

Energy Subcommittee Prioritization of Potential Climate Actions in Sebastopol 08/17/2021

Title	Description	Group Rank	Narrative	Impact	Difficulty	Controversial	Cost	Completion Time
Municipal Solar	Upgrade existing City-owned solar with storage	hi	Solar systems without storage are disruptive to the grid. Storage will help stabilize the grid as additional solar is added throughout the community and will support better resilience as climate changes continue to impact the city's access to energy.	medium medium medium	medium hi medium	low medium low	hi hi hi	medium hi medium
Municipal Solar	Microgrid study	hi	The 100 year old grid is currently experiencing a major change. DER (Distributed Energy Resources) is a key part of that change. Currently regulation and state law makes creation of microgrids (spanning properties) impossible. The IOUs are in the process of helping to change the regulations, tariffs, and schedules to support development of microgrids. Sebastopol can take advantage of these changes to improve resiliency by supporting the deployment of microgrids throughout the 3 branches that currently feed the city.	medium low hi	hi hi hi	low low medium	low medium medium	hi medium hi
Moratorium on New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure	Revised Municipal code to not allow expansion of gas stations	hi	In the process of being completed... These are facilities with high cleanup costs and low likely future value.	low low medium	low trivial medium	medium trivial hi	low trivial low	low trivial medium
Oversight of Procurement	Develop a set of criteria for the city to use for evaluating alternatives in purchasing and services (for energy specific criteria)	hi	The city has criteria for identifying what contracts and purchases from multiple options to consider. This initiative would be to develop criteria with energy and climate preparedness criteria that will be used in evaluating alternatives for any city purchase or contract decision. This is rated highly as a "walk the talk" point.	medium low medium	low medium low	low low low	trivial low low	medium medium low
Data Gathering	Annual Reporting of Consumption - Local methane gas and Electricity Baseline Data	hi	You can't control or improve what you don't measure. Step one in determining what initiatives and if initiatives are successful, is to measure their outcomes	medium low medium	medium low medium	trivial trivial trivial	trivial low low	medium low low
Data Gathering	Evaluation of existing municipal solar and utility use	hi	A measure of the success of staff to manage the city should be how they manage the energy of the municipal facilities. As important as recognizing if our energy collection continues to be successful, is to determine whether our energy conservation efforts are bearing fruit.	medium low medium	medium medium low	trivial trivial trivial	trivial low low	medium medium low
Education	Training for contractors on how to install heat pumps, or provide incentives for contractors to complete training, or provide incentives for contractors who complete a job using heat pumps within city limits.	hi	At the state level and locally, instances have been documented where inefficient equipment is being installed in modern buildings. The primary cause has been a lack of awareness and retraining for the trades. The state has multiple workforce development initiatives in place, including sponsoring training through the various energy utilities. We had substantial discussion on how to require or incentivize contractors who work in Sebastopol to have the training required to support development of all electric and higher efficiency buildings. This is ranked hi even though we could not suggest how this might be done.	hi hi hi	medium hi medium	low low trivial	medium low low	hi low medium
Education	News letter things you can do and what people have done to reduce energy use, or electrify your home, decarbonize your energy	hi	Awareness of what one can do, so that market demand can help push change seems a simple way to improve our building stock.	medium medium medium	medium medium low	low trivial trivial	low low trivial	medium medium trivial
Work to accelerate transportation electrification	Revitalize study of where EV stations can be installed easily	hi	Some EV stations are in locations that are not obvious or convenient. Another consideration is the expense of extending high voltage lines to support the 2026 updates for public fast chargers. Two different types of station facilities are required; those on a trip (looking for 100-350 kW) and those without charging options in their home (7kW 220, in locations where vehicle can be parked overnight)	medium low medium low	low medium medium low	trivial trivial low trivial	low low medium trivial	low medium medium trivial
Fund a grant writer to find money for climate initiatives	Grant writer to look for funds, for example microgrids study and later implementation	hi	Generally, there are specific grants available for many of the initiatives being considered. Often little time is available to complete the grant writing. Someone with the skill and discipline to organize grants will allow us to consider many more community energy upgrade options.	medium low hi medium	medium medium medium medium	low medium low trivial	hi medium low medium	medium medium medium low

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Community Solar	Communal Array that local residents can subscribe to. Option instead of installing solar on own rooftop	hi	Recent regulation change appears to support the creation of community solar and storage. For those who rent or have conditions where they cannot install solar and storage at their home, this would provide a way for residents and businesses to invest in (and receive the financial benefits of) solar options. As well, this is important as a measure to address equity issues as more and more private home owners reduce their payments to the public grid.	hi	hi	low	hi	hi
All Electric Reach Code	Require major remodels to use only electric appliances	medium	A number of communities have adopted this approach. However, this is ranked down in favor of the approach likely to be used in the revised Title 24. Communities which have adopted this change include exceptions to support businesses as the available equipment and practices change so that gas is no longer preferred.	medium medium medium	medium hi low	hi hi hi	trivial medium hi	low hi medium
All Electric Reach Code	Require new construction to use only electric appliances	medium	A number of communities have adopted this approach. However, this is ranked down in favor of the approach likely to be used in the revised Title 24	medium medium medium	medium hi low	hi hi medium	trivial medium low	low hi trivial
All Electric Reach Code	Require any remodel to install sufficient electrical service to the appliance location for an electric equivalent	medium	It is likely that Title 24 2022 will require this already. The basic rationale for this move is to make the electric path easier in the future by removing a cost barrier. As well, a requirement such as this will support changing of the contractor trades and licenses that currently exist so they better meet future needs.	medium medium	low low	low hi	trivial hi	low medium
All Electric Reach Code	Review existing Seb ordinances and code to insure it complies with 2022 Title 24 and evaluate of existing building requirements for residential and commercial solar	medium	The Sebastopol ordinances and code should be reviewed to insure that they support tackling the climate emergency. Many of the existing ordinances were drafted in years when other concerns were of higher importance to the community. Many of the existing ordinances are not actively enforced and a review will both highlight discrepancies and identify areas that are of significant enough importance that some enforcement mechanism will also be identified.	low low medium	low medium trivial	trivial low trivial	trivial trivial low	low low low
Education	A program to focus on neighbor energy like CERT	medium	Though this was a good idea, we considered it would be difficult to implement and sustain. Though a good direction, we considered it would not result in substantial impact. That lowered our ranking.	low medium medium	hi medium hi	trivial trivial low	trivial low low	hi medium medium
Education	Create program to train home owners on what they can do (tabling/website/etc)	medium	Awareness of what one can do, so that market demand can help push change seems a simple way to improve our building stock. However, the number of people who might be contacted, seemed to not have enough impactful for the sustained effort required.	hi medium medium low	medium low medium low	low trivial trivial trivial	low low medium trivial	low low trivial
Increase signage for EV refueling	EV stations are in many places, but you have to look for them instead of them saying "over here!" This mainly to get gas users comfortable that infrastructure exists.	medium	Gas stations have signs everywhere. EV stations have no signs. Signage is important for two reasons: First to assist the EV driver. Second, to inform the non-EV driver that EV driving is no longer the exception.	medium low low hi	medium medium low medium	trivial trivial trivial low	medium low low medium	medium medium low
Municipal Solar	Expand the amount of city-owned solar - finding locations	low	Expanding the review beyond city facilities was preferred over the modest gains that could be achieved by focusing on city-owned facilities	medium low low	low medium medium	low trivial trivial	hi medium low	medium medium medium
Education	Create events - a home owner's expo	low	Santa Clara has such a forum each year. This seemed to be of a scale too large for Sebastopol to consider. As well, those who attend normally are looking for specific product solutions rather than general knowledge.	medium low hi medium	hi medium medium hi	trivial trivial trivial trivial	medium low medium medium	hi low medium