

El Paso Times Opinion Piece

April 5, 2023

The City's Proposition K Climate Charter vote scheduled for May 6, 2023, has the ability to transform our community in a way that will leave present and future generations wondering why it didn't happen sooner. It will create proactive strategies to adapt and manage the predicted effects of climate change through efforts that encourage environmental sustainability and resiliency while using economic development policies and green infrastructure to ensure clean air, water, soils, and opportunity for our community to thrive. Proactive strategies allow us to anticipate future stresses and adapt before they become emergencies that can drastically disrupt our lives. The climate charter will officially recognize the urgency of climate change. Recent lobbying and scare tactics against Proposition K are evidence that change is difficult. Those tactics do not begin to value and quantify the benefits of transitioning to Net-Zero policies, which include positive health outcomes and increases in productivity, innovation, job creation, energy efficiency and food production. Climate change should not be ignored because it affects everyone. We are all vulnerable, but we do not have to be defenseless. The federal government is emphasizing environmental sustainability as a matter of National Security. Many cities across this county have successfully adopted climate charters and it is time for El Paso to do the same or suffer the increasing consequences of inactivity as time goes by.

By: Jesse Sanchez, Board Member, Eco El Paso