



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** April 10, 2019  
**TO:** Neighborhood Advisory Council  
**FROM:** Alelia Parenteau, Energy Program Supervisor  
**SUBJECT:** City of Santa Barbara Strategic Energy Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Neighborhood Advisory Council:

- A. Receive a presentation from staff regarding the City of Santa Barbara's Strategic Energy Plan Draft; and
- B. Receive a brief update on the City's lighting projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

On June 6, 2017, City Council adopted Resolution 17-043 establishing a goal of 100 percent renewable electricity for the City of Santa Barbara community by 2030. Optony, Inc. (Optony), was selected via Request For Proposals as the City's consultant to develop a Strategic Energy Plan (SEP). The plan aims to develop innovative strategies to meet Council's ambitious goal and identify resource needs required to develop renewable energy projects as well as innovative programs and policies that will facilitate the deployment of distributed energy resources and increased energy efficiency throughout the community.

A few parameters have been established while working on the plan, including the exclusion of electricity resources not considered renewable by the state, such as coal, large hydro, natural gas, and nuclear power. Additionally, per Council's direction, it was important that compliance with the goal avoid the use of Renewable Energy Credit offsets, and promotion of locally-generated electricity. Lastly, staff requested that the work plan prioritize local benefits that are related to energy reliability, disaster resiliency, economic development, natural and cultural preservation, and local control and oversight whenever possible.

Optony and staff kicked off the strategic planning process by conducting meetings with stakeholders internal to the City and with a multitude of groups and individuals throughout

the community. These meetings provided critical feedback on preliminary plan strategies and helped direct the strategic planning effort. Optony intends to return to the community stakeholders after this initial Council presentation to solicit additional feedback.

Optony has identified five general program areas of focus for the SEP including:

- Administrative policies and procedures
- Energy partnerships and structures
- Funding sources and financial incentives
- Municipal pilot projects
- Communitywide marketing and messaging

Within these program areas, Optony assessed key target areas such as funding, regulatory obstacles, infrastructure, resilience planning, public understanding, and staffing capacity.

Progress to date on the SEP includes a gap analysis of programs and resources to help the community deploy energy efficiency and renewable measures, a renewable resource siting survey on both public and private properties, policy recommendations, and a survey of education and outreach needs. Additionally, Optony's team has begun conceptual development for several "pitch ready" projects that position the City for potential grant and other funding streams, which will be further developed in future drafts of the SEP.

Staff is currently in the process of soliciting community input on the plan in order to ensure that the plan meets the communities' expectations.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alelia Parenteau, Energy Program Supervisor

**APPROVED BY:** Matt Fore, Senior Assistant to the City Administrator