

# GPAC Meeting #12

Dear GPAC Members,

On Thursday, December 10th, 2020, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, the City of Culver City will hold its 12th GPAC meeting. At this meeting, we will focus on sustainability and climate change.

Our purpose for the meeting is as follows:

- Provide a **background on sustainability** and how the concept is applied to urban planning.
- Provide a summary of City greenhouse gas emissions, programs, and policies.
- Discuss how the **City's historic leadership** can be enhanced going forward to achieve environmental and climate action goals and improve quality of life.
- Share examples from other jurisdictions of **best-in-class or innovative plans, policies, and programs** in the following topic areas:
  1. Integrative Process
  2. Energy + GHG Emissions
  3. Water Efficiency
  4. Materials + Resources
  5. Natural Systems + Equality
  6. Transportation + Land Use
  7. Quality of Life
- **Brainstorm** on issues, vision, goals, and strategies related to the above topics that can be included in the General Plan.

The memo provides background information on each topic and poses some questions for you to consider before the meeting.

## Sustainability Overview

Sustainability is often described as meeting the needs of the present without preventing future generations from meeting their needs. Another way to define and apply sustainability practices is through its three main 'pillars' – environment, equity, and economy. The environment pillar includes responsibly using resources like energy, water, and building materials, considering impacts on regional and global ecosystems, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Equity involves recognizing historical instances of exclusion and racism in the community and addressing current disparities in access to amenities and opportunities like transit, fresh food, open space, or education. Economy focuses on identifying practices that enable the City and its residents to gain the maximum benefit from investments in development, infrastructure, open space, and community amenities.

This meeting will focus primarily on environmental sustainability, but will weave in considerations and examples for economy and equity as well. Overall, the goal is to

avoid practices that are based on resource extraction, waste generation, or greenhouse gas emissions by evaluating life-cycle costs and benefits; identifying potential negative consequences of short-term, first-cost based decisions; and recognizing the relationship between the city and its surrounding ecosystems.

## Regulatory Context

Several State laws and executive orders provide guidance for City efforts on sustainability. These include:

- SB 32, Executive Order B-30-15, Executive Order B-55-18 statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets (40% reduction by 2030, 80% by 2050 or carbon neutral by 2045)
- SB 100 (100% carbon-free electricity by 2045)
- SB 1383 (75% reduction in organic waste sent to landfills by 2025)
- Executive Order B-29-15 (25% reduction in potable water use)
- California Title 24, Part 6 (the State energy code – requires solar on new low-rise residential projects)
- AB 262 Buy Green California Act (initiated research into low-embodied carbon materials)

Before this meeting, please take a few minutes to review the Culver City Environmental Efforts webpage and background information about sustainability. Links to this information are below:

- Culver City Environmental Efforts: <https://www.culvercity.org/City-Hall/Departments/Public-Works/Culver-City-Environmental-Initiatives>
- UTA What is Sustainable Urban Planning? <https://academicpartnerships.uta.edu/articles/public-administration/what-is-sustainable-urban-planning.aspx#:~:text=Good%20sustainable%20land%20use%20planning,into%20healthier%2C%20more%20efficient%20spaces.>
- APA Sustainability Framework: <https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/document/Sustainability-Policy-Framework.pdf>
- LEED for Cities: <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/tools-and-resources-leed-cities-and-communities>

In addition, please think about the following questions:

- What does sustainability mean to you personally?
- What does sustainability mean in Culver City?
- What do you consider to be the City's greatest sustainability accomplishment to date?
- What are some of the critical sustainability issues in Culver City?
- How should sustainability be incorporated into the General Plan? Integrated into relevant elements or as a standalone element?
- How can the General Plan begin to address these issues?

Should you have any questions before the meeting, please feel free to reach out. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM sharp. Please plan for the meeting to end around 9:00 PM.

- The General Plan Team