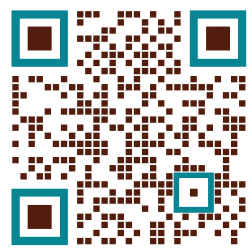


SUSTAINABILITY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



SUSTAINABILITY



Take a look at the great climate work being done in San Antonio!

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Leslie Antunez, Julia Murphy, Ricardo Ambriz, Douglas Melnick, Esteban Jimenez

MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Kate Jaceldo, Jennifer Di Cocco, Golda Obinzu, Tony Aguilar, Rafael Lozano

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Andra Nava-Garcia, Ally Longoria, Alyson Haynes, Tamarra Callahan, Olga Montellano-Campos



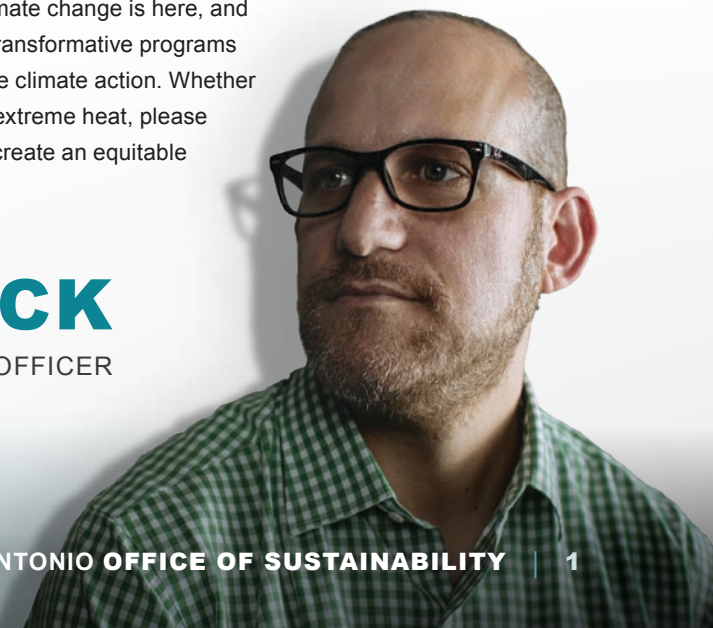
A WORD FROM OUR CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

I'm pleased to share the Office of Sustainability 2023 annual report. Despite skepticism around climate action in San Antonio, this report is proof of our city's dedication to sustainability and resilience goals.

In 2023, City Council approved the largest municipal onsite solar project in Texas, our employees continue to receive climate education and training, and we continue to electrify our City fleet. These are just a few examples of the City of San Antonio's commitment to leading by example in the fight against climate change. But we are not in this alone. CPS Energy took a major step by committing to remove coal from its generation portfolio by 2028 and continues to bring more renewables online which will have a tremendous impact in reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions. However, while all of these are great steps, we can take one piece of advice from our critics, we need to do more, faster. The climate science is clear. Climate change is here, and we need more urgent action. To that end, we will be launching several transformative programs in 2024 aimed at empowering and partnering with our community to take climate action. Whether in reducing energy consumption, improving food security, or mitigating extreme heat, please join us in 2024 to accelerate our climate work, as it will take all of us to create an equitable and Climate Ready San Antonio.

DOUGLAS MELNICK

CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



ENERGY ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

MUNICIPAL ON-SITE SOLAR

The largest on-site solar project by a local Texas Government has been approved by the San Antonio City Council. The \$30 million project will install roof top, parking, and park canopy solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at 42 city facilities. The City's newly approved services agreement, with local developer Big Sun Solar, will contribute to San Antonio's 2040 goal of zero net energy for all municipal buildings.

San Antonio's innovative multi-site project will yield energy and cost savings; shade and weather protection; and create additional local jobs.



ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS:

The projected electricity generated annually from the **42 sites** is expected to offset an estimated **11%** of the City's electricity consumption from its buildings.



SHADE AND WEATHER PROTECTION:

The installations include **23 parking canopies** that will **power on-site municipal buildings** and provide shade and hail protection to people and vehicles.



LOCAL JOBS:

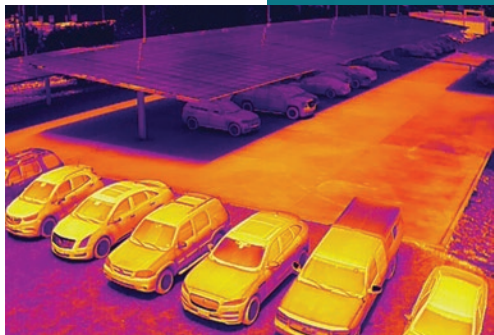
Big Sun Solar estimates this partnership will create more than **15 full-time jobs**. The company's collaboration with the **St. Phillip's College Solar Apprenticeship Program** (part of the Alamo Area District of Community Colleges) will train students in solar energy.

In addition to rooftop installations, the project will include solar shade canopies at parks and community centers in areas such as basketball and pickleball courts and skate parks. Installations will begin Spring 2024, with an anticipated completion in the Fall of 2026.



Scan for more from Mayor Ron Nirenberg

BIG SUN
SOLAR



CAPITAL BOND PROJECTS

In FY2023, OS began a new effort to increase the sustainability of COSA capital and bond-funded infrastructure projects.

OS Staff:

- ➔ Reviews projects from the 2022 Bond Program (\$1.2 billion), and other capital projects.
- ➔ Provides implementation recommendations for each project that help address the goals of the SA Ready Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CAAP).
- ➔ Conducts research and evaluation of emerging technologies in the transportation and built environment sectors for implementation feasibility.



Collaboration is key to the success of implementing sustainable features, best practices, and initiatives. Some key accomplishments include the implementation of procedures to ensure the mitigation of urban heat island, streetscape improvements, and recycling in construction.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND (EEF)

The Office of Sustainability's Energy Management Program (EMP) was established in 2011 to implement energy improvement projects aimed at reducing the City's annual energy consumption and expenditures. Rebates from completed energy efficiency projects go into a revolving fund used to complete future projects in municipal facilities and buildings. Reducing energy use in buildings is one of the primary ways the City will reach its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. To date, the EMP has completed 424 energy projects helping the City to avoid approximately \$1.7 million in utility expenses. The City has also received over \$3 million in CPS Energy Rebates.

FY24 EEF PROJECTS (\$1.65M)

	PROJECT	FY 2024 ADOPTED BUDGET AMOUNT		PROJECT	FY 2024 ADOPTED BUDGET AMOUNT
	City Tower Parking Garage Lighting Retrofit	\$600,000		Animal Care Services Retro-commissioning	\$100,000
	Animal Care Services Lighting Retrofit	\$250,000		Rosedale YMCA Retro-commissioning	\$35,000
	Monterrey Park Lighting Retrofit	\$300,000		San Pedro Spring Park Retro-commissioning	\$15,000
	Kennedy Park Lighting Retrofit	\$350,000			

* Retro-commissioning – the process of assessing a building's HVAC system to ensure efficient operation.

MUNICIPAL

ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

URBAN HEAT ISLAND MITIGATION

In 2021, the City of San Antonio became the first city in Texas to fight heat with cool pavement, testing it on a small stretch of asphalt at the east end of the Hays Street Bridge. In 2023, the City expanded its initiative, and invested \$1 million dollars in installing cool pavement to sections of roadway in all 10 City Council Districts. The City prioritized populated areas with high scores for extreme heat, poverty levels, and percentage of people of color.

The investment includes the installation and evaluation process of the various products for both temperature and product performance. The results will determine future applications of cool pavement in our city.

The project is funded by the City's Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Program Fund.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT, VISIT:
SanAntonio.gov/PublicWorks/Projects/Cool-Pavement-Program



Crews applying cool pavement treatment.



Scan to learn more about how the City is working to Beat the Heat!

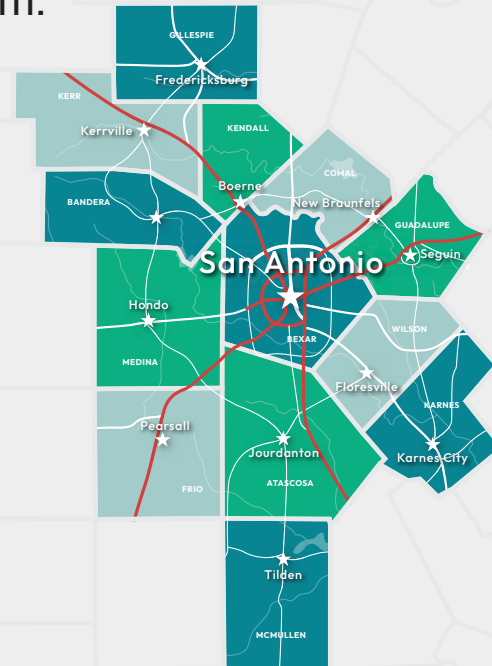


FEDERAL FUNDING GRANT AWARDS

\$1 million grant awarded to the City of San Antonio from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.

THE GRANT WILL BE USED FOR THREE INTER-RELATED INITIATIVES:

- 1 Updating the City of San Antonio Climate Action & Adaptation Plan with **prioritized greenhouse gas emission reduction** targets.
- 2 A regional **climate planning and action effort** led by Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) focused on their 13-county service area.
- 3 **Prioritizing emissions reduction strategies** that can be implemented on a regional scale and are competitive for future EPA implementation grant funding.



“Climate action takes the collaborative work of all jurisdictions, at all levels, so our region can make informed decisions about addressing present and future challenges. We applaud the EPA for providing resources to strengthen local partnerships to address this global issue.”

— MAYOR RON NIRENBERG

ADVANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN AVIATION AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES

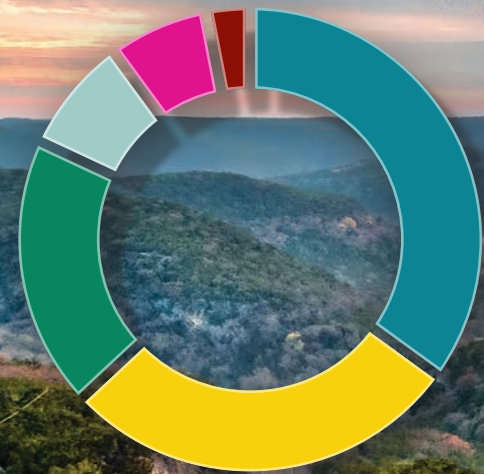
The Department of Energy, through its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program awarded the City of San Antonio \$1.2 million dollars to implement three projects focused on advancing energy efficiency in aviation and electric vehicles. Stay tuned to our communication channels for updates on these transformational projects.



PROJECT	TOTAL
 The multifamily electric vehicle charging incentive project will promote sustainable transportation.	\$475,000
A low-income E-bike rebate pilot program to promote sustainable transportation alternatives.	\$245,460
 Development of an Energy Master Plan (EMP) for the San Antonio International Airport (SAT)	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,220,460

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY REPORT

2021 COMMUNITY-WIDE INVENTORY RESULTS



35% Transportation & Mobile Sources

28% Commercial Energy

19% Residential Energy

8% Process & Fugitive

7% Solid Waste

2% Industrial Energy

EMISSIONS AT A GLANCE



Transportation 35%



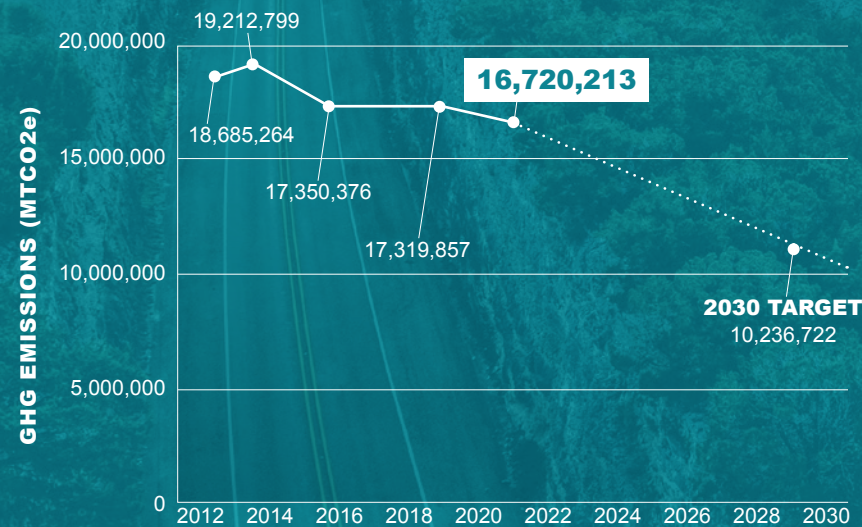
Commercial Energy 28%



Residential Energy 19%

CHANGE IN EMISSIONS SINCE 2013

SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY GHG EMISSIONS TRENDS (MTCO₂e)



KEY SECTOR TRENDS



Transportation 5.78% DECREASE



Commercial Energy 6.66% INCREASE



Residential Energy 6.45% INCREASE

EMISSIONS TRENDS

13% Total community emissions have **decreased by 13%** from a high in 2014.

3.46% Total community emissions have **decreased by 3.46%** between 2019 and 2021



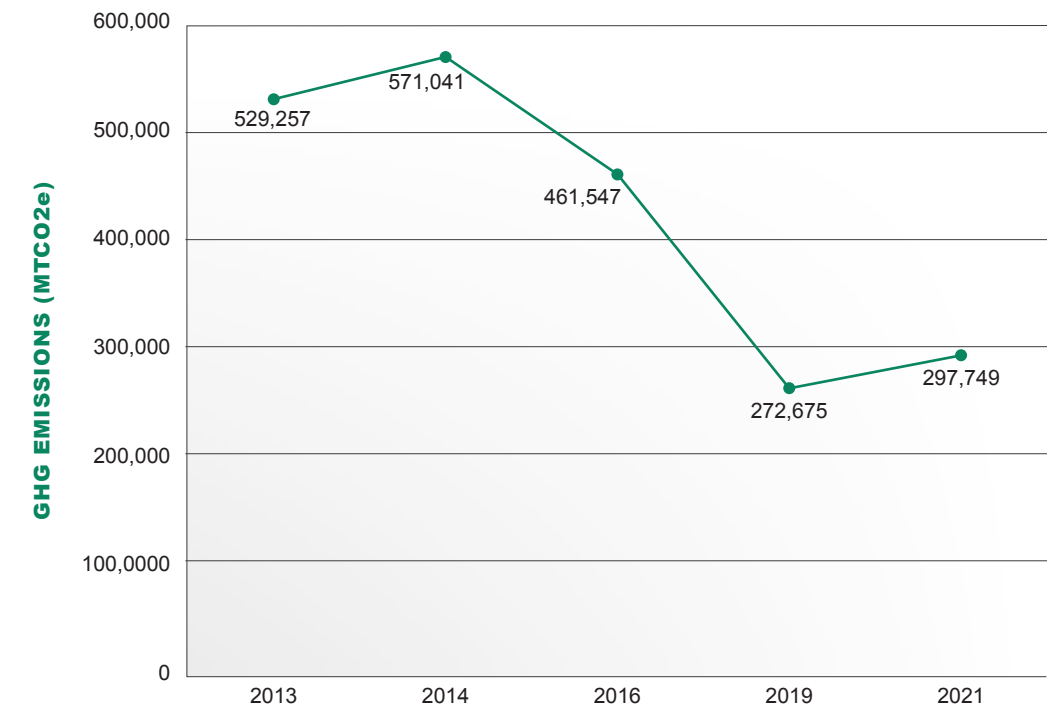
2021 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INVENTORY RESULTS

41% City-Owned Closed Landfills: 121,549

34% Buildings & Facilities: 101,074

18% Vehicle Fleet: 52,487

7% Street Lights & Traffic Signals: 22,639



➡ Between 2013 and 2021, emissions peaked in 2014 with total emissions of 571,041 MT CO₂e and **fell by 41% to 272,675 MTCO₂e in 2019.**

➡ **Total government operations emissions increased by 8.42%** between 2019 and 2021 from 272,675 MTCO₂e to 297,749 MTCO₂e.

➡ While there was a 6.1% decrease in emissions from the municipal fleet, the **primary driver of the increase was from the emissions generated by municipal buildings and facilities** (+19% and the City-owned closed landfill +7.2%).

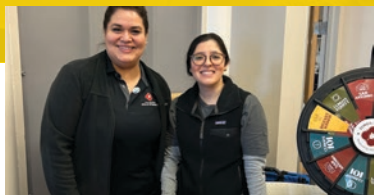
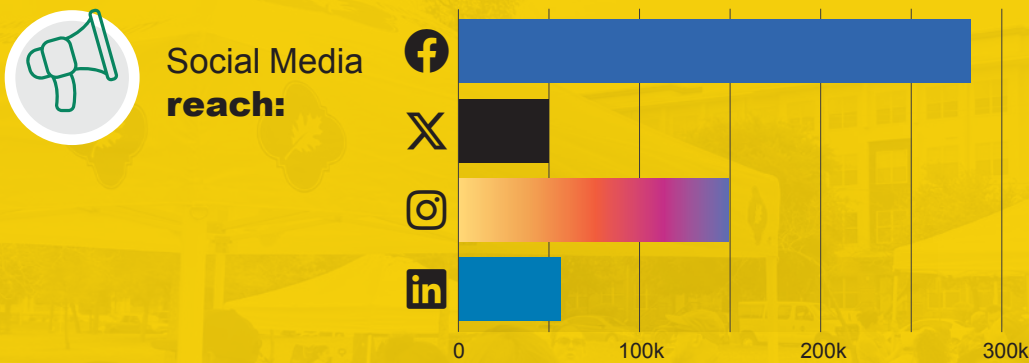
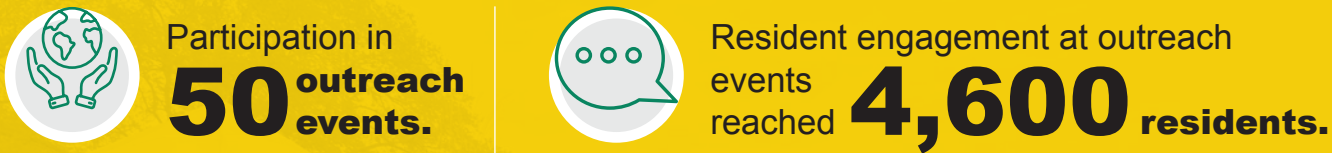
ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

Educating and empowering all San Antonio residents around climate action is the driving force behind our robust and innovative climate education initiatives. As one of the major strategies within the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the Office of Sustainability is dedicated to ensuring that communication, outreach, and engagement efforts reach all residents, particularly frontline communities and those that have been historically under-represented.

The SA Climate Ready Public Engagement & Communications initiative informs the greater San Antonio community about the benefits of climate action and adaptation. The goals targeted in this initiative are to achieve reduced energy use and utility costs; reduced greenhouse gases; and improved quality-of-life and equity for all residents in San Antonio.

In 2023, we established goals and metrics to continue to move the needle towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Highlights included:



**192**
Who Cares? pledges

“It’s up to me to do what I can today to make those resources last for future generations.”

“It affects all living things on the planet—people, animals, plants, the entire environment. We need to do what we can to choose more sustainable lifestyle choices and habits.”

“We only have one shot, we only have one planet.”

— WHO CARES? COMMENTS

CLIMATE TRAINING SERIES

The Office of Sustainability continues its commitment to educating and empowering our community through innovative tools and methods. Training sessions such as the SA Climate Ready plan, greenhouse gases, building energy solutions, alternative and clean transportation, and community initiatives are available online for residents to complete at their own pace and test their climate knowledge.

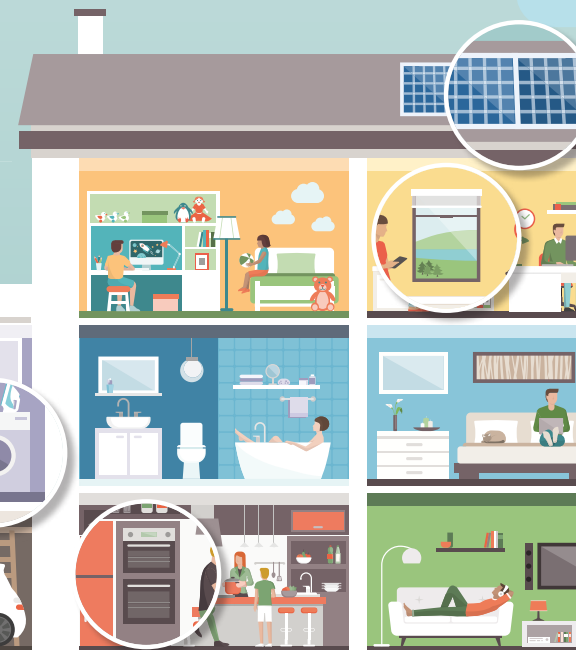
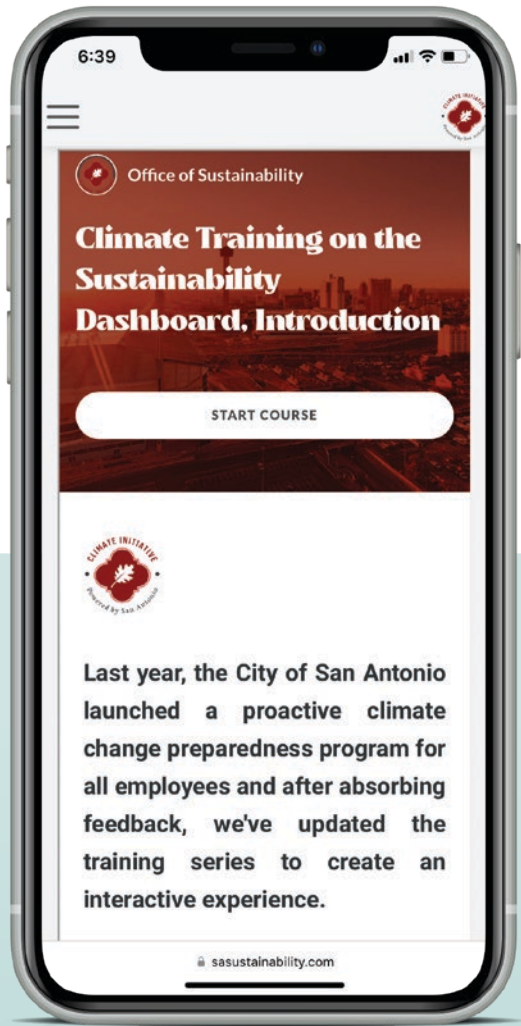
VISIT:
[SASustainability.com/Climate-Training](https://sasustainability.com/Climate-Training)

In response to the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Office of Sustainability launched an educational campaign to inform residents about these incentives.

The Inflation Reduction Act focuses on lowering energy costs for American families by helping households afford energy efficient appliances; energy efficient weatherization updates and upgrades; or with the purchase of an electric vehicle.

The campaign targeted residents through television and radio advertisement, social media, billboards, door hangers, and informational flyers. Materials were made available at City facilities like libraries, senior centers, and community centers. The campaign meets trilingual Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Department requirements by providing print material in English, Spanish, and ASL. Additionally, the campaign fully meets the City of San Antonio branding requirements and is funded through the Resilience, Energy Efficiency, Sustainability (REES) Fund.

**GOING GREEN HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING. LEARN MORE AT:**
[SASustainability.com/Category/Federal-Tax-Incentives](https://sasustainability.com/Category/Federal-Tax-Incentives)



COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations ensure a two-way dialogue with residents, who do not traditionally have a voice. Their goal is to provide a deeper and wider reach to the community to better address issues of local priority. Funding from the micro-grants has assisted in the development of educational workshops, and materials such as social media posts, banners, and posters for community distribution. Additionally, materials are available in English as well as in Spanish, Arabic, and Pashto. The Office of Sustainability issued a grant extension in June 2023, to allow the community-based organization grantees to continue their enhanced communication initiatives. Culturingua, Bike San Antonio, Empower House SA, disABILITYsa, San Antonio Nursing Consortium, SanArte Healing & Cultura Clinic, Gardopia Gardens, and Ethical Network of San Antonio were awarded additional funding. To date these partnerships have helped us reach an additional **96,574** residents in our community.



MYECCI MAYOR'S YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Thirty-one students have been selected to serve on the 2023-2024 Mayor's Youth Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives, now in its fourth year.

Each City Council District is represented from 19 different public, private, and charter schools. The youth council provides a way for San Antonio youth to engage in the civic process and invest in the future of their city as part of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The mission of the council is to empower San Antonio's next generation of climate champions with the tools they need to engage in community issues around climate change, environmental policy, and environmental justice.



COMMUNITY MURAL

Early in the development of our **Who Cares?** campaign, the Office of Sustainability (OS) conducted an awareness and perceptions study in 2021. Findings showed that educating and empowering our residents through shared interests, such as art and cultural education, promotes meaningful community participation related to the issues and challenges that affect and impact their community.

As a result, OS partnered with San Anto Cultural Arts to create a sustainability-themed community mural in the heart of the city, unveiled and dedicated in District 5 on November 15, 2023.

Community dialogue and input were vital in the creation of the mural. The artist Diana Rocha gathered inspiration for the design from her personal life along with the series of community meetings where residents shared their thoughts on sustainability. After three community paint days, and countless hours of collaboration, the mural came to life, and San Antonio's community vision for sustainability was realized.

Local artist Diana Rocha and her assistant Raisa Melendez brought this vision to life.

"We stayed true to the idea that even the smallest effort can make a difference. Whether it's picking up trash at your local park, recycling, taking public transportation and riding your bike, or having a vegetable garden of your own — all these things can help sustain our future."

More than 100 people gathered together to help complete our new community mural at **627 N. Colorado**. Working together, we can all make a difference for a more sustainable future.



As seen on Great Day SA!



Muralist Raisa Melendez and Diana Rocha (left to right)

ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

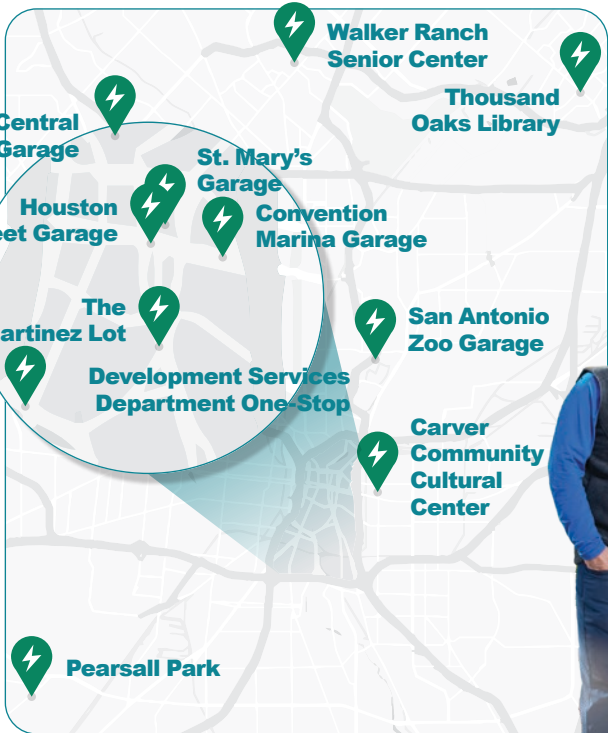
Transportation emissions are the largest contributor of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in San Antonio, advancing clean vehicle technology and reducing transportation consumption overall are priorities of the Office of Sustainability.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: City of San Antonio Fleet Updates in 2023

The City of San Antonio has over 5,800 vehicles and equipment in its municipal fleet.

51 electric light-duty vehicles procured **67** hybrid light-duty vehicles procured **22** fleet EV charging ports installed

100 fleet EV's projected by 2025



OS's partnership with Blink, launched in 2022, has yielded the following results:

22,406.³⁹
pounds of CO₂ reduced

101.⁶⁹
barrels of oil saved

4,691.⁹²
dollars saved**

4,267.¹⁷
gallons of fuel saved*

* assuming 1% of US electricity generation comes from petroleum can thus be neglected
** assuming fuel price is \$2.529 per gallon; costs of electricity is \$0.147 per kWh



As the population increases, and with more drivers on our roads, electric vehicles provide a path to a cleaner and more sustainable future. San Antonio is an EV-friendly city. The Electric Vehicle San Antonio (EVSA) program in collaboration with city policy, promotes the planning and programming efforts around electric transportation.

- 1** This program was created to **help educate San Antonio residents on electric vehicle (EV) ownership**. EV owners are recruited to participate as Ambassadors. These experts share their experiences and help debunk myths and falsehoods around electric vehicles.
- 2** EVSA ambassadors also **help plan the future of San Antonio transportation, the environment, and electrical mobility**. Members and staff participated in five transportation-related events with over 1,100 collective attendees.
- 3** **EV fleet includes plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), battery electric vehicles (BEV), e-bikes, e-scooters, e-segways, and continues to grow**. To learn more about the EVSA ambassador program contact Tamarra Callahan at Tamarra.callahan@sanantonio.gov or sustainability@sanantonio.gov

43 **AMBASSADORS**
AND GROWING!

Learn more about the EVSA program or sign up to be an ambassador.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of San Antonio Parking Division issues permits for **FREE parking at downtown street meters or street pay stations** for AUTHORIZED Hybrid and Electric Vehicles.

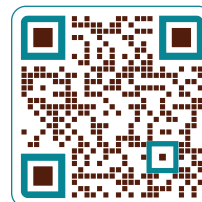
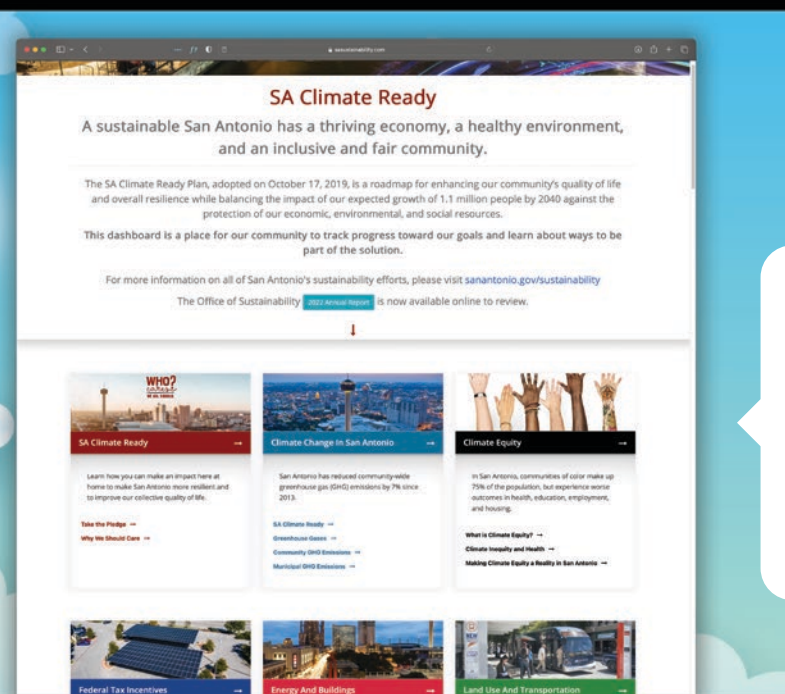
Learn more about the parking permit and download your application at



DASHBOARD

The Office of Sustainability Dashboard tool is a one-stop platform for the community that turns data into stories and stories into impact. Learn about climate change, climate equity, federal tax incentives, energy and buildings, land use and transportation, climate adaptation, food systems, solid waste resources, natural resources, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The dashboard also includes:

- ➔ **Up-to-date progress** on how the City of San Antonio is pursuing climate, sustainability, and resilience solutions.
- ➔ Recommendations on how residents can **take action** to meet their sustainability goals.
- ➔ The Climate Training Series. **Test your climate knowledge** today!
- ➔ The **“I’m aware, and I care”** pledge. Residents and business owners are encouraged to join the community and **pledge their personal commitment** to address climate change.



Learn more about how you can be a part of the solution at **SAClimateReady.org**.

LEADING
BY
EXAMPLE

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

SOLID WASTE

In 2023, the Solid Waste Department launched the **“fight dirty”** campaign to mitigate illegal dumping in San Antonio.

The name of the campaign aims to bring more public awareness to illegal dumping and its harmful effects to public health, wildlife, and the environment. The initiative is dedicated to increase awareness in our community on the problem and advertise resources for residents (i.e. drop-offs, free landfill days, disposal assistance team DAT).

This year, the department cleaned up 225 miles of litter from our city streets and roadways.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND OFFICE OF INNOVATION



The City of San Antonio is prototyping Rheaply: a digital reuse marketplace where city staff can find, share, and rent supplies across and within City departments. Benefits to reusing materials locally include making connections with coworkers, lowering procurement costs, renting items to eliminate one-time or excessive purchases and helping the City prevent additional landfill waste.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

SAN ANTONIO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that the City of San Antonio has been officially recognized as a Tree City of the World by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation.

This prestigious recognition is a monumental achievement for our city and its commitment to environmental sustainability. San Antonio is the first city in Texas to earn this recognition.

LEADING
BY
EXAMPLE

TRANSPORTATION

LET'S RIDE SA: SAN ANTONIANS ON THE MOVE!

The City of San Antonio Transportation Department has launched its development of the Bike Network Plan (BNP), an updated plan to improve bicycle infrastructure, promote safer biking conditions, and support a more connected San Antonio.

A wide variety of San Antonio stakeholders and community members will be engaged over the course of its two-year planning process. The goal of the BNP is to evaluate the equitable deployment of transportation infrastructure and ensure that San Antonians in every neighborhood, of every age and ability, can access all our city has to offer by bike or a similar mobility device.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BNP:



Enhanced
Bike Connectivity



Best-Practice
Design Concepts



Bike Share
Expansion



Education
and Outreach



Health, Equity
and Access

LEARN MORE ABOUT SAN
ANTONIO'S BIKE NETWORK
PLAN AND GET INVOLVED, VISIT:
SABikeNetwork.com





SUSTAINABILITY



For more information about The City of San Antonio's sustainability efforts, visit the Office of Sustainability website at **SanAntonio.gov/Sustainability** and the SA Sustainability Dashboard at **SAClimateReady.org**