

**Contra Costa County**  
**Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force**  
**NOTES**

February 15, 2022  
1:00-2:30pm

The Contra Costa County Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force convened on February 15, 2022, to receive an update on actions County government can take to urgently implement the County's Climate Action Plan, and agree on the next semi-annual report to the Board of Supervisors.

Jason Crapo, Department of Conservation and Development (DCD), provided an update on the County's all-electric new construction ordinance which was adopted by the Board this past January. Effectively, all new residential buildings as well as some commercial buildings will be required to have electric plumbing infrastructure rather than natural gas. This is a huge win for the County, as this will go a long way in curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Other big wins for the County included an update from Tom Ta, Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD), on how EHSD has identified several ways to curb climate change and is in the process of implementing those strategies for improving energy efficiency and reducing waste in its facilities. Dan Peddycord updated the group on steps the Health Services Department is taking to fight climate change and improve community resilience. This includes joining Practice Greenhealth, a network of healthcare facilities that work to curb medical waste, as well as implementing various initiatives that curb the impacts of climate change related to human health.

Next, Steve Kowalewski, Public Works Department, gave an update on the status of the Sustainability Fund, to which the Board allocated \$2.5 million/year in Measure X funding to implement climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in County facilities. The first priority for these funds will be the installation of electric vehicle chargers.

The group focused most of the meeting on the launch of the Green Government Group, known as the G3 Champions. Lara Delaney, CAO, provided an overview of this program on behalf of the Sustainability Steering Committee (a working group who put together this program). The G3 Champions will help departments adopt best practices from the County's Green Business Program. These Champions are volunteers, and recruitment is set to begin in the coming weeks. The Steering Committee has put together resources to bring these Champions on board and best equip department heads to implement this structure. Once up and running, the Champions will assist in the County's push towards sustainability by implementing measures (with the assistance of Public Works) that are best practices in the County's Green Business Program such as reducing waste, improving energy efficiency, and conserving water.

Susan Psara, Green Business Program Manager, went over the dashboard set up by the Green Business Program specifically for Contra Costa County to track the progress of the Champions. This dashboard is a user-friendly way to calculate GHG reductions and monitor progress towards County sustainability goals.

Lastly, the Task Force engaged in a Jamboard activity and breakout rooms, where they were able to provide feedback on the G3 Champion Program. Main concerns raised included level of work and time commitment for the Champions, access to recruitment materials, and financial logistics of

accessing the Sustainability Fund. Overall, the Task Force was supportive of these ideas, and the Steering Committee will work to address logistical concerns raised by the group. The Task Force is on track to bring the next report to the Board at the end of March.

Links:

[G3 Champions Intranet Site](#) (for County employees only)

[G3 Champion Guide](#)

[Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force Web Page](#) (public facing)

Attachments:

Presentation

Jamboard Summary

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTERDEPARTMENTAL CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE

## PROGRESS UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

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February 15, 2022

John Kopchik, Director, Department of Conservation and Development

Brian Balbas, Director, Department of Public Works

# Today's Meeting

## Goals:

- Receive updates
- Affirm commitment to department “champions”

## Today we will:

- Receive update on Task Force progress to date
  - Sustainability Fund
  - G3 Champions (Green Government Group)
  - Tracking progress
- Receive updates on Board of Supervisors, department action on climate change
- Agree on next report to Board



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# BOARD, DEPARTMENT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



# All-Electric New Construction

On January 18, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance requiring certain newly constructed buildings be all-electric and not use natural gas as a primary source of power:

- All new residential buildings;
- Some new commercial buildings: Hotels, Offices, Retail Uses

As with electric cars, all-electric buildings will become the norm in California in the coming years. The Board's action helps expedite this transition.

As buildings and cars are powered by electricity, and electricity is increasing generated from non-emitting sources, GHG emissions Statewide will be greatly reduced.

# Employment and Human Services

*In September 2021, EHSD identified several ways the department can do our part to curb climate change.*

## *GOAL: Clean & Efficient Buildings*

- 1. Install solar panels at county-owned buildings*
- 2. Implemented organics recycling at the remaining 5 county-owned EHSD buildings*
- 3. Upgrade all faucets and toilets to low flow*
- 4. Upgrade all county-owned facilities to LED lighting*

## ***STATUS UPDATE – Clean & Efficient Buildings***

- ***Low flow faucets and toilets***
- ***LED lighting***

### ***EHSD County-Owned Buildings with Solar Panels***

1. *151 Linus Pauling, Hercules*
2. *1305 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond*
3. *4545 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch \**
4. *4549 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch \**

### ***EHSD County-Owned Buildings Organics Recycling***

1. *151 Linus Pauling, Hercules*
2. *1305 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond*
3. *4545 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch*
4. *4549 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch*
5. *40 Douglas Drive, Martinez*
6. *1650 Cavallo Road, Antioch*



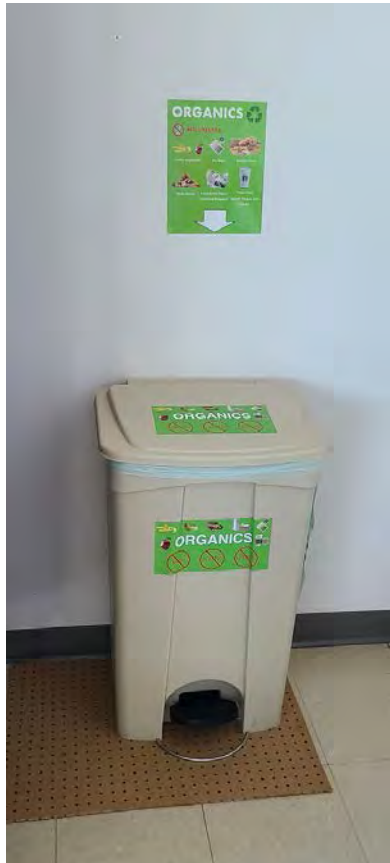
## *STATUS UPDATE – Clean & Efficient Buildings*

4545 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch



February 15, 2022

***STATUS UPDATE – Clean & Efficient Buildings***  
**4549 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch**



February 15, 2022



## *GOAL: Clean Transportation*

- 1. Assess EHSD fleet vehicles to identify vehicles closest to removal from inventory*
- 2. Assess EHSD vehicle needs that will enable us to better serve the community*
- 3. Create a list of zero emission vehicles and hybrid vehicles EHSD will need to continue delivering services and benefits to the community*
- 4. Work with PW's new Energy Manager to install electric charging stations*

## *STATUS UPDATE - Clean Transportation*

# Health Services



- Joined Practice Green Health
- AB 836 - Clean Air Center Grant
  - To enhance protection from wildfire smoke exposure for vulnerable populations.
  - Application to Bay Area Air Quality Management District due by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- CCHS Extreme Heat Response Plan & related Public Safety Power Shutoff Plan
  - State just released its draft Extreme Heat Plan
- Green and Healthy Homes Asthma Prevention Initiative
  - Partnership with Contra Costa Health Program, Department of Conservation and Development, and Public Health Division.

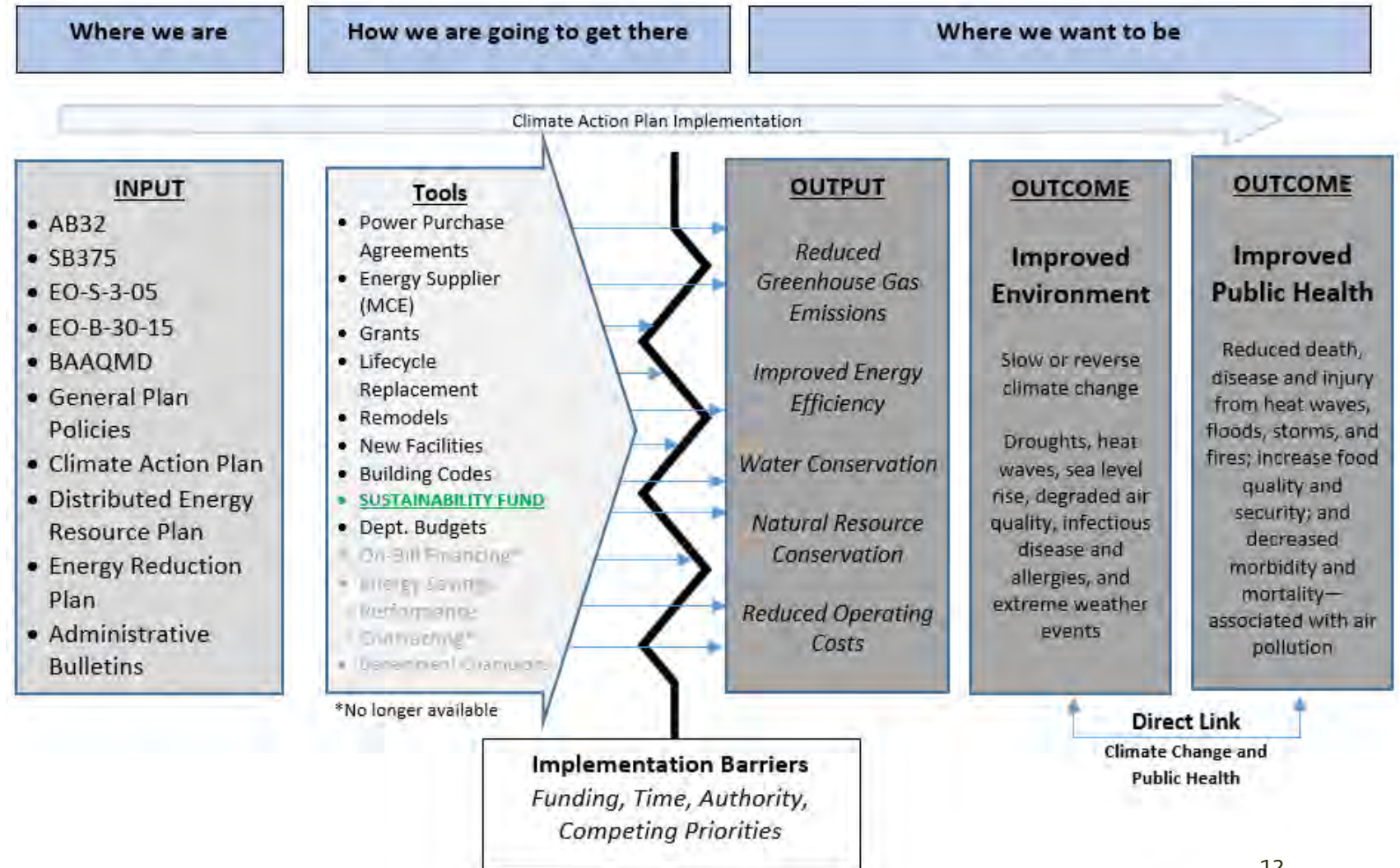
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# TASK FORCE PROGRESS TO DATE



# Sustainability Fund

## The Birth of the Sustainability Fund



# Sustainability Fund

- Board approved in October 2021
- In November 2021, Board agreed to allocate \$2.5 million/year from Measure X to investments in County facilities
- First priority project is electric vehicle chargers to expedite conversion of County fleet vehicles to electric
- Second priority project is energy use reduction (LED with motion sensors)
- Primary focus on Distributed Energy Resource Plan - Solar PV, Energy Efficiency, Electric Vehicles, Energy Storage, Automated Demand Response
- Future projects - how you can help



# G3 Champions

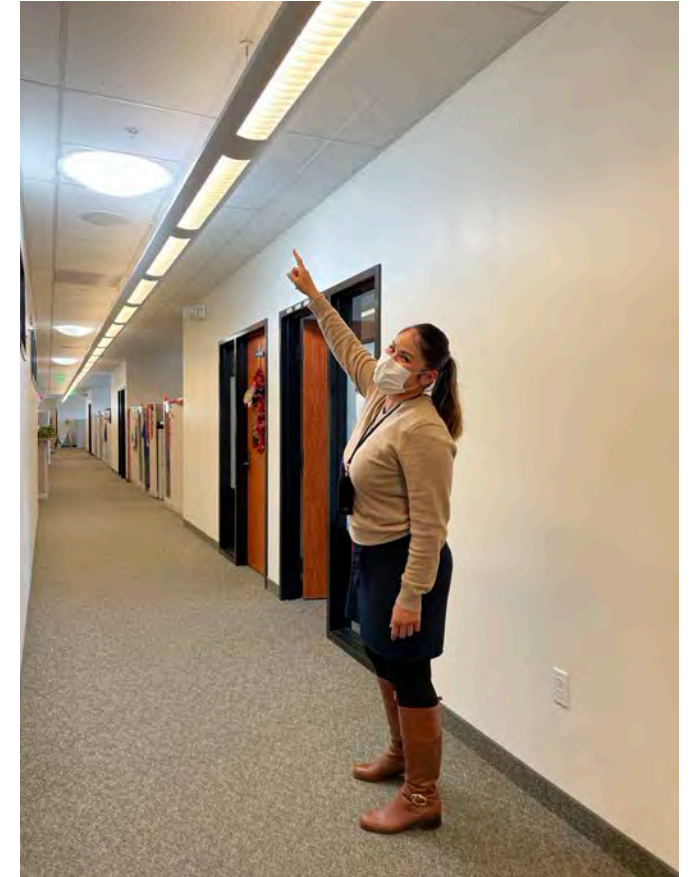


- Each department will appoint a champion(s) to help the department adopt best practices from the County's Green Business Program.
  - Champions are volunteers
  - Expected time commitment: 2-3 hours/month
  - May need a champion at each site, if your department has multiple sites
- Intranet Site
- G3 Champion Guide and other resources
- Regular meetings of all Champions to be led by Steering Committee (Public Works DCD, Health, Library, CAO, HR)



# G3 Champions

- Champion recruitment will begin over coming weeks
- We will provide department heads with resources to find the right people
- Launch no later than Earth Day (April 22)
- [See G3 Champion Intranet Site](https://www.insidecontracosta.org/334/Contra-Costa-Sustainability)  
(<https://www.insidecontracosta.org/334/Contra-Costa-Sustainability>)



# Tracking Our Progress

Green Business Program has developed a custom dashboard for Contra Costa County!

The dashboard interface includes a top navigation bar with links: "board", "My Checklist", "My Status", "My Company Profile", "My Report Card", and "Communication". A left sidebar contains a "GET STARTED" button and a list of categories: "ENERGY", "Awareness & Maintenance", "Lighting & Equipment", "POLLUTION PREVENTION", "SOLID WASTE", "TRANSPORTATION", "WASTEWATER", "WATER", and "COMMUNITY". Below these is a "PRINT TIER 2" link and a "PROGRESS" section showing "2 REQUIRED MEASURES" and "19 measures completed".

The main content area features a yellow banner stating "Tier is available in view mode only." Below this is the "MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS" section for "Tier 2", which includes a progress bar and the text "10 Tier 2 measures completed. A minimum of 19 Tier 2 measures are required." The "Lighting & Equipment" section has "SAVE" and "NEXT" buttons, with a "Last saved 4 days ago" status. The "CORE MEASURES" section contains a list of requirements, including "1. Use energy-efficient lighting. Replace all halogen, incandescent, T-12, high-pressure sodium, and metal halide lighting with LEDs. T-8s should be replaced with T-8 LEDs/integrated LEDs as they burn out. Below, select the lights you have or what you've recently replaced." and "2. Lighting Energy Savings [Which fixtures did you retrofit?]", each with a toggle switch. A "HELP" link is also present. On the right, the "CATEGORY PROGRESS" section shows a full progress bar and the text "You have completed all measures." Below this is an information icon and the heading "Efficient Lighting Options", followed by explanatory text: "When compared to incandescent bulbs, CFL and LED bulbs will not or last 8-10 times longer, but also save businesses thousands of dollars each year in daily lighting costs."

# Questions for the Task Force

- What type of support would be most helpful for you as you recruit G3 Champions?
- What ideas do you have regarding things you'd like your department to work on?
- Do you have concerns about the Sustainability Fund and/or G3 Champions? If yes, how can we help address those?

## Next Steps

- Affirm support for G3 Champions
- Volunteers to present to Board on March 22
- Other

# TASK FORCE CONCERNS

## WORKLOAD

- CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF TIME COMMITMENT AND WORKLOAD
- TYPE OF WORK REQUIRED

## LOGISTICS

- REOCCURRING MEETING SCHEDULE
- MOMENTUM OF PROGRAM
- DEPARTMENT STAFFING CONCERNS
- PUBLIC WORKS STAFFING CONCERNS

## FINANCES

- ACCESS TO THE SUSTAINABILITY FUND
- ARE EMPLOYEES BEING PAID FOR THIS TIME?
- WHO OVERSEES THE ALLOCATION OF MONEY?

## STRUCTURE

- HOW LEADERSHIP ROLES ARE INCORPORATED
- ENDORSEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS
- CLARITY ON WHO G3 CHAMPIONS REPORT TO

## RECRUITMENT/ PARTICIPATION

- EMAIL FROM CAO
- DRAFT TEXT FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS TO SEND
- INCENTIVES FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN
- WHICH CLASSIFICATIONS OF EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE
- MANDATORY VS VOLUNTARY?
- ENCOURAGE ALL EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME WAY