



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE DEPARTMENT

ENERGY & CLIMATE DIVISION

IMPLEMENTING ON DEMAND PERMITTING

For Solar and Solar + Storage Projects

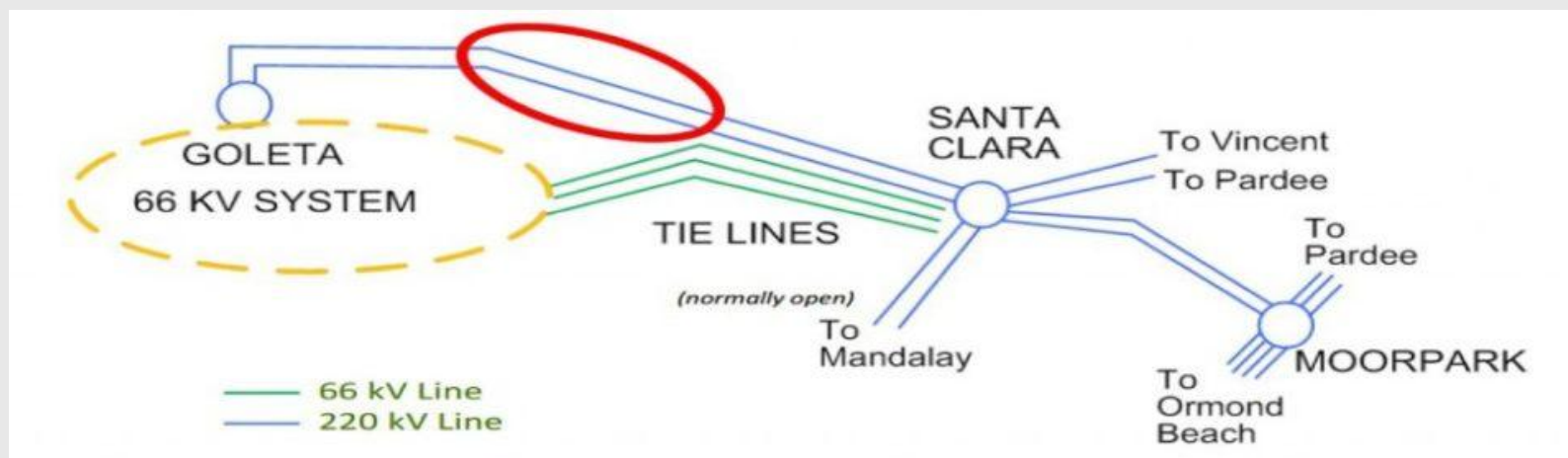
Who Am I?

Alelia Parenteau
Energy & Climate Manager
City of Santa Barbara



City Council's Got Big Goals

- 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030
- Carbon Neutrality by 2035
- Build Local Energy Assurance



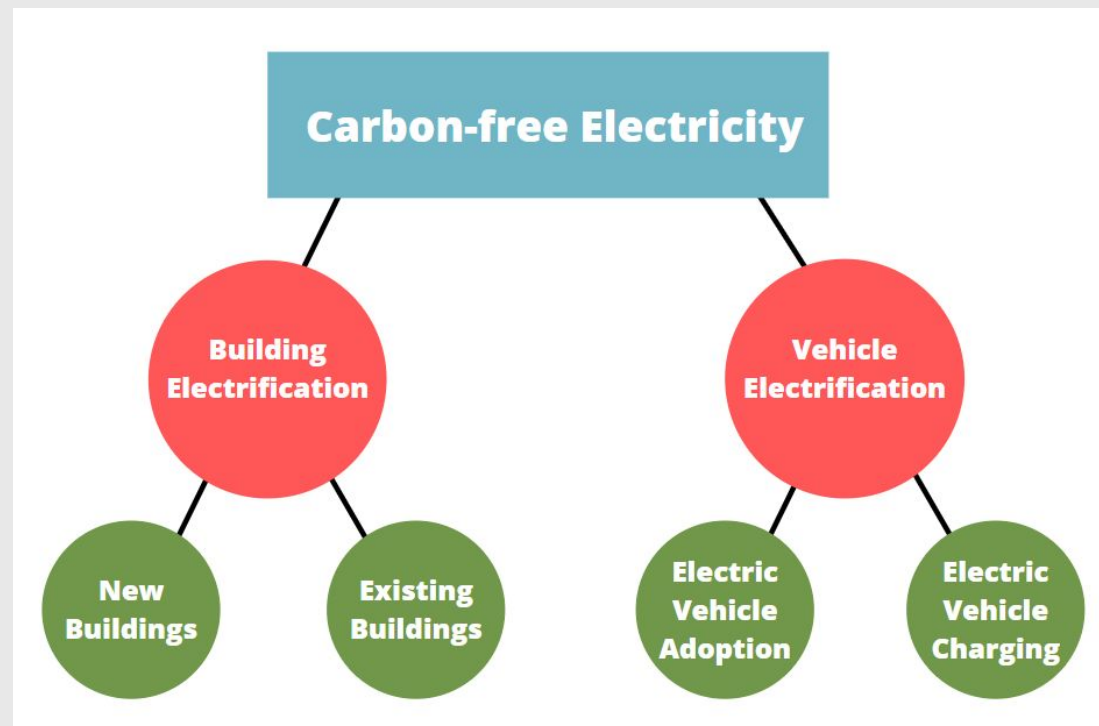
Strategic Energy Plan

- Mapped opportunities for solar development
- Identified barriers to entry for solar and storage projects
 - *Cost*
 - *Location*
 - ***Permitting***



Natural Gas Prohibition

- Electrifying everything:
 - *Community Choice Energy defaulting at 100% Carbon-Free*
- Creates greater need for DERs and fast implementation



Silver Lining of the Pandemic

- Accelerated transition to online permitting
- Increased interest in On Demand Permitting
 - *Hot water heating*
 - *Roofs*
- Created opening for energy projects to be on demand

Benefits Demand Permitting

- Align with policy goals
- Eliminate Plan Check
 - *Solar projects reduced by 3-7 days*
 - *Storage projects reduced by up to 6 weeks*
- Alleviates plan check bottleneck

How it works:

- Phase 1: Applies to
 - *Solar projects 10kW or under*
 - *Associated storage: 27kWh and under*
 - *Solar must be roof mounted and roughly parallel to roof line*
 - *Site plan requirements*
 - *Applicant must agree to all*
 - *Must be licensed contractor*

Design Considerations

- Begging for Forgiveness couldn't work
 - *We needed to be clear regarding consequences*
- How you list requirements is key
 - *Didn't want to post policies that had to be updated over time*
 - *Put onus on contractor to ensure code and local policy compliance*

Feedback

- A lot of positive feedback from contractors
- Averaging 4 permit applications per week
 - *50 total since launch in late January*
- Fast-changing technologies sometimes create hurdles

Building on Success

- Phase 2:
 - *Storage only*
 - *Electric Vehicle Charging*
 - *Air Source Heat Pumps*
 - *Heat Pump Water Heaters*