Considerations for Establishing Energy and Climate Goals

City Staff are actively considering a number of issues as the City of Oakland establishes specific energy and climate goals. Staff would appreciate your thoughts and input on the following issues. Please provide comments in the space below and email to climateaction@oaklandnet.com.

- How should Oakland’s citywide energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) performance goals be quantifiably expressed, and why? Please provide thoughts on setting the magnitude (e.g., 15% reduction), relative baseline year (e.g., 2005), timeframe (e.g., within 15 years), or other issues related to establishing citywide goals.

- Are there particular standards or goals advocated by other organizations that Oakland’s energy and climate goals should be aligned with? How should Oakland’s goals align with these?

- Relative to other organizations (e.g., State and regional agencies, local businesses, community-based organizations) and individual community members, what role should the Oakland City government play in helping Oakland achieve citywide GHG goals?

- In what manner and how often should progress toward citywide GHG performance goals be measured and reported? How often should the City revisit its GHG reduction goals and plans?
Some policies and actions that could be undertaken by the Oakland city government might result in significant GHG reductions in other geographic communities or in the future in ways that are difficult to represent in a traditional inventory of Oakland citywide GHG emissions. For example:

- Fostering population movement to dense, transit-served urban centers like Oakland may lead to statewide reductions in vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG emissions (while possibly increasing vehicle use and GHG emissions within Oakland);
- Fostering decreased consumption of material resources can help to conserve fossil fuel energy use associated with production and transportation of goods outside of Oakland; &
- Fostering decreased generation of waste sent to landfill may lead to reductions in landfill methane in another city where Oakland’s waste is sent.

In many cases these ‘lifecycle’ benefits occur elsewhere and can be difficult to quantify accurately. In situations where the GHG reduction benefits of these kinds of actions can be estimated, how should they be represented and valued relative to Oakland’s GHG performance goals?

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Should Oakland’s future citywide GHG goals be defined on an absolute basis (e.g., tons per year), per capita basis, other basis, or some combination of these? How would you describe the goals?

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What motivates your interest in energy and climate progress in Oakland?

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Please provide any additional comments regarding the establishment of Oakland energy and climate goals below.

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Personal Affiliation: Please provide any descriptive information you wish about your personal and/or professional affiliations (e.g., local business owner, student, coalition member)