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SURPRISE!

Houston Quietly Launches a Climate Action Plan

We're going carbon neutral by 2050, y'all.

By [Gwendolyn Knapp](#) • 4/22/2020 at 3:14pm

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Houston joins the fight to tackle climate change.

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JUST IN TIME FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY, Houston has just launched its first-ever [Climate Action Plan](#), joining [hundreds of cities](#) in the US with like-minded, science-backed, and community-driven strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions before we all turn our planet into a giant, raging fire ball floating atop a bubbling hot ocean of acid, i.e. literal hell.

While the details about our Climate Action Plan are still developing, and we'll likely find out more—and be able to process much more—in the days ahead, after we deal with [flattening our COVID-19 curve](#), here are some things we do know: The city intends to meet the Paris Agreement's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, and lead the global energy transition. It will target four main areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the plan has the support of major energy industry players and environmental groups alike, including Shell, Chevron, BP, NRG, The Nature Conservancy, Air Alliance Houston, and more.

Here's a quick run down:

TRANSPORTATION		TARGET	
	Goal 1: Shift regional fleet to electric and low-emission vehicles.		1 Convert non-emergency, light-duty municipal fleet to 100% EV by 2030.
	Goal 2: Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita.		2 Reduce VMT per capita 20% by 2050.
	Goal 3: Provide equitable and safe mobility choices.		3 Zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on Houston streets by 2030. 500 miles of high-comfort bike lanes by 2025.
ENERGY TRANSITION		TARGET	
	Goal 1: Grow Houston's investment in renewable and resilient energy.		4 5 million MWh local solar per year by 2050.
	Goal 2: Make Houston the leader in carbon capture technology and energy innovation.		5 Attract or incubate 50 Energy 2.0 companies in Greater Houston by 2025.
	Goal 3: Restore, protect, and enhance Houston's natural ability to capture and store carbon.		6 4.6 million new native trees planted by 2030.
BUILDING OPTIMIZATION		TARGET	
	Goal 1: Reduce building energy use and maximize savings.		7 Adopt the 2021 ICC model building code by 2025 with a minimum 5-year update.
	Goal 2: Expand investment in energy efficiency.		8 Double the current number of PACE projects by 2025.
	Goal 3: Invest in skilled local jobs to optimize building operations.		9 70% of non-residential buildings operated by trained building operator by 2030.
WASTE MANAGEMENT		TARGET	

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT		TARGET
	Goal 1: Reduce waste and transform the circular economy.	 Reduce residential waste 50% by 2040.
	Goal 2: Optimize waste operations and create power from waste.	 Convert municipal solid waste fleet to low-emission vehicles by 2030.
	Goal 3: Ensure safe and cost-effective long-term disposal capacity.	 Adopt Long Range Solid Waste Plan in 2020.

IMAGE: [COURTESY OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON](#)

Download the full plan at greenhouston.tx.gov, and stay tuned as we find out more about Houston's move to a greener future.

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447 Heights Boulevard, Houston, TX 77007
Phone: 713-862-4570 • Fax: 713-862-4606



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