Climate Change is Here: What can you do?

Introduction to the Anchorage Climate Action Plan
Changing Climate in Anchorage

Climate change boosts risk of extreme wildfires
December 16, 2016

Jeff Richardson
907-444-6224

University of Alaska Fairbanks scientists are presenting their work at the American Geophysical Union’s Fall meeting in San Francisco this week. Here are some highlights of their research, as shared at the world’s largest Earth and space science meeting.

A newly published report concluded that climate change is significantly boosting the risk of extreme wildfires, and that this is likely to continue in the future.

For more information, visit the University of Alaska Fairbanks website.

Forget snowfall -- winter rain becoming new normal in Alaska and Arctic

Tick, tick, tick: Alaska braces for invading parasites

Energy & Environment

Tick, tick, tick: Alaska braces for invading parasites

Beetle damage skyrockets to nearly a million acres in Southcentral Alaska

Mat-Su

Spruce bark beetle killed trees stand in the forest along Beluga Slough Road in June. (James Bukay / ADN, Alaska)

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What is a Climate Action Plan?

A strategic roadmap for measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

The Municipality of Anchorage collaborated with the University of Alaska to create the Anchorage Climate Action Plan that was passed by the Anchorage Assembly in May 2019.
Who has a Climate Action Plan?

9,100 cities representing ~800 M people are now committed to creating city-wide climate action plans.
Alaska climate adaptation plans

Statewide Plans
- AK Climate Change Action Plan (2018)
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015)
- Alaska’s Climate Change Strategy (2010)

City, Alaska Native Village, & Tribal Government Plans
- Climate Action Plan
- Climate Adaptation Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Impact Assessment

Borough Plans
- Climate Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan & Implementation Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Impact Assessment

Credit: Kelsey Aho, Center for Alaska Policy Studies.
Data sources: DEECD; Meeker and Kettle, 2017
Panelists

- **Mara Kimmel**, Anchorage Mayor’s Office, Lead, Resilience + Welcoming Initiatives
- **Micah Hahn**, University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies
- **Shaina Kilcoyne**, Municipality of Anchorage, Energy and Sustainability Manager
Anchorage: Transformation and Opportunity
Community Values and Vision

*Always Getting Ready*

- SELF RELIANT
- VIBRANT, VITAL CULTURES
- CONNECTED with PLACE

*From Barker, Upterrlainarluta - Always Getting Ready: Yup’ik Eskimo Subsistence in Southwest Alaska.*
Resilience and Equity in Anchorage

Ready, Inclusive, Connected

The capacity of a community to survive and thrive through acute shocks and chronic stresses

- Fires, floods, earthquakes, erosion, freeze-thaw cycles
- Unemployment, inadequate housing, poverty, poor infrastructure and communication networks, social and economic exclusion
Welcoming Anchorage Roadmap
Our roadmap for an equitable, inclusive, diverse Anchorage

Resilient Anchorage Roadmap
A roadmap for success and innovation in a time of transformation
Welcoming Anchorage Roadmap

Our roadmap for an equitable, inclusive, diverse Anchorage

Our Roadmap

Our VISION is that Anchorage is a globally competitive, culturally vibrant community where every resident feels a sense of belonging and has equal opportunity to access all the community offers.

Our efforts to create a more welcoming community are instilled with the following shared VALUES:

- Respect
- Inclusivity
- Collaboration
- Equity
- Justice
- Transparency
- Welcoming

Five pillars organize and drive our welcoming activities to the VEHICLE for change in our community.

- Civic Engagement
- Civic Engagement promotes inclusive participation.
- Education
- Education is Anchorage, along with civic-minded community members, that provides residents with opportunities to learn new skills.
- Economic Development & Entrepreneurship
- We activate the full and diverse economic potential of Anchorage by removing all barriers and providing meaningful work and career opportunities within a resilient education system.
- Equitable Access
- All Anchorage residents have equal access to governmental and community opportunities for our diverse community members.

Resilient Anchorage Roadmap

A roadmap for success and innovation in a time of transformation

Our Roadmap

Our VISION is that Anchorage has the capacity to thrive and survive through social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Our efforts to create a more resilient community are instilled with the following shared VALUES:

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Equity
- Innovation
- Knowledge
- Design

Six pillars organize and drive our resilience strategy:

- Infrastructure
- Infrastructure improves climate readiness, equity, and well-being.
- Energy
- Anchorage is the most energy efficient city in the country.
- Economic Opportunity
- Economic opportunities and entrepreneurship in emerging economies are accessible to all residents.
- Health & Wellbeing
- Community health and wellness is a priority and protected.
- Emergency Preparedness
- Anchorage residents are prepared for emergencies.
- Engaged Residents & Neighborhoods
- Community members are engaged and vital partners in creating a welcoming and resilient Anchorage.
HOW WAS THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED?
Community Input
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT
FOOD

How often do you eat animal-based products?
(beef, pork, chicken, fish, eggs, dairy products)

NEVER  [Slider]  VERY OFTEN

Occasionally
(really like veggies - occasional
meat, eggs/dairy)

ADD DETAILS TO IMPROVE ACCURACY
FOOD

How often do you eat

- beef or lamb?
  - Often (nearly every day)
- pork?
  - Often (nearly every day)
- poultry?
  - Often (nearly every day)
- fish or shellfish?
  - Occasionally (once or twice a week)
- eggs, cheese and/or dairy?
  - Often (nearly every day)

SAVE
If everyone lived like you, we would need

3.2 Earths

See Details
By Consumption Category

- Food
- Shelter
- Mobility
- Goods
- Services
If everyone lived like you, we would need

3.2 Earths

See Details

If everyone lived like you, we would need

1.8 Earths

See Details
If everyone lived like you, we would need

3.2 Earths  
See Details

3.5 Earths  
See Details
Anchorage Climate Action Plan
At a Glance
Municipality of Anchorage Climate Action Strategy

A Strategy for Good Stewardship, Good Management, and Effective Preparation for an Efficient and Self-Sufficient City

The Climate Action Plan launches us toward our key goals:

Accelerate Our Economy
Reduce costs and increase jobs

Steward Our Resources
Take care of the place we live

Prepare Our City
Build a ready and resilient city

Engage Our Residents
Involve all Anchorage residents in taking action

www.muni.org/climateactionplan
Distilled from the Anchorage Climate Action Plan

Actions are:
- Near-term
- Municipal-led
- High priority
- High impact
BUILDINGS + ENERGY

GOAL: Optimize energy use in MOA facilities to save energy and money and work with private residential and commercial building owners to support safe, healthy, and affordable buildings.

- Improve energy efficiency in Municipally owned buildings
- Increase opportunities for residents and businesses to implement clean energy technology
  - Strengthen building energy standards
  - Provide financing opportunities
  - Offer incentives
  - Reduce barriers
GOAL: Optimize energy use in MOA facilities to save energy and money and work with private residential and commercial building owners to support safe, healthy, and affordable buildings.

- Solid Waste Services Admin Energy Retrofit
- Solar Panels on Egan Center and Fire Station 10
  - Anchorage Landfill in 2020!
How do you commute? Share any successes or barriers in achieving a lower carbon transportation lifestyle.
LAND USE + TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: Improve walkability and connect neighborhoods that employ mixed-use development and diverse transportation options.

- Housing infill and redevelopment to minimize car travel and increase community resilience
- Increase use of public transit and non-motorized transportation
- Electrifying vehicle fleets and promote energy efficient vehicles

Complete Streets: Spenard Corridor, Charles Boyle
LAND USE + TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: Improve walkability and connect neighborhoods that employ mixed-use development and diverse transportation options.

- $950,000 for charging infrastructure in the railbelt
- Regional EV Infrastructure Plan in development
- MOA is testing EVs

Anchorage’s new electric charging station downtown
CONSUMPTION + SOLID WASTE

GOAL: Develop an efficient and innovative solid waste management system that promotes sustainable consumption, recycling, and waste reduction.

- Increase recycling, composting, and other diversion of waste to increase the life of the landfill
- Capture more potential energy in collected refuse (e.g., organics digestion, mass burn, and landfill gas to energy expansion)
- Expand diversion opportunities by building a new Central Transfer Station
● Improve household wildfire mitigation
● Identify and develop key secondary access routes for emergency response and evacuation in the Hillside, Girdwood, Eagle River/Chugiak
● Improve language access to all residents on climate change, natural hazards, and emergency preparedness
● Support school and community gardens and other opportunities to expand community growing
● Encourage farmers markets to accept payment through food assistance programs
● Conduct a commercial organic waste collection pilot
GOAL: Support healthy ecosystems that increase recreational opportunities, clean air and water, and habitat for wildlife.

- Develop an urban forest management plan
- Create a stormwater utility
- Continue to support APU efforts to monitor Eklutna Watershed
OUTREACH + EDUCATION

GOAL: Inform, engage, and empower Anchorage residents and leadership to find community-led climate solutions that support a sustainable future.

- Increase outreach methods for participation in planning and new programs
- Develop an online Anchorage climate action webpage and other outreach materials
- Encourage education about climate change, energy, and the development of career and technical education programs around clean energy jobs
Climate Action Plan Implementation

Mayor’s Resilience Sub-Cabinet

Anchorage Climate Action Council
Climate Action Plan Monitoring

Performance Indicators: Buildings

- Dollars saved
- Renewable energy generated
- Facilities retrofitted to increase efficiency
- Outdoor lighting converted to LEDs
Climate Action Plan Monitoring

Performance Indicators: Transportation
- Miles of bike and pedestrian infrastructure added
- Public transit ridership
- Electric vehicles in the Municipal fleet
Climate Action Plan Monitoring

Performance Indicators: Waste

- Waste converted to energy
- Materials composted
- Materials recycled
- Per capita waste reduction
What is your Climate Commitment?

Photo: Johanna Grasso

www.muni.org/ClimateActionPlan