



City of Buena Park

MINUTES CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 7, 2026

1A. CALL TO ORDER

The Climate Action Commission met on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA.

1B. ROLL CALL **PRESENT:** Schooner, Singhal, James, Bendinelli, Figueroa
STAFF: Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager
Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager
Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. COMMUNICATIONS

This is a portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for each speaker.

2A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2026

****M/S/P – Schooner/Figueroa**

4. OLD BUSINESS – No items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON ENERGY REACH CODE

Sustainability Manager Lotus Thai led the discussion on Energy Reach Codes. Representatives from Negawatt and So. Cal. Edison were in attendance via Zoom. A Reach Code is a local ordinance(s) adopted by a local government that exceed and enhance the state's building standards. Today the discussion will focus on Flex Path for existing single-family residential buildings and AC to HP for existing non-residential buildings.

The CAAP Metric Measures are 50% of existing single-family residential buildings be electric by 2030 and 90% by 2045. The CAAP Metric requires 50% of existing commercial buildings be electric by 2030 and 90% by 2045.

REACH CODE CAAP MEASURES

- E1b: Incentivize private building owners to retrofit buildings with energy-efficient upgrades by collaborating with utilities to provide reduced cost energy upgrades and providing permit streamlining as applicable.

- E1c: adopt a time-of-renovation energy efficiency ordinance requiring use of energy-efficient features in plan designs
- E2b: Adopt a time-of-renovation electrification ordinance that requires replacement of HVAC systems, hot water heaters, and other natural gas appliances.
- E2c: Educate the community on the replacement of natural gas appliances with electric appliances in residential and commercial buildings and highlight the cost savings and health benefits.

FLEX PATH:

For existing single-family residential buildings, if a home upgrade exceeds a valuation, then Flex Path is triggered. Buena Park residents choose from a menu of energy efficient and electrification items to add up to a target score. The Commission will help to determine the trigger dollar amount to recommend to Council.

Ms. Thai went over the Flex Path exceptions and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis that showed the incremental costs, annual bill savings and emissions reductions. Developers doing new projects will contain elements that will line up with meeting these targets.

Flex Path: determining “trigger” valuation

- \$40,000 valuation: ~33 projects/year
- \$45,000 valuation: ~30 projects/year
- \$50,000 valuation: ~28 projects/year

The Commission reviewed AC to HP for existing non-residential buildings, and cost-effective analysis and programs incentives available to residents.

Staff is hosting a Buena Park’s B.O.L.T. (Building Optimization and Long-Term Transition) Program webinar on April 23 for businesses (4-5pm) and residents (5:30-6:30pm). This virtual community meeting on April 23 is for residents to learn how smart energy upgrades during planned improvements can improve comfort, reduce energy use, and support long-term cost savings. The webinar will also cover case studies, incentives, rebates and program benefits. The Commission agreed that the reach code recommendations should be presented to Council.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

The Commission suggested that there be more than 3-year credit given to home improvements made within 3 years prior. The valuation trigger of \$50,000 is high, it may discourage residents from obtaining construction project permits. Questions on the size of heat pumps single room HP vs. HP for the whole home; specifically identify HP size that the menu refers to.

5B. DISCUSS 2026 ARBOR DAY

Public Works Manager Joe Hunt reported the annual Arbor Day Tree planting event is Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9-11 a.m. Staff and volunteers will plant 12-16 new trees in various locations at Bellis Park. West Coast Arborist will donate new trees that will include Bottle Trees, Takanawa Trees and California Live Oak Trees. The Arbor Day Proclamation will be presented at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2026 at 5 p.m. Commissioners are invited to attend.

5C. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FRIENDSHIP PARK REDESIGN**Park Review Process**

Staff would like to draft Design Standards for the Commission to review in May the design standards will include:

- EV chargers in parking lot areas where ground is disturbed (20% of spots are EV/EV ready)
- Solar shade structures in expanded parking lot
- Solar lighting for basketball and pickleball courts instead of wired lighting
- Low-flow/water efficient fixtures in restroom
- LED motion-activated lighting in restroom
- Bicycle parking/bike racks
- Water bottle refill station (in addition to drinking fountain)
- Big Belly receptacles
- 2-bin (landfill and recycling) around park
- 3-bin (landfill, recycling, organics) around BBQ area

The Commission discussed the types of plants and trees that will be planted within the park. The Commission recommended that California native trees and plants be used in the new redesign of the park. It would be nice to have stations with information and history of the different trees, plants and flowers in the park. Also flower pollinating plants should be planted to attract butterflies.

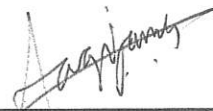
6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Lotus Thai reported that Mayor Trout and Councilmember Franco are promoting a community clean up task force; the City Council has approved funds for the clean up events. The Commission would like to partner with the councilmembers to participate in the events.

The Office of Sustainability applied and received a Community Clean Up Grant in the amount of \$240,000. The Sustainability Office and Code Enforcement Department will partner with the OC Conservation Corps. participants to clean up illegal dumping in areas within Buena Park.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

Climate Action Commission Chair