



February 16, 2023

Members of the Sustainability Committee
Contra Costa County

RE: Interim Climate Action Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Dear Supervisors Glover and Gioia,

350 Contra Costa Action has reviewed the Interim CAP for '23-'24, and Jody London's report for tomorrow's Committee meeting. We do appreciate the work the County is doing to further sustainability and climate action. The County's work on developing a plan to phase out natural gas systems in existing buildings is commendable, as are other initiatives mentioned in the staff report.

We also welcome some important additions to the Interim CAP plan, such as working to improve grid resiliency, converting County nat. gas systems to electric when feasible, low-carbon construction materials, enhancing the tree canopy to reduce the "heat island" affect, and the new section 7.4 on investing to increase climate equity.

That said, there is room for improving the Interim CAP plan. Please consider the following items to broaden the array of actions the County takes, as the climate emergency demands, and to set a positive example for local jurisdictions who look to the County for leadership:

1. Expand the building electrification (BE) ordinance to cover all building types, as well as building alterations and additions. For specific suggestions, please read our Feb. 16 2023 letter to you about improving the BE ordinance.
2. Encourage greater adoption of photovoltaic (solar electric) systems in the private sector.
3. Encourage greater adoption of EVs (electric vehicles) in the private sector.
4. Encourage greater adoption of whole building battery systems in the private sector.
5. Carbon sequestration must be limited to natural systems only.
6. Clearly list goals and objectives where possible, and provide data on progress in meeting the goals and objectives.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information.

Gary Farber, on behalf of 350 Contra Costa Action
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cc: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator
cc: Demian Hardman-Saldana, Dept. of Conservation & Development
cc: Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission