

Environmental Stewardship: Policy Choices

This board outlines policy choices that the City may consider concerning climate action goals, and how to manage and plan for open lands.

Climate Change

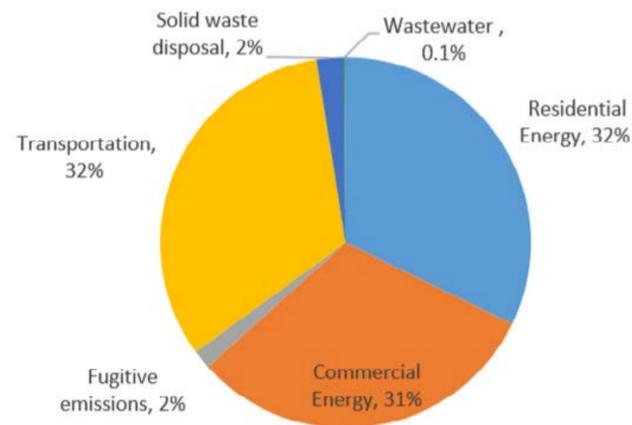
BACKGROUND

The City is committed to reducing its impact on a changing climate and has adopted community-wide climate goals to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030 and an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. As of 2015, Lafayette's total GHG emissions inventory was 287,604 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mtCO₂e). This represents approximately a 5% reduction from 2005 levels. The transportation, commercial, and residential sectors represent the largest share of emissions, and thus the greatest opportunities for emission reductions.

POLICY OPTIONS

The Comprehensive Plan could support these goals by:

- Encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy in new construction and existing development
- Linking residential and commercial areas to multimodal transportation opportunities (e.g., transit, sidewalks, and trails)
- Identifying areas that could be appropriate for community solar gardens



Open Lands

BACKGROUND

Open space is a key component of Lafayette's unique community character. Importantly, the preservation and creation of open space can help contribute to environmental stewardship, by providing habitat for native species, improving air and water quality, and reducing the City's carbon footprint. As outlined in Lafayette's 2019 Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update, the City is committed to the following 5 goals:

1. Maintain what we have
2. Provide capital and operational improvements to meet community needs
3. Continue open space system maturation
4. Continue attention on advancing a healthy and "active Lafayette"
5. Continue to advance best management practices

As of 2019, the City boasts 1,466 acres of solely and jointly owned designated open space and over 20 miles of open space trails.

POLICY OPTIONS

The Comprehensive Plan could support these goals by:

- Clarifying what future and alternative uses might be acceptable or not in open space areas (e.g., solar arrays, playgrounds, small-scale agriculture)
- Identifying where open spaces could be connected or enhanced as development occurs

