



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2022 WORK PLAN

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The current members of the Sustainability Commission are:¹

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| <p>Wes Sullens, Member, District 4, Chair
Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice, Vice Chair
Nick Despota, Member, District 1
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2
Chris Easter, Alternate, District 2
Mike Moore, Member, District 3
Samantha Moy, Alternate, District 3</p> | <p>Brandon Matson, Alternate, District 4
Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5
Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group
Luz Gomez, At-Large, Community Group
Chuck Leonard, At-Large, Business
Marisha Farnsworth, At-Large, Business
Isabella Zizi, Environmental Justice
Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education</p> |
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The Commission meets the fourth Monday in February, April, June, August, October, and December.² Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, is lead staff. All members have completed the mandatory training. Kim Hazard is the Sustainability Commission representative to the County’s Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee.

The Chair and other members of the Commission participate in meetings of the Board of Supervisors’ Sustainability Committee. The Commission receives briefings from County staff and representatives of other agencies and groups on a range of issues related to the County’s Climate Action Plan. Below is a summary of the Commission’s work in 2021.

Topic	Accomplishments
Building Electrification	At its February meeting, the Commission received an update on the development of an all-electric ordinance for new buildings, which is being brought to the Board of Supervisors in December 2021.
General Plan Update	At its February meeting, the Commission reviewed and provided input on environmental justice policies being developed for the General Plan.
Green Benefits District	At its February meeting, the Commission received a presentation on options for forming Green Benefits, or “Community Climate Resilience,” Districts. The Commission provided feedback on this concept.
Solid Waste	At its February meeting, the Commission received an update on how Senate Bill 1383’s implementation and enforcement will affect County operations. The Commission provided feedback about the County’s capacity to handle organic waste collection.

¹Five members of the Sustainability Commission retired during 2021. The Commission thanks Russell Snyder (At-Large, Business), Harry Thurston (At-Large, Community Group), John Sierra (Member, District 3), Ryan Buckley (Alternate, District 2), and Travis Curran (Alternate, District 4) for their service.

² The December meeting is earlier in the month.

Topic	Accomplishments
Transportation Planning Priorities	At its April meeting, the Commission received an update from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) about the CCTA's Bike and Pedestrian Plan and Vision Zero. At its June meeting, the Commission received a report on the County's Active Transportation Plan being developed by the Public Works Dept.
Just Transition	At its February meeting, a working group of the Commission presented suggestions for how the County might structure Just Transition work. The Commission receives reports on the status of this work at every meeting.
Green Buildings	At its April meeting, the Commission discussed integrating LEED principles into the Climate Action Plan. A working group of the Commission developed recommendations regarding green building and procurement best practices which were adopted by the Commission and sent to the Board of Supervisors. The Sustainability Committee discussed the status of County work on these topics at its November 2021 meeting.
Renewable Fuel Processing	At its June meeting, the Commission received reports from Phillips 66 and Marathon Petroleum on their pending applications to process renewable fuel. Four Commission members toured the Marathon and PBF facilities and reported back.
Water Conservation	At its August meeting, The Commission received presentations by Contra Costa Water District, Diablo Valley Water District, and East Bay Municipal Utility District regarding water issues in the County.
Rising Sea Levels	At its December meeting, the Commission received updates on sea level rise, with presentations from Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Delta Stewardship Council.
Communication and Engagement	Commission members provided suggestions to County staff on how to more effectively present information.
Climate Emergency Resolution	The Commission receives a status report on implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution as a standing item at every meeting.
Climate Action Plan Update	The Commission receives status reports on the ongoing update of the County's Climate Action Plan. The Commission reviewed Draft Goals and Strategies for the Climate Action Plan update at its October meeting and provided input.

2022 WORK PLAN

The Commission will continue to report to the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as well as to the full Board. Projects and initiatives related to the *Climate Action Plan* on which the Commission anticipates it may advise the Board of Supervisors and staff include:

- General Plan Update, particularly integrating equity and environmental justice
- *Climate Action Plan* update
- Issues in the Climate Action Plan, including water conservation and drought; land use and public transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle access; energy efficiency and renewable energy; and recycling and composting.
- Implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution
- Increasing resilience to climate-related disasters and incidents, including the Adapting to Rising Tides studies for Eastern Contra Costa County and the Bay Area region, wild fires, and Public Safety Power Shutoffs

- Just Transition of oil refineries on the Contra Costa County shoreline
- A definition of “sustainability” to use in developing the update to the Climate Action Plan and related documents
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint implementation
- Advocacy on issues related to the *Climate Action Plan*
- Potential health impacts of climate change
- Building electrification
- Carbon-neutral building materials
- Outreach and education on sustainability to Contra Costa County residents and businesses