



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA  
REPORT TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM**

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Report: Equitable Participatory Budgeting Framework & Recommendations

**COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION**

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**Item Type:** Report Only

**Approved for** August 1, 2024 **calendar**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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## RECOMMENDATION

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None – Report only

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

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### Introduction

As the City of Glendale finalizes its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the Office of Sustainability is investigating an equitable Participatory Budgeting process that would foster community engagement and ensure implementation of equitable climate action initiatives identified and chosen by the community. In collaboration with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Climate Corps, the Office of Sustainability has enlisted Ben Marshall as a fellow to develop a framework for Participatory Budgeting process. This initiative aligns with CAAP's Social and Government System action 5.1, "...incorporation participatory budgeting so that community members have a direct say in how funds are allocated and spent." As a conclusion to his fellowship, Ben has developed a structured approach for the Participatory Budgeting process and recommendations for the City of Glendale's consideration.

### Overview

The Office of Sustainability is dedicated to promoting sustainable practices and policies in Glendale. The Office's interest in participatory budgeting stems from the desire to create an inclusive platform where community members can actively participate in decision-making processes related to climate action projects. This approach not only enhances community engagement but also ensures that the selected projects reflect the diverse needs and preferences of Glendale's residents.

To achieve our objectives, we have collaborated with an EDF Climate Corps fellow, Ben Marshall. Ben's expertise and dedication are instrumental in developing a robust participatory budgeting framework that emphasizes equity and community-driven decision-making. Bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in sustainability and community engagement, his report will introduce the Participatory Budgeting process, detailing the research findings, stakeholder insights, and proposed models tailored for Glendale.

### Scope of the Project

The project encompasses several key activities:

- **Research and Analysis:** Various participatory budgeting models will be investigated, while considering what is most suitable for Glendale by referencing similar initiatives in other cities.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging internal and external stakeholders, including community-based organizations (CBOs), to gather insights and preferences regarding climate action projects.
- **Reports and Maps:** Gathering reports outlining the Participatory Budgeting process, stakeholder maps, and recommendations for implementation.

### Support for CAAP

The Participatory Budgeting process supports the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan by:

- **Enhancing Community Involvement:** Encouraging residents to take an active role in climate action decision-making.
- **Promoting Equity:** Ensuring that all community members, including marginalized groups, have a voice in the budgeting process.
- **Aligning with Climate Goals:** Selecting and implementing projects that contribute to Glendale's sustainability and climate resilience objectives.
- **Deliverability:** Participatory Budgeting process is a measure under the proposed measures and action of the Climate Action Plan under Social and Governance Systems, measure 5.1.

### Conclusion

Exhibit 1, Equitable Participatory Budgeting Framework & Recommendations Report, outlines Participatory Budgeting strategies to advance implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The attached report is currently a draft, as Ben's fellowship will continue for an additional 3 weeks. He will submit a final report in mid-August, incorporating additional feedback from the Sustainability Commission and stakeholders as needed. He will also incorporate additional data that is still being compiled and a comprehensive list of references on which his research is based.

### FISCAL IMPACT

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No fiscal impact associated with this report

### ALTERNATIVES

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None

### EXHIBITS

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1. Equitable Participatory Budgeting Framework & Recommendations Report