

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

*Building Brighter Futures Together*

# Support to the County Climate Action Plan

Sustainability Committee May 15, 2023

Presenter Emilia Gabriele

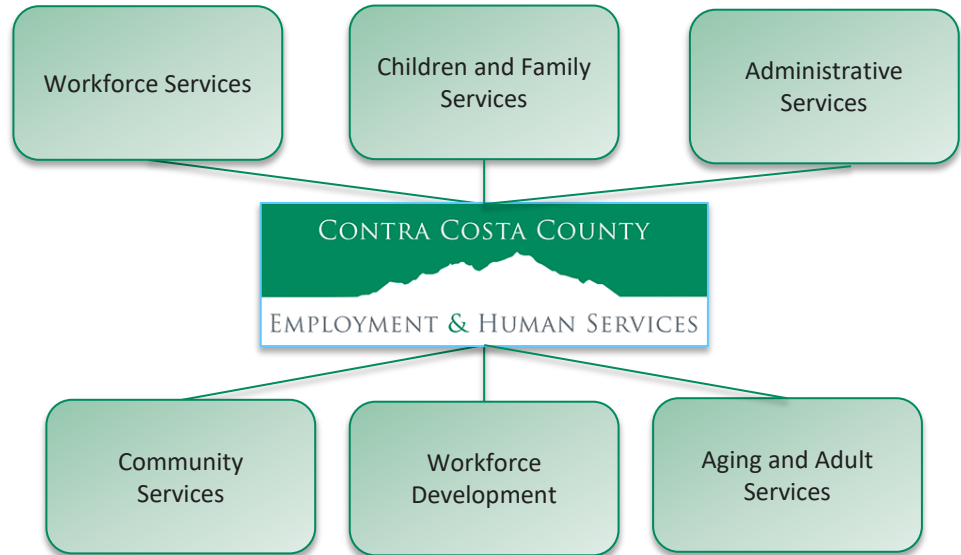
Chief Deputy Director

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# EHSD Overview



“We **partner** with the community to deliver quality services to ensure access to resources that support, protect, and empower individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.”



# EHSD Overview



“Our vision is that Contra Costa County will continue to be a **thriving community** where all individuals and families can be healthy, safe, secure and self-sufficient.”



1,900+ EHSD  
employees

EHSD touches the  
lives of **one out of  
four** Contra Costa  
County residents



\$636 million  
budget

FY 2023-24

- ✓ Supporting self-sufficiency
- ✓ Keeping people healthy
- ✓ Supporting food security
- ✓ Keeping children safe
- ✓ Preparing children for life
- ✓ Protecting older adults
- ✓ Helping the elderly stay in their homes

# Climate Action Plan Strategies and Actions

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# Overview of Strategies

- Educate Through Communication
- Clean Transportation Network
- Resilient Communities: Places to Cool
- Clean and Efficient Buildings:
  - Composting
  - Water Conservation
  - Energy Conservation
  - Solar

# Educate Through Communication

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Educate staff on the importance of reducing our carbon footprint and conservation.
- **Benefits:** Boosts employee morale, more staff involvement, collaborative work between employees with shared interests, allows for creative ideas to be born, creates a cohesive sustainability plan
- **Status:** Climate Action Plan Kickoff is underway

# Clean Transportation Network

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Improve air quality by transitioning EHSD's fleet to more zero emissions and hybrid vehicles.
- **Benefits:** Cleaner air, reduction in burning of fossil fuels via cleaner energy sources
- **Status:** Fleet assessment underway



# Resilient Communities

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Due to the increase of more triple digit days during the summer months, EHSD works with county partners to identify facilities for places to cool when there is a need  
**Benefits:** Protecting vulnerable populations by providing respite during prolonged heating events for those without air conditioning, contributing toward social equity
- **Status:** EHSD continues to designate the lobbies of specific district offices as a place to cool



# Clean & Efficient Buildings: Composting

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Make changes in county-owned facilities to include recycling and composting;
- **Benefits:** Reduction in landfill waste, resulting in lower methane gas being released into the atmosphere
- **Status:** Many EHSD's county-owned buildings are composting and protecting our environment.



# Clean & Efficient Buildings: Water

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Make changes in county-owned facilities to reduce water usage
- **Benefits:** Conservation of water resources
- **Status:** To date low-flow water fixtures are installed at 10 EHSD buildings.



# Clean & Efficient Buildings: Energy

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Make changes in county-owned facilities that work toward energy reduction goals.
- **Benefits:** Reduction in energy usage reduces demand on PG&E's grid during summer months
- **Status:** Consideration to reduce energy used for lighting is currently under way

# Clean & Efficient Buildings: Solar

- **Climate Action Plan Strategy:** Make changes in county-owned facilities that captures the sun's energy to produce a clean energy source
- **Benefits:** Cleaner air, reduction in burning of fossil fuels via cleaner energy sources, reduces demand on PG&Es grid
- **Status:** There are currently 5 EHSD county-owned locations with solar panels installed



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# Discussion

Support of the Climate Action Plan Presentation, May 15, 2023

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