DECEMBER 13, 2021



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTERIM CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2021 PROGRESS REPORT

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Executive Summary

This report provides a progress update on the 2021-2022 Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan (CAP) Interim Work Plan (Interim Work Plan). The Interim Work Plan serves as a place holder while the update to the CAP is developed, along with the update to the County's General Plan. There are 7 Goals outlined in the 2021-2022 Interim Climate Action Work Plan, which aim to increase the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

This Executive Summary provides a high-level overview of the County's progress. More detail is provided in the main report. In general, the County is making progress toward the 2021-2022 goals. We expect that by next year, the County will have met most of these goals.

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
1	Clean and Efficient Built Environment	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	inesses in Contra Costa County run on lean energy	***The rankings are scored on the ranges indicated below, the green scale means exceptional perfomance and scoring in the red indicates improvement needed
		· Building electrification	Electrification reach code will go to Board of Supervisors in December	
1.1	Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County	Energy Efficiency and weatherization programs	Participation in energy efficiency and weatherization programs by residential and commercial buildings (including County facilities), with attention to participation in impacted communities. 116 Weatherization Projects, 259 Home-BayREN Projects The Asthma Initiative is an ongoing effort, 41 clients currently being served.	
		· Energy storage	There are 3 County buildings with energy storage systems totaling a 2,964 kWh capacity.	
		Carbon Neutral County Building	The Sustainability Fund will be used to install energy efficient lighting and other appliances and mechanical systems.	
		· Rooftop Solar	18 commercial and 2,469 residential permits have been issued for rooftop solar.	
	Replace fossil fuel electricity with renewable electricity	Increase participation in MCE Deep Green program by County facilities	· 100% of County accounts (excluding sites with solar) are enrolled in MCE Deep Green. 1.3% of unincorporated County is enrolled in Deep Green.	
1.2		Install more renewable electricity in County facilities	In 2021, 5 County facilites have completed rooftop and parking lot solar installations totalling 1,431 kW capacity.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
2	Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure		crease resilience to climate hazards and community health	
		Carbon sequestration on public and private lands	County is currently developing a carbon sequestration feasibility study through grant from CA Dept of Conservation.	
2.1	Sequester carbon in natural lands in Contra Costa County	Install green infrastructure	County maintains implementation of Green Infrastructure Plan.	
		Increase use of pervious paving	Pervious paving was not installed in County projects.	
2.2	Address impacts of heat islands	Increase number of cool roofs	345 permits for cool roofs were obtained for privately owned structures. No cool roof permits were obtained for County facilites this year.	
3	No-Waste Contra Costa	, ,	es no more solid waste than 2.25 pounds son per day (PPD)	
		Establish enforceable mechanism to mandate organic waste and edible food recovery	SB 1383 ordinance will be approved by Board of Supervisors by statutory deadline before January 2022.	
	Recover organic waste and edible	Outreach and education to residential and commercial customers in County franchise areas	Proof of documentation provided to applicable residential and commercial customers is on track for 2022.	
3.1	food (SB 1383/Short Lived Climate Pollutants Program)	Implement weekly organics collection services for all residential and commercial customers served in County franchise areas	County has received Board approval and is updating franchise agreements and is on track for service implementation in 2022.	
		Establish Edible Food Recovery Program	County has engaged Tier 1 & 2 businesses per adopted ordinance.	
	Update the County's existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy	Add language addressing per capita procurement requirements for specified recovered organic waste products	County is working to update EPP Policy. The implementation of AB 1383 Ordinance is being brought to the Board in Janurary 2022.	
3.2		Add language addressing recycled paper content requirements	Update EPP Policy expected in 2022.	
		Add language to address other sustainability priorities	Public Works Department is collaborating with the Waste team in DCD to update the EPP Policy.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
4	Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience	Contra Costa County uses less	water and communities are prepared for drought	
4.1	Reduce water use in unincorporated County and in County facilities	Promote water conservation (EBMUD, Contra Costa Water District)	County has received reports from water districts detailing overall water use. No new water conservation measures have been implemented by the County. This is on track for 2022.	
4.2	M anage groundwater resources sustainably	· Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been approved by CA Dept of Water Resources, and is on track to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors in Janurary 2022.	
5	Clean Transportation Network	accessible options for walking	nsportation network provides safe and ng, biking, and transit. If residents and g, they are in electric vehicles.	
		Physically separated bicycle network in the unincorporated portions of the County that connects to the countywide network Complete and Adopt Active	The map of countywide bike network is currently in progress, and is on track for 2022. The Active Transportation Program is on	
	Reduce vehicle milestraveled in	Transportation Plan	track for completion March 2022, and will track progress made to projects.	
5.1	Contra Costa County by increasing number of people who bike, walk, and take public transit.	Develop and adopt through the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Plan (CRIPP) process an updated list of transportation projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled	· There are currently 35 actively funded projects.	
		Identify strategies and funding to implement recommendations in 2019 Employee Commute Survey of County employees	The County adopted a new remote work telecommute policy for all County employees B County employees currently use the pretax commute benefit.	
	Increase percentage of electric	Increase number of electric vehicles purchased by County departments	6 EVs were purchased for County fleet. 2.2% of County fleet is all-electric.	
5.2	vehicles in Contra Costa County fleet.	· Install EV chargers at County facilities	Currently, there are 49 electric vehicle chargers installed at County facilities. With the approval in November 2021 of the Sustainability Fund, this will move forward as a top priority.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
6	Climate Equity	disparities, promote safe a	rironmental factors leading to health and livable communities, and promote rove neighborhood accessibility.	
6.1	All residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods, have access to parks, open space, and fresh food, and can easily move through the County.	Complete work on environmental justice policies for General Plan Evaluate CAP strategies for equitable benefits for frontline communities.	General Plan update will include environmental justice policies. Public Works is creating a map to analyze funds spent by County departments on energy efficiency and other services and physical improvements in disadvantaged communities compared to non-disadvantaged communities.	
6.2	Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels	Collaborate with stakeholders to develop an inclusive process	· This work is ongoing.	
7	Leadership		odel for how local government can take on climate issues.	
7.1	Contra Costa County is a leader among local governments on how it addresses climate issues	Continue work of Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force Participation by County departments in County's Green Business Program Participation by eligible County departments in EBMUD Water Smart	Task Force continues to produce semi- annual reports to Board of Supervisors. County departments, and facilities within each department, will begin work in 2022 to adopt Best Practices from the Green Business Program. Each department will identify volunteer "champions" to lead this work. No update on number of County departments recognized by EBMUD Water Smart Business program.	
7.2	Implement Climate Emergency Resolution	Business program Implement 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution	Implmentation of Climate Emergency Resolution is ongoing. Focus in 2021 has been on Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force and building electrification ordinance.	
7.3	Build Community and County Employee Support for Climate Action Plan	Newsletters Meetings Coll aboration with community based organizations	Sustainability staff publish regular column in Contra Costa FOCUS employee newsletter and quarterly Sustainability Newsletter. Planning staff are participating events and trainings led by the Urban Susatinability Directors Network.	

Contra Costa County 2021 Climate Action Plan Progress Report

Introduction

This report provides a progress update on the 2021-2022 Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan Interim Work Plan (Interim Work Plan). The Interim Work Plan serves as a place holder while the 2022 CAP is developed, along with the update to the County's General Plan. There are 7 Goals outlined in the 2021-2022 Interim Climate Action Work Plan, which aim to increase the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Additionally, the Plan creates an effective tracking mechanism to monitor progress. Under each Goal, there are sub-goals each with a directed approach targeted at the main goal. For the County to monitor progress towards these goals, various departments and agencies have been tasked with the responsibility of reporting out on these measures of effectiveness. The results of the efforts are summarized below, and detail the progress made under each goal for 2021¹. This is a mid-term report and final goals outlined in the plan may not yet be met; this report serves as a benchmark for progress made thus far.

Clean and Efficient Built Environment

Contra Costa County prioritizes the health of its residents; thus, a goal is for homes, workplaces, and businesses within the County to run on clean energy.

1.1 Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County

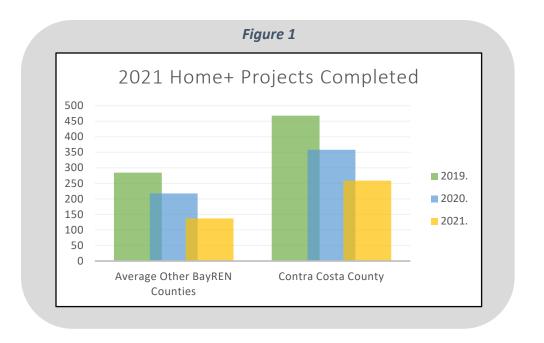
Building Electrification

The Interim Work Plan calls for the adoption of an all-electric requirement for most new construction. This is in the process of being adopted by the Board of Supervisors and then the California Energy Commission. The County is on track to meet this goal in January 2022.

Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs

Participation in energy efficiency and weatherization programs by residential and commercial buildings, with attention to impacted communities, is a priority. So far in 2021, 116 weatherization projects have been completed, along with 259 projects through the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN). BayREN is a collaboration of the nine Bay Area counties that provides energy efficiency programs, services, and resources. See *Figure 1*. The number of projects completed has declined throughout the region since the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ Note the data for this report was collected in November 2021 in order to meet reporting deadlines, so the numbers cover most, but not all, of the year.



Asthma Initiative

The Asthma Mitigation Project is an on-going effort led by the Contra Costa Health Department in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Development. The numbers are constantly growing. Currently, the Initiative is in the process of serving 41 clients. Ultimately, 150 clients will be served by this program over 3 years (ending in May of 2023).

County Buildings with Energy Storage

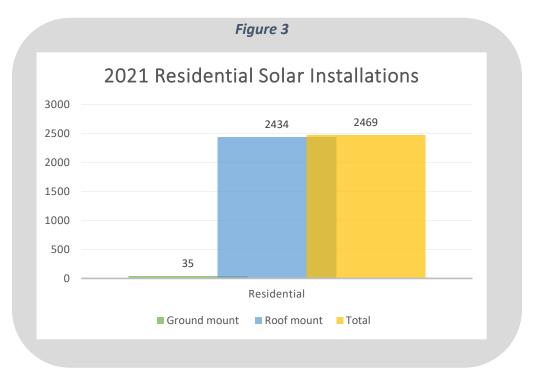
The Public Works Department is working with SunPower to identify locations for energy storage systems. The County has applied for funding through the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission. There may be additional funding opportunities through new federal incentives that are expected to become available in 2022.

Rooftop Solar on County Facilities

Rooftop and parking lot solar was installed at 5 County facilities this year. This is part of a larger project that is installing solar at 8 facilities. See *Figure 2* below for solar installed at the time this report was prepared.

Figure 2					
Location	Туре	Capacity (kW)			
30/40 Muir	Rooftop	166			
30/40 Muir	Carport	144			
50 Douglas	Rooftop	242			
50 Douglas	Carport	324			
595 Center	Rooftop	58			
595 Center	Carport	376			
597 Center	Rooftop	121			
Total		1,431			

In terms of solar on commercial properties, 8 commercial ground mount and 10 roof mount permits have been issued and installed. The residential permits issued can be seen in *Figure 3* below.



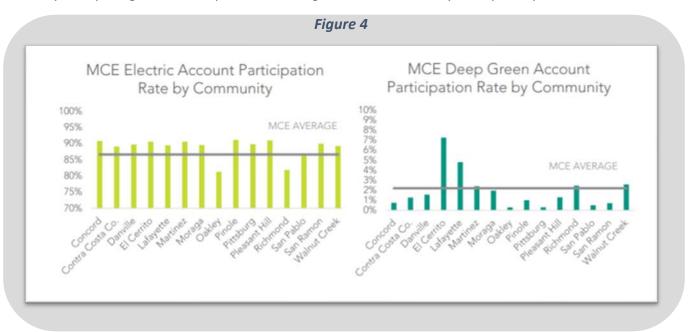
Public Works maintains a list of County buildings that would benefit from the installation of LED lights. It is expected this can be funded over time through the recently approved Sustainability Fund for investments in County facilities.

1.2 Replace fossil fuel electricity with renewable energy

Participation in MCE Deep Green

Currently, 88.5% of residential accounts are enrolled in MCE. Deep Green enrollment for the incorporated County is 1.3%, with the total for all County Deep Green enrollment at 1.7%.

There are currently 330,000 Contra Costa County customers served, which equates for 193,000 metric tons of CO2 reduced. In addition, all County facilities, excluding those sites with solar, are participating in MCE Deep Green. See *Figure 4* for community MCE participation.²



Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Contra Costa County will increase resilience to climate hazards and foster community health.

2.1 Sequester carbon in natural lands in Contra Costa County

The County is in the process of developing a carbon sequestration feasibility study. This project is funded through a grant from the California Department of Conservation. The County is partnering with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and University of California Cooperative Extension. Rincon Consultants is providing technical support.

See Figure 5 below for progress to date on implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan for County facilities.

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² Only cities that participate in MCE are listed

Figure 5

Project Name and Location ³	Project Description	Planning or Implementation Status	Green Infrastructure Measures Included
San Pablo Dam Road Walkability Project. Downtown El Sobrante from Hillcrest Road to Appian Way.	Reconstruct sidewalk, relocate bus stops, replace trees, and provide for potted landscaping. Provide sidewalk safety improvements in downtown area.	Completed 2017	Street trees (passive infiltration)
El Sobrante Library "mini park", 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante	Creation of a mini park with GI interpretive features along with conversion of library parking lot to porous pavement	Completed 2018	Permeable pavement
Rio Vista Pedestrian Connection Project, Pacifica Ave., Bay Point Installation pervious sidewalk and related improvements to facilitate student drop-off and access to elementary school		Completed 2019	Permeable pavement
Rodeo Downtown Infrastructure Project (Parker Ave. and 2 nd St.) Improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities		Completed 2020	Bioretention
Fred Jackson Way 1 st Mile/Last Mile Urban Greening North Richmond Watershed Connection Project	Sidewalk improvements from Brookside drive to Grove Avenue. Includes bulb outs for Street trees	Construction 2021	StormTree/Filterra C.3 treatment (2)
Fred Jackson Way Rain Garden at the Urban Tilth Farm. North Richmond Replacement of roadside ditches along 700 feet of Fred Jackson Way with bioretention facilities		Construction scheduled 2021,part of the "North Richmond Watershed Connections" project"	Bioretention basin
Marsh Creek Road Bridge Replacement (Bridge No. 28C0141). On Marsh Creek Road over Marsh Creek, approximately 1.8 mi east of Morgan Territory Road.	Bridge No. Marsh Creek Road eek, approximately Bridge replacement. The existing bridge is approaching the end of its		Bio swales
Road. Byron Highway Bridge Replacement over California Aqueduct (Bridge No. 28C0121), on Byron Hwy. 1.4 miles northwest of the Alameda County Line. Bridge replacement. The existing bridge is approaching the end of its useful life.		Planning and design phase	TBD

³ List each planned (and expected to be funded) public and private green infrastructure project that is not also a Regulated Project as defined in Provision C.3.b.ii. Note that funding for green infrastructure components may be anticipated but is not guaranteed to be available or sufficient

The County hosted a "Lunch and Learn" session on a feasibility study of Community Climate Resilience Districts prepared by a graduate student from the UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning, which was attended by County staff. In addition, no pervious paving was installed this year in County projects.

2.2 Address impacts of heat islands

The number of permits for cool roofs obtained by private property owners totaled 345. No cool roofs were implemented at County facilities this year.

No-Waste Contra Costa

Contra Costa County generates no more solid waste than 2.25 pounds per person per day (PPD).

To generate no more than 2.25 pounds of solid waste per person per day, the County has established metrics for monitoring waste which will aid in tracking the reduction when the strategies are implemented.

3.1 Recover organic waste and edible food (SB 1383/Short lived Climate Pollutants Program) Enforceable Mechanism to Mandate Organic Waste and Edible Food Recovery

Staff are developing an ordinance regarding organic waste and edible food recovery, as directed by Senate Bill 1383. This will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in December 2021.

Outreach and Education

Proof of documentation for organic waste collection for applicable residential and commercial customers is expected to occur in 2022. This includes focusing on outreach and educational strategies to encourage the reduction in waste.

Weekly Organics Collection and Edible Food Recovery

Regarding updated franchise agreements and related action, the County has been working with haulers to determine what changes may be needed to franchise agreements and/or associated collection rates. The County has engaged with Tier 1 & 2 businesses per adopted ordinance. This includes developing organic waste reduction and edible food recovery outreach for distribution in 2022.

3.2 Update the County's existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy

The SB 1383 ordinance will update some sections of the County's purchasing policy. Further potential amendments to the EPP Policy are in development.

⁴ See Community Climate Resilience Districts: A framework for evaluating special entity options for community climate adaptation in Contra Costa County's Low-Resource Communities, online at https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7025/Planning-for-our-Future.

Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience

Contra Costa County uses less water and communities are prepared for drought.

4.1 Reduce water use in unincorporated County and in County facilities

The County encourages residents and businesses to reduce overall water usage in the unincorporated County. Two water agencies supply water to the majority of County residents and businesses, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). The area serviced by CCWD can be seen in *Figure 6*, and the area serviced by EBMUD can be seen in *Figure 7*. See *Figure 8* for total water usage in the County as reported by CCWD in gallons per day. This year, the County's water usage has remained constant across sectors compared to that of recent years. While 2021 information is not available, *Figure 9* depicts overall reduction as reported by East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) for 2020. The metrics from each water company are necessary because they serve different areas of the County. CCWD currently has 4,132 active water accounts within unincorporated county in its retail service area. There is no new information to report on the Contra Costa Water District Lawn to Garden Program.

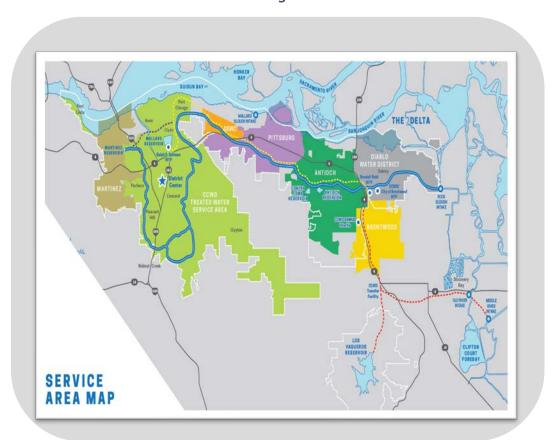


Figure 6

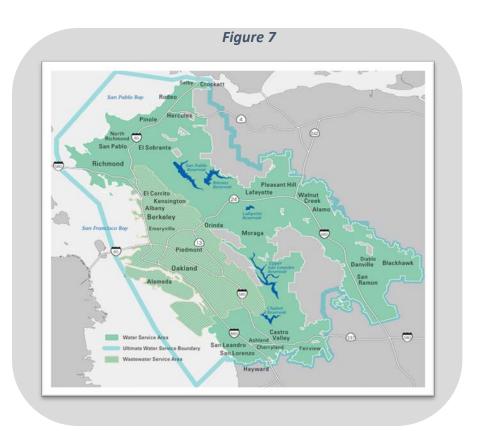


Figure 8

(Contra Costa Water District) Gallons Per Year Water Usage						
Unincorporated Area 2018 2019 2020 2021 Total						
Non-Residential	4,337,634	4,217,697	4,035,898	3,312,475	15,903,704	
Residential	8,159,592	9,083,180	7,453,969	32,930,075		
All Accounts	12,570,968	12,377,289	13,119,078	10,766,444	48,833,779	

Figure 9

(East Bay Municipal Utility District) Hundred Cubic Feet Per Year Water Usage ⁵							
Unincorporated Areas 2017 2018 2019 2020							
Non-Residential	3,489,074	3,683,351	3,681,827	3,779,268			
Residential	5,350,131	5,488,289	5,394,742	6,012,011			
Grand Total	8,839,205	9,171,640	9,076,569	9,791,279			

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⁵ Each CCF is 748 gallons

The reduction of water use at County Facilities is also prioritized. Facilities Services replaces faucets and toilets with low flow fixtures performs ongoing maintenance. Other water conservation efforts are on track to begin next year as part of the project list for the Sustainability Fund.

4.2 Manage groundwater resources sustainably

On December 7, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the East Contra Costa Subbasin. The GSP will be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by the end of January 2022.

Clean Transportation Network

Contra Costa County's transportation network provides safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and transit. If residents and workers are driving, they are in electric vehicles.

5.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County by increasing number of people who bike, walk, and take public transit.

To improve the use of active transportation, Public Works is developing countywide bike network map as part of the ongoing work to develop an Active Transportation Plan. Public Works is also leading work on a Vision Zero Complete Streets plan, to reduce vehicle accidents and fatalities on County roads.

A countywide separated bicycled network can help connect the unincorporated portions of the County. The Marsh Drive Bridge Project partnership with the East Bay Regional Parks District for separated bike/pedestrian path on the Iron Horse Trail is currently under construction. In addition, the County continues efforts to update the inventory of bicycle lanes completed. The Active Transportation Plan, which is scheduled for completion in March 2022, will track these projects.

The Capital Road Improvement Plan (CRIPP creates an inventory of funded road projects. The expectation is that the Federal and State grants under the Biden Administration will favor projects that promote bike/pedestrian/urban greening. Electronic CRIPP includes description tags for each project to easily determine all bicycle or pedestrian projects. The CRIPP is updated annually. There are currently 35 actively funded projects.⁶

The County updated its Remote Work Policy in August 2021. Under the new policy County employees may apply to work remotely up to 50% of the time, depending on how each department administers the policy. This should reduce vehicle miles traveled to and from work by County employees. In addition, there are currently there are 8 employees using the pretax commute benefit.

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⁶ 2020-CRIPP-PDF (ca.gov)

5.2 Increase percentage of electric vehicles in Contra Costa County fleet

The number of electric vehicles (EV) purchased annually for County fleet has been around 6 per year, 2021 being no exception. 2.2% of the County's fleet currently is electric vehicles (including Sherriff and maintenance vehicles). The purchase of EVs has been slow due to the lack of EV charging infrastructure. A priority for the Sustainability Fund (recently approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 2021) is the installation of additional EV charging infrastructure. The first project is estimated at \$2.5 million, with implementation in the next 18 to 24 months.

MCE's EV Rebate program offers residents of Contra Costa County up to \$3,500 in post-purchase rebates to help to lower the cost and increase the ease of purchasing new EVs for income-qualifying customers. The data below depicts EV charging ports established by MCE and is current through November 2021. See *Figure 10*.

	Figure 10						
	EV Charging Ports Installed by MCE in Contra Costa County						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total		
	6	179	140	29	354		
L	U	1/3	140	23	334		

Climate Equity

The CAP will mitigate environmental factors leading to health disparities, promote safe and livable communities, and promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility.

6.1 All residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods, have access to parks, open space, and fresh food, and can easily move through the County.

Currently, the General Plan update will include environmental justice policies. These documents and policies can be found on the Envision Contra Costa 2040 website.⁷

To analyze funds spent by County departments on energy efficiency and other services and physical improvements in disadvantaged communities compared to non-disadvantaged communities, Public Works Transportation Engineering will be creating a GIS map of County projects and Communities of Concern.

6.2 Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels

The Sustainability Committee of the Board of Supervisors discussed economic transition at its March 2021 meeting. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier submitted a Community Funding request of \$750,000 to support initial planning and engagement work on economic transition in Contra Costa County. The final federal budget has not been adopted at the time this report was

⁷ Environmental Justice Documents – envisioncontracosta2040.org

prepared. Additionally, Assemblymember Tim Grayson sponsored AB 844, which creates a Green Empowerment Zone along the Northern Waterfront of Contra Costa County, with a goal of improving the economic vitality of the Northern Waterfront and supporting the development of a clean energy economy.

Leadership

Contra Costa County is a model for how local government can take action on climate issues.

7.1 Contra Costa County is a leader among local governments on how it addresses climate issues

The County's Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force began meeting in late 2020. The Task Force provided two reports to Board of Supervisors, in March and October. The first report highlighted the large number of County services that are provided virtually (many as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic), the importance of establishing a Sustainability Fund for investments in County facilities, and the importance of continuing to permit the public to participate remotely in County meetings governed by the State's open meeting laws. The second report focused on opportunities for County departments to adopt best practices from the County's Green Business Program, and the ongoing role of the Task Force in advising on the Sustainability Fund. Currently, the Task Force is developing a structure to support department Champions, who will volunteer in their departments to adopt the Green Business Program's Best Practices.⁸

There is no update on the number of County departments recognized by EBMUD's Water Smart Business Program.

7.2 Implement Climate Emergency Resolution

The 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution called for adoption of an all-electric ordinance for new buildings, creation of the Interdepartmental Task Force, and work on a "Just Transition." It also called on cities and special districts in Contra Costa County to adopt a similar resolution, several of which have done so. Implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution will be ongoing.

7.3 Build Community and County Employee Support for Climate Action Plan

The County has maintained a regular column in the County's employee newsletter. In 2020, the County began publishing a quarterly newsletter for the community, which can be found online.⁹

Conclusion

The County is working to meet the goals outlined in the 2021-2022 Interim Climate Action Work Plan. The County remains on track to meet the goals set forth in the Interim Plan. The County is developing an updated Climate Action Plan that is anticipated to take effect in

⁸ The Green Business Program :: Hazardous Materials :: Contra Costa Health Services (cchealth.org)

⁹ https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6780/

