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In-Person Open Houses

In-Person Open House Overview

The Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) of Ventura comprises of a new vision for climate action, which includes quantitative goals, tracking metrics, and identification of programs/actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience. The CARP is a section of the Ventura General Plan, a state-required policy document that establishes a vision for Ventura. California state law requires that a General Plan address eight core topics formally known as "elements" such as housing, economic development, and climate change.

To gain insight into the Ventura community's perspectives on climate action, the City held three openhouse style events within the months of July and August. We summarize the ideas shared below and rely on them to inform the City of Ventura Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. Materials were provided in English and Spanish, and Spanish-speaking staff were present to engage with residents.

The first two open houses were held in-person at the Ventura City Hall Atrium on July 13th, 2022 and July 14th, 2022. The last open house was held via Zoom on August 11th, 2022. A total of 45 people attended the in-person open houses and 35 attended the virtual event.

Links to the open house materials can be found here.



Participants at the Ventura CARP Open House





Participants interacting with Open House station

Open House Stations

The open house consisted of 7 stations about different topics related to greenhouse gas mitigation and climate adaptation, with detailed descriptions about why each topic matters: Climate Change 101, Visioning for a Climate Ready Ventura, Clean Energy + Buildings, Transportation + Land Use, Solid Waste, Water, and Climate Hazards. Each station had options to record ideas and opinions via sticky notes, voting with stickers for climate-related policies and priorities, and visions. Pictures of the boards used at the In-Person Open Houses can be found in Appendix A.

Station 1: Climate Change and CARP Overview

The first station provided background on what climate change and greenhouse gas emissions are. It also included a summary of what the CARP is, with information such as its components, key terms, and project schedule. Lastly, this station contained a board illustrating the city's communitywide GHG emissions and what they mean for the CARP 's emissions reduction target.

Station 2: My Vision for a Climate Ready Ventura Is...

At station 2, community members were asked to respond to the open-ended prompt: My Vision for a Climate Ready Ventura is... The following summarizes themes from the responses.

Responses related to **mobility** focused on safe, comfortable active transportation (e.g., walking and biking) and transit use including:

- Better transit and less driving
- Keep Main Street closed to traffic and improve infrastructure surrounding the area
- More "open streets" that are car-free and encourage biking and walking
- Separate bike lanes on city streets
- Implement safe routes to school, and lowered speed limits between 7am to 3pm
- Construct electric a light-rail or trolley along Main Street
- Diverse e-mobility options (scooters, bikes, etc.)

Responses related to **energy** focused on transition from natural gas to electricity and renewable energy production including:

- Electrification of new buildings instead of gas in new constructions
- Distributed solar and microgrids
- Move the Southern California Gas compressor out of Ventura

Responses related to **ecology and open space** focused on trees and urban resilience measures including:

- Implement more projects that mitigate natural hazards and do not cause long-term harm like the Shoreline Retreat-Surfrider Project
- Green incentives for mature trees on residential properties
- Street medians filled with trees

Responses related to the plan focus and framing included:

- Environmental justice at the center of the CARP
- We should frame the plan as "Climate Saving" not just "Climate Ready" i.e. not just protecting ourselves from climate hazards
- Support local hillside nonprofits in Ventura





Residents' visions for Climate Ready Ventura



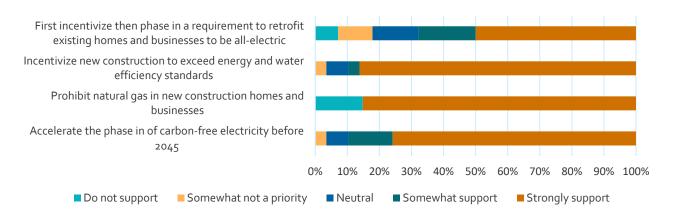
Station 3: Clean Energy + Buildings

At the Clean Energy + Building Station, participants rating a series of policy option the City would have to take to achieve State greenhouse gas emission targets on a scale of 1 (lowest rated) to 5 (highest rated), identified challenges to transitioning to efficient and/or all-electric buildings, and provided other ideas to reduce energy and building emissions.

Policy Rating

Open house participants strongly supported measures to incentivize new construction (86%) to exceed efficiency standards, prohibit natural gas in new construction (85%), and accelerate the transition to carbon free electricity (75%). Approximately 2/3 of respondents strongly supported or somewhat supported phasing in a requirement for existing homes to be all electric.

Figure 1: Ratings for Clean Energy and Building Policy Options (n = 29)



Challenges to All-Electric Buildings

Community members identified the following challenges to transition to more efficient and all-electric buildings:

- Permit timelines and upfront costs
- The need for significant grant money to help with retrofits
- The gas industry's misinformation and lobbying- including the hold they have on the Ventura compression station

Other Ideas to Reduce Energy and Building Emissions

Community members identified the following ideas to reduce energy and building emissions, organized by topic.

Responses related to **renewable energy** focused on:

- Solar panels on city property for community use; for example, parking lots
- Add a carbon tax to properties based on their carbon footprint
- Increase dependency on solar energy

When it came to **building improvements**, participants identified the following:

- Implement a carbon budget for new buildings and permits
- Proper ventilation and discourage air conditioning use
- Restaurants getting rid of gas appliances

Ideas relevant to **urban forestry and trees** called for more shade and tree maintenance:

- Maintain existing and new trees
- Require urban forestry on rooftops of commercial
- More shade trees and reflective roofs
- Adopt a historic tree ordinance

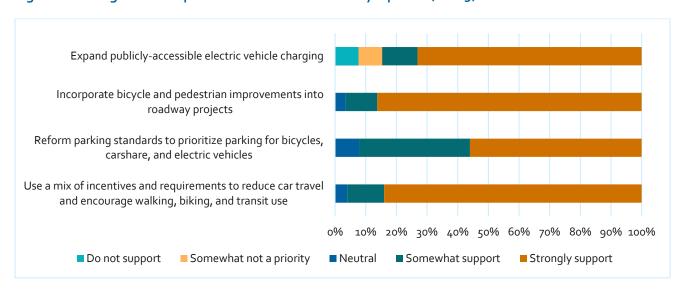
Station 4: Transportation + Land Use

At the Transportation + Land Use Station, participants rated a series of policy options the City would have to take to achieve State greenhouse gas emission targets on a scale of 1 (lowest rated) to 5 (highest rated). In consideration transportation being a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, participants identified challenges in shifting away from car use as a primary source of transportation, as well as ideas on reaching the goals.

Policy Rating

Open house participants strongly supported measures to incentivize active transportation across the city. The expansion of electric vehicle charging (72%), bike and pedestrian improvements to existing roads (85%), and parking standard reforms (55%) were all generally strongly supported. About 4/5 participants strongly supported the implementation of a mix of incentives that reduce car travel and encourage active transportation options.

Figure 2: Ratings for Transportation and Land Use Policy Options (n = 29)





Challenges to Active Transportation

Community members identified the following barriers exist to normalizing active transportation in Ventura:

- No e-mobility options available
- Lack of fully protected bike lanes
- The streets are not safe for cyclists or walkers. Ventura prioritizes high car speeds.
- Sidewalk widths are too narrow
- Sidewalk obstructions are in the way

Other Ideas to Reduce Transportation Related Emissions

The following are ideas shared to increase active transportation in the city and reduce transportation related emissions:

- For walkers shade trees along all sidewalks
- Good-paying jobs within the city
- Requirement for wider sidewalks with no impediments
- Carpool parking by freeways
- Connect all bike lanes
- Grants/rebates for bike purchases (and regular use)
- More resources, education, community promoters for electric vehicle + bike use in the city
- Transit that goes up to the hills

Station 5: Solid Waste

The fifth climate-related station at the open house had information about solid waste in the city. Community members rated solid waste mitigation policy options on a scale of 1 (lowest rated) to 5 (highest rated). Furthermore, participants shared barriers that exist to ensuring that solid waste originating in Ventura is reduced, as well as ideas related to solid waste reduction.

Policy Rating

Open house participants strongly supported all three measures to incentivize the practice of reusing goods and materials. The establishment of a food service ware ban (72%), projects that promote sharing and reusing (80%), and promoting local goods and services that support the reuse of goods (83%) were all of interest to open house visitors.

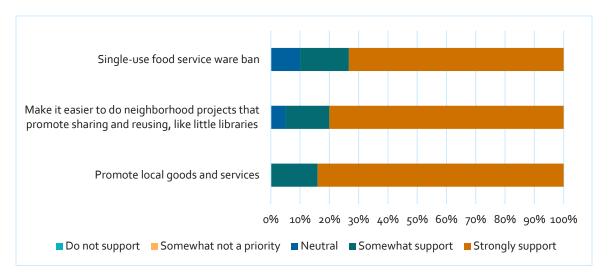


Figure 3: Ratings for Solid Waste Policy Options (n = 29)

Challenges to Reducing Solid Waste

Participants identified the following challenges or barriers that exist to reducing waste and using less plastic:

- Abundance of single-use products, especially bottles
- Getting folks to participate in waste-reduction practices
- Lack of place where you can reuse plastic; the Refill Shoppe in Ventura is great, but not cheap
- Recycling can come at a high cost to low-income consumers, financial and timewise

Other Ideas Related to Reducing Solid Waste

Ideas shared to reduce solid waste emissions include:

- Modeling recycling programs like those at Harrison's, where recyclables are picked up weekly and their kitchen waste program
- A ban on single-use items should be analyzed though an equity lens- considering people who
 may need rely on single use plastics
- Banning single-use plastic straws or cups

Station 6: Water

Water conservation is a major issue in the city of Ventura, as the region has a vast agricultural industry and is subject to drought conditions impacting the rest of the state of California. Participants were given the opportunity to rate policy options about water use, as well as provide insight on what challenges exist to conserving water in Ventura.

Policy Rating

Community members rated policy options that are efforts the City would have to take to achieve water conservation targets. Each policy was rated on a scale of 1 (lowest rated) to 5 (highest rated). Open house participants strongly supported all four options to conserve local water in Ventura. The establishment of



a streamlined laundry-to-landscape permit process (88%), alternative water supplies (79%), and CAL Green Trier 1 and 2 efficiency standards (55%) were all of interest to open house visitors. Furthermore, 4/5 visitors agreed that the promotion of energy and water utility incentives would be effective.

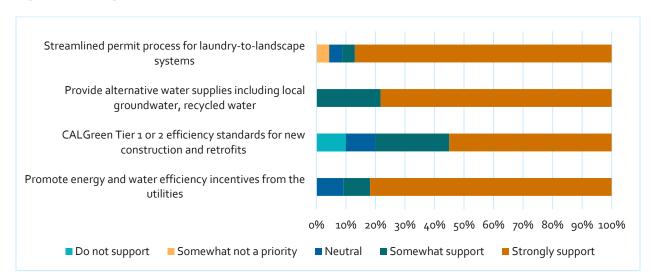


Figure 4: Ratings for Water Conservancy Policy Options (n = 29)

Challenges to Water Conservation

These are the challenges related to conserving water identified by community members:

- Disproportionate impacts on agriculture
- No enforcement of wasting water

Other Ideas Related to Conserving Water

- Return snow melt to rainwater
- Expand recycled water to irrigation for trees
- Stop outsourcing park maintenance, we need more staff to monitor landscape and water usage
- We must get water to the medians with innovative landscape design
- Encourage low water use crops
- Remove grass lawns from city property not used for recreation
- Resources dedicated to creating a "protecting water" culture (education, incentives, etc.)
- Incentivize lawn removal

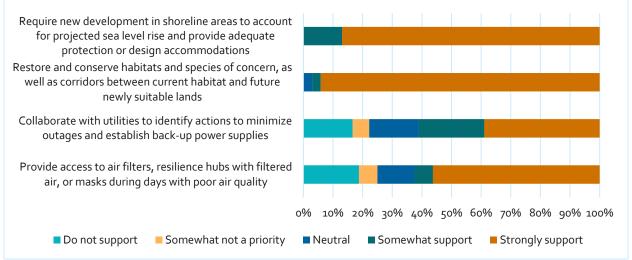
Station 7: Climate Hazards

The final open house station on Climate Hazards prompted community members to weigh in on policies that ensure that the region achieves State greenhouse gas emission targets. Furthermore, they discussed barriers in achieving these goals as well as ideas that the City should explore.

Policy Rating

Community members rated policy options that are efforts the City would have to take to mitigate the potential for climate hazards. Each policy was rated on a scale of 1 (lowest rated) to 5 (highest rated). Open house participants strongly supported policies related to strict protection measures for new shoreline developments (85%) and the restoration and conservation of natural habitats (93%).





Challenges to Climate Hazard Adaptation

These are the challenges related climate hazard adaptation identified by community members:

- Reliance on natural gas
- Region is susceptible to earthquakes landslides, wildfires that can cause line leaks and explosions
- There is no environmentalist on the city council

Other Ideas Related to Climate Hazard Adaptation

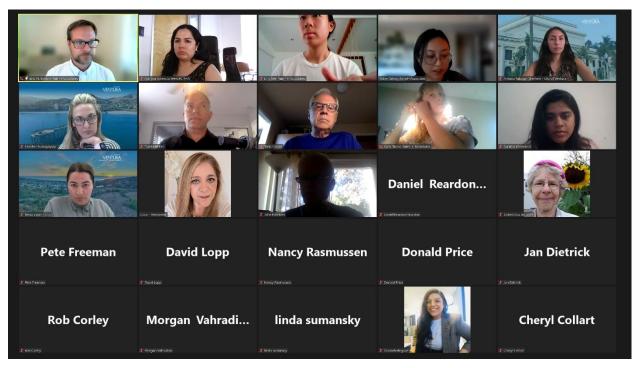
- Plan for moving the fairgrounds elsewhere in the county
- Redevelop land with sea level in mind
- We could create a nifty shoreline that keeps tourism vital



Virtual Open House

Virtual Open House Overview

The last open house was held via Zoom on August 11th, 2022, with 35 people in attendance. The Virtual Open House started with a brief presentation from the City and consultant team that summarized what climate change is, what the CARP is, the communitywide GHG inventory, and GHG reduction measures. The Virtual Open House interactive portion consisted of various stations like those presented at the inperson open houses a few weeks prior. Participants were asked to share ideas and barriers to a wide range of topics relevant to Climate Action and Resiliency, including transportation, water, and energy. Ondemand Spanish interpretation was available for the duration of the event, and the interactive boards contained both English and Spanish text. Pictures of the interactive white boards used in the Virtual Open House can be found in Appendix B.



Participants at the Virtual CARP Open House

Station 1: Clean Energy + Buildings

Challenges to All-Electric Buildings

- Unclear permitting process for laundry-to-landscape and greywater clients interested but lack
 of info
- Lack of understanding at City council level
- Need a program to help maintain enrollment in CPA 100% tier
- City needs to identify interests and lobby at the state level to get incentives and laws to allow beneficial tech

Other Ideas on All-Electric Buildings

- City should review Measure O monies to provide funding for mitigation programs
- Incentives need to be designed to support the cost differences between SFR and MF
- Greywater opportunities could provide work for former NG plumbers
- Require solar PV and solar thermal if not electric
- Mandate EV to grid bidirectional chargers Ford F150 could serve as a battery to power your home - advocate to the CPUC

Station 2: Water

Multi-Benefit Water Strategies

- Landscaping choices that sequester carbon and are drought-friendly
- Lower Ventura River Groundwater Basin restoration and clean up

Station 3: Transportation + Land Use

Challenges to Active Transportation

- Street design really favors cars
- Walking / biking is difficult in most parts of Ventura
- Street parking takes up too much space that can be used for biking
- Need heat island mitigation measures
- Need DC chargers to support fast charging. Need to go beyond Level 2 chargers need FAST chargers

Other Ideas Related to Transportation Emissions Mitigation

- More mass transit: it is currently not accessible enough
- Public education on sharing the road together
- Electrified postal fleet
- More funding for the Ventura Bike Hub
- Intentional communities formed around transit needs
- Minibus programs for seniors and youth
- Bike share

Station 4: Solid Waste

Ideas Related to Solid Waste

- Bagging food waste
- Food waste recycling at large events and facilities
- Use recycled plastic pallets instead of wooden pallets
- Reusable packaging/containers
- Higher cost of solid waste collection to disincentivize waste generation



Station 5: Climate Hazards

Ideas Related to Climate Hazards

- Establish cooling areas for people to take refuge
- Repave with cool pavements and plant trees
- Do not allow development of houses in the shoreline at all
- Need leadership at Council, school boards, special districts who will actively engage with the topic (and educate themselves
- Motivating/engaging with youth will produce the big political change
- Get back to basics: Natural habitat corridors, remediation, gardens, homesteads will help create a healthy environment and connected ecosystem+ community
- Make sure there's enough funding to ensure parks, rivers, and beachfront are maintained for public benefit
- More education at community colleges to help people get into the green job market (solar install, tankless water heaters, etc.).
- Partner and City should do a public literacy campaign for all ages, and especially students
- See City of Berkeley
- Pair CARP with budget/incentives
- Public maps of where the hazard areas are

Appendix A: In-Person Open House Boards

Figure A - 1. Station 2

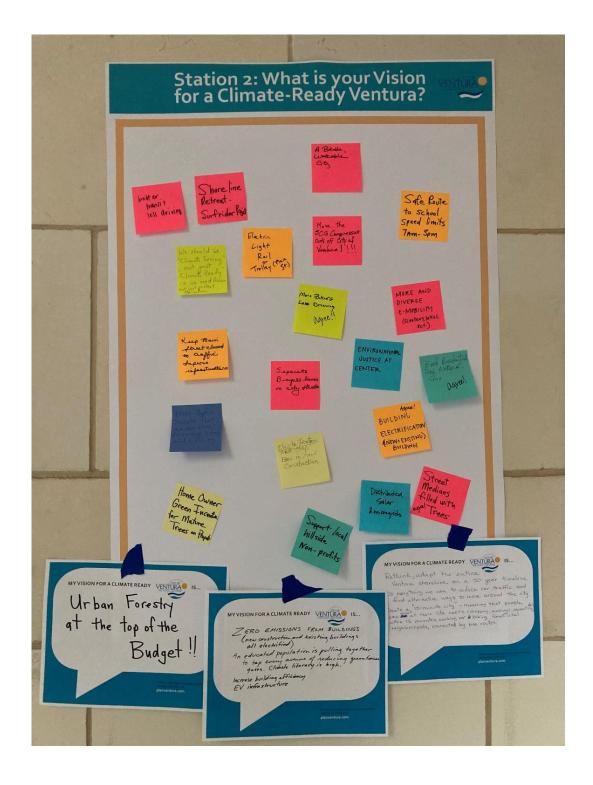




Figure A - 2. Station 3

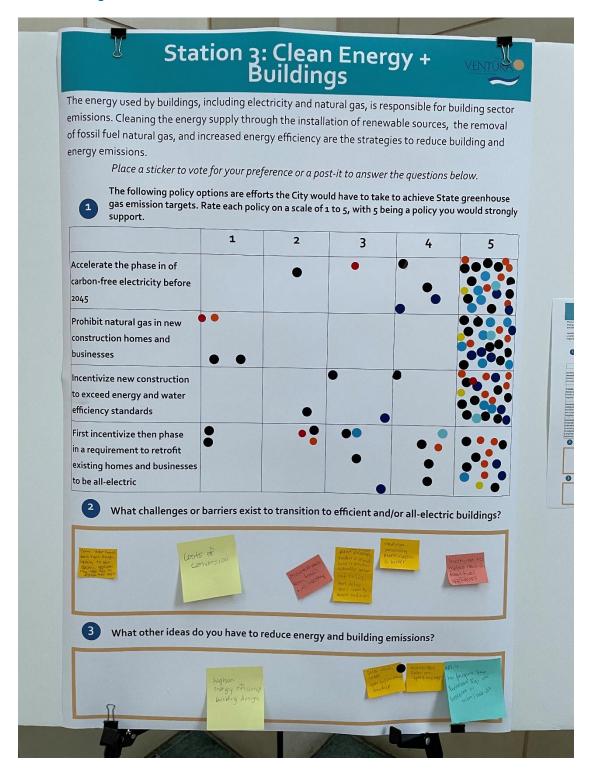


Figure A - 3. Station 4

Land Use Half of the City's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. Many daily trips are under three miles and could be accomplished by walking, biking, or transit. Switching trips from cars to other modes of transit and transitioning to electric vehicles are the most impactful strategies to reduce transportation emissions. Place a sticker to vote for your preference or a post-it to answer the questions below. The following policy options are efforts the City would have to take to achieve State greenhouse gas emission targets. Rate each policy on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being a policy you would strongly support. 1 2 Use a mix of incentives and requirements to reduce car travel and encourage walking, biking, and transit Reform parking standards to prioritize parking for bicycles, carshare, and electric vehicles Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian improvements into roadway projects Expand publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging What challenges or barriers exist to biking, walking, and scooting, etc in Ventura? Streets are continua inarrowed (for conduction linking it unsafe to vide! What other ideas do you have to reduce transportation related entras.



Figure A - 4. Station 5

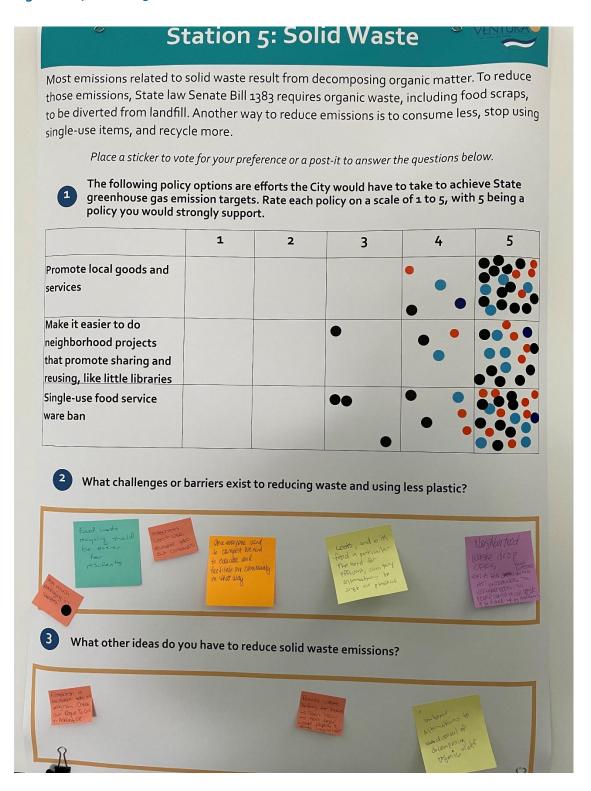


Figure A - 5. Station 6

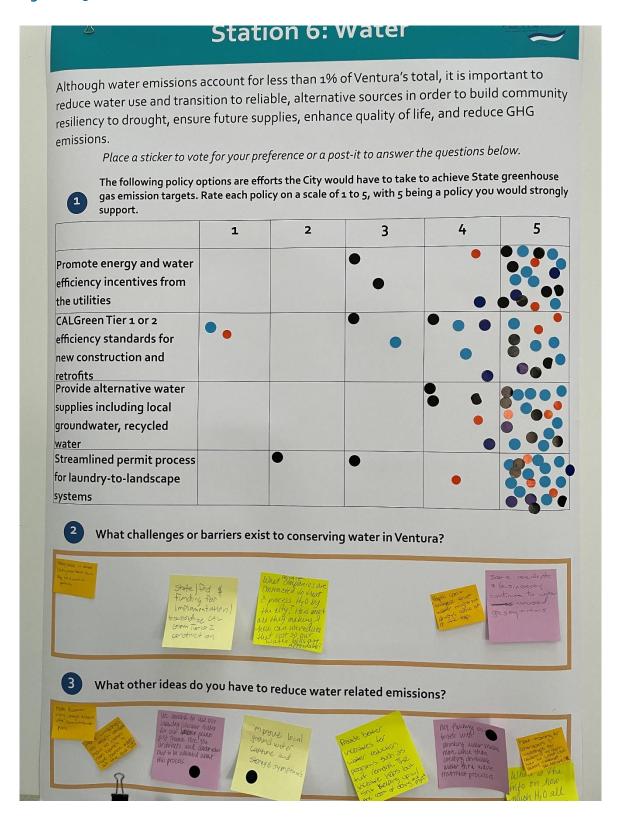
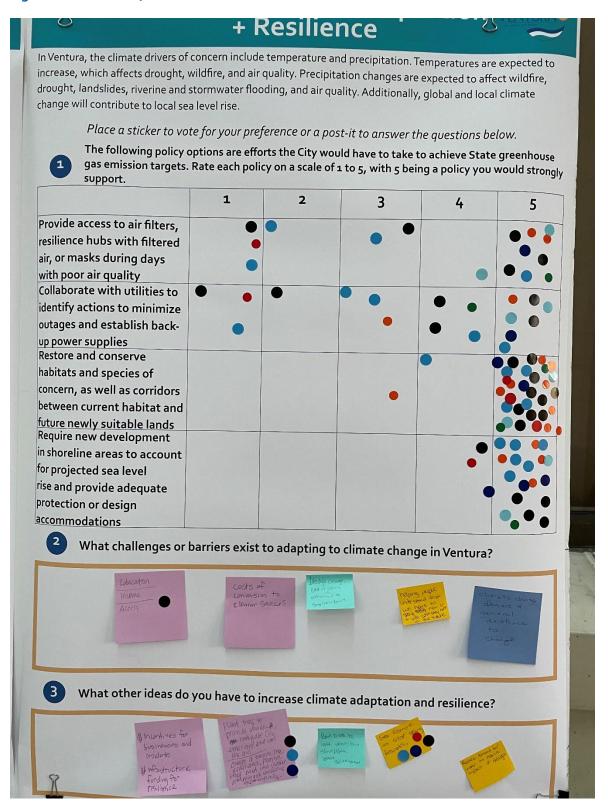




Figure A - 6. Station 7



Appendix B: Virtual Open House Boards

Figure B - 1. Clean Energy + Buildings

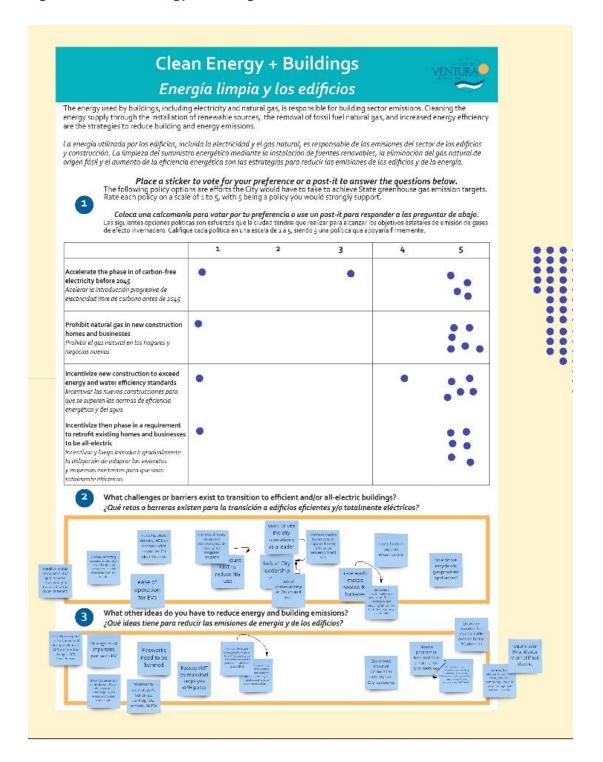




Figure B - 2. Water

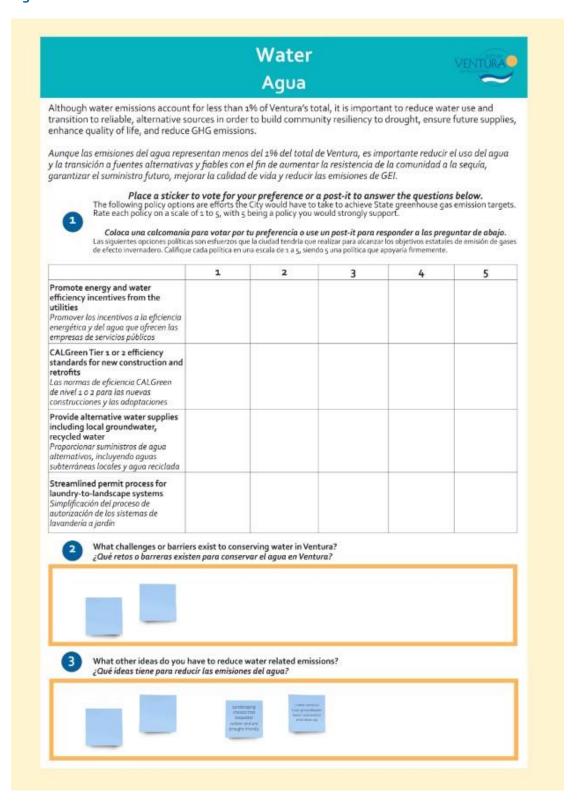


Figure B - 3. Transportation and Land Use

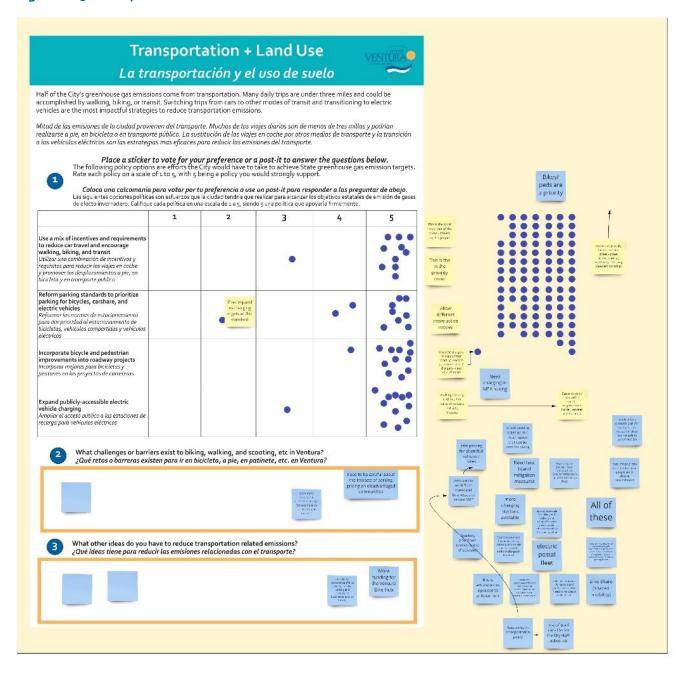




Figure B - 4. Solid Waste

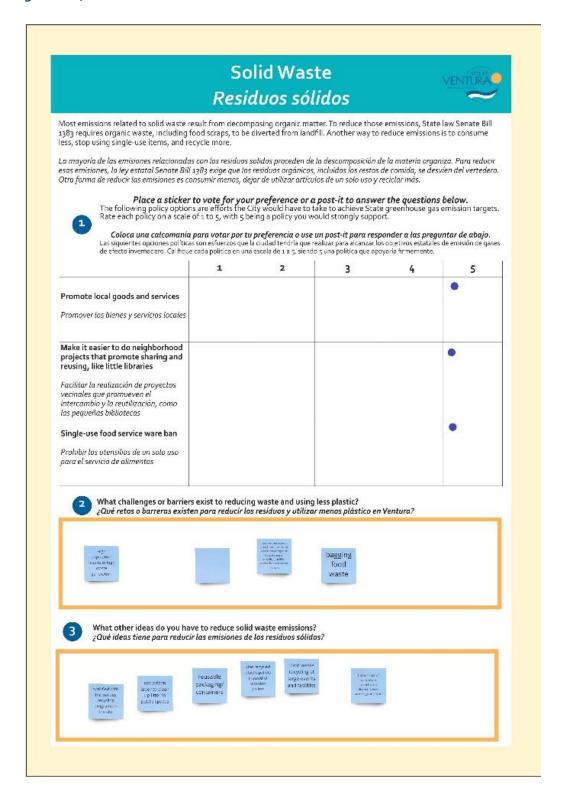


Figure B - 5. Climate Adaptation + Resilience

