

CITY OF LA MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**CITY OF
LA MESA**
JEWEL of the HILLS



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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear La Mesa Community,

As we reflect on 2022, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significant strides made by the City of La Mesa in advancing our Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals. With the adoption of our first CAP in 2018, the City Staff, City Council, and entire La Mesa community have been diligently working to put our plan into action. As we progress toward a sustainable future, we recognize that achieving environmental sustainability requires a holistic approach that spans multiple sectors and continuous collaboration between La Mesa staff and residents.

The 2022 CAP Annual Report showcases La Mesa's progress and achievements this past year, highlighting efforts in energy, transportation, solid waste, water, and green infrastructure. Notable accomplishments include the successful rollout of citywide organics recycling in support of SB 1383, a 60% increase in issued solar permits, the acquisition of two new electric vehicles for the City's municipal fleet, the launch of the La Mesa Green Business Network, the adoption of an Urban Forest Management Plan, and many other noteworthy initiatives. In 2023, the City will be updating the original Climate Action Plan to enhance our goals and strategies in support of a healthy, thriving La Mesa community. There will be opportunities for the community to provide your input through a series of workshops and surveys.

This fourth Annual Report is a testament to our collective efforts and should serve as a source of inspiration for continued work. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together, and I eagerly anticipate witnessing La Mesa's continued growth as a more sustainable community. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to tackling climate change and preserving our environment for generations.



Dr. Mark Arapostathis

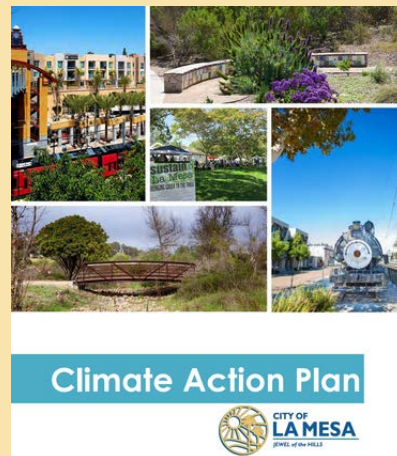


GET TO KNOW LA MESA'S 2018 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

In 2018, La Mesa released its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) and outlines a roadmap to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 53% by 2035 from the 2010 baseline. To accomplish this goal, the CAP outlines 25 measures and additional key actions and sustainability targets to guide the City's progress.

The 25 measures that help the City work towards these goals range from community engagement to interdisciplinary collaborations. While some of these measures are easily implemented and accomplished, others require planning and time. The City has prioritized efforts that require compliance with State mandates and GHG reduction potential.

The growth highlighted in this report represents the diligence, resiliency, and partnership by many within the City, community, and its partners. Some of these groups include the Environmental Sustainability Commission (ESC), a commission made up of local experts, key stakeholders, CivicSpark and CollegeCorps Fellows, and residents. Additionally, within the City, there is the CAP Implementation Team, consisting of subject-matter experts from every department across the City. As a whole, the City is creating a resilient community and moving the CAP forward while adjusting to policies that require prioritization.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The City is committed to updating the CAP as key actions are met and new developments occur within the community and beyond. Kickoff meetings for the first CAP update began in 2022 to develop a communications and engagement plan. Community input is a key component of the update, and three public workshops are planned for early 2023. Visit the City of La Mesa website to learn more about how to get involved.

PURPOSE OF THE CAP UPDATE:

REVISION OF MEASURES AND KEY ACTIONS



CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN ADDITION TO CLIMATE ACTION



INCLUSION OF A CLIMATE EQUITY ELEMENT



REASSESSMENT OF GHG REDUCTION GOALS & ALIGNMENT WITH THE NEW STATE GOALS: 48% BELOW 1990 EMISSIONS BY 2030 AND NET ZERO BY 2045

ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with La Mesa's 2018 CAP, the City has published annual reports and bi-annual implementation plans. This Annual Report provides updates on its 25 CAP targets and identifies priorities moving forward. The City has significantly increased its climate-focused work in 2022.

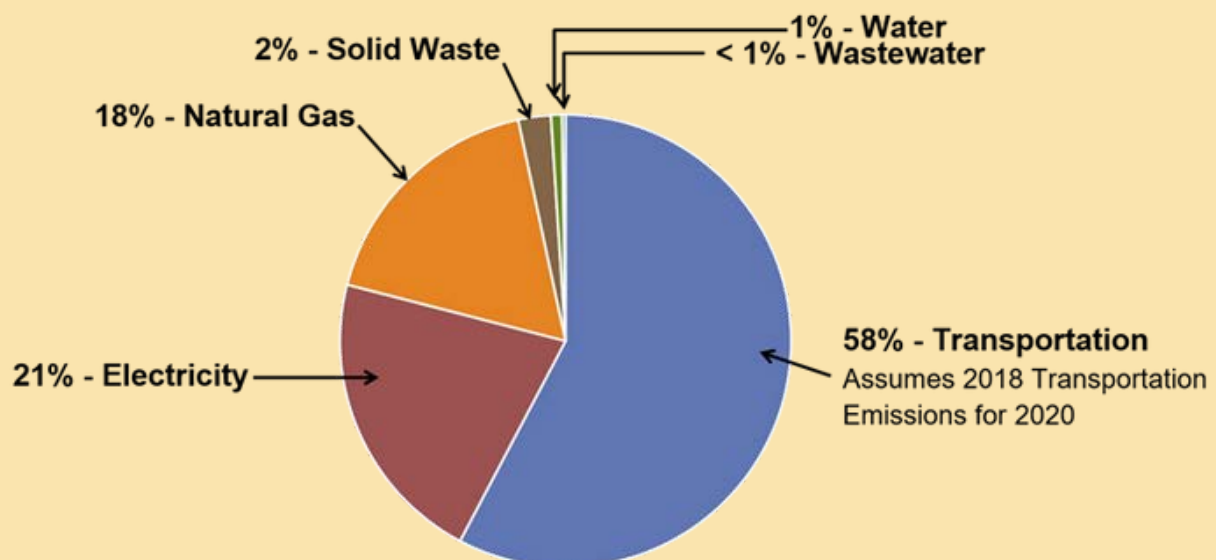
The data reported in this Annual Report includes the most recent available GHG emission inventory data that was received from SANDAG. Relevant updates and project highlights are included in the pages that follow and more detailed information on each measure within the CAP can be found in the Appendix on the City's Environmental Sustainability webpage.

The City endeavors to keep residents involved and informed about the progress the City is making towards its CAP and reach the City's goal of reducing current GHG emissions by 53% by 2035 from the 2010 baseline.



2020 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY UPDATE

In partnership with SANDAG, the City received snapshots of the GHG inventory updates for 2016 and 2018 and has seen a decrease in community-wide emissions — 10.93% below the 2010 baseline. The 2020 snapshot was received in early 2023 and is unique as the Covid-19 pandemic had impacts on daily activities. The 2020 GHG inventory is based on the best available data for electricity, natural gas, solid waste, water, and wastewater, but excludes on-road transportation. This is because SANDAG's activity-based model (ABM) data estimates could not take into account the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on vehicle miles traveled (VMT). San Diego region wide peak period highway travel was observed to be down 16.7% in 2020 from 2019, but remains the largest contributor of GHG emissions. As seen below, transportation accounts for the majority of La Mesa's GHG emissions, followed by electricity and natural gas.



ENERGY

USING CLEAN ELECTRICITY

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) offers renewable electricity to residents and businesses through PowerOn (55%) and Power100 (100%). All municipal accounts are Power100.



La Mesa Stats for 2022:

27,702

Accounts

95.4%

Participation
Rate

118

Opt-ups to
Power100



SDCP



SDGE



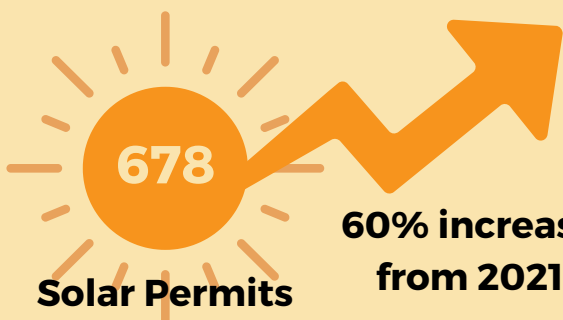
You

DIY ENERGY SAVING & SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT

The City continues to encourage residents to monitor energy use at home through the [DIY Energy Saving and Sustainability Toolkit program](#). In 2022, **14 toolkits were checked out** by residents. The City developed a survey for feedback and designed new tool highlight outreach materials.



SOLAR & BATTERY STORAGE



60% increase
from 2021



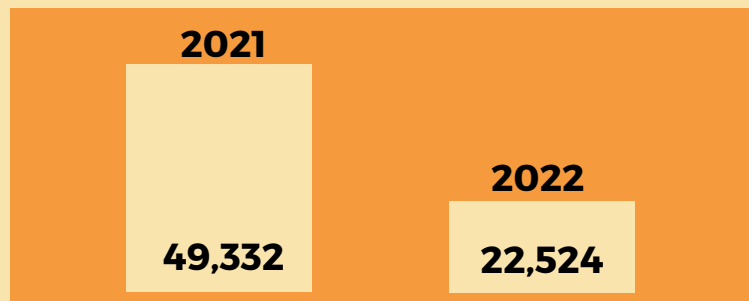
Megawatts of Solar
Installed



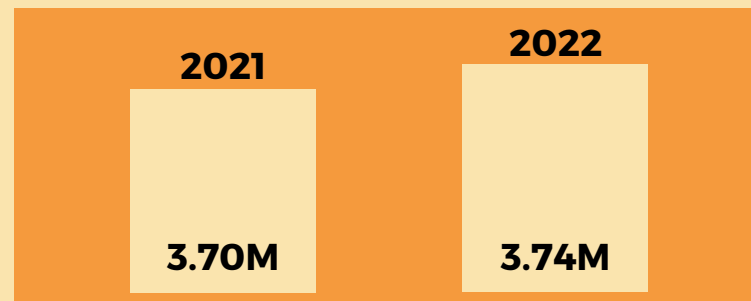
Battery Storage
Permits Issued

MUNICIPAL ENERGY USE

In 2022, the City of La Mesa **decreased its natural gas usage in municipal facilities by 54%** from the previous year due to savings from municipal pool repairs and upgrades. Since March 2021, all municipal accounts use 100% renewable electricity through Power100.



Natural Gas Usage (Therms)



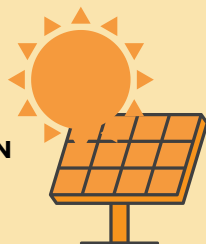
Electricity Usage (kWh)

LA MESA COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

In 2022, the City began exploring a large comprehensive energy program for all municipal facilities which will begin in 2023. The purpose of the program is to conduct building energy audits, and identify and construct the following projects:



**ENERGY
CONSERVATION
MEASURES**



**ONSITE
RENEWABLE
ENERGY**



**BATTERY
STORAGE**



**ELECTRIC
VEHICLE
CHARGING
INFRASTRUCTURE**

CALGREEN BUILDING CODE UPDATE

The California Green Building Code, also known as CALGreen, is a set of mandatory standards that promote environmentally sustainable and energy-efficient building. It was first implemented in 2010 and is updated every three years. The City of La Mesa has adopted the 2022 Edition of CALGreen in the City of La Mesa Municipal Code (Chapter 14.04), which will go into effect Jan 1, 2023.





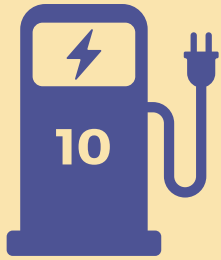
TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE



MUNICIPAL CLEAN ENERGY FLEET

The City acquired hybrid vehicles for the Police Department, as well as **2 new electric vehicles** to replace aging gas-powered vehicles used by City building inspectors. This acquisition marks the first full-electric vehicles on the City fleet.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING



**New
Commercial
EV Chargers**



**Residential
Charging
Permits
Issued**



SCHOOL BUS ELECTRIFICATION

In September 2022, Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) unveiled their **first 17 all-electric buses** and new **Transportation Services Center**. The new fleet is estimated to save over \$2 million in annual fuel costs.



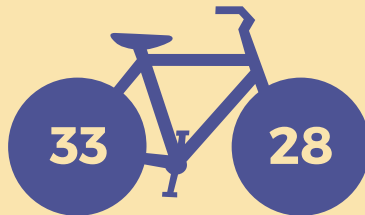
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & VISION ZERO

In 2022, the City installed 12 new pedestrian crossings and upgraded 12 pedestrian signals to improve accessibility for all pedestrians in La Mesa. The City has also added bike boxes at stoplights along University Avenue, which increases bicyclist visibility and safety at intersections.

La Mesa is proudly a Vision Zero City since 2018, aiming to eliminate traffic fatalities and increase safety and accessibility for all road users, including pedestrians and bicyclists.



**Grant Funding for
Improvements**



**Miles of Class 2
Bike Lanes Miles of Class 3
Bike Lanes**



**La Mesa Walks
Participants**



**Total Miles of
Sidewalk in La Mesa**



TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

BIKE MONTH EVENTS & SAFETY FAIR

In 2022, the City received a **GO by Bike Mini-Grant** through SANDAG's iCommute program. This funding allowed the City to host a number of events during Bike Month in May, with over **140 total attendees**.



Bike Safety Fair
Bike to Work Day Pitstop
Employee Bike Tune-Up



**Bike Repair Station,
outside City Hall**

PUBLIC TRANSIT

La Mesa has **7 bus routes** and **5 trolley stations** that connect residents to the major areas in the San Diego region.

In May 2022, SANDAG announced the **Youth Opportunity Pass program**, which offers riders 18 & under free transit passes. The City also continues to promote the Pronto app.



TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) refers to residential development within walking distance of transit and other services, lessening the need for personal vehicle trips. The City has two TOD projects:



**8181 Allison: 147 units
under construction**



**Jefferson La Mesa: 230 units
completed 2022**

WHAT IS TDM?

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) refers to strategies that reduce single occupancy vehicle trips. This includes:





- Telework options
- Flexible work hours
- Subsidized transit passes
- Carpool priority parking



SOLID WASTE

RECYCLING COMPLIANCE

As part of Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1826, all single family homes, multi-family residential dwellings, and commercial businesses are required to subscribe to recycling and organics recycling as of January 2022. This supports La Mesa's CAP goal to divert 75% of waste from the landfill by 2025. **La Mesa's 2022 compliance rates are:**

-  **98%** Recycling for Multi-Family Units
-  **99%** Organics Recycling for Residential Collection
-  **95%** Recycling for Businesses
-  **34%** Organics Recycling for Commercial Collection
*Core rollout of business and multi-family organics compliance will be in early 2023.

La Mesa Passed Ordinance 2022-2895 on Mandatory Organics Recycling and Edible Food Recovery.



**CITY WIDE
DIVERSION RATE**

26.5%



0.7% Lower Than 2021

**WASTE COLLECTED
BY EDCO**

53,150

Tons

6.6% Decrease From 2021

**COMPOST BIN
VOUCHER PROGRAM**

35

Coupons Issued

? What Happens to Your Organic Waste ?

- 1** Food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste are placed in curbside green organic waste carts.
- 2** EDCO transports the organics to the anaerobic digester facility.
- 3** Bacteria breaks down organic matter without oxygen – the final product being digestate (like compost) and renewable natural gas.
- 4** Diverting food from landfills reduces methane emissions (a GHG at least 25x as potent as CO₂).





SOLID WASTE

MUNICIPAL ORGANICS RECYCLING

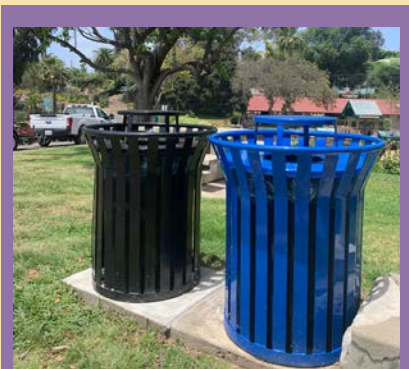
The City adopted organics recycling in all municipal building with clearly labeled bins. To support this program, the CAP team hosted a lunch-and-learn event for City Staff.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

The City adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EP3) to support the CAP and meet SB 1383 requirements. When possible, purchases should be recyclable, energy-efficient, water-saving, and non-toxic. The EP3 requires the purchase of:

- Paper of at least 30% recycled content
- Compost
- SB 1383-eligible mulch



The City installed new recycling bins in parks.

SOLID WASTE EVENTS



Household Hazardous Waste Events (HHW)
936 participants



Tons of Mulch Provided to the Community



Lbs of Paper Shredded Across 3 Events



Organics Recycling Educational Webinar for Businesses



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

LA MESA'S URBAN TREE CANOPY

La Mesa has been a Tree City USA for 43 years. Through the 2019 CAL Fire Grant, the City inventoried trees, conducted outreach, and planted trees in public spaces. The City continues to look into best practices for maintaining and growing the urban forest.



The City prioritizes canopy expansion as trees provide many benefits; they reduce air pollution, capture stormwater, store carbon dioxide, conserve energy, increase property values, and improve public health.



Trees Planted
in 2022

Trees Maintained
by the City

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



La Mesa's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) – prepared by Dudek and funded by a 2019 Cal Fire Grant – was adopted on May 24, 2022. Overarching goals include:

A sustainable,
resilient,
equitable
urban forest



Achievable
canopy cover
goals



Increased canopy
cover on private
property &
inclusion of trees
in development



Best
management
practices for
city tree
maintenance



Community
engagement
opportunities



RENOVATIONS AND NEW DEVELOPMENT

Collier Park, La Mesa's oldest park, is in the midst of renovations, which include low water vegetation, a bioswale, a nature-themed play area, and new trees in the parking lot.

The Waite Drive draft park master plan was finalized in December. This new 2.84 acre park will include a nature-themed playground, solar-powered security lighting, an outdoor water station, native and low-water plants, bioswales, and a landscape tree grove buffer.



New Park: Waite Drive



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

LA MESA COMMUNITY GARDEN



**LA MESA PARK &
RECREATION FOUNDATION**



Garden Beds



Garden Participants



Volunteers



Workshops



**Workshop
Participants**

EVENTS



La Mesa Earth Day Festival
April 9, 2022

Tree planting demonstration
and tree education activities.
400+ people attended.



Staff Tree Training
June 2, 2022

Staff training on proper tree
planting and maintenance. 18
staff completed the training.



Park Appreciation Day
November 5, 2022

150 volunteers cleaned parks,
and 2 new trees were planted
in MacArthur Park.

WATER

WATER CONSERVATION

200

Students attended I Love A Clean San Diego's Watershed Education Presentations.

685

Students attended the student education program on water hosted by Helix Water.

19

La Mesa residents participated in in-home water use evaluations by Helix Water District.

77

Water device rebates were given to residents through Helix Water District.

La Mesa residents used on average

95

gallons of water a day.
(4% decrease from 2021)

PURE WATER PROJECT



The City is part of the regional Pure Water Project, which aims to convert at least 83 million gallons of wastewater each day into potable drinking water. Phase 1 construction of pipelines, pump stations, and treatment facilities has started.

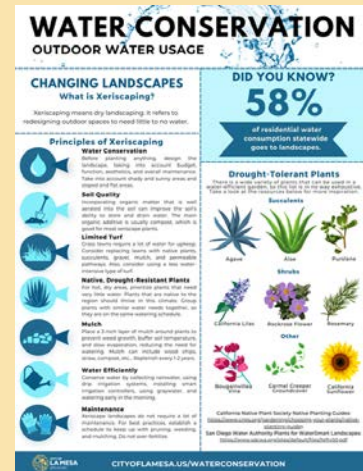
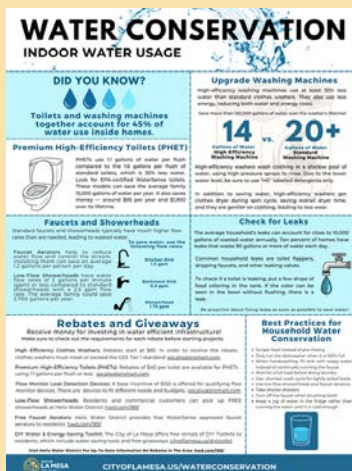
TURF REPLACEMENT

28,750 sq ft
of turf was replaced in 2022.

This amounts to savings of 1.2 million gallons of water per year and 36 million gallons over a lifetime.

WATER FACT SHEETS

The City revamped the water conservation web page and created indoor and outdoor water conservation fact sheets. Each sheet provides best practices, rebates, and giveaways. Visit the City website to see more.





WATER

STORMWATER PROJECTS

In 2022, the City:

- Conducted 150 FOG (fats, oil, grease) checks for restaurants
- Inspected 360 restaurants for stormwater compliance
- Inspected private construction projects' Best Management Practices
- Provided stormwater information to the community through park kiosks



WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?



When it rains, water flows over parking lots, streets, and other surfaces, collecting everything from cigarette butts to motor oil, washing them into the storm drain.

Everything that washes into a storm drain eventually ends up in lakes, rivers, creeks, and the ocean because storm drains are not connected to treatment systems.



COASTAL CLEANUP EVENTS

In collaboration with I Love A Clean San Diego as part of the San Diego Bay Watershed Program, the City hosted a Coastal Cleanup Day in September and a Creek to Bay Cleanup event in April at University Channel in La Mesa. Approximately 25 community members participated in each event, removing trash from the waterway and surrounding area.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To reduce storm water pollution, city staff, developers, contractors, businesses, and residents are required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs include but are not limited to:

- Pick up after your pet
- Minimize fertilizers
- Store chemicals in a safe place
- Dispose of unwanted chemicals at HHW Events
- Eliminate over-irrigation of landscape
- Recycle used motor oil & antifreeze



La Mesa Green Business Network
GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION
 Why Get Certified?
www.ci.lamesa.ca.us/greenbusiness

- ✓ Protect the Environment
- ✓ Gain A Competitive Edge
- ✓ Improve Employee Productivity
- ✓ Achieve Environmental Recognition
- ✓ Be Proactive with State Policies
- ✓ Save Money

GREEN
 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK
 SAN DIEGO REGION



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Community engagement is integral to La Mesa's CAP, and the City is always looking for more ways to connect with the community.



CAP VIDEO

In July, the City released an educational video to engage the La Mesa community on CAP implementation efforts.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & TABLING

The City hosted Bike Safety events, Tree Steward Trainings, HHW drop-offs, Farmer's Market tabling, and more.



STAFF TRAININGS

The City hosted staff trainings on bike safety, organics recycling, and tree planting.

36
 CAP-Related Social Media Posts Across Platforms

Increased CAP-Related Posts in the City Manager Update.



GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK

The La Mesa Green Business Network (GBN) was **launched in August 2022** with the goal of promoting environmentally-friendly business practices and supporting the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

As part of the La Mesa Green Business Network, the City offers a local green business certification program — free of cost — to La Mesa businesses through a partnership with the San Diego Regional Green Business Network. Through the GBN, businesses are provided with free sustainability resources, educational events, a monthly GBN newsletter, and opportunities to network.

8 Green Business Network Sign-ups

1 Green Business Certification

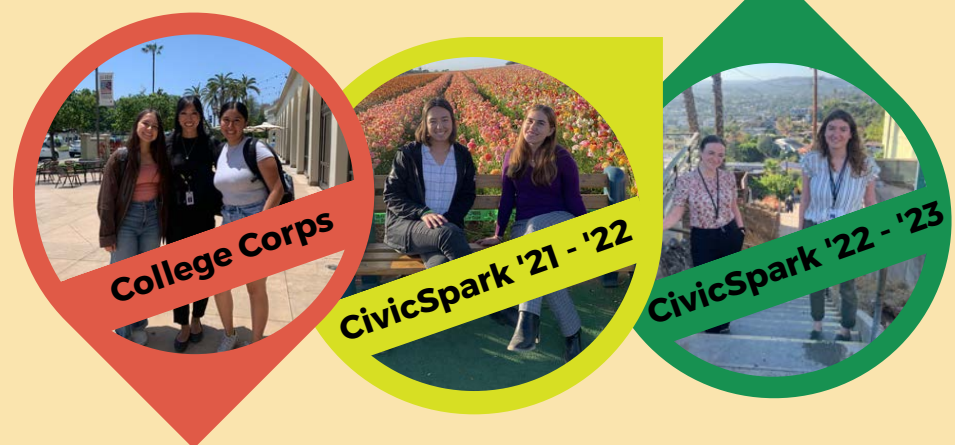




CIVICSPARK & COLLEGE CORPS FELLOWS

The City of La Mesa continued to participate in the CivicSpark program, taking on 2 new Fellows in September after the first 2 finished their term in July. La Mesa also started hosting 2 College Corps Fellows from the University of San Diego to work on additional climate action projects. Fellow projects include:

- Environmental Justice Report
- Citywide Organics Recycling
- La Mesa Green Business Network
- La Mesa Earth Day Kids Zone
- Tree Planting Projects
- Transportation Resources
- CAP Annual Report
- Comprehensive Energy Program
- Bicycle Education Events



2023 PRIORITIES

Climate Action Plan Update	
Expansion of Green Business Network	
Host CivicSpark Fellows & Interns	
100% Organics Recycling Compliance	
Comprehensive Municipal Energy Program	
CAP-Themed City Walks Program	

Water Conservation Workshops	
Bike Safety Classes for Residents	
CAP Communications Guide	
Implement Urban Forest Plan	
Litter Free La Mesa Community Cleanup Series	
La Mesa Complete Streets Project	



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

The City of La Mesa is committed to addressing climate change and fostering a sustainable and resilient community for generations to come.

ENVIROSVCS@CITYOFLAMESA.US

LA MESA