



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 9/21/2022  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Zoom

### A. Call To Order

Chair Kabat called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### B. Roll Call

Present: Evans, Hedley (Vice Chair), Kabat (Chair), Lin, London (exited at 6:11 p.m.), Schmidt  
Absent: Elkins  
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

### C. Public Comment

None.

### D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the August 31, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Evans/ Hedley), to approve the minutes from the August 31 special meeting, passed 5-0 (Elkins and London absent).

D2. Review and discuss EQC annual work plan (Attachment)

Chair Kabat and Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky introduced the item.

The Commission reviewed the 2021-2022 Environmental Quality Commission work plan, discussed changes to the mission and work plan items, directed the relevant subcommittees to provide suggested revisions to their assigned tasks for review by at a later meeting. A subcommittee was assembled to compile revisions and present to the Commission.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Evans/ Kabat), to appoint Vice Chair Hedley and Commissioner Lin to a subcommittee to compile revised work plan language from the subcommittees assigned to the current work plan items and present a draft 2023 work plan to the Commission at a later meeting this year, passed 5-0 (Elkins and London absent).

### E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and Announcements from staff and commissioners

- Commissioner Evans notified the Commission of an opportunity to provide letters of support to the Belle Haven Community Development fund to assist with a grant the group is seeking.
- Commissioner Schmidt shared a presentation on behalf of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Outreach Subcommittee, summarizing feedback received at two outreach events (Attachment).

- Management Analyst II Ori Paz provided an update on CAP No. 5 efforts, highlighting progress on the Tesla police department pilot program, partnership with public works on electric vehicle (EV) charging, water heater electrification for City facilities, and Burgess Pool water heater electrification.
- Sustainability Manager Lucky provided updates regarding a shift in the focus of Management Analyst II Ori Paz from outreach to CAP No. 5 efforts, and work with the building and planning divisions to develop a protocol to implement the existing building electrification permit fee waiver/credit program approved by the City Council on August 23, 2022 advancing earlier reach codes with addition of measures to reduce gaps for re-carbonization of new homes and furthering EV charging options, the gas powered leaf blower ban returning to city council, and a clarification of emissions from gas leaf blowers

## **F. Adjournment**

Chair Kabat adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Ori Paz, Management Analyst II

Minutes approved at the October 19, 2022 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.



# **Menlo Park Community** *Collaboration* **Sessions**

**EQC Report Out – Sept 21, 2022**

Jeff Schmidt, on behalf of the Outreach Subcommittee

# Kickoff of Community Collaboration Sessions

## Purpose

Framework: Vision - Action - Collaboration

Share a vision for Menlo Park's future that responds to a changing climate

Provide overviews and updates on progress towards the goals in the city's Climate Action Plan

Gather ideas and feedback on climate issues, city actions, and various activities from the plan

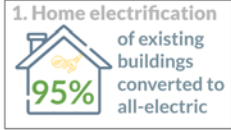
Activate more citizen participation and ensure a range of voices are heard

## Proposed Topics

- Electric Vehicles
- Sea-Level Rise and Flooding Mitigation
- Building Electrification
- Reach Codes
- Environmental Justice
- Urban Forest and Tree Canopy
- Green Careers

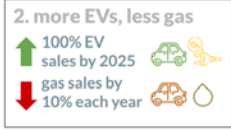
## September Session

Taking CAP Action - Home Electrification and EVs



1. Home electrification of existing buildings converted to all-electric 95%

- Switch out your natural gas or electric resistance hot water heater for a Heat Pump Water Heater
- Air Source Heat Pumps can provide efficient heating and cooling for your home
- Upgrade your gas stove to an Induction Cooktop
- A Heat Pump Dryer can reduce energy use by at least 28% compared to standard dryers



2. more EVs, less gas  
↑ 100% EV sales by 2025  
↓ 10% gas sales by 2025

- Purchase a new or used Electric Vehicle (EV) or e-Bike
- Lease a new EV and help create a market for used EVs in the future

Additional Resources

**Menlo Spark**  
<https://menlospark.org> and <https://menlospark.org/goelectric/>  
Benefits of Electrification: <https://bit.ly/3AxZ66m>

**BlocPower:** <https://www.blocpower.io/electrify-menlo-park>

**City of Menlo Park**  
Climate Action Plan: <https://bit.ly/3K3lhvz>

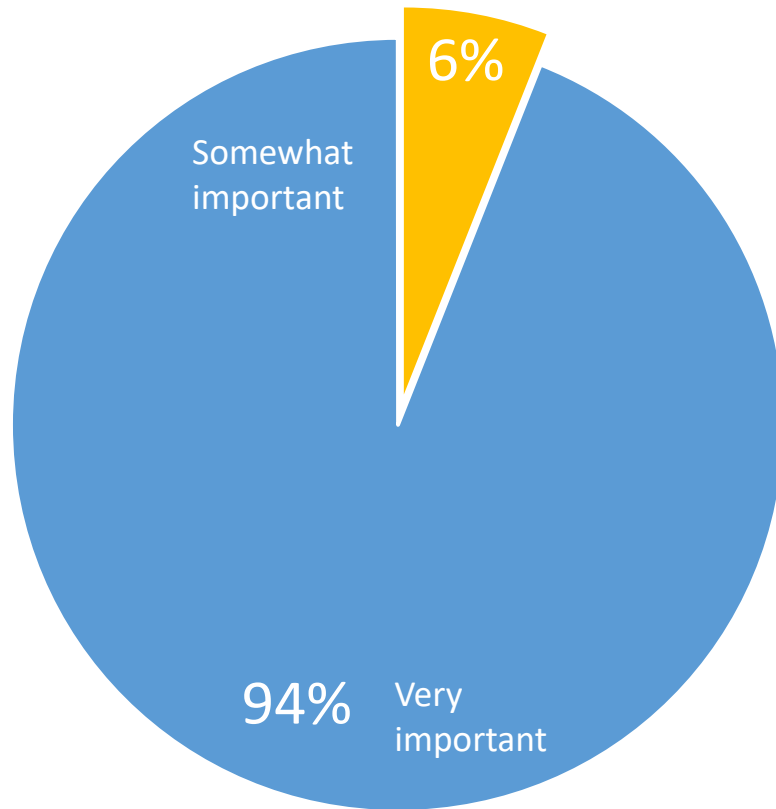
**Other**  
<https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/>  
<https://fossilfreebuildings.org/>  
<https://www.350siliconvalley.org/menlo-park>  
MPC Ready: <https://mpcready.org/>  
Home Electrifiers on Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/g/rgalu5vru/>  
Pocket Guide to Home Electrification: <https://bit.ly/3AxpjC4>



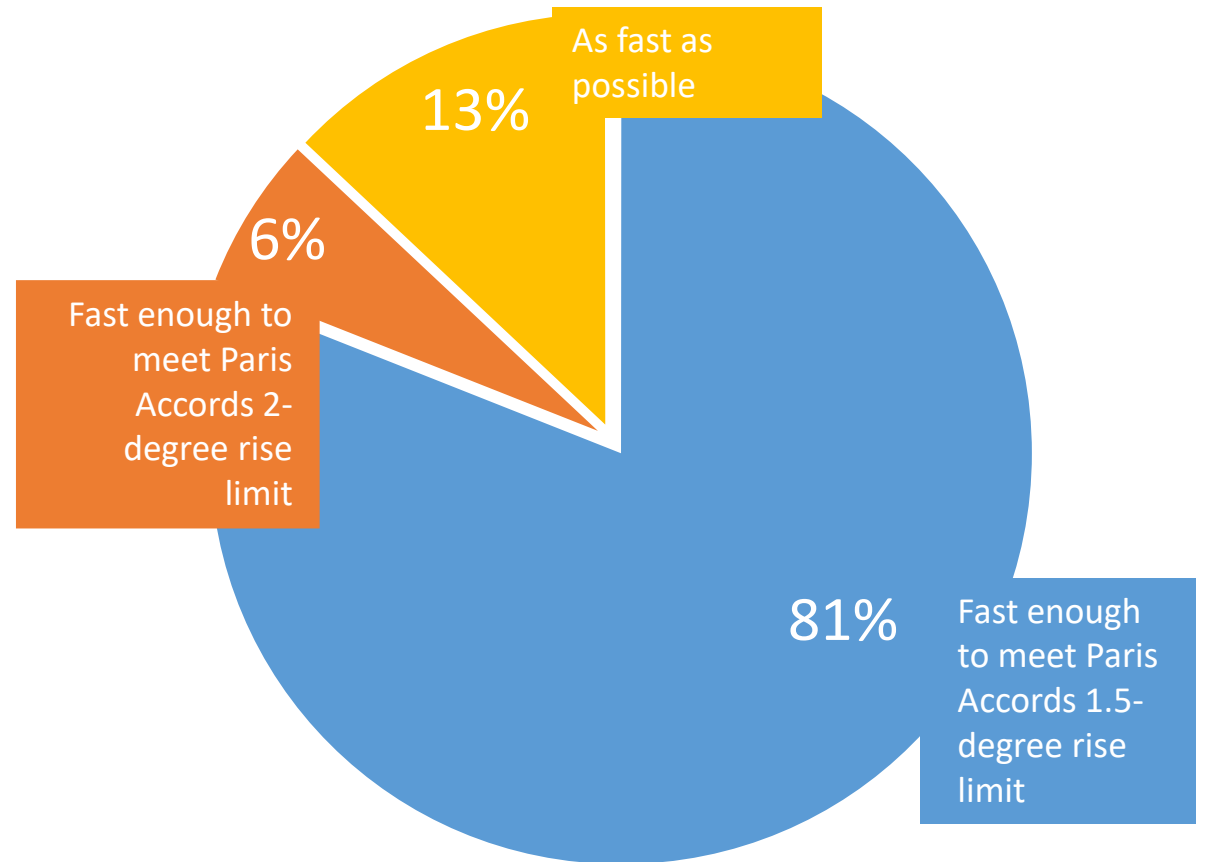
Inflation Reduction Act Savings Calculator  
<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/ap/ira-calculator>

# Sept 13 Session – Belle Haven

How important to you is the issue of climate change?



At what pace would you like to see Menlo Park move towards its climate preservation objectives?



# What's the main reason climate change is important to you? (Belle Haven)

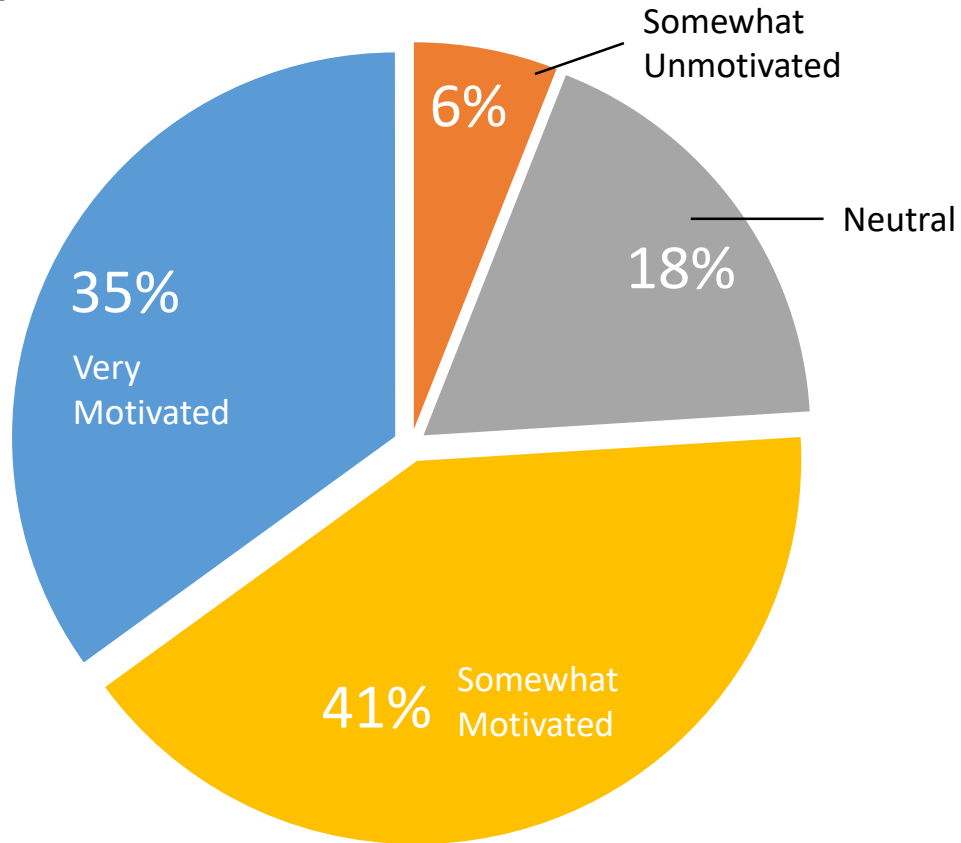
Personal health and giving back to the earth in a positive way that helps it regenerate
I feel a moral responsibility to help future generations the way I was helped by civilization
I want a liveable planet for everyone
Maintain a livable world and avert global catastrophe
Traffic and pollution
Health, earth, it hasn't rained
Planet is sacred
Future of my kids and their kids
It is already impacting people's health. We're living shorter lives than we could, and it is disproportionately affecting poor people and people of color
Because it will affect many people if it is not mitigated. Natural disasters, extreme weather patterns
Under resourced families are most vulnerable
For all living being's welfare, including diverse ecologies
Three grandkids
Want my children to have a livable future and to spare them and the world the worst possible climate catastrophe

# What additional climate action(s) would you like to see from the city officials and staff of Menlo Park? (Belle Haven)

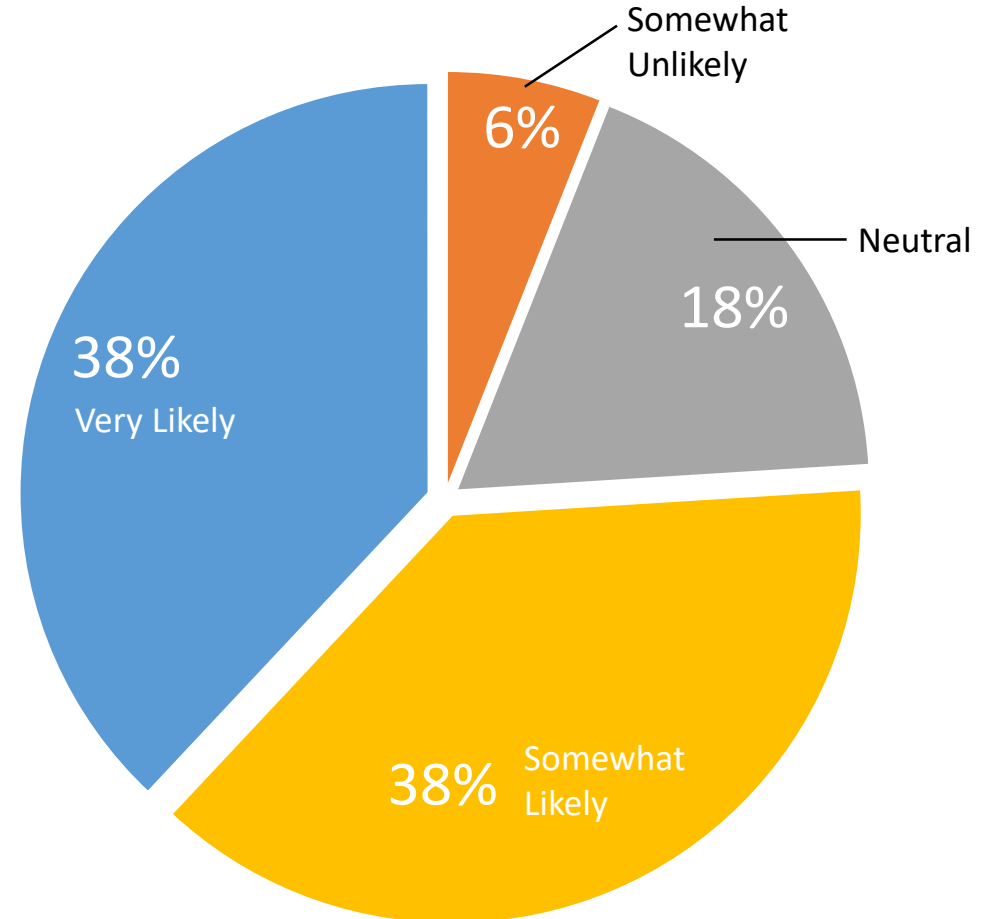
Seriously budget and prioritize climate as a top position. There are a lot of competing forces, but without action here on main CAP points (real accomplishments) other town items will suffer anyway
ROB and EOF 2030, youth involvement
Move as fast as possible to lower our carbon footprint and help make it affordable for everyone
Eliminate all fossil fuel use. Charge more for parking. Adopt a carbon tax / fee
Solutions to the traffic causing pollution
Youth involvement
Explicit focus on addressing environmental justice concerns - Menlo Park won't meet its targets if low-income residents are left to fend for themselves
Information and planing around floods and fire evacuation plans. Talk about environmental justice and equity in Menlo Park and surrounding areas
Focus actions to address needs of the Belle Haven community. Focus on Adaptation
Start to look at the effects of meat-centered diets and encourage plant-forward diets. Helps with environment, human health, and deforestation
Outreach to Sharon Heights condo apartment complexes like 675 Sharon Park Drive where composting / recycling / garbage / cardboard are inadequate and overflowing. There is still use of gas-powered leaf blowers every Thursday.
An ordinance requiring all appliances upon burnout be replaced with electric ones, and a goal set of turning off gas in town in 2030
Need action to push forward adaptation to be committed and hope to see EJ in this action. Using young people to get opportunity and have stipend, summer internships and people that can guide them and be part of the solution. Also get them at city hall. Address importance and look at what they are investing in health, and provide ways to bring more

# Sept 13 Session – Belle Haven

How motivated are you to make changes this year to your transportation, electrification, or consumption habits?



How likely are you to make those changes to your habits?





# What climate-related topics interest you? (Belle Haven)

ENERGY	
65%	Building Electrification
41%	Heat Pumps
59%	Electric Vehicles (cars, bicycles)
24%	EV Financial Incentives
35%	Electric Dryers
53%	Solar Panels
35%	Energy Storage

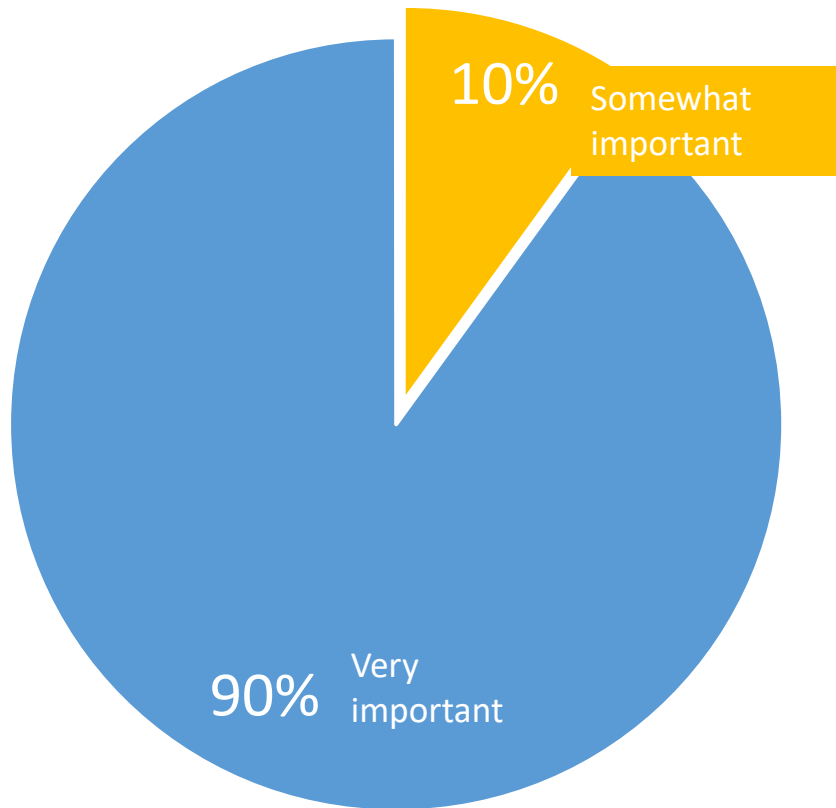
GARDEN / LAND	
41%	Wildfire Prevention
35%	Native Plants
77%	Water Capture / Preservation / Recycling
24%	Gardening in a Drought
35%	Preparing for Sea-Level Rise
29%	Preparing for Fire Storms
59%	Climate-Friendly Urban Design
77%	Urban Forest / Tree Canopy

SOCIAL	
59%	Indigenous Wisdom for Climate Preservation
82%	Environmental Justice
41%	Living a Low-Carbon Lifestyle
24%	15 Minute Cities
0%	Other _____

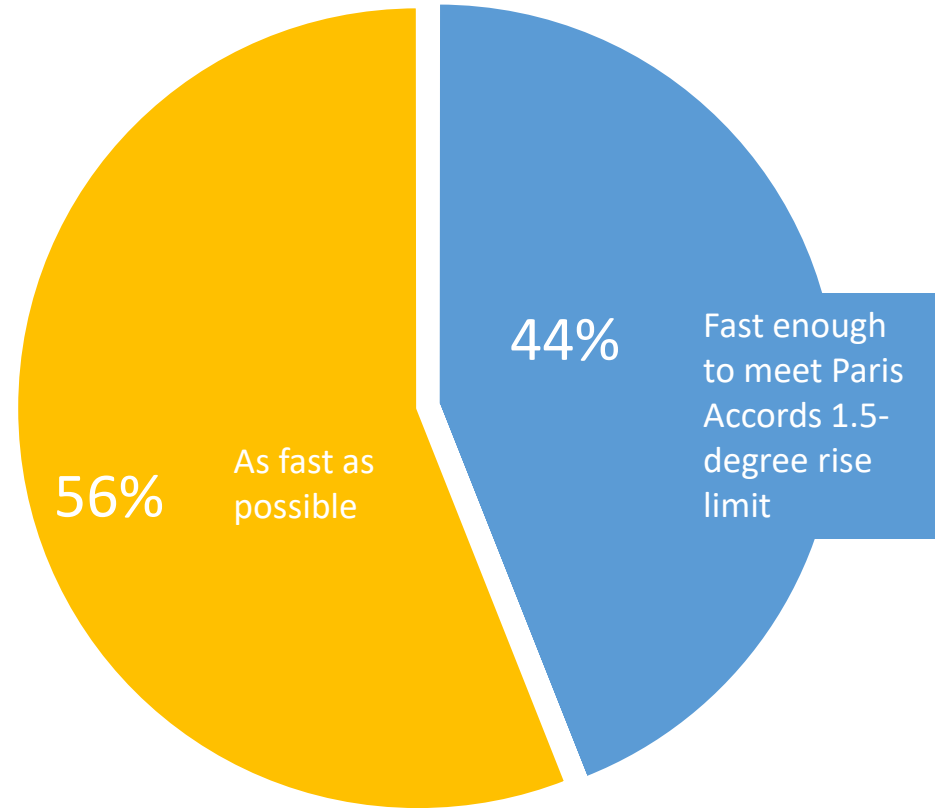
FOOD			
41%	Induction Cooktops	47%	Composting
35%	Vegetable-forward Cooking	35%	Avoiding Kitchen Waste
29%	Kitchen Waste Reduction		

## Sept 14 Session – Main Branch

How important to you is the issue of climate change?



At what pace would you like to see Menlo Park move towards its climate preservation objectives?



# What's the main reason climate change is important to you? (Main Branch)

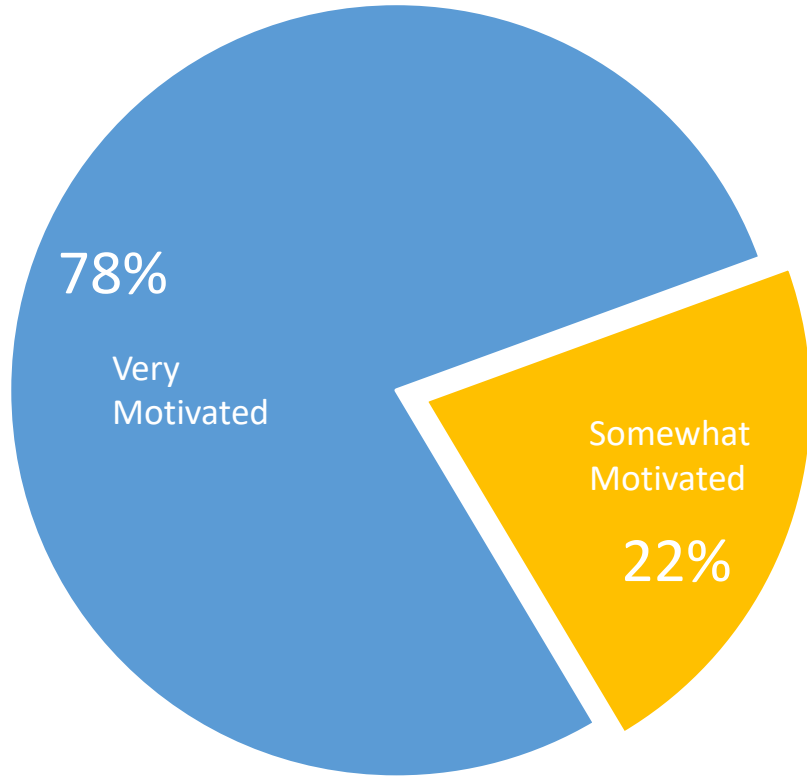
To avert climate catastrophe
Public health and having a habitable planet overall
Todays and future children will not have the same chance to lessen climate impacts as we
We have no other choice
The climate is recognizably changing
It's a looming catastrophe. If we don't take action now, our planet is going to become uninhabitable
My daughter and our biodiversity loss
Future of my kids
We are not making enough progress fast enough. We are not mobilizing our citizens

# What additional climate action(s) would you like to see from the city officials and staff of Menlo Park? (Main Branch)

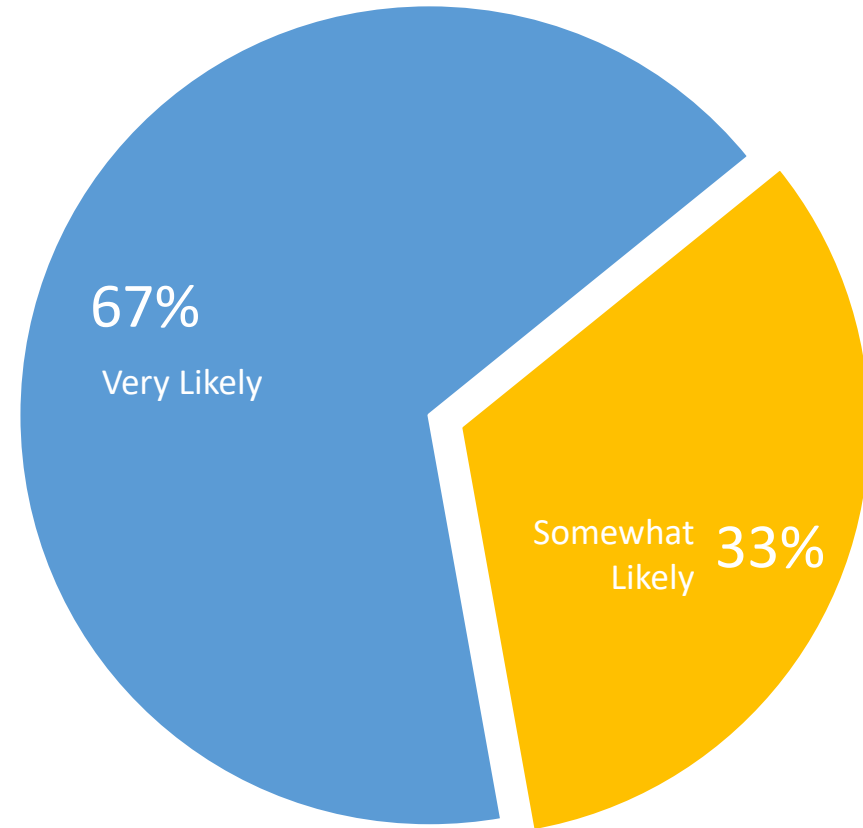
Require electric or zero emissions for all things the city permits. Gas appliance (replace on burnout), generators, etc.
Education on transition to EVs, support for biking and transit
Education on the impacts of animal agriculture, our food choices, and impact each one of us can have each day as we feed ourselves
Properly manage traffic lights to avoid unnecessary stopping and vehicle accumulation at lights where no cross traffic or pedestrians are present
Integrated efforts - roll back the office development. We have not been encouraging driving to an office
Promote eating less meat and promote plant-based diets
Reduce plastics usage
Elevate the climate to the top city priority
Stronger reach codes. More youth involvement programs. Integrated planning - across cities, with schools, with nonprofits
Lead more "hard" conversations

# Sept 14 Session – Main Branch

How motivated are you to make changes this year to your transportation, electrification, or consumption habits?



How likely are you to make those changes to your habits?



# What climate-related topics interest you? (Main Branch)

ENERGY	
40%	Building Electrification
30%	Heat Pumps
60%	Electric Vehicles (cars, bicycles)
40%	EV Financial Incentives
20%	Electric Dryers
20%	Solar Panels
40%	Energy Storage

GARDEN / LAND	
40%	Wildfire Prevention
20%	Native Plants
30%	Water Capture / Preservation / Recycling
30%	Gardening in a Drought
30%	Preparing for Sea-Level Rise
40%	Preparing for Fire Storms
40%	Climate-Friendly Urban Design
40%	Urban Forest / Tree Canopy

SOCIAL	
20%	Indigenous Wisdom for Climate Preservation
30%	Environmental Justice
50%	Living a Low-Carbon Lifestyle
10%	15 Minute Cities
10%	Other _____

Green farming (investing and banking). Climate anxiety (and solutions)

FOOD	
50%	Induction Cooktops
30%	Vegetable-forward Cooking
40%	Kitchen Waste Reduction

40%	Composting
40%	Avoiding Kitchen Waste

## Next Steps

- Secure dates / times
- Proposed: Oct 17th, Monday from 6-7pm at the Belle Haven Branch. Oct 24th, Monday, from 6-7pm at the Main Branch. November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm
- October = Environmental Justice. November = Building Electrification
- Outreach for both October and November to local groups, distribution lists of nonprofit partners, media
- Revise survey questions

**Thank  
You**

