



City of Oakland, ECAP ad hoc Community Advisory Committee
List of Terms and Definitions

A

Adaptation: Actions taken to offset the harmful effects of an already changing climate on local and global regions and populations; includes the understanding that even if we stopped emitting GHGs today, the climate will continue changing and extreme weather events could still impact Oaklanders.

B

BAU Projection: “Business as Usual” projections forecast the future hypothetical effects of Oakland continuing to emit GHGs at its current levels without intervention to decrease emissions or combat climate change.

C

Climate Consultants (CC): The team of consultants contracted by the City to identify approximately 50 action items that have the highest potential to both reduce GHG emissions and enhance equitable socioeconomic outcomes. Led by Integral Group.

Core Inventory: An inventory that measures the annual GHG emissions within Oakland’s borders. An example of “core” emissions are the emissions that come out of a tailpipe of a car that is driven in Oakland, or the emissions that occur when the tons of waste collected throughout Oakland are sitting in the landfill.

Consumption Inventory: An inventory that measures the annual GHG emissions generated throughout the life cycle of goods and services consumed in Oakland. An example of “consumption” emissions are the emissions that occur to manufacture a car and ship it to Oakland for an Oaklander to use, or the emissions that occur to extract oil from the earth and ship it across the world for an Oaklander to use. Consumption emissions look at the larger, global emissions that happen upstream before an Oaklander gets involved.

CURB Report: Climate Action for **URB**an Sustainability tool that was used to identify the five actions that will have the biggest reduction in GHG emissions for the least amount of money. Summary found here: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/documents/pathways-to-deep-ghg-reductions-in-oakland-executive-summary>

D

Decarbonization: Removal of carbon emissions from a process. For example, to “decarbonize the grid” means the electricity grid is fully supplied by energy sources that do not produce carbon emissions (e.g. solar or wind power).

E

Equity Facilitator (EF): The team of consultants contracted by the City to lead an equitable community engagement process for the ECAP. Led by Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC) and Environmental Justice Solutions.

Electrification: Powering by electricity, often as a shift away from prior energy sources such as fossil fuels. For example, the “electrification of buildings” refers to replacing natural gas appliances such as stoves, dryers, space heaters/furnaces, and water heaters with their electric alternatives. The “electrification of transportation” refers to phasing out fuel combustion vehicles and replacing them with electric vehicles

F

G

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Any gas that traps heat energy as it tries to escape Earth’s atmosphere.

GHG Inventory: An emissions inventory that informs climate change action. Every two years, the City of Oakland publishes both a core and consumption inventory detailing the GHGs emitted by the following sectors: buildings, transportation, waste, seaport, airport, water/wastewater.

GHG Reduction Targets: Oakland’s City Council has adopted the following GHG emission reduction targets: 36% by 2020, 56% by 2030, and 83% by 2050 relative to a 2005 baseline (i.e. 2005’s GHG emissions represents 100% and zero emissions represents 0%, so a 56% reduction means we should be emitting 44% of 2005 emission levels in 2030).

H

I

J

K

Key Performance Indicator (KPI): A metric that is useful in tracking the success of actions taken to meet a goal.

L

M

Mitigation: Actions taken to limit climate change and the severity of its effects.

N

Neighborhood Leadership Council (NLC): The group of Oakland residents working with OCAC to lead community engagement for the ECAP and facilitate the district workshops.

O

Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC): The City's lead consultant on the EF team.

P

Q

R

S

Sequestration: The act of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it for a long period of time. For example, plants, trees, and soil (when they are healthy and productive) sequester carbon during photosynthesis.

T

U

Urban Forestry: The management of trees in an urban environment for their environmental and social benefits.

Urban Heat Island: Urban spaces that are warmer than their surrounding rural spaces, due primarily to the proliferation of built space and secondarily to the generation of waste heat from human activities.

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