



SUSTAINABILITY

# ECO-TRENDS

FOR A MORE CLIMATE READY SAN ANTONIO



Summer 2024



# COMMUNITY COOL NEIGHBORHOODS


FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE SAN ANTONIO

Heat is on the rise, and San Antonio is only getting hotter. A research study by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) showed Districts 2, 3, and 5 are some of the hottest districts in our City. High temperatures in our city are increasing every year, and it doesn't just cause air pollution and public health issues; it can be fatal for some, especially children and seniors. This summer, the Office of Sustainability initiated a series of outreach events in a few of our most heat and equity impacted neighborhoods to launch the Cool Neighborhood Program. This program aims to implement various heat reduction strategies in these communities.

## LISTENING TO OUR RESIDENTS

We launched an online survey to gather feedback from San Antonio residents about their concerns and thoughts on extreme heat and learn about their ideas for a cooler city.

### SURVEY RESULTS



**PARTICIPANTS**  
1,261



**TOP 3**  
solutions survey respondents would like to see to help cool their neighborhood.

- 74% More and/or better maintained street trees
- 72% Shade structures
- 67% More green spaces



**TOP 3**  
Concerns from respondents about extreme heat?

- 88% Increased energy costs from air conditioning
- 86% Too hot to walk, bike or spend time outside
- 74% Increased health risks and impacts

### RESPONSES INCLUDED



"I live close to downtown and many of the areas nearby could use more shade, including the bus stops—people are heat stressed and I see it."

"Too hot to go outside after noon, it's like being snowbound by the heat."

"Increasingly worrying for older adults and children. Also, it's incredibly unsafe to not have cooling efforts at bus stops. No shade is a terrible thing to do to our most vulnerable populations."

"Living near a busy street during the summer and taking public transportation is not comfortable and at times feels dangerous because of the excessive heat and lack of shade."

"Much hotter than I remember as a kid growing up here 20 years ago. It's very concerning and my family has even talked about moving to a cooler climate."

"Summers are hot and oppressive. I've noticed that few people run or ride bikes anymore. Children do not play outside."

"Getting hotter and impacting social isolation and mental health."





# SA CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY ACTION FUND!

**INCREASING AWARENESS AND EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY**

The Office of Sustainability launched the Community Action Fund through the Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability (REES) Fund to support SA Climate Ready initiatives and other sustainability efforts. Local businesses and community organizations were awarded \$20,000 each to fund various sustainable projects.

## KEY SUSTAINABILITY AREAS



**Reduce Building Energy Consumption**



**Reduce Transportation Energy Consumption**



**Advance the Circular Economy & Promote Waste Reduction**



**Promote Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems**



**Increase Climate Resilience and Community Adaptation**

## 2024 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

### Neighborhood & Community Grant Program

**57**

**GRANTS AWARDED**

**\$1,086,500**

**TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED**

Provided to religious organizations, neighborhood associations, school districts, non-profits, and community groups.

### Business Grant Program

**60**

**GRANTS AWARDED**

**\$1,163,388**

**TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED**

**34** of the grants were awarded to small, minority, and women-owned businesses (SMWB)

A historic number of grants were awarded in the Building Energy Consumption category, focusing on energy efficiency, weatherization upgrades, and solar canopy projects. **25** in Neighborhood and Community and **37** in Business





# SA CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

## GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY-BASED COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT GRANT



San Antonio River Foundation



Maestro Entrepreneur Center



San Antonio Botanical Garden



EcoRise Youth Innivations



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



San Antonio LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce



Blessed Sacrament Academy



Project Bloom



William R. Sinkin Eco-Centro Alamo Colleges



Society of Native Nations



Energy Efficiency Interactive Workshops for Homeowners



Ghisallo Cycling Initiative



Eco Kids Club



UT Health San Antonio

### EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



Green Spaces



Sustainability Themed Media Campaigns



Sustainable Events



Circular Economy



Sustainability Education



Sustainable Transportation

The core of the SA Climate Ready Action and Adaptation Plan is educating residents and businesses about climate action and empowering San Antonians to make actionable changes. This grant will help inform the community about the benefits of climate action and adaptation

### 2024 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Neighborhood & Community Grant Program

15

GRANTS AWARDED

118,730

TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED

Provided to Chambers of Commerce, Non-Profits, Faith-Based Organizations, and Community Organizations Neighborhood Associations

54

RECORD NUMBER OF APPLICANTS COMPARED TO THE 15 IN 2023!





# CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

The San Antonio Climate Ready Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is our city's dynamic roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, boosting energy efficiency, and promoting sustainability citywide. This essential plan is key to protecting our environment, safeguarding public health, and driving economic growth.

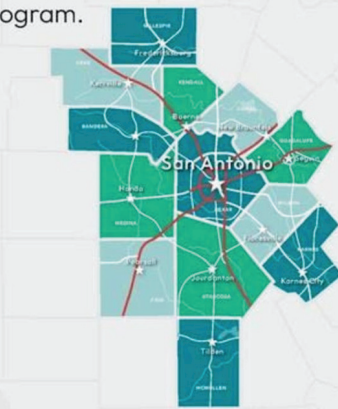
Adopted in 2019, we are now updating the CAAP, as part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) process, to address our city's increasing climate challenges. We are also collaborating with the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), and residents to develop the Alamo Area Climate Plan to create a roadmap for a more sustainable and resilient region.

As we gather more data, we will roll out a public engagement plan to collect input from residents in the coming months. The CAAP is paving the way for San Antonio's transition to a greener, more resilient future, ensuring a high quality of life for both current and future generations.

\$1 million dollar grant awarded to the City of San Antonio from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.

THE GRANT WILL BE USED FOR THREE INTER-RELATED INITIATIVES:

- 1 Updating the City of San Antonio Climate Action & Adaptation Plan with **prioritized greenhouse gas emission reduction** targets.
- 2 A regional **climate planning and action effort** led by Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) focused on their 13-county service area.
- 3 **Prioritizing emissions reduction strategies** that can be implemented on a regional scale and are competitive for future EPA implementation grant funding.



"Climate action takes the collaborative work of all jurisdictions, at all levels, so our region can make informed decisions about addressing present and future challenges. We applaud the EPA for providing resources to strengthen local partnerships to address this global issue."

— MAYOR RON NIRENBERG





# TRANSPORTATION

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT

The City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability has received a \$1.2 million grant from the Department of Energy to boost energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and cut transportation-related emissions. The funds will support three initiatives to be launched in FY2025.

### Energy Master Plan (EMP) for San Antonio International Airport (SAT):

Developed by the City's Aviation Department, this plan will enhance the airport's energy reliability, resilience, and efficiency, leading to cost savings and reduced environmental impact.



### Multi-Family Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Access Program:

In collaboration with Opportunity Home San Antonio, this program will install Level 2 EV chargers at select multifamily residences, improving air quality, lowering carbon emissions, and expanding charging infrastructure in underserved communities.



### Low-Income E-bike Rebate Pilot Program:

This program will offer point-of-sale vouchers for Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes to eligible Opportunity Home residents, promoting sustainable transportation options.





# ENERGY

## MUNICIPAL ON-SITE SOLAR PROGRAM

### CITY APPROVED

\$30M master services agreement with local developer Big Sun Solar to install 13.1 megawatts (MW) of solar at 42 city-owned facilities.



### SAVINGS

The annual utility savings is estimated to be  
**\$1.8M**



### MILESTONE

**LARGEST** on-site solar initiative by any local government in Texas second largest multi-site, on-site solar endeavors in the nation. NYC is #1.



### ACHIEVEMENT

Among the first to leverage new Inflation Reduction Act incentives, and the Direct Pay, allowing the city to own the system and benefit from tax credits.



This project will reduce COSA's building-related emissions by 18%. Completion of 18 sites is anticipated by December 2024, setting a new standard for sustainable urban development.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BIG SUN SOLAR



# TEXAS SOLAR FOR ALL

The Texas Solar for All Coalition, including HARC, has been awarded a \$249.7 million EPA grant to enhance solar access for low-income and disadvantaged communities across Texas, aiming to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions significantly. This initiative will deliver solar solutions to over 46,000 households, boosting community resilience and supporting local economic growth through job creation and business development. The City of San Antonio's allocation is \$21.86M and will be utilized to provide low-income households with the financial benefits of on-site or community solar, as well as battery storage. Planning for program design will begin in September 2024.



We have accelerated through 2024 with our robust transformative climate programs and initiatives portfolio. We invite you to learn more about our progress. This year, more than ever, our relationships with San Antonio residents, community-based organizations, businesses, and our internal and external stakeholders and partners have furthered our city's dedication to sustainability and resilience.

San Antonio is unique, and the Office of Sustainability has weaved that into our climate planning process through our grassroots approach to climate change. To date, we have gathered citizen input from the city's most climate-sensitive neighborhoods regarding the effects of Urban Heat Islands and empowered local community-based organizations and small businesses with grants to implement sustainable projects and initiatives.

We continue progressing with the municipal onsite solar project, our employee climate education and training, and the scheduled SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan update. Climate change is here, and the overwhelming community response we have received tells us we are charting the right course together.



**DOUGLAS MELNICK**  
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



**SUSTAINABILITY**