City has continued to provide technical assistance to each of the BIDs, with particular focus on bolstering the wider Berkeley Business District Network (BBDN) (an organization which all commercial districts participate in), increasing the frequency of meetings to allow for improved communication and sharing across district networks

URBAN DESIGN AND PRESERVATION

AMENDMENTS

The Urban Design and Preservation Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE URBAN DESIGN & PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The City continues to review projects on a case-by-case basis for conformance with the principles, policies and implementation measures of the Urban Design and Preservation Element to ensure that they are

designed to enhance the livability of Berkeley and encourage a high level of quality design while encouraging well designed sustainability measures.

Preservation

- Four properties were designated as City Landmarks and added to the local register:
 - 2328 Channing Way
 - 1 Orchard Lane
 - 2136-54 San Pablo Avenue
 - 2043 Lincoln Street
- The City maintained its CLG status in 2020 and continues to maintain a formal partnership with SHPO. Other organizations, such as BAHA, communicated regularly with the City in 2020 through correspondence and presentations to LPC.
- In 2020, a seismic retrofit program continued to provide incentives for the owners of “soft-story” properties, including several historically significant properties, to complete seismic upgrades.
- The City received and reviewed two requests for Mills Act contracts in 2020; final approval and execute are pending in 2021.
- In 2020, at least one project involving the rehabilitation of a historically significant building at 2580 Bancroft Way requested and receive expedited building permit review.
- In 2020, the LPC received a presentation by UC staff on the preservation aspects of its pending Long Range Development Plan.
- In 2020, the City completed a Civic Center Rehabilitation Envisioning community outreach effort; a rehabilitation program will be planned in the coming years.
- New development is encouraged throughout the City where infill proves viable. These areas may contain historic resources, and the City’s ongoing practice encourages retention of resources and treatments consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. An example in 2020 includes the pending application for new construction at 2328 Channing Way.
- In 2020, the City maintained its membership in the California Preservation Foundation, which gives and encourages public recognition of preservation work.

Urban Design

- The Joint Subcommittee for Implementation of State Housing Laws (JSHIHL) made a favorable motion in July 2020 to refer Staff’s work to City Council with a request for further review and development by the Design Review Committee and Planning Commission.

There have been no new changes to the citizen input in the design review process or the membership requirements of the Design Review Committee (DRC) this year.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

AMENDMENTS

The Citizen Participation Element was not amended during CY 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS AND GUIDING POLICIES OF THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Land Use Planning Commissions and Bodies

Citizen participation takes place in the arena of policy-making and advisory citizen bodies, such as the Berkeley City Council, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Adjustments Board. In accordance with the [Health Officer's Stay at Home Order](#) the majority of public meetings were held remotely through video hosting platforms in 2020.

Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, the following commissions held over 50 public meetings where projects and land use policies were discussed:

- Zoning Adjustments Board
- Planning Commission
- Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Design Review Committee
- Adeline Corridor Plan Subcommittee
- Zoning Ordinance Revision Project (ZORP)