



CITY OF DEL MAR

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Green Paper: Urgent Climate Action Can Secure a Livable Future for All¹

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Urgent Climate Action Can Secure a Livable Future for All¹

A year ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an intergovernmental body of the United Nations, approved the final report of its sixth cycle, the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The report provides an overview of the state of knowledge on the science of climate change, emphasizing new results since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in 2014. It highlights the insufficient pace and scale of our actions and plans in tackling climate change, which has resulted in more frequent and intense extreme weather events that have caused increasingly dangerous impacts on nature and people in every region of the world.

Now, one year later, the World Meteorological Organization's [State of the Global Climate 2023](#) report published on March 19, 2024, confirms 2023 as the hottest year on record by a clear margin. Over the past year, we have experienced extreme weather events, wildfires and sea levels continue to rise relentlessly with consequences for many coastal communities.

It is a good time to revisit the warning, opportunity and challenges outlined for us by the IPCC in its Synthesis Report.

The Warning

The synthesis report warns that human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. Further, the current pace and scale of climate action are insufficient to tackle climate change and adverse impacts from human-caused change will intensify with extremes becoming more widespread and pronounced with every increment of warming.

The Opportunity

Deep, rapid and sustained mitigation and accelerated implementation of adaptation actions in this decade would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and ecosystems, and deliver many co-benefits, especially for air quality and health. Multiple feasible and effective options are available to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change.

The Challenges

- We must cut emissions quickly and sharply to create a safer, sustainable world.
- We must cut global GHG emissions by nearly half by 2030, requiring rapid and far-reaching transitions across all sectors and systems
- Effective climate action is enabled by international cooperation, political commitment, well-aligned multilevel governance, institutional frameworks, laws, policies and strategies and enhanced access to finance and technology.
- Regulatory and economic instruments can support deep emissions reductions and climate resilience if scaled up and applied widely.

“Mainstreaming effective and equitable climate action will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, it will also provide wider benefits,” said IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee. “This Synthesis Report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a livable sustainable future for all.”

What Del Mar Residents Can Do

Review the Del Mar [Climate Action Plan](#) and the [Go Green Del Mar](#) site to learn about the actions the City of Del Mar is taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and how you can help.

For more information:

1. Read the [Full Synthesis Report](#)
2. View the [Short Video Overview](#)
3. Review the [Summary for Policymakers](#)

SOURCES:

¹ [IPCC AR6 SYR PressRelease en.pdf](#)

² [IPCC AR6 SYR SPM.pdf](#)

³ [IPCC AR6 SYR SlideDeck.pdf](#)

⁴ [State of the Global Climate 2023 \(wmo.int\)](#)

[Top Findings from the IPCC Climate Change Report 2023 | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#)

- **Maximum Word Count:** 500 words

Section 1: Executive Summary

- **Lead with the News:** Start with a compelling statement about why the topic is timely and relevant. Review past Green Papers to make sure the topic hasn't been covered previously.
- **Within the First Five Lines:** Establish the Who, What, When, Where, and Why.

Section 2: Background

- **Consistent Format:** Provide context and background information. Keep it concise and reader-friendly.
- **Nexus to City Council & SAC Approved Work Plans:** When applicable, explain how the topic relates to the City Council's goals and the SAC's work plan.
- **Attribution:** When presenting statements of fact, the information should be attributable to government or scientific sources.

Section 3: Discussion

- **Avoid Statements of Opinion:** Focus on factual information and analysis.
- **Relevance and Timeliness:** Emphasize why the topic is essential to the SAC and the community. Demonstrate why the topic is important and why readers should care.
- **Action-Oriented:** Suggest practical actions or recommendations that readers can take.