

# CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

## Draft Recommendations on Climate Adaptation Strategies

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Below are the Climate Change Working Group's draft recommendations on climate adaptation strategies that the City of Chula Vista should implement to reduce the community's future risk from climate change-related impacts:

1. Include **"extreme heat" events as a significant emergency** in Chula Vista's Emergency Response Plan (short term) and its portion of the County's Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (long term), and redefine "extreme heat" events with a special emphasis on serving vulnerable populations, supporting a robust network of "Cooling Centers", incorporating poor air quality day notifications, educating businesses about employee heat illness risks, and integrating renewable energy sources into emergency/cooling centers.
2. Educate residents and businesses about the benefits and appropriate uses of **local water supplies (including recycled water, groundwater desalination and onsite water reuse systems)** and further integrate recycled water (if available) and onsite water reuse systems into new development and redevelopment plans.
3. Actively **educate the general public and the business community** (through community newsletters, websites, public events, and signage) about the impacts of climate change and what the community is doing to address impacts. In close coordination with the Fire Department, special emphasis should be given to using existing outreach mechanisms (Southwestern College's Services Learning program, Americorps/CERT training, and City environmental outreach programs) to expand public education on making homes more resilient to wildfires.
4. When preserving or restoring coastal and riparian wetlands, **incorporate adequate upland or transition habitats to accommodate shifts in wetland coverage and help ensure public access** due to sea level rise and other climate change impacts as informed by biological studies and Resource Agency consultation.
5. Develop an ordinance **incorporating shade trees into all municipal projects (parking lots & streets) and new private parking lot projects** (over a specific size). The new ordinance should include a deviation for solar carports (or other shade structures), be complementary to existing free tree programs, and potentially be incorporated into the existing Landscape Water Conservation regulations.
6. In order to assess and reduce impacts associated with climate change on parks and open space and their associated ecosystems, seek opportunities to partner with the Resource Agencies, non-profit organizations, and/or adjacent public land managers **to monitor and manage/restore ecosystems** (as funding becomes available) to ensure long-term habitat connectivity, species resilience, and community recreational opportunities.
7. Develop an ordinance **incorporating reflective paving (or "Cool Paving") into all municipal paving projects (parking lots & streets) and new private parking lot projects** (over a specific size).
8. Revise the City's Stormwater regulations and applicable landscape/building codes to efficiently **manage higher concentrations of pollutants in runoff** by minimizing water waste, using natural landscapes which help drain or reuse runoff, and by ensuring that irrigation systems are properly installed/maintained.

9. Require and provide incentives (such as contributing to City's enhanced energy code requirements) for new residential development with air-conditioning systems to install **ENERGY STAR cool roof technology**.
10. Use the outcome of the current San Diego Bay Climate Adaptation Study (being sponsored by the San Diego Foundation and ICLEI) to revise the City of Chula Vista's Land Development Ordinances (such as Grading Ordinance) and CEQA Guidelines to **incorporate climate change-related sea level rise & other flooding risks** into future development and municipal infrastructure projects' design and review.
11. **Provide assistance and non-monetary incentives to help businesses** manage climate change risks and to attract businesses that provide "green" products or services into Chula Vista.

If these recommendations are supported by City Council, City staff should develop more detailed implementation plans for the measures. Within these plans, staff should outline implementation steps, timelines, and cost estimates for each measure. These detailed implementation plans should be presented to City Council for a final decision on whether to move forward with specific measures.