CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

2022 POLICY AGENDA

CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES TO WIN A SAFE, EQUITABLE ZERO-CARBON FUTURE

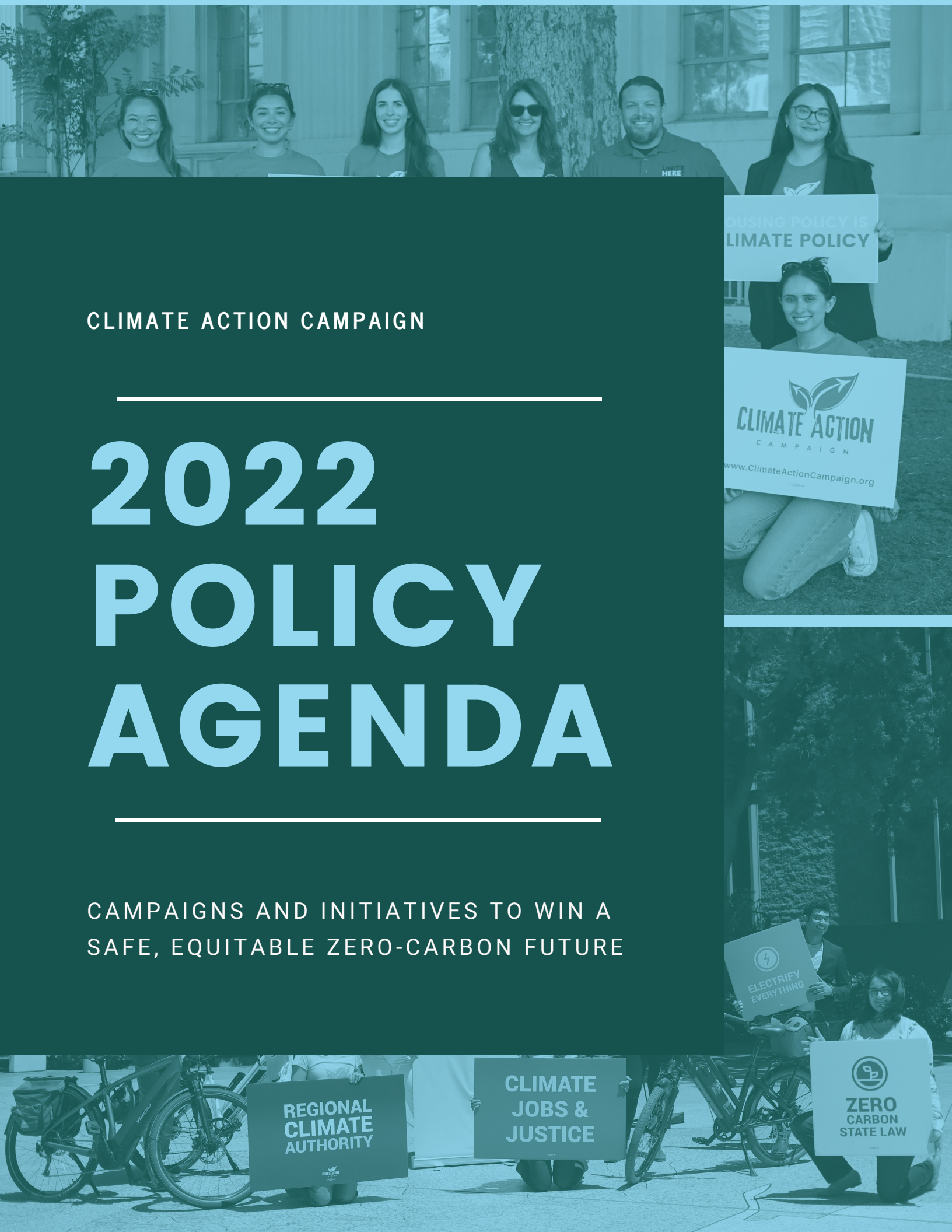












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MISSION

Climate Action Campaign's (CAC) mission is to stop the climate crisis. We're championing a Zero Carbon future through policy action. We organize this vital work into our Five Fights: 100% clean energy; all-electric homes; walkable, bikeable neighborhoods; world-class transit; and shade trees—all through the lens of equity and justice.

VISION

In the next ten years, Climate Action Campaign will implement a replicable and scalable regional model for an equitable transition to Zero Carbon. Cities are leading the way on climate solutions, which is why we are focused on creating effective climate policy at a local and regional level that can be scaled and replicated around the world.

Climate Action Campaign's bottom-up theory of change puts municipalities, local industry leaders, nonprofits, and communities at the epicenter of climate action and climate solutions. Collaborating across sectors, we're leading the region to achieve zero emissions by 2035, in line with what climate science says is necessary to protect our health and future.

FOCUS AREAS IN 2022

Climate Action Campaign's annual policy agenda outlines our priority campaigns to advance our five fights for the year, including:

- The City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan Update
- The Let's Go! San Diego Ballot Measure
- SDCP's Community Power Plan
- Assembly Bill 1640
- The County Regional Decarbonization Framework
- The County Climate Action Plan
- All-Electric Homes
- Blueprint SD
- Moving The LOSSAN Lines

Please note that this agenda not an exhaustive list of our campaigns or policy areas, but an overview of where we will be investing the most time in 2022.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

LEVEL: *CITY*
POLICY TYPE: *BUDGET, ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *ALL*

PROBLEM:

When the City of San Diego adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2015, it became the largest city in the United States to make a legally-binding commitment to achieving 100% clean electricity by 2035, along with other groundbreaking transportation, housing, and equity commitments. In the time since, the City has fallen behind on its legally-binding commitment to reduce emissions, as demonstrated by the City's internal CAP Performance Audit.

As our 2021 report "Missing The Mark" demonstrated, transportation is the most significant gap in CAP implementation, with little progress made in shifting people out of their cars and into their communities via biking, walking, and transit. In addition, the City must modernize its public engagement strategies to ensure equitable processes and outcomes.

SOLUTION:

As the City of San Diego looks to adopt an updated CAP in 2022, CAC is advocating for a detailed plan for CAP implementation with associated costs and funding sources clearly outlined. We are also pushing for them to comprehensively fund the CAP during the FY 2023 budget cycle and every year after.

At the same time, we are calling for them to fund and finish the Mobility Master Plan 2.0. This is the roadmap for achieving the CAP's legally-binding mode shift targets. It should demonstrate through modeling how the City's proposed network of walking, biking, and public transit projects will close the gap between SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan and the CAP's requirements for mode shift.

CAC will also push for equity in the CAP outreach process. The City can address the needs of our most vulnerable communities by partnering with Community-Based Organizations for outreach and appropriately compensating them for their time. Based on this outreach, the CAP update must identify tangible benchmarks for success in CAP implementation, such as improved air quality and lower asthma rates in Communities of Concern.

LET'S GO! SD BALLOT MEASURE

LEVEL: *COUNTYWIDE*
POLICY TYPE: *BALLOT MEASURE; ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *WORLD-CLASS TRANSIT, BIKEABLE, WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS*

PROBLEM:

The largest source of carbon emissions in the San Diego region comes from burning fossil fuels for cars and trucks. These emissions exacerbate the climate crisis and choke our children with poisonous smog. Despite these known impacts, the region has spent decades investing hundreds of millions of dollars on car infrastructure that locks us further into car dependency. Last year, we helped pass a groundbreaking new plan for moving people and goods around our region at SANDAG.

SOLUTION:

To win the funding to put this plan in place, we're taking the fight for world-class transit to the ballot box through the Let's Go! San Diego ballot initiative. The funding from this measure will allow us to finally build an efficient, modern transportation system that will improve convenience, safety, pollution, health, and our economy.



SDCP COMMUNITY POWER PLAN

LEVEL: *AGENCY*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *100% CLEAN ENERGY*

PROBLEM:

San Diego Community Power—one of the San Diego region's two Community Choice Energy programs—is now serving customers. They have a PowerOn and Power100 package which offer 50% and 100% clean electricity to families and businesses. This agency was formed to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2035 and do so in a way that invests in and empowers the communities it serves—San Diego, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, and the unincorporated parts of San Diego County. San Diego Community Power needs a community investment strategy and programs to achieve this.

SOLUTION:

CAC successfully advocated for funding to develop SDCP's Community Power Plan last year. This plan will help the agency create local programs, identify opportunities for developing local clean energy generation and storage projects, and identify opportunities for local workforce development that creates good, union jobs. In 2022, we will work closely with staff to develop a roadmap to a local, 100% clean energy system through this plan.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION FRAMEWORK

LEVEL: *COUNTY*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *ALL*

PROBLEM:

We need regional coordination and cooperation to secure a climate-safe and climate-ready future. We need the data and vision to map out how to achieve a zero carbon future locally, especially regarding achieving a just transition for workers and frontline communities impacted by the transition to a clean energy economy.

SOLUTION:

In 2022, CAC will pass the County's Regional Decarbonization Framework and Just Transition Plan. This framework will identify the gaps in climate policy implementation and opportunities for regional coordination on transportation, electricity, buildings, and land use solutions. We will use these insights, in addition to the ones from our upcoming 5th Annual Climate Action Plan Report Card, to advance regional collaboration and cooperation, including through our work to create Regional Climate Networks through AB 1640.



ASSEMBLY BILL 1640 - REGIONAL CLIMATE NETWORKS BILL

LEVEL: *STATEWIDE, REGIONAL*
POLICY TYPE: *LEGISLATION*
FIGHT: *ALL*

PROBLEM:

Across the State of California, cities are struggling to meet climate goals, citing a lack of funding, political will, and knowledge of best practices. Our current siloed approach to climate action is ineffective and dangerous to our future. In California, few cities are preparing to reach zero carbon—as climate science says is necessary—and cities are not equitably implementing climate solutions.

SOLUTION:

CAC is working with Assemblymember Chris Ward to champion AB 1640 to establish Regional Climate Networks (RCN) across California. A Regional Climate Network would serve as a hub for coordinated action on climate action and adaptation. Because climate solutions like clean transportation and clean energy cross city boundaries, a regional network would help coordinate these shifts. The RCN would help address the funding barriers, be a central hub for raising and allocating funding, and facilitate equitable implementation of climate strategies. This year, we will work to pass AB 1640 and begin to shape San Diego's future Regional Climate Network.



ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES

LEVEL: *CITY, WITH A FOCUS ON IRVINE AND SAN DIEGO*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES*

PROBLEM:

Methane gas is the third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our region and a significant source of indoor air pollution. To achieve a zero carbon future, we must transition our homes and buildings to run only on clean electricity sources like solar and wind—and we must do this in an equitable way that ensures that no worker or community is left behind.

SOLUTION:

In 2022, we will push for policies that phase out dangerous methane gas from our homes and businesses, both in Climate Action Plans and as stand-alone policies—with a focus on the cities of San Diego and Irvine. There are three policy mechanisms to get gas out of our homes and buildings: 1) passing a citywide Reach Code, an ordinance that bans methane gas infrastructure in new construction or major renovation projects; 2) securing a municipal retrofit plan so city-owned buildings transition into becoming all-electric; and 3) winning a community retrofit plan, the most ambitious of these policies, where a city creates and plan and secures financing to electrify existing private buildings. Moving forward, CAC will explore each of these opportunities to begin the transition to All-Electric Homes and Buildings in San Diego and Orange Counties.



BUILDING HOMES FOR THE WORKFORCE THROUGH BLUEPRINT SD

LEVEL: *CITY*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *ALL*

PROBLEM:

San Diego is facing a severe housing affordability crisis in addition to the climate crisis. In 2020, San Diego renters needed to earn $36.62 per hour—2.8 times the City of San Diego's minimum wage—to afford the average rent. Under the COVID-19 pandemic, rents have increased by as much as 10% in our region. The San Diego region must accelerate affordable and safe housing construction in existing neighborhoods.

One mechanism for this is Community Plan Updates (CPUs), long-range guides that plan where a community will conserve land and open space, where housing, commercial, and industrial buildings can go, and how residents will move around. We can roll out climate and housing strategies on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood level with CPUs. Unfortunately, CPUs have not been updated or implemented at the rate needed to spur affordable, infill housing. And, with little past direction from the City of San Diego, many existing CPUs stand in the way of our housing and climate goals.

SOLUTION:

In 2022, we will watchdog Community Plan Updates while shaping San Diego's new Blueprint SD initiative. This initiative will improve and streamline the Community Planning process and make it possible to localize the Climate Action Plan's targets on a neighborhood level. Blueprint SD can tell us where to build housing to create walkable, bikeable neighborhoods. Most importantly, it will simplify the process for CPUs, allow for more meaningful public engagement, and ensure that City resources support building affordable, infill housing.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

LEVEL: *COUNTY*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *ALL*

PROBLEM:

The County of San Diego has not had a legally-defensible Climate Action Plan for a decade because previous plans have created loopholes for dangerous sprawl development in our backcountry. This lack of leadership has been disastrous for our climate and safety, locking families into mega-commutes and forcing them into dangerous, high-risk wildfire zones with more opportunities for ignition than ever.

SOLUTION:

After a decade of lawsuits over its past, fatally-flawed Climate Action Plans, the County is starting to see the light on sprawl development. In 2022, we'll be building community will for a new Climate Action Plan for the County of San Diego that aligns with state law and stops dangerous sprawl development in our backcountry.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

LEVEL: *COUNTY*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY*
FIGHT: *WALKABLE, BIKEABLE NEIGHBORHOODS; WORLD-CLASS TRANSIT*

PROBLEM:

The County of San Diego's General Plan (GP) was passed in 2008 and updated in 2015. This plan is the guide for where and how developers can build in the unincorporated parts of San Diego County. Unfortunately, the existing General Plan has allowed for unfettered development of our backcountry, despite the wildfire and climate risks this poses.

Although the existing GP sets some limits on growth, sprawl developers have been able to ram their projects by "paying to play" with campaign contributions or other favors. With this loophole in place, sprawl developers have circumvented the GP. These developers have even resorted to financing astroturfed ballot initiatives to circumvent the General Plan.

SOLUTION:

The tide is finally changing on sprawl at the County of San Diego under its new Board of Supervisors. CAC will be pushing to update the General Plan in 2022 to close these loopholes and ensure that our County stops allowing dangerous sprawl development, once and for all.



MOVING THE LOSSAN LINES

LEVEL: *REGIONAL*
POLICY TYPE: *ADVOCACY, BUDGET, BALLOT MEASURE*
FIGHT: *WORLD-CLASS TRANSIT, RESILIENCY*

PROBLEM:

The LOSSAN rail line is precariously situated on top of the Del Mar bluffs and carries over 7 million passengers and $1 billion in goods annually. This line is the largest intercity rail corridor in the United States outside of the Northeast Corridor. Due to sea-level rise, the bluffs are eroding rapidly, causing frequent bluff failures within feet of the tracks.

SOLUTION:

We secured a commitment to move the LOSSAN lines inland in SANDAG's 2021 Regional Transportation Plan. Now, we're working to pass the Let's Go! San Diego ballot measure to fund this project. Of course, if we only move the lines in San Diego County, other parts of this corridor will remain vulnerable.

Starting in 2022, we will be watchdogging the LOSSAN Board housed under Orange County's transportation planning agency, Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA). This board has elected official representatives from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. In the past, this board has overseen Amtrak's corridor use. We're advocating for them to use their unique jurisdiction to 1) conduct a study on the investments needed to make the whole corridor climate-resilient and 2) work together to secure federal and state funding for these projects.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous individual, corporate, and foundation donors, along with our Leadership Circle members. Your support helps us fight for a climate-safe and climate-ready, Zero Carbon future.

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