

Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Equity Assessment Matrix

Project/Program/Policy: Increase In Utility Users Tax (UUT) To Fund Local Climate Actions

Working Group/Lead Members: Funding Subcommittee

Timeline Summary: Six weeks of study and review of utility users tax local history, analysis of adoption of similar funding models in Albany, California, and drafting the proposal. If the Climate Committee approves the request for information regarding the UUT, then it might take 12 weeks to draft a measure and get it submitted to the city council. The required deadline for completion is tied to the 2022 election. According to City Clerk Mary Gourley, the council would have until the first week of August 2022 to place a ballot measure on the November 2022 ballot.

| Who might be affected by this project?* | Potential benefits of project | Potential harms of project | How has this affected group been involved in designing this project? | How does this community provide feedback regarding this project? | Comments/analysis/plans and proposed mitigations, if any |
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| All PG&E customers within Sebastopol city limits that are not exempt from the UUT. | Recurring revenue stream to fund local climate actions. | <p>Moderate income households that don't meet the existing UUT exemption thresholds will be paying more for energy in their homes.</p> <p>Local businesses will be paying more for energy.</p> | <p>They have not been involved yet. There are some prerequisites for involvement.</p> <p>We first need our questions answered from staff regarding the existing cost impacts of the UUT to formulate a new UUT rate.</p> <p>We also need the questions answered by staff for the feasibility of households just over the existing exemption thresholds to opt out of tax.</p> | <p>At the City Council as they adopt the ballot measure language and ultimately at the ballot box.</p> <p>In order to ensure robust public participation as the public process unfolds, the city and members of the SCAC could carry out supplemental outreach to communities of concern.</p> | <p>A proposed mitigation is in the proposal to provide a mechanism for households just over the income thresholds to claim an exemption for the increased tax.</p> <p>The city can step up education for households being able to claim the UUT exemption.</p> <p>Additional funding from this UUT proposal can be used for climate actions that help meet needs of low and moderate income households.</p> |