

**From:** [Sunrise Sonoma County](#)  
**To:** [Drew Nichols](#); [Tanya Narath](#)  
**Cc:** [Connor DeVane](#); [linalop41](#); [christinembyrne](#)  
**Subject:** Climate Mobilization Strategy Feedback by the Sunrise Movement.  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 10:32:58 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Tanya and Drew,

We were thrilled to spend time over the last couple of days digging into the Climate Mobilization Strategy. What an Impressive Plan! We are excited to see the many strategies that echo the Green New Deal, which is the policy that is near to our hearts and foundational to our movement.

Here's some feedback and questions.

- We would like to see equity infused into the Plan at every opportunity. While we recognize that it is listed as a guiding principle, and Section 13 establishes the intention to incorporate equity into all governmental decisions, we feel this doesn't quite hit the mark. This Plan could model that exact intention by incorporating equity into each goal and strategy. There were a number of instances where we felt this was accomplished, e.g. in the All Electric Buildings Campaign section, the recommendation from the Building Equity Project to "Fund HVAC training for workers from disadvantaged communities."

In comparison, when the Plan lists green jobs as co-benefits, or mentions supporting the launch of a local vegetation/forest management and fire prevention corps, we see a missed opportunity; the Plan could be explicit in the need to prioritize members of communities most impacted by the climate crisis to be receiving the training, apprenticeships and employment that these opportunities would afford.

When proposing the retrofit of 25% of all residential and commercial buildings, we must consider: who will be prioritized to receive these retrofits? Who will receive the contracts and perform the labor? How can we ensure that the costs of electrifying and retrofitting are not displaced onto renters? How do we ensure that each decision steers us not only to a transition, but a Just Transition? How does each strategy redress historic inequities, and if it doesn't, how can we modify it to ensure that it does?

We recognize that this intention is not only in the hearts of those who worked on the Plan, but also written into the Plan, but it is worth noting that as the document stands, the Equity section comes last. Though it is efficient and easier to say that

equity must be a cross-cutting lens for all decisions, it's easy for equity to then become a box to be ticked, an afterthought. In being explicit and specific about how equity and justice must be centered in each of these goals and strategies, you would be baking accountability right into the Plan and ensuring that equity is the foundation upon which decisions are made, rather than merely a co-benefit or box to be ticked. One policy we'd lift up as a great example of this is the Portland Clean Energy Initiative.

- Indigenous peoples have managed these lands since time immemorial, working in partnership with ecosystems and building carbon stocks. Recent research demonstrates that while the world's 370 million indigenous peoples make up less than five percent of the total human population, they manage or hold tenure over 25 percent of the world's land surface and support about 80 percent of the global biodiversity. As we consider the communities most impacted by climate change and its drivers, we cannot neglect the original peoples and stewards of this land. We would like to see conversation around indigenous sovereignty and indigenous oversight of land management in Sonoma County. The #landback campaign offers guidance on these concepts.

We are curious about what involvement members of indigenous communities have had in this process thus far. Ideally, a plan such as this would begin in partnership with indigenous leadership, but at the minimum we should be asking for input and feedback, especially when it comes to concepts such as fire ecology, forest management, and other such topics for which Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is held.

- We strongly encourage a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure. Much like banning natural gas and propane on all new construction, banning new fossil fuel infrastructure construction, like gas stations, seems necessary for decarbonization and for protecting community health.
- We appreciate the section on carbon farming, and would like to see an emphasis placed upon local food production. Supporting farmers to grow food using carbon farming practices like no-till agriculture, not only accomplishes sequestration, but also creates community food resiliency, and decreases dependence on transporting food from other regions.
- We noticed a lack of consistency of terminology throughout the document. For example, frontline, vulnerable, and disadvantaged seem to be used interchangeably. Perhaps there can be a glossary at the beginning of the document that explicitly defines what these terms mean within the context of our Sonoma County community.

- We encourage the Drive Less Sonoma County Campaign to include the development of free or affordable public transportation options. Free or affordable public transit coupled with decreased headways are shown to increase ridership.

We noticed that the Sunrise Movement was listed a couple times throughout the document. We're honored to be included as a potential implementation partner. However, our name appeared as one of the community based organizations that took part in the development of the Strategy. We are definitely happy to be providing input now!

Thank you for your time and consideration in developing and revising a climate mobilization strategy to build a resilient and adaptive Sonoma County. We really appreciate being part of this process and look forward to continuing working alongside the RCPA and our Climate Justice Partners.

Kind Regards,  
Paulina, Christine, and Connor.

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**Sunrise Movement Sonoma County**

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