

Form Name: Boards and Commissions Application
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Voter registration verified:
Or: N/A
By: MH

Applicant Information

Name Anmol Singh

Are you a Sunnyvale resident? Yes

How long have you lived in Sunnyvale? 5 months from November 2025 to now and 1 year from September 2023 - August 2024

Description Area Residence Notice:Unless otherwise noted, your principal place of residence must be in Sunnyvale. You must live in Sunnyvale at the time of appointment and at all times during service on a board or commission.

Current Main Residence [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

Description Area Employment NoticeCity of Sunnyvale employees may not serve on a board or commission.

I am a current City of Sunnyvale employee. No

Have you ever served on a City of Sunnyvale board or commission? No

Have you attended a meeting of the City Council, or a board or commission? No

Have you attended meetings of the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying? No

Board or Commission Selection

First Choice Sustainability Commission

Applicant Qualifications

What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?

I've spent the last six years working at the intersection of climate ambition and real-world implementation, helping universities, corporations, and institutions translate sustainability goals into funded, actionable plans. What I've noticed is that the gap between ambition and action is rarely technical; it's usually about policy clarity, stakeholder alignment, and prioritization. Sunnyvale's Climate Action Playbook strikes me as exactly the kind of community-driven framework that can close that gap at the local level. As a Sunnyvale resident, I want to contribute to that process directly, not just as a professional, but as someone who lives here and has a stake in the outcome. Joining this commission is also my first step into civic engagement, and I see it as an extension of the values that have driven my career.

What skills or attributes can you bring to this board or commission?

Beyond my technical background, I'd highlight three things that I think are more directly relevant to an advisory role:

First, translating complexity into clear recommendations- In my work at Environmental Defense Fund, I turned detailed emissions modeling and cost analyses into policy advocacy materials and fact sheets for state regulators. The goal was always to make complex tradeoffs legible to decision-makers, not to showcase the analysis itself. That's the same skill an advisory commissioner needs.

Second, stakeholder engagement across competing interests- A significant part of my work involves coordinating among parties with different incentives - utilities, developers, legal teams, corporate sustainability leads and finding common ground. I've found that the most durable outcomes come from genuinely understanding each stakeholder's constraints, not just advocating for a preferred outcome.

Third, a cross-sector perspective- Having worked across Fortune 500 manufacturers, universities, financial institutions, and tech companies, I've seen how the same policy can drive action in one context and be quietly ignored in another. That perspective helps me ask the right questions about whether a proposed policy will actually change behavior, not just whether it's well-designed in principle.

The primary role of a board or commission member is to provide advice to City Council on policy issues that are within the scope of the board or commission. What steps would you take to effectively exercise this specific board or commission role?

I'd start by listening more than speaking. That means reading past commission minutes, understanding where debates have stalled, and getting a sense of what City staff and Council actually need from this body. Good advisory work begins with understanding the audience.

From there, I'd focus on making my contributions concrete, balanced, and actionable. In my professional work, I've learned that a recommendation lands better when it accounts for budget realities, implementation timelines, and political feasibility, not just what's technically optimal or environmentally ambitious. I'd aim to evaluate issues from multiple angles including environmental impact, cost, community implications, and feasibility, and bring that same pragmatism to commission discussions.

I'd also be transparent about the limits of my knowledge. Sunnyvale's sustainability challenges touch on land use, water, transportation, and community equity, areas where I don't have deep expertise. Being honest about that, deferring to colleagues and staff who do, and actively building on their perspectives rather than defaulting to my own lane is part of being a genuinely useful advisor rather than just a confident one.

Overall, I'd approach the role with a commitment to being well-prepared, collaborative, and grounded, focused on what actually helps Council make better decisions, not on showcasing what I know.

Education - List college degrees, majors and any relevant training or experience that demonstrates your ability to effectively serve on this board or commission.

Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering, Cornell University (specialization in Energy Economics and Engineering). Winner of the Avangrid Innovation Scholarship (2020) and the Atkinson Sustainability Hackathon (2020), the latter reflecting applied sustainability problem-solving in a competitive, team-based setting.

Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani.

Additional relevant experience includes:

Professional experience in sustainability and clean energy strategy - currently an Engagement Manager at ERM (Environmental Resources Management); experience working on projects related to decarbonization and clean energy procurement.

Six Sigma Black Belt, Cornell University Systems Engineering - Training in structured problem-solving and evidence-based decision-making in complex systems.

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.

My community involvement has roots in India, where I taught yoga and provided tutoring to underprivileged children, work that was less about professional development and more about showing up consistently for people in my community who needed support. Those experiences shaped how I think about service - it's most meaningful when it's direct, sustained, and grounded in genuine care for the people you're working with.

Since moving to the US, my focus has been on building my career in sustainability, and I haven't yet translated that spirit of service into formal civic engagement here. Joining the Sustainability Commission is my first step, and I bring the same commitment that motivated me earlier in life, combined with several years of professional experience that I believe can genuinely contribute to Sunnyvale's climate goals.

Description Area

The City has a Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials and an Attendance Policy (7.2.19), 2 G (II) that appointed members are required to follow.

Do you have any concerns related to the above code and policy?

No

Are you willing to accept a temporary appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term?

Yes

Board or Commission-Specific Questions

Sustainability Commission

Category One: I'm a Sunnyvale resident. Yes

Category Two: I'm a Sunnyvale business community member. No

Sustainability is a new and emerging concern in many communities. What do you think are the primary sustainability policy issues this commission will be addressing over the next few years?

Clean electricity and grid resilience will be at the center of much of the work. Sunnyvale has already achieved 97% enrollment in clean electricity through its community choice aggregator, which is a strong foundation, but the next phase is more complex. As the city pushes more load onto the grid through electrification of buildings and transportation, expanding local solar, battery storage, and community-scale energy systems becomes critical. Bringing large corporate customers who currently source electricity independently and often from more carbon-intensive sources into alignment with the city's clean energy goals is another near-term challenge that will require both policy creativity and stakeholder engagement.

Building electrification will be one of the most immediate and consequential areas, with the city on a deadline to adopt electrification ordinances for existing residential and commercial buildings by 2026. The policy challenge here goes beyond the environmental goals, i.e., designing a transition that is equitable and financially accessible for lower-income homeowners and renters will be just as important as the ordinances themselves.

Transportation decarbonization is the third major priority, particularly around accelerating EV adoption, expanding charging infrastructure equitably across the community, and holding large employers accountable to transportation demand management requirements. The emerging focus on off-road equipment emissions adds a newer dimension to this work that I expect the commission will increasingly need to address.

Description Area View the Climate Action Playbook

Have you read the above version of the Climate Action Playbook? Yes

What are your thoughts on the Playbook? How might the actions ("Plays") be improved?

The Playbook is an impressive document - it is community-driven and structured in a way that connects long-term targets to specific near-term actions. The decision to set goals that exceed state requirements reflects real leadership, and the five-year Game Plan cycle is smart as it builds in the flexibility to adapt as technology, policy, and community needs evolve.

That said, a few areas stand out as opportunities for strengthening the Plays. The clean electricity strategy succeeds at the community level but is relatively passive when it comes to large corporate energy users. Given that Sunnyvale is home to some of the world's largest technology companies, there is an opportunity to develop more targeted engagement mechanisms that bring these employers into active partnership on local clean energy goals, beyond just encouraging them to switch providers.

On building electrification, the Plays are strong on policy timelines but lighter on the financing and support infrastructure needed to make those policies succeed in practice. A more detailed roadmap for how lower-income residents access incentives, rebates, and on-bill financing would strengthen implementation significantly.

More broadly, I think the Playbook would benefit from more explicit integration between the Plays. Strategies around clean electricity, building electrification, and EV adoption are deeply interdependent as success in one accelerates the others, but the Plays largely treat them as parallel tracks. Highlighting those interdependencies more explicitly would help the commission and City Council prioritize sequencing and resource allocation more effectively.

Your Agreement

Description Area

IMPORTANT NOTICE - READ BEFORE SIGNING:By selecting both "Yes" and "Submit Form" below I am adding my digital signature to this application. I am also agreeing with the following statements:All statements I have made on this application are true and correct.I authorize the City of Sunnyvale (City) to investigate the accuracy of this information.I release the City from all claims and liabilities arising from such investigation.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application will be grounds for the City to deny my appointment. A false statement discovered later, will be grounds to dismiss me from my appointment at any time.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application could lead to criminal charges. Charges could fall under California Penal Code, Section 115 or other applicable law.

I agree

Yes

Your full name

Anmol Singh

Date

Apr 15, 2026
