



CAAP Stakeholder Report

Stakeholder Workshops

May 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

May 20, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Attendance

Roughly 25 people per event

A list of names is on the last page of this report. (omitted for publication)

Location

City Council Chambers

Approach

As the City of La Canada Flintridge moves into the strategy development phase of the CAAP, the city conducted two workshops to better understand the high-level priorities of the community. The goal of these stakeholder events was to provide a discussion forum on a range of issues relating to the development and implementation of new and expanded environmental goals and strategies.

Kristin Cushman, CEO of Blue Strike Environmental facilitated the discussion, along with Ben Fordham with Blue Strike and Eleni Getachew with Impact Sciences. Emily Stadnicki was in attendance.

Blue Strike presented the stakeholders with strategies that are considered best practices in the climate industry, organized into four sectors: Transportation, Energy, Resource Conservation, and the Green Community. As each best practice was introduced, the conversation revealed how relevant each was to the city and uncovered existing gaps and opportunities worth discussing.

In the GAP analysis section of this report, each best practice is listed, followed by baseline findings and reactions as well as gaps that need to be further addressed. From this baseline and gap analysis, we created a first draft of preliminary recommended strategies that we might want to further vet as a CAAP Committee.

In the TOP 10 "Bang for your Buck" section, we have compiled a list of the one thing that each stakeholder would hope to see enacted in the CAAP. Each stakeholder was asked "What one thing would be on your wishlist that you would like to see in the CAAP?" and "What is one thing that you think is realistic that you hope to see in the CAAP?".

GAP Analysis

Transportation

Initiate a car free day for the school district.

Baseline

- A large percentage of students live outside of the city limits. Many parents shuttle their kids to school but would like to have another option. Kids use the public transit after school to get around.

Gaps

- There is no school bus system.
- There are no solutions for transporting kids to private school.

Recommendation

- Revisit initiating a school bus route.
- Expand and promote car sharing programs.
- Improve safety by adding more sidewalks around town.

Transition cross-town transit shuttle to all electric

Baseline

- There is an existing cross-town shuttle but it is not electric.
- People did not think a Scooter program would make sense along Foothill.
- An estimated 15% of students live outside of the district.

Gaps

- There was concern that the bus was not frequent enough; the website is not reliable.
- The bus route does not expand into the neighborhoods; concern about the steep hills.
- As school lets out, it is often that the buses are so crowded that students can't get on.
- There are no easy transit options to move people beyond the city.
- Need more reliable links to get to the Metro.
- Cost

Recommendation

- Expand and promote car sharing programs.
- Expand transit route and frequency; transition to small buses (trolleys) that can access neighborhoods. Estimated 20-30 minute wait between pick up times.
- Transition bus and/or trolleys to all electric.
- Consider rideshare options to LAX, similar to the beach bus.
- Assess and promote Park- n- Ride options for commuters outside of the city.
- Consider an eBike sharing program in and around the city.
- Consider hybrid schedules for people who work in and out of the city.

Explore preferred EV-only parking spaces in high traffic areas.

Baseline

- There was a lot of interest in better supporting EV parking in town; by a show of hands, roughly 90% of the people owned EVs.

Gaps

- Although people liked the idea of preferred parking spaces, they all charge at home so didn't feel the need to add charging stations.
- Two EV charging stations not working

Recommendation

- Conduct an assessment to understand if current EV charging infrastructure is sufficient for visitors.
- Consider high traffic areas where preferred parking could be implemented (grocery stores, Town Center, etc.)
- Consider an anti-idling campaign.

Set goal of all new City vehicle purchases as EVs by 2030

Baseline

- There are five city-owned vehicles.
- Overall discussion on how small the city's emissions will be; a large focus of the CAAP should be around residential behavior change programs and incentives.

Gaps

- None

Recommendation

- Establish a "purchasing standard" that requires the city to transition vehicles to all electric as new vehicles are purchased.

Incorporate a bike lane through town.

Baseline

- There was little interest in biking; a few raised their hands and said they would bike more often if there was a bike route within the city.
- The streets are wide enough to earmark space for a bike lane along Foothill and in the neighborhoods.

Gaps

- The steep hills were a primary deterrent to biking.
- Crossing the bridge into town across 210 is not safe for walking or biking.
- The physical layout of the city makes walking and biking challenging.
- No organized bike parking infrastructure.

Recommendation

- Write a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Energy

Consider renewable natural gas programs.

Baseline

- Eliminating natural gas in residential homes was not well received.
- We spoke about some renewable natural gas programs that could be an option, but most were skeptical.
- Other REACH codes were discussed, and people seemed more interested in energy efficiency and solar.
- We discussed the commercial Green Business Program and how that could be transitioned into a residential program.

- Discussed long term concepts around creating a city run “virtual power plant”, similar to the city of Lancaster.

Gaps

- There is no city staff dedicated to educating residents on where to find resources or to answer questions; need staff rather than another resource page on the website.
- Residential solar seems to have challenges due to the large number of trees.
- There are no incentive programs within the city to subsidize the cost of energy efficiency.

Recommendation

- Consider joining the Clean Power Alliance that would build revenue that could be reinvested in city projects and incentive programs.
- Promote the Green Business Program to commercial businesses.

Mandate energy retrofits at the time of property resale

Baseline

- People felt that education was a better approach than making a requirement (i.e. All remodels are required to transition to all electric).

Gaps

- Assess the need.
- Learn about CPACE which is a funding mechanism assigning retrofit cost to the value of your home.

Recommendation

- Establish REACH code: Upgrade electrical panel with sufficient capacity to serve electrical equipment and appliances, and electric vehicle.

Ban gas-powered lawn equipment.

Baseline

- It was clear that this was a hot topic. By a show of hands, 90% of the people expressed anger around this topic.
- We discussed the recent vote by the City Council to not approve this ban.
- GHG emission inventory includes yard equipment and construction vehicles.

Gaps

- Need a better understanding of why this ban got voted down.

Recommendation

- The consultancy team will find out more information about this topic.

Explore battery storage for City facilities, especially cooling centers.

Baseline

- People liked this idea and suggested the City Hall building, High School, or Library

Gaps

- There are no emergency shelters with the ability to maintain power during a climate crisis.
- There is a need for a list of solar installers in the area, similar to the Tree Arborist list.
- Elementary school is going through renovation, but plans do not include solar.
- Need to prepare for Public Power Shut off events.

Recommendation

- Write a formal Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Communicate how to access this plan across all demographics within the city.

- Consider a residential and commercial “Bulk Purchasing” solar agreement to bring upfront costs down.

Resource Conservation

Require water-saving landscaping in all new construction.

Baseline

- La Canada has a lot of land covered by residential lawns. By a show of hands, 50% said they would give up their lawns for more native plants.

Gaps

- No education around the state’s native plant incentive programs.
- No control of the water companies

Recommendation

- Establish REACH code: Require irrigation with recycled water for common landscaping in single-family developments.
- Limit residential water use during drought months; establish enforcement strategies

Establish franchise agreement for waste hauling.

Baseline

- There are multiple waste haulers which makes recycling programs confusing. They each have different recycling guidelines.

Gaps

- No Consistency
- Not enough education
- There is no focus on SB 1383 food waste and recovery ordinance.
- Schools offer a great opportunity to launch zero waste programs and education; start young.
- City trash cans not labeled; no recycling at City Hall. What about across town?

Recommendation

- Author a Franchise Agreement for the entire city.
- Expand diversion policies according to state mandated SB 1383 food recovery networks.
- Partner with the High School Environmental Club to pilot a zero-waste program.
- Partner with waste haulers to bring zero waste programs to all city sponsored community events.
- Consider a publicly accessible Reuse, Repair, Recovery, and Refurbishment outlet (partner with a local non-profit).

Design a Train the Trainer campaign to disseminate information around waste and energy initiatives.

Baseline

- There fractured communication structures within waste, water, and energy utilities.

Gaps

- There is no formal structure for disseminating information beyond city channels.
- Need more consistent marketing.

Recommendation

- Establish Neighborhood Watch programs to create stronger, more mobilized communities.
- Partner with nonprofits such as the Climate Coalition and the High School's Environmental Club.
- Launch a Sustainability Speaker series or newsletter.

Green Community

Create guidelines for improved stormwater management and thermal comfort in new construction.

Baseline

- There was concern about the lack of planning around stormwater capture.

Gaps

- Need a formal plan.

Recommendation

- Write a Stormwater Management Plan

Improve the use of sustainable materials in new construction.

Baseline

- The city is replacing median strips with native plants. People like this.

Gaps

- Suggest a ban on plastic grass.
- Is there a city policy to use reflective materials when replacing a roof?

Recommendation

- Explore Passive House standards.
- Increase the number of LEED certified buildings.

Identify areas of town that could be targeted for community gathering places.

Baseline

- Consider tearing down one of the gas stations on Foothill for more green space
- Suggested a Pollinator Garden on Edison Row or Fourth and Olive.
- Suggested space near the high school administrative office.
- There is no need for community gardens given the large properties. Are schools an opportunity?

Gaps

- The city still uses insecticides.
- Section 5 is not up to code; lots of potential and possible liabilities.
- Green space has decreased in recent years.

Recommendation

- Target Section 5 as a Sustainability Commons area to create a best practice and showcase for the CAAP.
- Designate 10% percent of land as green space.

*The one area that was not brought up is Housing or food

TOP 10 “Bang for your Buck” List

What is one thing that you think is realistic that you hope to see in the CAAP?

More community charging stations.

Route 33 and 3 buses have very low ridership.

Better disposal at restaurants.

Ban gas powered lawn equipment and subsidize the transition to electric.

Reach out to the Arroyos and Foothill Conservancy about native habitat in open spaces.

Provide information on the cost savings of electric powered lawn versus gas powered equipment.

Ban astroturf.

Include the schools in more solar powered resources.

Promote water reclamation.

Don't waste money on bike lanes. We are not going to bike our way out of climate change.

Need a stormwater plan implemented before next rainy season.

Put recycling bins next to all trash cans.

Promote induction stovetops.

Manage tree trimmings so that existing trees provide shade over streets.

Provide trolleys on the hillsides.

Join the Clean Power Alliance.

Buy out the gas station on Angelos Crest and put in an EV Center.

Ban gas powered lawn blowers.

Create an LLC to join a CCA.

Create a pollinator garden on the Edison right-of-way behind Armstrong Nursery.

Add 20 more EV charging stations.

More CAAP outreach from the city and its consultants.

What one thing would be on your wishlist that you would like to see in the CAAP?

Phase out natural gas.

No free parking.

Don't reinvent the wheel; work with similar sized cities to brainstorm.

Pass all electric building & Renovation codes.

Solar panels on schools.

Go all electric and hydrogen from renewable sources.

Solar panels on every roof.

Make LCF safe for pedestrians and bikes all over town.

Capture runoff water.

Make people want to move to LCF for our schools and our green community.

Can we transform Kinetic energy from our cars into energy?

Install enough solar + storage to power 100% of our electrical needs.

Finish sewer projects.

Sidewalks.

More meetings to inform us of changes and what else is needed?
Require Passive House building standards.
Join the Clean Power Alliance.