Attachment A

Draft 2030 Climate Action Plan

https://sbcountycap.konveio.com/draft-2030-climate-action-plan

one COUNTY one FUTURE

County of Santa Barbara

2030 Climate Action Plan

2030

June 2023

Public Review Draft

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figures

Tables

1.

INTRODUCTION

Characterized by natural beauty, access to the ocean and mountains, and a vibrant economy, Santa Barbara County is home to a diverse range of communities, people, cultures, and ideas - all faced with an increasingly challenging environment created by climate change. County residents and businesses are passionate about their home, the potential for a thriving future, and concerns about the risks they must overcome.

As highlighted by the County of Santa Barbara's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and the State's 4th Climate Change Assessment, the impacts of climate change are accelerating as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise. The Thomas Fire and the 1/9 debris flow event in Montecito brought into sharp focus that climate change - once a distant and abstract concept - has local impacts. The Thomas Fire was considered the largest wildfire in California's history at the time. Six years later, it now ranks only as the eighth largest. That fact underlines the need to take aggressive action to reduce GHG emissions while increasing community resilience and preparedness, sooner rather than later.

Climate change touches on almost every aspect of life. As the region continues to grapple with the challenges of COVID-19 recovery, economic hardship and inequality, lack of affordable housing, and racial injustice; climate change has the potential to exacerbate these issues.

Recognizing that climate change is a threat to local quality of life, the Board of Supervisors adopted an aggressive goal to reduce GHG emissions in the unincorporated area to 50% below 2018 levels by 2030. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the County's roadmap to achieving that goal. The measures laid out in the CAP provide a foundation that aligns with the State of California's goals to reduce GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The County is at a crossroads - as all governments are - at how to directly and substantially mitigate and address the growing impacts of climate change. This CAP is more than a plan- it is a community-driven vision for a more equitable and resilient future and therefore, must be fundamentally ambitious and transformative.

The CAP was developed collaboratively with stakeholders throughout the County and included involvement from the County's Sustainability Committee, which includes representatives from County departments, the Equity Advisory + Outreach Committee, as well as local community members, cities, stakeholders, and members of the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative.

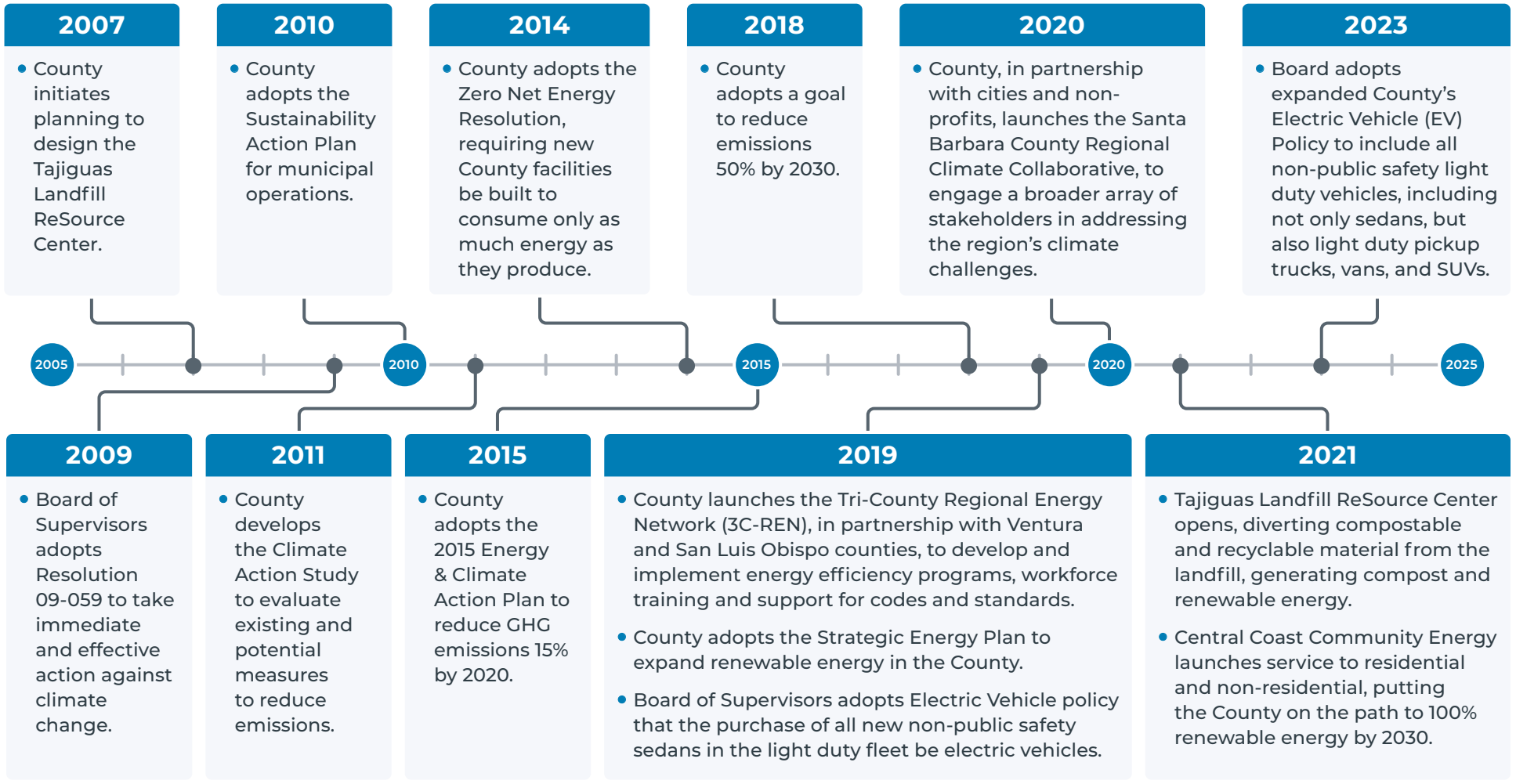
The CAP establishes aggressive but achievable goals and measurable actions, however the County cannot achieve its goals without collaboration with regional agencies, cities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and individual community members.

The 2030 Climate Action Plan is not just the County's plan, it is the community's plan.

CLIMATE ACTION HISTORY

The County Board of Supervisors have a long history of adopting and implementing policies, programs and projects that have avoided or mitigated GHG emissions. The CAP builds on the County's leadership and seeks to accelerate GHG emission reduction further.

FIGURE 1. Climate Action History Timeline



Qualified Climate Action Plan

The CAP is designed to be a qualified plan under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).[1] As a Qualified Climate Action Plan, the CAP provides the County with the ability to streamline the environmental review process of future development projects. This can reduce the time and financial burden during the environmental review process while simultaneously spurring emissions reductions. This CAP is consistent with the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines[2] as outlined below:

A. Quantify greenhouse gas emissions, both existing and projected over a specified time period, resulting from activities within a defined geographic area (See Inventory, Forecast, and Targets);

B. Establish a level below which GHG emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively significant (See Inventory, Forecast, and Targets);

C. Identify and analyze the GHG emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions (See Inventory, Forecast, and Targets);

D. Specify measures or a group of measures that substantial evidence demonstrates would collectively achieve the specified emissions level (See GHG Emission Reduction Measures);

E. Establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress toward achieving the level and to require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels (See Implementation);

F. Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.

1. *CEQA requires public agencies such as the County of Santa Barbara to consider the environmental impacts of their actions through environmental review. Under CEQA, the County must determine and disclose if any environmental impacts are significant, and if so, to avoid or minimize those impacts.*
2. *Section 15183.5(b)*

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The County is leading and supporting a number of multi-sectoral efforts at different regional scales to advance emissions reductions, climate adaptation, and regional resilience. These efforts will broadly support and enhance the County's efforts to effectively and equitably implement the CAP.

Climate Resilient Santa Barbara County

The County of Santa Barbara has joined forces with Central Coast counties and cities to develop and launch the Resilient Central Coast campaign. The campaign utilizes an online platform for households to identify steps to take to reduce their carbon footprint and make their homes more resilient. Neighborhoods, schools, employers, and other community groups can organize teams and compete against one another to increase participation. Learn more about **Climate Resilient Santa Barbara County**.

Regional Climate Collaboratives

The County is a founding member of the **Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative** and a member of the **Central Coast Climate Collaborative** (4C). Both collaboratives are growing networks of public agencies, businesses, non-profits, and community-based organizations working together to address the region's climate challenges.

The Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative has successfully applied for and received grant funding of over $865,000 to support the development of resilience hubs and a regional sea level rise monitoring plan. The Collaborative was also integral to developing a 5-part webinar series focused on carbon sequestration and carbon offsets.

Tri-County Regional Energy Network

In collaboration with Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties, the County launched the **Tri-County Regional Energy Network** (3C-REN), to provide tailored programs and services to increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings through customer programs, workforce development, and training.

Central Coast Community Energy

In 2019, the County joined **Central Coast Community Energy** (CCCE) to implement community choice energy. Cities, with the exception of Lompoc and Santa Barbara, also voted to join CCCE. CCCE launched electricity service to residential and commercial customers in 2021. CCCE's default energy product increases customers' use of renewable energy to 31% and puts the County on the path to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030. CCCE also provides generous incentives that support building and transportation electrification and is currently developing a Medium and Heavy-duty Vehicle Electrification Blueprint.

Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy

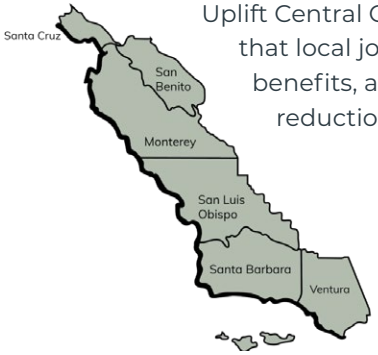
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), with support from regional planning organizations, is developing a new strategy to improve electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to support inter-regional travelers, freight, and transit throughout the Central Coast. Key goals within the **Central Coast Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy** include ensuring access to EV charging for low-income households, multi-family dwellings, and rental properties as well as other disadvantaged communities, including Native American Tribal Governments, and rural communities.

Community Economic Resilience Fund

The Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) provides funding to build an equitable and sustainable economy across California's diverse regions and foster long-term economic resilience in the overall transition to a carbon-neutral economy. CERF uses a high-road approach to economic development to support the creation of quality jobs and equal access to those jobs. A high-road economy favors businesses that invest in their workforces, pay living wages, and engage in environmentally sustainable business practices.

CERF awarded the **Uplift Central Coast Coalition** a $5 million grant to conduct a 2-year planning process to create an inclusive economic development plan for the six Central Coast counties with a focus on equity, sustainability, job quality, economic competitiveness, and resilience.

The County will engage in the planning and implementation of CERF through Uplift Central Coast to ensure that local jobs, community benefits, and emission reductions are achieved.



2.

A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

This CAP was developed with extensive consultation, community outreach and engagement over 26 months. Informed by a detailed Outreach and Engagement Plan, the County solicited insights and feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders and community members. The engagement process included in-person small meetings, presentations, and virtual town halls, with extensive communication and outreach including the creation and distribution of a One Climate Video spotlighting the County's unique character, and a dynamic web portal (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. Collaboration Process

Following is a brief summary of the groups and activities that were central to the development of this plan.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee was created after the adoption of the 2015 Energy and Climate Action Plan. The Committee is composed of County staff from various departments and divisions who are directly responsible for implementing and reporting on measures and actions included in the CAP. The Committee reviewed the emissions reduction scenarios, existing and future policies, programs and projects for inclusion in the CAP and the full draft prior to public release.

Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) provides advice to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and County departments on a variety of agriculturally-related matters. County staff provided regular updates to the AAC throughout the plan development process. A Climate Subcommittee was formed and met 3 times to review and refine the actions for the Nature-Based Solutions focus area.

Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee

The County established the Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee, or EA+OC in order to integrate equity into its plans and planning processes. The EA+OC is composed of individuals and organizations that represent under-resourced communities, as well as environmental and social justice organizations. The Board of Supervisors approved the use of funds to offer participation stipends to eligible individuals to compensate them for their time.

The County has presented and facilitated discussions and activities with the EA+OC at 5 meetings. The EA+OC has helped to guide the development of the Plan by identifying and prioritizing community benefits, developing equity guardrails, and supporting outreach and communications on behalf of the County.

Listening Sessions

Listening sessions allowed the County to engage with special interest groups in an intimate setting. Staff held five meetings focused on the following categories: agriculture, business, environmental, municipal, and community. A brief presentation related to climate issues was shared and then participants were asked to discuss their concerns and ideas. Groups shared insights on their particular area of expertise.

Stakeholder Meetings

The County held eight stakeholder meetings focusing on clean energy, transportation, agriculture, and business groups. Like the listening sessions, the stakeholder meetings offered an intimate setting for individuals and organizations to offer their perspectives on achieving the broad outcomes of the CAP.

Public Workshops

The County conducted 6 workshops throughout the development process to engage the broader community. The first set of workshops offered an introduction and overview of the CAP scope, and sought to get early ideas and hear concerns and considerations. The second set of workshops introduced the community to the draft measures and actions and provided an orientation to the online platform, Consider It, which was used to collect community feedback. The third set of workshops covered the draft CAP in its entirety, detailing the process by which technical and community information was incorporated into the document.

Online Engagement

The County hosted information on the CAP planning process on the Social Pinpoint Platform website and used it to share information, announce activities and events throughout. The County also released the draft measures and actions on a platform called Consider It, which allowed the public to review each action in detail, provide their opinion and even suggest their own actions. Over a two and a half month period, 159 participants submitted feedback and 60 new ideas to be considered.

Community Presentations

The County also provided presentations upon request to various organizations, such as the Climate Reality Project, League of Women Voters, Area Agency on Aging, and the Commission for Women among others.

CEC Resilience Roundtables & Resilience Action Plan

In 2019, Community Environmental Council (CEC) launched a series of roundtables meant to focus on identifying solutions to the region's primary climate challenges. Nearly 600 individuals participated in the roundtables, generating over 700 ideas to build community climate resilience. CEC consolidated those ideas into an action plan entitled: Achieving Climate Resilience on the California Central Coast. The plan is a snapshot of climate related priorities and activities already underway or planned in the near term. Some of these actions are being led by CEC and some by other community partners–from grassroots climate justice organizations to local governments, like the County. Where feasible, ideas from the roundtables and Resilience Action Plan, like resilience hubs, were incorporated into the CAP's measures and actions.

Central Coast Climate Justice Network

The Central Coast Climate Justice Network (C3JN) consists of local environmental and social justice organizations across Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. The County's Sustainability Division and Long Range Planning Division are allied members to the Network.

Over the course of 2020 and 2021, the Network held 35 house meetings with over 330 residents across Santa Barbara County to develop a Central Coast Grassroots Green New Deal (GND). Participants covered wide-ranging environmental, social, cultural, and economic justice issues and raised values and ideals that ought to inform successful social change. Where feasible, ideas from the GND, like increasing food access and resilience and equitable electrification, were incorporated into the CAP's measures and actions.

COMMUNITY VISIONING

The County of Santa Barbara's One Climate Initiative provides an overarching framework for the efforts led by the County to improve quality of life by fighting climate change and preparing for its impacts. These efforts include:

- 2030 Climate Action Plan
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Adaptation Plan, & Safety Element Update
- Active Transportation Plan
- Environmental Justice Element
- Housing Element Update

While each effort may have unique goals and objectives, measures, and actions, One Climate offers a common vision for the County to enhance and support regional climate resilience and action. This Vision was built largely on the CAP's extensive community and stakeholder engagement. The values and ideas gathered during the CAP engagement and refined through other County efforts, is a touchstone for how the County's plans, programs, and projects should intersect and align to achieve a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. It is intended to inspire collective action across County departments and the many jurisdictions within the County and region.

One Climate Vision

Through the One Climate Initiative, the County will:

Build Connections

Build Connections through physical improvements in the built environment, like bike routes and broadband, enabling communities to connect physically and virtually. Increase transit services, bike routes, and shared mobility vehicles and devices to enhance mobility. Make connections across economic sectors, public and private, north and south, rural and urban through partnerships and networks, implementing mutually beneficial initiatives to improve quality of life and community resilience. Invest in farms and ranches, and public lands to improve soil health, biodiversity, water use efficiency and quality, and local food access.

Increase Accessibility

Increase Accessibility to safe and affordable housing through collaborative ventures and improving proximity to jobs, recreation, and healthy food. Target incentives and programs to ensure equitable access to reliable public transportation, clean energy, medical care services, and a safe and healthy environment. Make community planning and government decision making processes more accessible through virtual meetings, interpretation services, and support for families to engage.

Address Equity

Address Equity through increasing resources directed to low-income communities and communities of color. Increase effectiveness and efficiency of daily services and utilities and bring greater value to the community. Prioritize and center populations once marginalized in planning and decision making, and give additional support to ensure meaningful engagement that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. Create new processes and procedures to provide transparency and accountability, empowering communities to lead conversations and ensure outcomes are delivered as promised.

Enhance Resilience

Enhance Resilience through planning and initiatives, education and outreach, and community collaboration. Adapt built and natural infrastructure, buildings, and key community services to tolerate and respond to climate change impacts. Equip and train neighbors, utilities, critical facilities, and community centers to weather climate extremes, drought, power outages, and other emergencies while supporting each other. Better prepare communities to deal with the impacts with plans to prepare and manage disruptions and tools to aid recovery. Support local businesses and industries to be resilient and responsive to change and disruption.

Improve Health

Improve Health, both mental and physical, by ensuring accessibility and abundance of recreational facilities and opportunities, community and medical services, and healthy food. Improve air quality and comfort by investing in trees, green infrastructure, open spaces, and electrifying buildings and vehicles. Offer publicly available clean air rooms and facilities for easy breathing amidst wildfires and smoke impacts. Provide wrap around health care support services for under-served communities to mitigate and address mental and physical health impacts from climate change.

The 2030 Climate Action Plan supports the One Climate Initiative Vision by actively and equitably reducing the impacts of climate change by building a more connected community, protecting the environment and natural beauty, increasing accessibility and affordability, while also enhancing resilience and health for all.

Equity Guardrails

County staff worked with the EA+OC, to develop a set of equity guardrails that ensures the CAP measures and actions prioritize benefits for historically marginalized populations and that no CAP action or measure exacerbates existing inequities.

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations experience inequality broadly across wages and employment, housing, criminal justice, education, environmental exposures, and access to healthcare. Climate change will continue to affect and exacerbate inequalities experienced by disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. For example, people who have lower incomes or do not own their homes are less able to cope or adapt to extreme heat due to lack of quality insulation, air conditioning or energy storage, in the case of power outages.

In 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion which states, "The County believes equity is a fundamental principle that must be embedded in policies, institutional practices, and systems. The County recognizes the negative impacts of systemic racism and is committed to eliminating the barriers affecting Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, and socioeconomically disadvantaged community members..."[3]

In solidarity with those sentiments, the CAP seeks to address the dual crises of climate change and inequality by incorporating the equity guardrails shown to the right.

Access to Health & Safety Benefits

Ensure marginalized communities and others most impacted by climate change have equitable access to health, safety, and comfort benefits from climate actions.

Access to Economic Benefits

Ensure all community members, especially marginalized communities, have equitable access to affordable funding and financing mechanisms, and to high-road job opportunities.

Ensure Ease of Adoption

Ensure that incentives and programs provide meaningful support to community members, starting with language access. Provide a simple process that minimizes the burdens and impacts associated with technology adoption or behavior change.

Promote Housing Affordability & Avoid Displacement

Ensure community investments or building upgrades don't displace or over-burden renters and homeowners. Programs should support housing production, housing preservation, and tenant protections.

3. *County of Santa Barbara Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion in the Community and Workplace (adopted Jan 2021)*

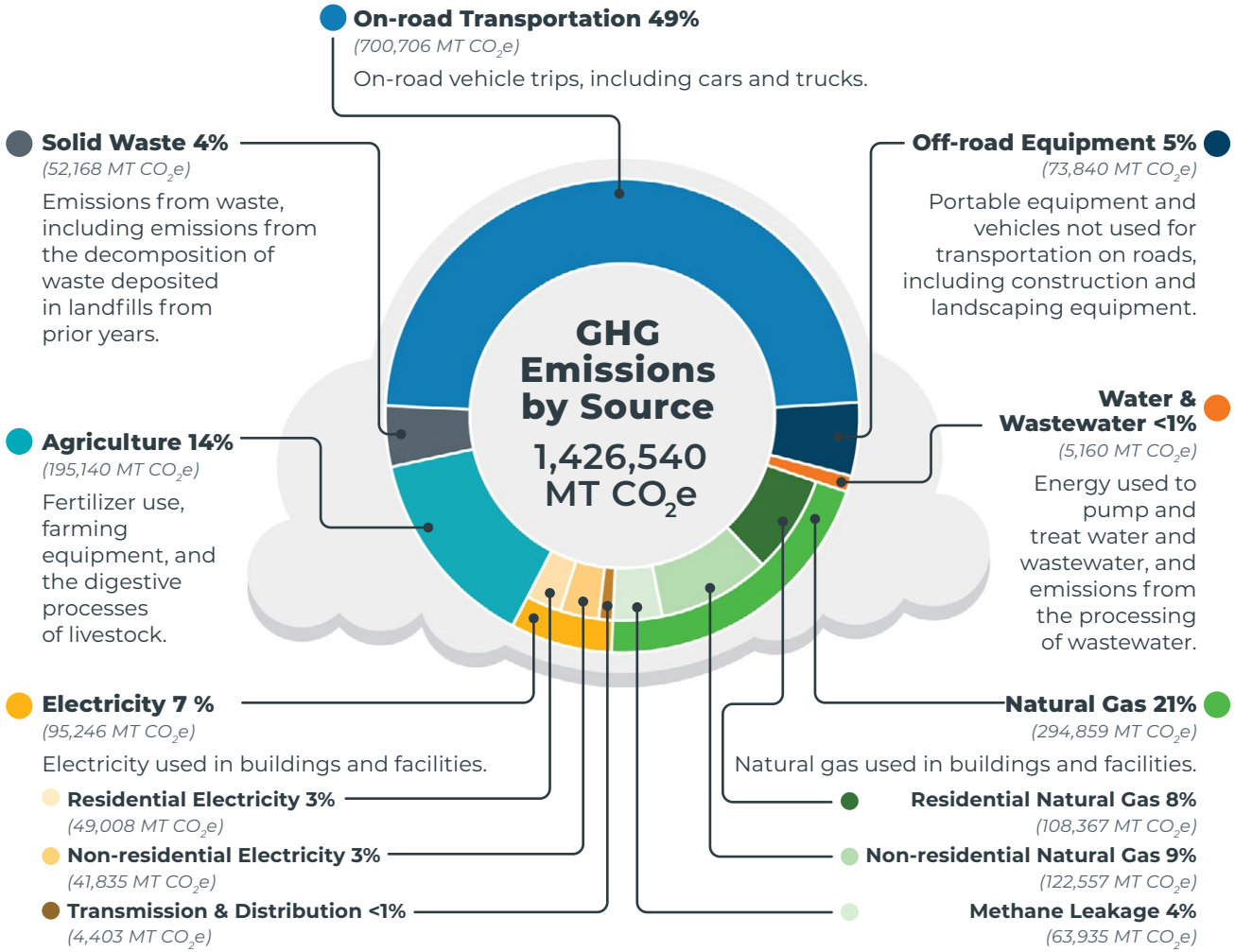
3.

EMISSIONS INVENTORY, FORECAST, AND TARGETS

The County assessed the previous CAP achievements and conducted a comprehensive GHG emissions inventory and analysis in order to identify the most accurate and feasible GHG emission reduction strategies. The County used data from 2018 - the most readily available and accurate time period for the inventory and from which to forecast future emissions.

Electricity use, natural gas use, on-road transportation, solid waste disposal, water and wastewater, off-road equipment, and agriculture are tracked on an annual basis from a variety of sources in annual GHG inventories. The GHG emissions associated with each sector are found in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3. 2018 Unincorporated County GHG Emissions by Source



For the purposes of this CAP, stationary sources are excluded because the County lacks primary regulatory control over many of these facilities.[4] Percentages are rounded and do not add to 100%.

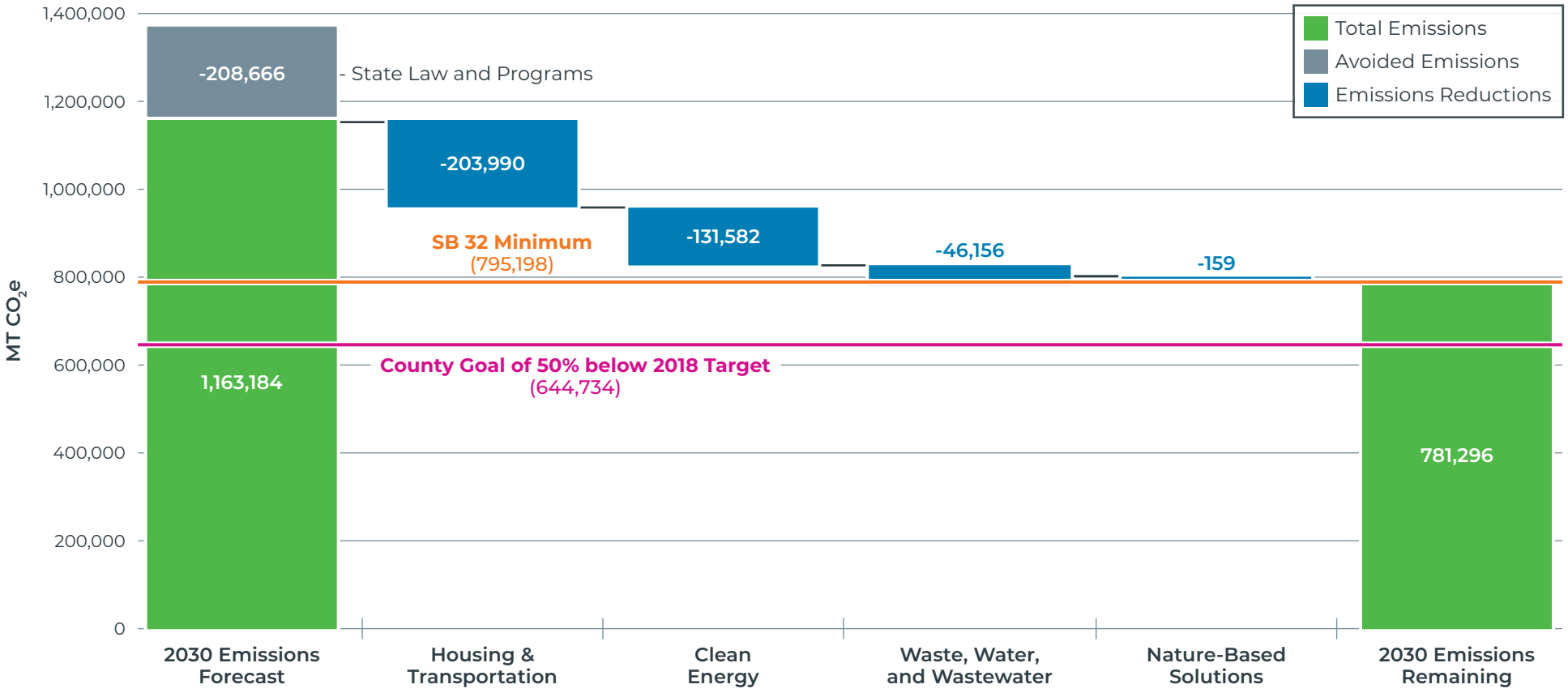
4. *This CAP has been designed to be CEQA-qualified. The County does not have primary regulatory control over existing oil and gas facilities within its jurisdiction and thus, would not have substantial evidence to demonstrate an ability to reduce emissions and meet State and local targets if stationary sources, such as oil and gas operations, were to be included within its inventory.*

GHG Emissions Forecast

Community-wide GHG emissions were forecast for 2030 and 2045 using demographic and economic projections from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), and estimated growth in off-road equipment and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Two different scenarios were prepared: the business-as-usual forecast (BAU) and the adjusted forecast. The BAU assumes that emissions continue to occur if consumption and growth trends continue as projected in the County's General Plan.

The adjusted forecast includes GHG reductions that are expected to occur as a result of state programs and policies. With the adjusted forecast, the County can identify the GHG reductions needed to achieve the County's GHG reduction goal of 50% below 2018 baseline emissions by 2030. Figure 4 shows both the BAU estimations for the County alongside the adjusted forecast, both of which are compared to the 2018 baseline GHG emissions and overall reduction goal.

FIGURE 4. Forecasted Unincorporated County of Santa Barbara GHG Emissions by Focus Areas (Annual MT CO_2e in 2030)

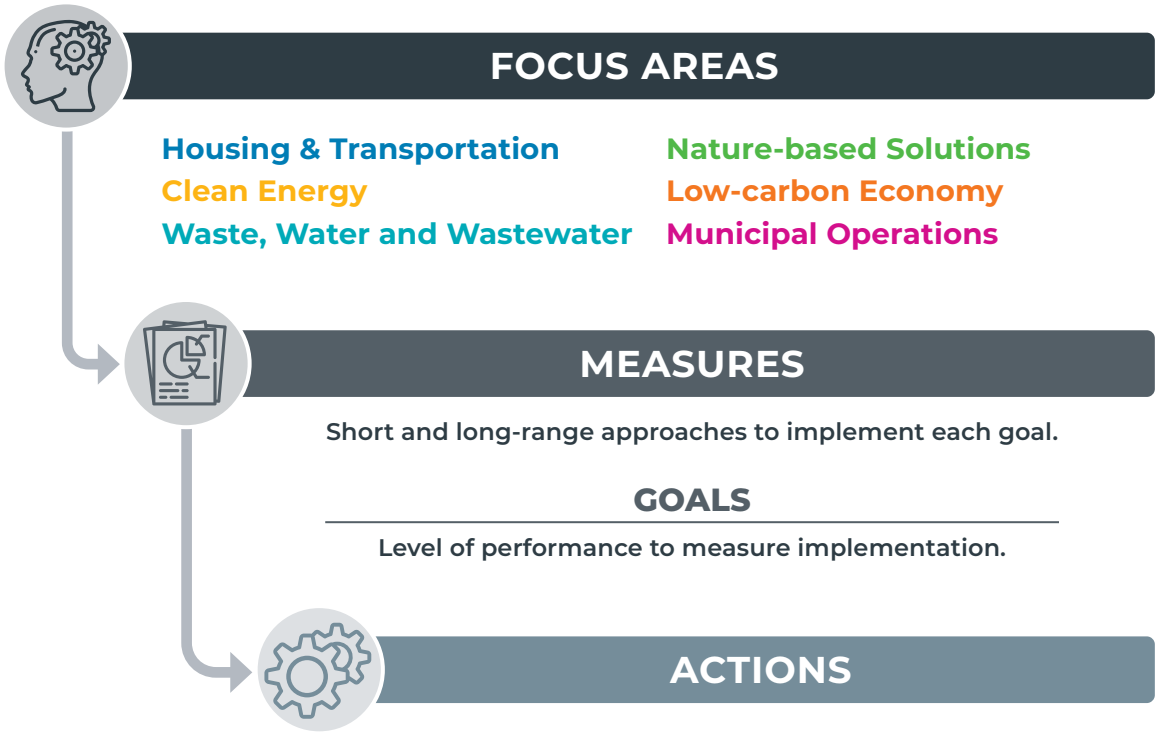


4.

FOCUS AREAS AND REDUCTION MEASURES

The CAP is developed around 6 focus areas to reflect the intertwined and connected nature of our region and the issues it faces. Each focus area includes measures that have quantitative or qualitative goals to be achieved by 2030. Each focus area has measures which include a list of specific actions that must be undertaken to achieve the measure's goals. See Figure 5 to see how the focus areas, measures, and actions work together.

FIGURE 5. Focus Areas, Measures, Goals and Actions Process Flow



The CAP measures and actions have been quantitatively analyzed to ensure the County can at least meet the State GHG reduction goals (40% below 1990 GHG emissions by 2030), while incorporating community values and equity guardrails. The actions were created utilizing a framework of pillars that work together to achieve strategic goals and measure objectives. Each pillar represents a critical aspect of measure implementation that is needed for success. In general, the actions under a single measure collectively address all the key pillars.

These measures and actions are those that are within the County's direct jurisdiction, or represent areas they can influence through collaboration and coordination with regional partners.

The CAP's 6 focus areas are:

Housing & Transportation

Addresses emissions from on-road transportation and off-road transportation and equipment by increasing affordable housing, improving mobility options, and vehicle electrification.

Clean Energy

Addresses emissions from residential and non-residential energy use by focusing on decarbonizing buildings and increasing resilient sources of clean energy.

Waste, Water, and Wastewater

Addresses emissions from landfill waste, water and wastewater systems by focusing on reducing waste and improving water and wastewater management.

Nature-Based Solutions

Addresses emissions from agriculture and opportunities to increase carbon sequestration by focusing on protecting and enhancing ecosystems.

Low-Carbon Economy

Addresses the needs of businesses to become more sustainable and looks to facilitate the shift away from a fossil fuel-centered industry. No direct emissions reductions are associated with this focus area.

Municipal Operations

Addresses the facilities and vehicles that the County operates. Emissions and emission reductions from municipal operations are captured in the community-wide greenhouse gas inventory and reduction measures.

The key pillars are:

Structural Change

Ordinances or codes.

Education

Educational events or materials.

Equity

Actions that ensure the overall measure and approach can pass the "equity guardrails."

Funding

County General Fund dollars, grants or rebates that help pay for the implementation of a measure.

Partnerships

Local and regional agencies and community organizations that are best positioned to move a measure forward consistently or sustainably.

Feasibility Studies

Analysis necessary to identify the best path or the feasibility of implementing a specific measure.

The table below provides a high level "At A Glance" view of the measures and goals that fall under each focus area.

TABLE 1. 2030 CAP Focus Areas, Measures & Goals

Measure #	Measures	Goals
Housing & Transportation		**Goals**
TR-1	**Increase the use of zero-emission vehicles**	• Increase passenger EV car ownership to 25% by 2030 and 90% by 2045 • Increase commercial EV car use to 15% by 2030 and 75% by 2045 • Install at least 375 publicly available EV chargers by 2030
TR-2	**Increase affordable housing and mobility options**	• Decrease vehicles miles travelled by 14% by 2030 and 28% by 2045 by increasing public transit mode share, increasing bike mode share, and implementing land use/ development strategies consistent with the Connected 2050 RTP/SCS
TR-3	**Decarbonize off-road emissions**	• Decarbonize 21% of off-road equipment by 2030 and 38% by 2045
Clean Energy		**Goals**
CE-1	**Increase clean energy use and energy resilience in new and existing buildings**	• Implement residential and commercial building energy efficiency programs in 4% of buildings by 2030 and 7% of buildings by 2045 • Electrify 100% of new residential and new commercial construction by 2023 • Electrify 14% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 90% by 2045 • Electrify 14% of existing commercial buildings by 2030 and 75% by 2045 • Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers into by 2030
Waste, Water, & Wastewater		**Goals**
W-1	**Reduce food waste and increase use of organic recycled materials**	• Reduce landfilled organics 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2045
W-2	**Reduce use of non-recyclable and non-compostable single use items**	• Reduce landfilled inorganic waste 35% by 2030 and 90% by 2045 • Meet SB 1383 compost procurement requirements for the unincorporated County of 0.08 tons per capita
W-3	**Increase energy- and carbon-efficiency of water production treatment conveyance and use**	• Establish a baseline and set a regional target to reduce emissions as well as improve water and energy efficiency essential for water system operations, including water treatment, pumping, and conveyance by 2024

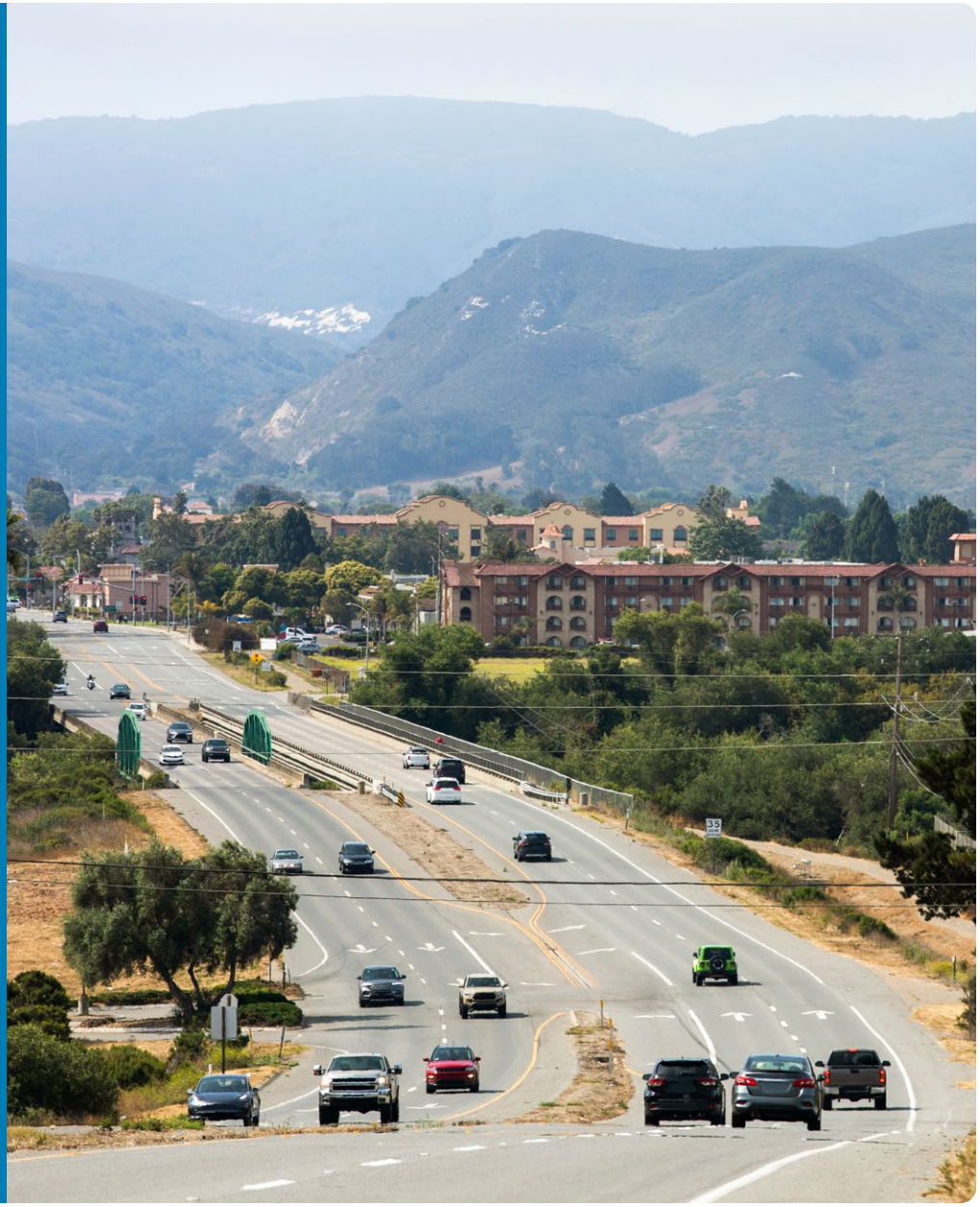
Measure #	Measures	Goals
Nature-Based Solutions		**Goals**
NBS-1	**Promote and support land management practices that sequester carbon**	• Plant 3,000 trees by 2030
Low-Carbon Economy		**Goals**
LCE-1	**Limit the increase of fossil fuel extraction emissions and develop a sunset strategy**	• Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence
LCE-2	**Support local business in becoming more sustainable**	• Certify 150 new Green Businesses by 2030
LCE-3	**Facilitate mechanisms to value and fund carbon sequestration projects**	• Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence
Municipal Operations		**Goals**
MO-1	**Increase sustainability and resilience of County-operated facilities**	• Metrics are not included for this measure as all GHG reductions associated with the measure are captured within other focus areas and measures

HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Passenger and commercial vehicles account for over half (55%) of the total GHG emissions emitted in the unincorporated County. The transportation sector is responsible for more than half of all of California's carbon pollution, 80% of smog-forming pollution, and 95% of toxic diesel emissions.

In order to reduce transportation emissions, community connections must be strengthened through thoughtful land use planning, increased affordable housing, improved accessibility, and reliability for walking, biking, transit, and zero emission vehicle infrastructure. Increased planning for and adoption of zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles must also be a priority.

The County must work with local and regional transit providers to find innovative ways to increase transit ridership. However, as passenger vehicles will remain the dominant mode of transportation, vehicle electrification will be essential to reducing emissions. To accommodate increases in EV ownership, the County is committed to providing the needed charging infrastructure. Currently, there are 475 charging stations across all of Santa Barbara County. The CAP aims to increase public EV chargers by an additional 375 in 2030 and over an additional 3,000 in 2045.



What is Happening in the Region?

Connected 2050 is the region's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The Connected 2050 Plan "provides a collective vision for the region's future that balances transportation and housing needs with social, economic, and environmental goals" while reducing GHG emissions. Led by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Connected 2050 outlines goals, objectives, and policies that provide a framework for the housing and transportation related measures and actions in the CAP.

Connected 2050 includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)[5] which aims to reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks. As growth in population and jobs increase into the future, SBCAG seeks to ensure there are no net increase in per capita GHG emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks.

SBCAG is also leading an effort to develop a new Central Coast Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy (CCZEVS) to improve electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to support interregional travelers, freight, and transit throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. Key goals include ensuring access to EV charging for low-income households, multi-family dwellings and rental properties as well as other disadvantaged communities, including Native American Tribal Governments, and rural communities.

While SBCAG's work is focused on passenger and light duty vehicles, CCCE is developing a Medium- and Heavy-duty Vehicle Electrification Blueprint to map out the infrastructure and resources needed to support the electrification of larger vehicles like buses and trucks.[6]

At the County institutional level, the Board of Supervisors have adopted increasingly aggressive goals to transition the County fleet from internal combustion engines to EVs and install the necessary charging infrastructure. In 2023, the Board adopted a Zero-emission Vehicle Policy that requires all non-public safety light duty vehicles (e.g. sedans, light duty pickup trucks, vans, and SUVs) to be EV's. Additionally, the Board has directed staff to develop a Zero Emission Vehicle Plan (ZEV Plan) to strategically identify gaps, resources, projects, and programs to advance the use of zero emission vehicles in County operations and in the community. The ZEV Plan would identify the gaps in planning, infrastructure, resources, and access for internal operations and community needs, and develop strategies to address them.

SBCAG's new all-electric Clean Air Express bus moves commuters around the region emission-free. Credit: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

5. *Required by Senate Bill (SB) 375*
6. *No net increase in per capita GHG emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks by 2035 when compared to 2005*

What is the Big Shift?

In order to meet State and local housing goals, reduce vehicle trips, increase mobility, and reduce vehicle emissions, the County must aggressively push to increase affordable housing and mobility options and transition to zero emission vehicles.

According to State law, the county as a whole must accommodate nearly 25,000 more dwellings within the next decade to meet the State requirement under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Achieving that goal will require updating zoning, policies, and supportive programs. The County's Housing Element (2023-2031 cycle) identifies areas to increase new housing to accommodate over 6,000 new households. Prioritizing new units in South County should help to reduce the overwhelming number of long-distance commuters.

The County's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) focuses on the need for both active transportation infrastructure planning and programs to help meet the County's goals for transportation mobility and accessibility. The ATP's measures will enhance multi-modal transportation by improving access, safety, equity, and mobility in unincorporated areas.

With limited control over regional transit systems, the County must focus on reducing commuter trips by County employees and other large employers. The County can work with micro-mobility service providers and technologies to support regional connectivity. Finally, the County must accelerate the equitable adoption and utilization of zero emission vehicles for all income levels and for commercial uses.

Land use changes, trip reduction, and vehicle electrification efforts will be the primary measures and actions to reduce the forecasted transportation emissions through 2045.

MEASURES AND ACTIONS

Measure TR-1: Increase the use of zero emission vehicles

GOALS:

- **Increase passenger EV car ownership to 25% by 2030, and 90% by 2045**
- **Increase commercial EV car use to 15% by 2030 and 75% by 2045**
- **Install at least 375 publicly available EV chargers by 2030**

TR-1 ACTIONS

TR-1.1 ZEV Planning

Support the development of the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy by SBCAG. Develop and adopt a County-specific ZEV plan to increase adoption and utilization of zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure in County operations.

TR-1.2 Parking and EV Infrastructure Requirements

By 2024, develop and adopt an ordinance that increases EV charging readiness requirements (over Title 24) for new residential and commercial development.

TR-1.3 Electric Vehicles and Mobility Devices Outreach

Promote and provide education and assistance to community members about the local and statewide incentives for buying electric vehicles, private and shared electric scooters and bikes through educational campaigns, outreach events and partnerships like Electric Drive 805 and the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition.

TR-1.4 Commercial Fleet Education

Partner with local agencies and businesses to develop an educational program for commercial fleet owners to assist them with the purchase and maintenance of zero emission vehicles and fueling and charging infrastructure.

TR-1.5 CalVans Electrification

Lead or support efforts to obtain external funding to facilitate the procurement of electric vans and charging infrastructure for CalVans, a vanpool service provider. Evaluate the feasibility of installing charging stations for CalVans and other carpool vehicles at County facilities.

TR-1.6 E-Bike Incentivization

Partner with community groups to obtain external funding for a pilot bike-share program in low-income communities and to connect low-income communities with the E-Bike Purchase Incentive Program through CalBike.

TR-1.7 County Fleet Vehicles Transition

Transition the County medium and heavy-duty fleet vehicles to zero emission vehicles by 2035.

TR-1.8 County-owned Charging Stations

Expand County-owned and operated electric vehicle charging stations for fleet and public use to at least 150, focusing on increasing access to multi-family households and rural communities, by 2030.

TR-1.9 Streamlined EV Infrastructure Permitting

Maintain and advertise a streamlined electric vehicle infrastructure permitting process in accordance with SB 1236 and SB 970. Dedicate staff time to ensure continuity of the process.

TR-1.10 Public-Private Charging Network

Leverage public-private partnerships and collaboration with local businesses to install 225 publicly accessible chargers needed throughout the County.

Measure TR-2: Increase affordable housing and mobility options

GOALS:

- **Decrease vehicles miles travelled by 14% by 2030 and 28% by 2045 by increasing public transit mode share, increasing bike mode share, and implementing land use/development strategies consistent with the Connected 2050 RTP/SCS**

TR-2 ACTIONS

TR-2.1 Affordable Housing

Accelerate the production of affordable housing by updating and adopting the Housing Element and Zoning Code; by exploring alternative strategies to create and preserve affordable housing, such as co-ops, housing or land trusts and available County-owned land; and by streamlining project review with objective design standards.

TR-2.2 Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Prioritize and implement the programs and projects from the Active Transportation Plan with the highest VMT reduction potential. Identify areas for road diets and complete streets along roadways in urban areas and repurpose the additional lanes for active transportation infrastructure including sidewalks and bike lanes.

TR-2.3 Local Food Systems

Reduce trips and trip lengths of food distributors by supporting local businesses that enhance access, equity, and resilience in the regional food system, such as cooperative food kitchens. Reduce trips and trip lengths of food consumers by leading or supporting efforts to obtain external funding to increase local food cultivation and access through community gardens, food forests, home gardening, community farming, and more.

TR-2.4 Regional VMT Mitigation Program

Lead or support the establishment of a regional transportation VMT bank to identify and direct funding to unfunded transportation infrastructure and programs.

TR-2.5 Real-time Travel Data Platform

Partner with SBCAG and cities to obtain an annual subscription for travel data analytics to inform traffic management, long-range planning, and emission reduction strategies.

TR-2.6 Equitable Mobility Services

Partner with stakeholders to solicit shared use mobility services to facilitate connectivity and equitable access to mobility and transit services in the region, including personal mobility devices and shared-use mobility services.

TR-2.7 Transit Accessibility & Reliability

Partner with transit providers to increase transit service and provide subsidized or discounted transit passes for low-income commuters.

TR-2.8 LOSSAN Rail Ridership

Work with the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to increase commuter rider services.

TR-2.9 Park and Ride Expansion

Convert underutilized County parking facilities to support commuter park-and-ride and electric bike share.

TR-2.10 Employer Trip Reduction Requirements & Programs

Develop an ordinance that requires large employers, including the County, to meet vehicle trip and emission reduction goals, or pay non-compliance fees to expand transit and commuter services and resources. Partner with SBCAG to work with large employers within the unincorporated County achieve a 50-80% telework participation rate by eligible employees able to work remotely consistent with Connected 2050 RTP/SCS.

TR-2.11 Carpool & Vanpool Incentives

Incentivize County employees to reduce the number of car trips by increasing rewards for carpooling, transit, and non-vehicular commuting. Conduct a feasibility study to implement employee parking fees. Partner with CalVans to promote use of the Vanpool Program to employers and employees, including the County. Consider offering incentives to increase rider participation for CalVans and transit.

TR-2.12 Broadband Accessibility

Work with SBCAG to increase internet access and speed to support telecommuting and remote workforce participation, especially in rural areas of the County.

Measure TR-3: Decarbonize off-road equipment

GOAL:

- **Decarbonize 21% of off-road equipment by 2030 and 38% by 2045**

TR-3 ACTIONS

The actions associated with Measure TR-3 are listed below.

TR-3.1 Off-road Fleet Emissions

Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of reducing emissions from major off-road equipment fleet operators.

TR-3.2 Time of Replacement

Develop an ordinance to phase out light duty gasoline and diesel-powered off-road equipment, including the County's, at time of replacement where feasible.

TR-3.3 Outreach & Incentives

Support the expansion of programs such as the SBCAPCD Carl Moyer Program and CCCE's Agricultural Electrification Program to incentivize replacement of older, polluting equipment. Partner with Electric Drive 805, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, and other organizations to implement an outreach campaign to provide information to residents, businesses, and fleet operators about alternatives to fossil-fueled off-road equipment, public health and safety benefits of alternative equipment technology, and available funding opportunities.

CLEAN ENERGY

The use of natural gas and electricity in buildings represented over a quarter (27%) of the County's total GHG emissions in 2018.

Implementing energy efficiency upgrades and utilizing carbon free and renewable energy, are examples of how communities can reduce their buildings' emissions. The County is committed to increasing availability and usage of renewable energy, transitioning away from natural gas use, and creating a more energy efficient community.

Shifting to less impactful energy sources in buildings through retrofit programs and incentives, energy portfolio shifts, and building energy standards is key in reaching the County's GHG reduction goals while enhancing resilience.

What's Happening in the Region?

In 2019, the County joined Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE), a community choice energy provider. In January 2021, CCCE launched its service to residential and commercial customers in North County, Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Solvang. CCCE's default energy product increases customers' use of renewable energy to 31% and puts the County on the path to achieve 60% renewable energy by 2025 and 100% renewable energy by 2030. CCCE redirects funding to support local programs, projects, and incentives to shift buildings and vehicles to clean electricity and to improve energy resilience.

Also in 2019, the County adopted a Strategic Energy Plan (SEP) which identified the total renewable energy potential in the County; specific areas or sites well-suited to clean energy projects; current barriers to development; and recommended actions to overcome those barriers.

To address the SEP goal to increase local clean energy development, the County provides the Energy Assurance Services (EAS) program. EAS facilitates increased resilience of local critical facilities in Santa Barbara County by providing public and private sector critical facilities with energy benchmarking, audits and technical assistance required to install clean energy resources. EAS is a key component to the development of an Energy Assurance Plan (EAP) which was a recommended action highlighted in the SEP. An EAP would assist the County with planning for and responding to events that result in a decrease or total outage of energy needed to sustain critical functions and essential services. Sustainability staff is working on early development of the EAP, in concert with EAS implementation.

The County has also adopted a Zero Net Energy Ordinance (2014) requiring facilities within the County designed after 2025 to have a net positive production of energy through use of renewables and general energy efficiency improvements. Several county sites for clean energy development have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan and General Services is in the process of developing a microgrid at the Betteravia campus.

As a part of the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN), the County collaborates with the Counties of San Luis Obispo and Ventura to deliver energy-saving programs, municipal codes and standards support, and industry training that help reduce energy use, supports electrification, strengthen local job markets, and support efforts to achieve climate goals.

3C-REN offers free services for professionals and households. For building professionals, 3C-REN offers industry training events, technical and soft-skill training, and energy code compliance support creating a well-trained and reliable workforce that can meet the growing demand for energy efficient, high-performing buildings. For households, 3C-REN offers free technical assistance and discounted energy upgrades to reduce energy use in single and multi-family housing with a focus on under-served customers.

What About Affordability?

Because all-electric buildings remove the need for methane natural gas infrastructure, they are less expensive to construct. Analysis of buildings in Santa Barbara County's climate zone, indicates that all-electric homes are also more efficient than those that use natural gas, reducing utility bills for customers. Electrification will further relieve the expected future energy burden, as natural gas prices are projected to increase significantly due to decreased gas consumption and aging infrastructure.

What About Reliability?

Maintaining energy reliability remains challenging on both the electric and methane natural gas sides of the equation. Wildfire risks and Public Safety Power Shutoffs pose a constant threat, and potential breakdowns in the aging methane natural gas infrastructure in the region remain a critical concern. Multiple State agencies are engaged in a comprehensive planning process to transition away from natural gas over the next 25 years. The County is working with the utilities and Central Coast Community Energy to enhance resilience of its facilities and the utility grid and develop an Energy Assurance Plan as a component of the Climate Adaptation Plan.

What is the Big Shift?

In 2018, the State adopted Senate Bill 100 (SB 100), a landmark policy officially known as "The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018,". SB 100 sets a 2045 goal of powering all retail electricity sold in California with renewable and zero-carbon resources such as solar and wind energy that do not emit climate-altering GHGs.

With the adoption of SB 100, all-electric buildings will be carbon neutral by 2045, while buildings with natural gas systems will continue to produce GHG emissions. As the grid decarbonizes, electricity used in buildings will become carbon free, leaving natural gas used for cooking, water, and space heating as the remaining significant sources of emissions.

Avoiding natural gas use through all-electric new construction and making strides towards electric retrofits in existing buildings will be essential in achieving the County's emission reduction goals.

Community-based outreach workers, known as Promotores, educating residents on how to use a sustainability toolkit available at local libraries.
Source: Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

MEASURES & ACTIONS

Measure CE-1: Increase clean energy use and energy resilience in new and existing buildings

GOALS:

- **Implement residential and commercial building energy efficiency programs in 4% of buildings by 2030 and 7% of buildings by 2045**
- **Electrify 100% of new residential and new commercial construction by 2023**
- **Electrify 14% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 90% by 2045**
- **Electrify 14% of existing commercial buildings by 2030 and 75% by 2045**
- **Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers into by 2030**

CE-1.1 Building Electrification Ordinance

Restrict natural gas infrastructure for new development and major remodels, including municipal projects. Work with partner agencies, like 3C-REN and Central Coast Community Energy, to provide incentives, programs and support services to provide no- or low-cost retrofits, utility bill relief, and no-net increase in bill payments for low-income customers.

CE-1.2 Existing Building Electrification Plan

By 2024, complete an existing building electrification plan to identify the policies and programs needed to achieve the goal to electrify 14% of existing buildings. Focus on ensuring inclusive engagement of under resourced populations, maintaining affordability, and equitable distribution of resources.

CE-1.3 Natural Gas Appliance Replacement

Develop an ordinance to require 'replacement upon burnout' requirement for residential natural gas appliances by 2025.

CE-1.4 Building Performance Ordinance

By 2024, develop and adopt an ordinance that establishes a building performance standard for existing large buildings and facilities that requires the reduction of GHG emissions over time. Implement and promote programs, incentives, and technical support to facilitate and reduce the cost of retrofits.

CE-1.5 Utility Renewable Energy

Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers by 2030 through Central Coast Community Energy.

CE-1.6 Resilience Hubs

Support the creation of resilience hubs that utilize renewable energy and backup energy systems, prioritizing frontline communities.

CE-1.7 Energy Assurance Plan

Develop and adopt the Energy Assurance Plan and provide support for agencies to install renewable energy and backup power systems at critical facilities.

CE-1.8 Electrification Education and Promotion

Leverage relationship with 3C-REN, Promotores, and Climate Resilient SBC to promote incentives and resources for electrifying buildings and increasing energy efficiency, particularly for low-income populations, agricultural operations, and businesses.

CE-1.9 Electrification Permitting

Implement best practices and streamline permitting for projects associated with renewable energy and energy storage systems, whole building retrofits, and electrical infrastructure upgrades necessary to support electrification and resilience projects.

CE-1.10 Agricultural Solar

Update and adopt the utility-scale solar ordinance to expand opportunities for solar development on agricultural, commercial, and industrial lands.

CE-1.11 Agricultural Incentive Education

Promote incentives and grants to improve water, energy, and fuel efficiency from agricultural operations.

WASTE, WATER, AND WASTEWATER

Landfilled waste and wastewater account for only 5% of emissions in the County, but improving these processes can have a magnitude of benefits beyond emission reductions. Reducing landfill waste, conserving water, and building resilient food systems have ecological, social and land-use benefits. Sustainable management of materials has the potential to reduce natural resource use, generate renewable energy, create new markets and jobs, and reduce transportation costs. The measures in this focus area look to improve resource efficiency through actions such as composting and greywater systems, increased food access and resilience, and shifting away from carbon intensive inputs.

WHAT IS FOOD RESILIENCE?

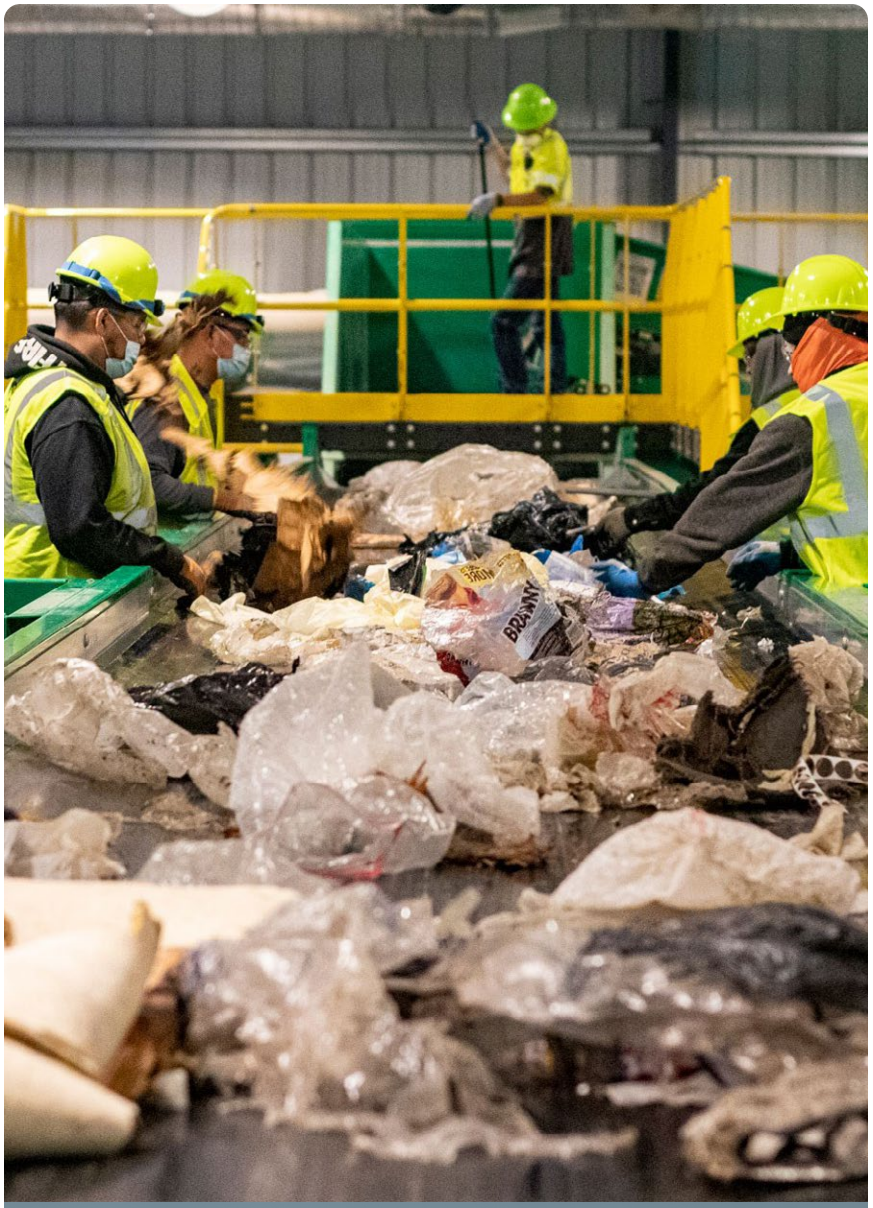
Food resilience is the ability for a food system to continue to provide sufficient, appropriate, and accessible food to all, even in the face of disruptions such as a loss of power, drought, natural disasters, or other climate or other pressures. A resilient food system can quickly bounce back from these disturbances, and continually provide for people.

What is Happening in the Region?

The County's Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) within the Public Works Department is increasing county-wide composting efforts through its Backyard Composting Program. The program helps residents learn how to compost in their own backyard by hosting free workshops and offering a discounted composting bin program. The County also offers a free composting booklet to all County residents. At the County's new ReSource Center at Tajiguas Landfill, organic materials like food and yard waste are converted into compost and renewable energy. The compost is applied to local agricultural operations to increase soil health and water retention and the renewable energy is used to power on-site operations at the landfill and support the utility grid. RRWMD also operates the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Stations, providing convenient facilities for the community to properly dispose of or manage electronics, green waste, recyclables, and trash.

Through the Regional Water Efficiency Program, the County Water Agency coordinates WaterWise, a regional water conservation partnership, to assist local water purveyors in implementing water use efficiency programs and projects, educating customers on best practices and techniques, and providing information and resources to meet requirements of water management plans and State regulations. Additionally, the County operates the precipitation enhancement program, which maximizes rainfall by seeding storms in watersheds behind the County's major water reservoirs.

The Santa Barbara County Food Action Network aids in developing a robust local food economy, while increasing food access, addressing food insecurity, and improving the affordability of locally grown produce. In addition, the network works to increase the efficacy of delivering safety net services, and the availability of housing for food system workers.



Tajiguas Landfill ReSource Center

What is the Big Shift?

California's food recycling standard, SB 1383, requires every jurisdiction to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and to divert from the landfill and compost 75% of organics by 2025. This means that residents are required to subscribe to and participate in their jurisdiction's organics curbside collection service, sort their organic waste, and occasionally self-haul their organic waste. In the South Coast, the Tajiguas Landfill ReSource Center sorts organic waste and recyclable materials from the trash stream.

Additional State legislation will significantly transform local food production and access through the establishment of a State Farm-to-fork office (AB 2413), authorizes direct sales from food producers to the public (AB 1990), provides utility assistance for food banks (AB 2218), encourages solar power usage on agricultural land (AB 2241), and expands homeowners and renters gardening rights (AB 2561).

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has signed a cooperative agreement with California under the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The LFPA is a program authorized through the President's American Rescue Plan, which invested $400 million to make food more affordable for more Americans and help stabilize agricultural supply chains.[7]

As drought conditions intensified with record-breaking temperatures across the Western United States, Governor Gavin Newsom called on Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15% compared to 2020 levels, and issued a statewide drought emergency proclamation (Executive Order N-10-21). After another dry winter, two new water conservation emergency regulations became effective in 2022, which required urban water suppliers to implement stage two water demand reductions and ban irrigation of non-function turf in commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

To ensure ongoing sustainable management of water supplies, the State requires public water systems to maintain water management plans, which include planned responses in six water supply status stages depending on the severity of the water shortage. The least severe stage calls for a voluntary conservation announcement; the most severe calls for requirements to reduce water use by half, as well as bans on landscape irrigation.[8]

7. *https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/07/27/usda-announces-its-local-food-purchase-assistance-cooperative*
8. *https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/03/newsom-imposes-new-california-water-restrictions-leaves-details-to-locals/*

Measure W-1: Reduce food waste and increase use of recycled organic materials

GOAL:

- **Reduce landfilled organics 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2045[9]**

W-1.1 Facility Participation

Support the expansion of the Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program through participation of all County facilities that provide food or food services.

W-1.2 Local Composting Program

Develop a program to support local residential and commercial composting by providing compost made from recycled organics at Tajiguas Landfill, in compliance under SB 1383.

Measure W-2: Reduce use of non-recyclable and non-compostable single use items

GOALS:

- **Reduce landfilled inorganic waste 35% by 2030 and 90% by 2045**
- **Meet the SB1383 compost procurement requirements for the County of 0.08 tons per capita**

W-2.1 Reusable Food-service Containers

Partner with local restaurants to pilot and adopt reusable container programs.

W-2.2 Solar and Battery Recycling

Support reuse, e-waste, or recycling programs to deal with waste associated with solar panels, battery storage units, inverters, and power optimizers when they reach the end of their useful life.

W-2.3 Recycled Pavement

Utilize recycled materials for pavement projects to the greatest extent feasible.

9. *SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025.*

Measure W-3: Increase energy- and carbon-efficiency of the water systems

GOAL:

- **Establish a baseline and set a regional target to reduce emissions as well as improve water and energy efficiency essential for water system operations, including water treatment, pumping, and conveyance by 2024**

W-3 ACTIONS

The water and wastewater actions associated with Measure WW-1 are listed below.

W-3.1 Greywater Systems

Develop and adopt an ordinance requiring greywater systems in new construction of large commercial and multifamily buildings.

W-3.2 Water Intensity Tracking

Partner with local water agencies to measure and track energy intensity of public water system operations and adopt long-term carbon reduction goals.

W-3.3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy

Conduct a feasibility study to assess options for the expansion of renewable energy at Laguna County Sanitary District water treatment plant.

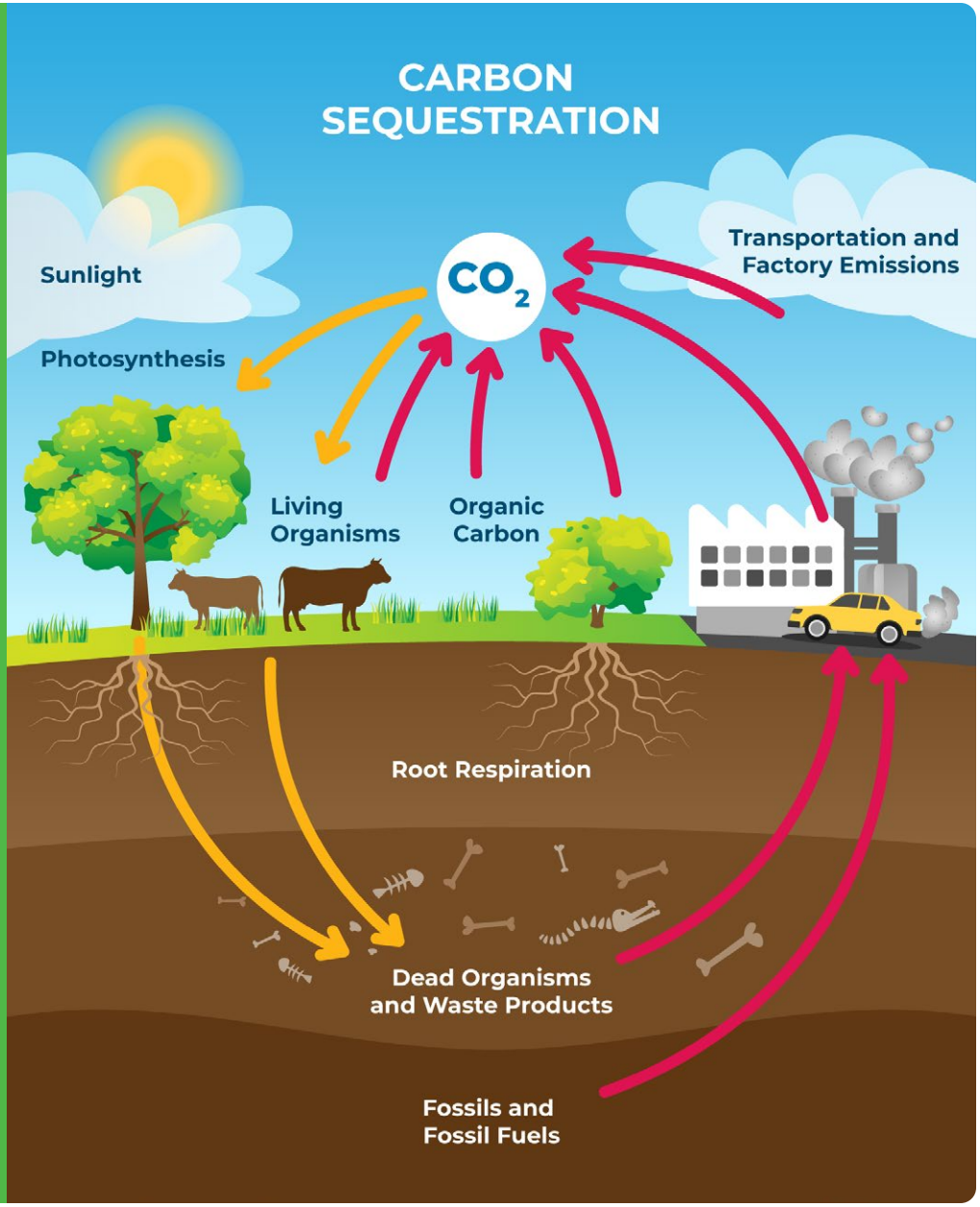
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Santa Barbara County is blessed with large areas of natural and working lands, a diversity of landscapes ranging from developed to agricultural to forested lands and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. These ecosystems are also often the first to experience the impacts of climate change as they underpin the region's water supply and food sources and support clean air, wildlife habitat, and local and regional economies.

Conservation and restoration of natural lands, mitigating wildfire ignition risk, maintaining and enhancing tree canopy, and agricultural practices all can play a key role in avoiding or mitigating emissions and sequestering carbon. Implementation will require participation from everyone, including farmers, ranchers, community members, and organizations.

WHAT IS CARBON SEQUESTRATION?

The carbon cycle is the exchange of carbon between the air, plants, animals, and other life forms, water bodies, soils, rocks, and fossil fuels. Biological carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the air into the soil, plant, and other organic matter.



What is Happening in the Region?

In addition to complex regulations, labor shortages, and competing priorities, agricultural operations experience many significant impacts associated with the changing climate and weather extremes including wildfires, droughts, extreme precipitation, and extreme heat.

In Ventura County, the Community Environmental Council (CEC) conducted a study to understand the impacts farmers and landowners are facing from climate change and what resources they need to adapt and mitigate. The study identified a need for increasing gap funding for producers and farmworker populations to help with water and energy infrastructure and support the needs of the undocumented workforce. This study is a step toward accessing future funding to support local land owners, producers, and farmworker populations.[10]

Cuyama Homegrown. Credit: J Andrew Hill

*10. Community Environmental Council (CEC). 2021 Cultivating Resilience in Ventura County. Available: vcar-v9-web.pdf (**squarespace.com**). Accessed September 16, 2022.*

What is the Big Shift?

The region's diverse land areas, such as grasslands, farms, and forests, differ in their existing and potential capacity to sequester carbon. For Santa Barbara County, the activities with the greatest carbon sequestration potential are urban forestry, such as planting and maintaining trees, followed by restoration of oak woodland and native grasses.

Compared to natural and urban lands, agricultural activities are estimated to have a lower carbon sequestration potential due to the fewer numbers of acres available for these practices, and lower projected levels of adoption due to implementation barriers. When implementing practices such as compost application, hedgerow planting, and restoration, land managers face barriers such as increased costs, lack of capital, and regulatory or permitting barriers, particularly in the coastal zone.

Supporting resilient agricultural and rural economies and natural and working lands involves developing and implementing programs, addressing financial or policy barriers, and measuring and monitoring progress through a landscape carbon stock inventory.[11]

Natural and working lands strategies will play a critical role in reaching the State and County's 2045 carbon neutrality goal by helping to maintain, and potentially increase, carbon stocks. Natural and working lands solutions should be paired with restoration and ecosystem management strategies to maximize social, economic, and environmental benefits.

The activities, or practices, and low and high implementation levels are shown in Figures 6. The low and high implementation levels (i.e., total acreage upon which the activity is to be implemented) for agricultural activities was determined through a survey distributed to farmers and ranchers, shown in Figure 7.

FIGURE 6. Total 2030 Natural and Urban Lands Carbon Sequestration Potential by Activity

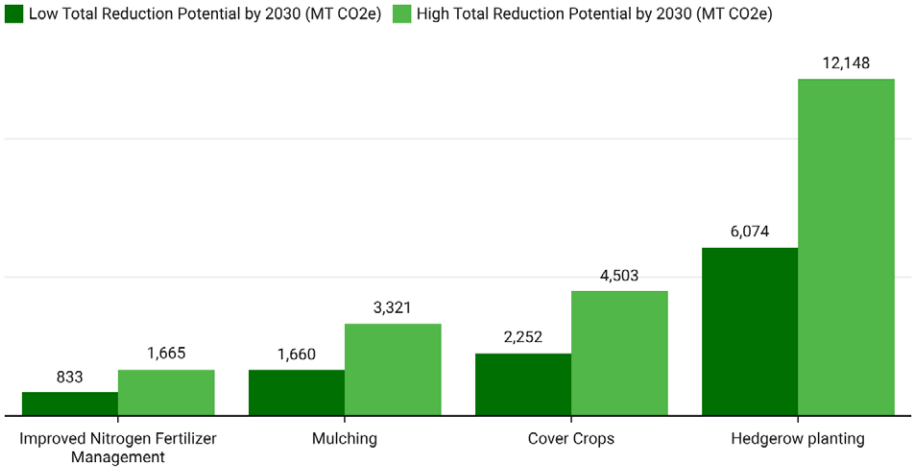
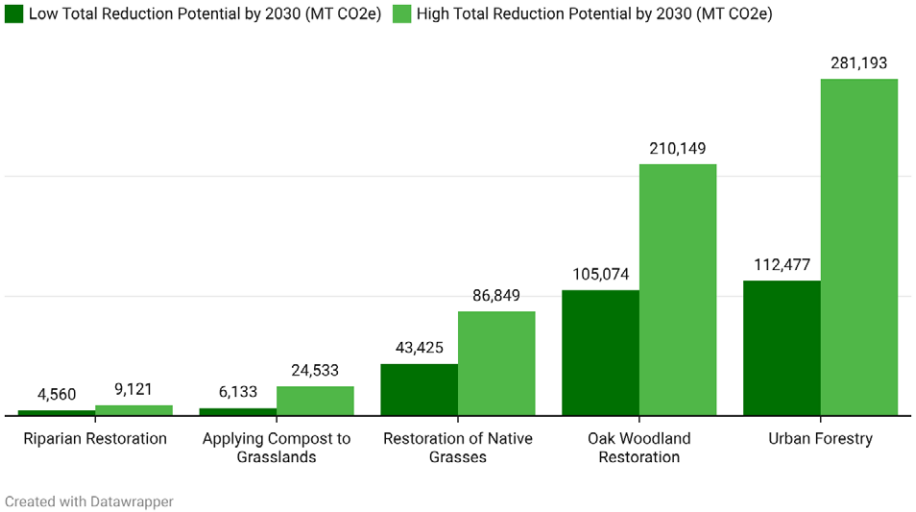


FIGURE 7. Total 2030 Agricultural Lands Carbon Sequestration Potential by Activity



11. *California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. Available: <**https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/cc/scopingplan/scoping_plan_2017.pdf**>. Accessed April 29, 2022.*

Measure NBS-1: Promote and support land management practices that sequester carbon

GOAL:

- **Plant 3,000 trees by 2030**

NBS-1.1 Agricultural Outreach and Education

Partner with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, and other stakeholders to provide outreach and education to farmers and ranchers on conservation practices that contribute to climate mitigation and increase resilience, and incentives available to adopt these practices. Provide resources in both English and Spanish and focus outreach to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

NBS-1.2 Natural Land Restoration Plan

Develop a restoration plan to implement natural land restoration projects including riparian, native grassland, oak woodland restoration, and wetland restoration.

NBS-1.3 Compost Application Expansion

Conduct a pilot project to study the application of food safe compost on rangeland and orchards for improved vegetation, soil health, and carbon storage.

NBS-1.4 Residential Education

Educate residents regarding the climate impact of their food choices, food waste, food storage methods, and correct disposal methods.

NBS-1.5 Williamson Act Program

Continue to support the Williamson Act Program while exploring the expansion of tax incentives to conserve agricultural lands.

NBS-1.6 Permitting Support and Streamlining

Address policy barriers that prohibit or discourage the voluntary creation or restoration of habitats and ecosystems by coordinating with local, State, and Federal agencies. Consider development of a Voluntary Local Program to provide a permitting solution for impacts to species listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

NBS-1.7 Carbon Farm Planning

Lead or support efforts to obtain external funding, through programs like the Sustainable Land Initiative, to support land managers in implementing carbon farm plans and sustainable agricultural practices that reduce emissions and/or sequester carbon. Example practices include: cover crops, composting/compost application, mulching, hedgerow planting, and improved nitrogen fertilizer management.

NBS-1.8 Pesticide Reductions

Lead and support efforts to obtain external funding to support the transition away from fossil fuel-based pesticides.

NBS-1.9 Tree Planting & Maintenance

Plant new drought tolerant trees at County facilities, parks, and in rights-of-way, focusing on areas that are at risk from extreme heat. Secure additional funding to maintain existing trees. Apply to Tree City USA to become a recognized jurisdiction expanding benefits of trees and committing to the four-step framework outlined by the Arbor Day Foundation.

NBS-1.10 Sustainable Procurement

Direct County departments to procure food and supplies from local producers and vendors, giving preference to regenerative agriculture and low-carbon foods.

Somos Semillas. Credit: J Andrew Hill

LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

The CAP primarily focuses on reducing carbon emissions through reducing fossil fuel demand with electrification, conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy. In order to be a CEQA qualified plan, the CAP must focus on community and economic sectors over which the County has the ability to influence GHG reductions. However, the County does have a role to play in overseeing the oil and gas operations within its jurisdiction as the State transitions to a carbon neutral future.

What's Happening in the Region?

Santa Barbara County is the ninth largest producer of oil in the State. However, local oil and gas extraction and production has steadily been on the decline and dropped abruptly following the All Plains American pipeline burst in 2015. A majority of offshore oil production has ceased indefinitely with several platforms and onshore infrastructure in the process of being decommissioned. In January 2023, Phillips 66 ended its refinery operations in Nipomo after 67 years following an announcement that the company will shift to renewable fuel processing in Northern California.

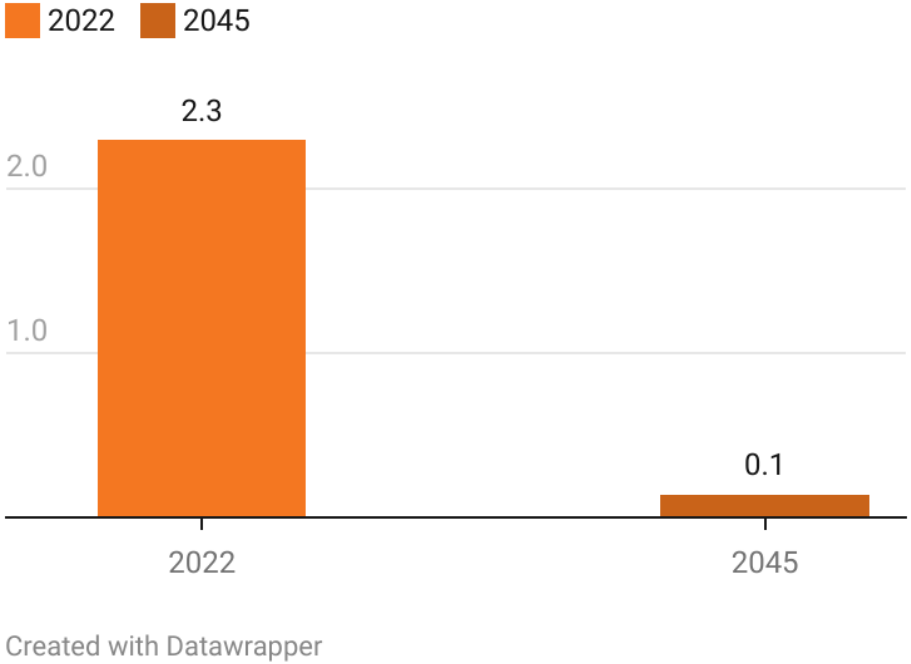
Some jurisdictions, like Culver City, have conducted an amortization study to determine the economic and legal feasibility of shutting down operating wells that have since recouped their investment costs. The County and City of Los Angeles have followed suit by initiating their own studies. The State recently adopted increased setbacks for new wells near residential areas, schools and hospitals and established regulations for carbon removal and capture.

What's the Big Shift?

The California Air Resources Board adopted the 2022 Scoping Plan which would reduce fossil fuel demand by 94% by 2045 through the deployment of zero carbon fuels and non-combustion technology to phase down petroleum demand as shown in Figure 8.

The future of the oil industry is in flux, whether by shifts in the market, new policies, or unforeseen events at the local or global scale. The oil industry has a significant economic and cultural presence in the region. As such, the County seeks to collaborate with local and regional stakeholders to map out the community's future needs, concerns, and ideas to support economic development and opportunity through the transition to a carbon neutrality.

FIGURE 8. Reduction in Liquid Petroleum Demand (MT CO_2e)



Source: California Air Resources Board, 2022 Scoping Plan

Measure LCE-1: Limit the increase of fossil fuel extraction emissions and develop a sunset strategy

GOAL:

- **Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence**

LCE-1.1 Pilot Carbon Capture & Storage

Partner with an industrial facility to conduct a feasibility study or pilot project on cost effective technologies to reduce energy use and capture and store carbon from industrial operations.

LCE-1.2 Economic Development Collaboration

Partner with other agencies and stakeholders to create workforce pathways in clean energy and sustainability careers with an emphasis in North County.

Measure LCE-2: Support local business in becoming more sustainable

GOAL:

- **Certify 150 new Green Businesses by 2030**

LCE-2.1 Extended Producer Responsibility

Support efforts to increase reuse and recycling programs through extended producer responsibility through State legislation.

LCE-2.2 Green Business Program

Enhance the services and incentives provided by the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County and sign up at least 150 new businesses to participate in the certification process by 2030.

Measure LCE-3: Facilitate mechanisms to value and fund carbon sequestration projects

GOAL:

- **Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence**

NBS-3.1 Carbon Offsets

Explore ways to reduce costs or barriers associated with carbon offsets to increase participation from local projects.

NBS-3.2 Carbon Sequestration Budgeting & Procurement

Develop a County framework, budget, and procurement policy for investing in local carbon sequestration projects to offset the balance of community-wide emissions by 2030.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

The County has the greatest level of control over its own facilities and operations to implement carbon reduction measures. The General Services Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of County facilities and vehicles, with the exception of Public Works, Sheriff, and Fire Department vehicles.

In 2014, the Board adopted a Zero Net Energy Policy, directing General Services to design and construct new facilities to generate as much electrical energy as they consume.

In 2019, the Board directed General Services to ensure that the purchase of all new non-public safety sedans in the light duty fleet be electric vehicles and then expanded that directive in 2022 to also include light duty pickup trucks, vans, and SUVs.

Through General Services, the County has been looking for opportunities to aggressively increase the use of solar, batteries, and even solar-powered emergency operation trailers. Several County sites for clean energy development have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan and General Services is in the process of developing a microgrid at the Betteravia campus. As maintenance and replacement takes place on HVAC and water heating systems, General Services will look for opportunities to electrify systems rather than replacing them with fossil fueled ones.

Building on county-wide efforts to support sustainable building practices and energy and water efficiency upgrades in residential, commercial, and industrial areas, the County also aims to lead by example with its own building portfolio. Electrifying and implementing energy efficient processes at all County-owned facilities is an essential part of GHG emission reductions efforts and demonstrating feasibility.

Santa Barbara County Electric Vehicle Charging Kiosk

Measure MO-1: Increase sustainability and resilience of County-operated facilities

GOAL:

- **Goals are not included for this measure as all GHG reductions associated with the measure are captured within other focus areas and measures**

MO-1.1 Electrification Policy

Adopt a policy requiring all new county buildings to be all-electric and replace or retrofit space and water heating devices and equipment in existing buildings with heat pumps at time of replacement.

MO-1.2 Energy Procurement

Procure renewable natural gas for County-owned facilities that cannot be electrified.

MO-1.3 Retrofit Partnerships

Partner with other agencies and institutions to jointly procure all-electric equipment and services to accelerate retrofits, reduce costs, and create green jobs.

MO-1.4 Renewable Energy Expansion

Expand the use of renewable energy, and energy storage at County facilities.

MO-1.5 Water Use

Implement cost-effective measures to improve water and energy use efficiency of County facilities.

MO-1.6 Carbon Neutrality

Conduct a feasibility study and develop a plan to achieve carbon neutrality in municipal operations as soon as possible.

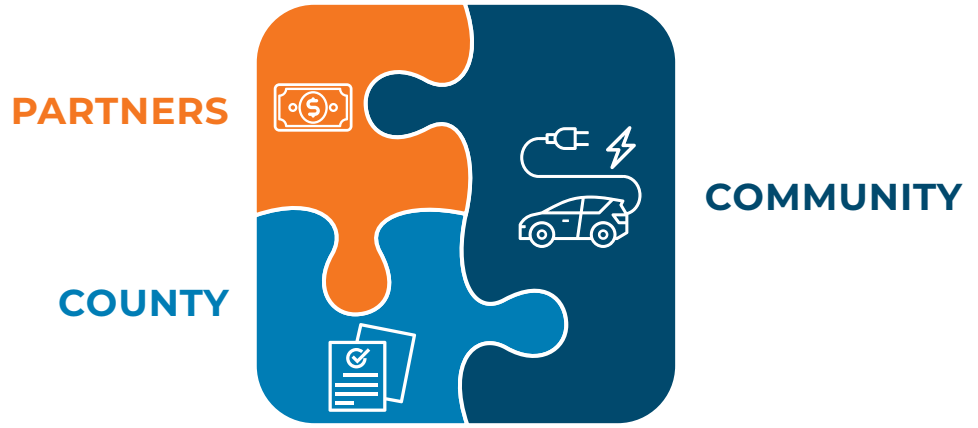
5.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Full implementation of the CAP will require investments on the part of the County, local households and property owners, and commercial businesses. In most cases, these expenditures will not only help to reduce GHG emissions but will also bring other valuable benefits, such as cost savings or health improvements. Some expenditures will not increase net costs, but instead will shift budgets to emissions-reducing alternatives for equipment, materials, and technologies. For example, residents and businesses are encouraged to make investments in water and energy use efficiency improvements, for which the initial expenditure on the improvements will be offset by long-term savings from reduced water or energy usage. The benefits may also provide additional, improved resilience and operational benefits, despite not being quantifiable.

The CAP's implementation will be led by the County with support from the community partners, as detailed below and represented in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9. CAP Implementation Partners



FUNDING & STAFFING

Staff capacity remains a constant challenge for the County, and its partners, to apply for funding, develop and implement new programs and projects, and collaborate at different regional scales.

The County has already been strategizing around how to position itself to obtain substantial resources from the a historic amount of funding for climate action and adaptation that was approved by the State and Federal governments in 2022. The State of California **approved $54 billion** to fight climate change and enact new world-leading measures that will cut pollution, deploy clean energy and new technologies, and protect Californians from harmful oil drilling. The Federal Government approved the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) which would invest **$369 billion in Energy Security and Climate Change** programs over the next ten years.

Starting in 2023, staff anticipate an unprecedented amount of funding opportunities to become available for building decarbonization, vehicle electrification, nature-based solutions, community engagement and capacity building, and more. One challenge will be to identify and prioritize which funding opportunities the County leads on or supports, while coordinating and collaborating with other agencies, businesses, and nonprofits in the region. Another challenge is that most of this funding is for short-term projects (over a few years) and does not provide long-term funding to increase the County's staff capacity.

TRACKING & REPORTING

The measures and actions included in this CAP provide a framework for how the County plans to reach its GHG emissions reduction targets, as required for a qualified GHG reduction plan by CEQA. While substantial evidence suggests that the measures and actions outlined in this CAP will achieve the State-mandated goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, consistent with SB 32, uncertainty increases over time. The adoption rates of each measure, cost of technology, legislative environment, and benefits assumed in this report will continue to evolve as new information becomes available.

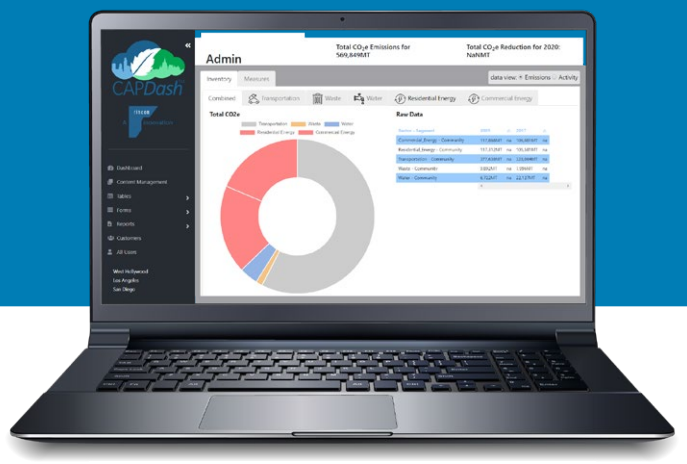
Therefore, this CAP should be viewed as a strategic framework that will be reevaluated over time. The implementation plan outlines the roles and responsibilities and funding and financing mechanisms, including a timeline for CAP updates that will allow the County to respond to changes in legislation and technologies and ensure achievement of the County's reduction targets. As part of this CAP, existing funding and financing mechanisms that may support measure implementation for a prioritized list of three GHG emission reduction themes were established.

The measures and actions included in this CAP provide a framework for how the County plans to reach its GHG emissions reduction targets, as required for a qualified GHG reduction plan by CEQA. While substantial evidence suggests that the measures and actions outlined in this CAP will achieve the State-mandated goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, consistent with SB 32, uncertainty increases over time. The adoption rates of each measure, cost of technology, legislative environment, and benefits assumed in this report will continue to evolve as new information becomes available.

Therefore, this CAP should be viewed as a strategic framework that will be reevaluated over time. The implementation plan outlines the roles and responsibilities and funding and financing mechanisms, including a timeline for CAP updates that will allow the County to respond to changes in legislation and technologies and ensure achievement of the County's reduction targets.

The County will conduct annual progress reporting using CAPDash, a customizable, web-based dashboard developed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. The process for monitoring and quantifying measure implementation status relies on key metrics identified for each measure and action. The annual progress reports will include calculating an annual community-wide GHG emissions inventory in CAPDash, as well as updating the progress of the emissions reduction measures in the tool.

Monitoring will be completed by appropriate staff within each lead department. Lead departments will have the tools necessary to monitor and track the implementation of the measures that their department is responsible for and will be supported by the Sustainability Division that guides and oversees the process. The Implementation Plan will be updated in future reports to reflect the current implementation status of each action.

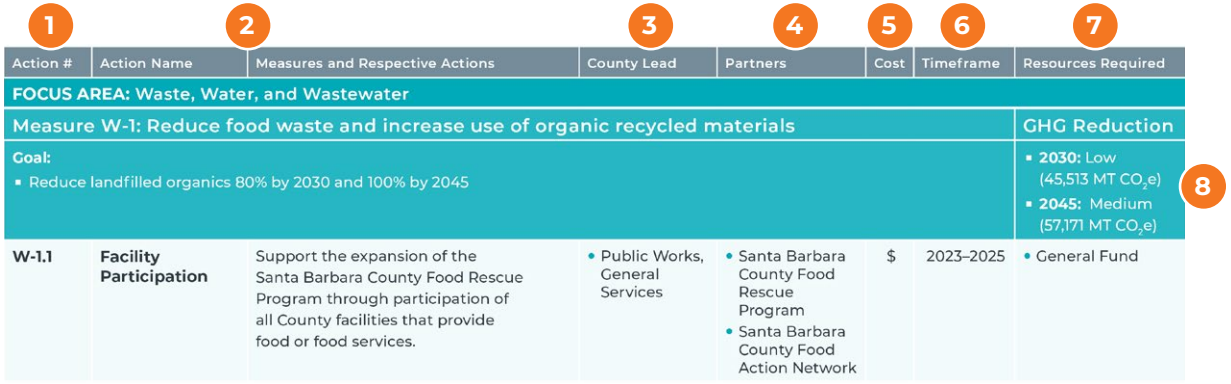


IMPLEMENTATION

This implementation plan includes the following for the measures and actions as described in the CAP:

1. **ACTION #:** The Action number unique to each action.
2. **ACTION NAME:** The action name summarizing the main objective the County established to reduce GHG emissions.
3. **COUNTY LEAD:** County department responsible for implementing the action.
4. **PARTNERS:** Provides the partnering organizations for implementation of an action.
5. **COST:** The strategies listed below have been broken down into three cost segments faced by the County and denoted as $-$$$:
   - **Low-Cost ($):** The low-hanging fruit for the County, generally delineated as strategies associated with relatively low upfront costs or County staff time, (e.g., policy ordinances or outreach).
   - **Moderate-Cost ($$):** Intermediate level of costs associated with consultant and moderate infrastructure changes, (e.g., feasibility studies, program development, and retrofitting existing infrastructure).
   - **High-Cost ($$$):** Longer term projects requiring substantial investments into major infrastructure or technology over time, (e.g., energy storage, bike lanes, or other infrastructure changes).
6. **TIMEFRAME:** Timing of when the County plans to initiate and/or complete each action.
   - **2023–2025**
   - **2025–2028**
   - **2028–2030**
7. **RESOURCES REQUIRED:** Provides notes on what additional resources are needed for implementation.
8. **GHG REDUCTION:** The measure, as supported by its actions, relative GHG Reduction potential by 2030 and 2045 on a three-point scale labeled as low, medium, and high.
   - **Low:** < 50,000 MT CO_2e
   - **Medium:** 50,000–100,000 MT CO_2e
   - **High:** > 100,000 MT CO_2e

FIGURE 10. Example Measure and Action Implementation



1 Action #	2 Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	3 County Lead	4 Partners	5 Cost	6 Timeframe	7 Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Waste, Water, and Wastewater							
Measure W-1: Reduce food waste and increase use of organic recycled materials							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Reduce landfilled organics 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2045							▪ **2030:** Low (45,513 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** Medium (57,171 MT CO_2e) 8
W-1.1	**Facility Participation**	Support the expansion of the Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program through participation of all County facilities that provide food or food services.	• Public Works, General Services	• Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program • Santa Barbara County Food Action Network	$	2023–2025	• General Fund

TABLE 2. CAP Implementation Table

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Housing & Transportation							
Measure TR-1: Increase the use of zero emission vehicles							**GHG Reduction**
Goals: ▪ Increase passenger EV car ownership to 25% by 2030 and 90% by 2045 ▪ Increase commercial EV car use to 15% by 2030 and 75% by 2045 ▪ Install at least 375 publicly available EV chargers by 2030							▪ **2030:** Medium (87,607 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** High (313,728 MT CO_2e)
TR-1.1	**ZEV Planning**	Support the development of the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy by SBCAG. Develop and adopt a County-specific ZEV plan to increase adoption and utilization of zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure in County operations.	• Community Services	• General Services	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-1.2	**Parking and EV Infrastructure Requirements**	By 2024, develop and adopt an ordinance that increases EV charging readiness requirements (over Title 24) for new development.	• Planning & Development • Community Services		$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-1.3	**Electric Vehicles and Mobility Devices Outreach**	Promote and provide education and assistance to community members about the local and statewide incentives for buying electric vehicles, private and shared electric scooters and bikes through educational campaigns, outreach events and partnerships like Electric Drive 805 and the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition.	• Community Services	• Electric Drive 805 • Central Coast Community Energy • Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition	$	2023–2028	• Incentives • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
TR-1.4	**Commercial Fleet Education**	Partner with local agencies and businesses to develop an educational program for commercial fleet owners to assist them with the purchase and maintenance of zero emission vehicles and fueling and charging infrastructure.	• Community Services	• Electric Drive 805 • SBCAPCD • PG&E • SCE • Central Coast Community Energy • Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition	$$$	2023–2025	• Incentives • Grants
TR-1.5	**CalVans Electrification**	Lead or support efforts to obtain external funding to facilitate the procurement of electric vans and charging infrastructure for CalVans. Evaluate the feasibility of installing charging stations for CalVans and other carpool vehicles at County facilities.	• Community Services	• CalVans • SBCAPCD • Central Coast Community Energy	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-1.6	**E-Bike Incentivization**	Partner with community groups to obtain external funding for a pilot bike-share program in low-income communities and to connect low-income communities with the E-Bike Purchase Incentive Program through CalBike.	• Community Services, Public Works	• SBCAG • Community Environmental Council • Electric Drive 805	$	2023–2025	• Grants
TR-1.7	**County Fleet Vehicles Transition**	Transition the County medium and heavy-duty fleet vehicles to zero emission vehicles by 2035.	• General Services • Public Works		$$	2028–2030	• General Fund • Grants • Incentives • Rebates

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
TR-1.8	**County-Owned Charging Stations**	Expand County-owned and operated electric vehicle charging stations for fleet and public use to at least 150, focusing on increasing access to multi-family households and rural communities by 2030.	• General Services		$$$	2025–2030	• Staff Time • Grants • Incentives • Rebates
TR-1.9	**Streamlined EV Permitting**	Maintain and advertise a streamlined electric vehicle infrastructure permitting process in accordance with SB 1236 and SB 970. Dedicate staff time to ensure continuity of the process.	• Planning & Development • Community Services		$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-1.10	**Public-Private Charging Network**	Leverage public private partnerships and collaboration with local businesses to install 225 publicly accessible chargers needed throughout the County.			$	2025–2028	• Incentives • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
Measure TR-2: Increase affordable housing and mobility options							**GHG Reduction**
Goals: ▪ Increase public transit mode share by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2045 ▪ Increase bike-mode share 1% by 2030 and 5% by 2045							▪ **2030:** Medium (90,473 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** High (169,106 MT CO_2e)
TR-2.1	**Affordable Housing**	Implement the policies and programs as specified in the Housing Element Update to prioritize higher density development on infill or vacant lands.	• Planning and Development	• Affordable Housing Providers	$	2025–2028	• General Fund • Grants
TR-2.2	**Active Transportation Plan Implementation**	Prioritize and implement the programs and projects identified in the Active Transportation Plan with the highest VMT reduction potential. Identify areas for road diets and complete streets along roadways in urban areas and repurpose the additional lanes for active transportation infrastructure including sidewalks and bike lanes.	• Public Works	• SBCAG	$$$	2025–2030	• General Fund • Grants
TR-2.3	**Local Food Systems**	Reduce trips and trip lengths of food distributors by supporting local businesses that enhance access, equity, and resilience in the regional food system, such as cooperative food kitchens. Reduce trips and trip lengths of food consumers by leading or supporting efforts to obtain external funding to increase local food cultivation and access through community gardens, food forests, home gardening, community farming and more.	• Community Services	• SBC Food Action Network	$	2023–2025	• Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
TR-2.4	**Regional VMT Mitigation Program**	Lead or support the establishment of a regional transportation VMT bank to identify and direct funding to unfunded transportation infrastructure and programs.	• Community Services	• SBCAG • Cities	$	2025–2028	• General Fund • Grants
TR-2.5	**Real-Time Travel Data Platform**	Partner with SBCAG and cities to obtain an annual subscription for travel data analytics to inform traffic management, long-range planning, and emission reduction strategies.	• Public Works	• SBCAG • Cities	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
TR-2.6	**Equitable Mobility Services**	Partner with stakeholders to solicit shared use mobility services to facilitate connectivity and equitable access to mobility and transit services in the region, including personal mobility devices and shared-use mobility services.	• Community Services	• SBCAG • Transit Agencies	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Public-Private Partnership
TR-2.7	**Transit Accessibility & Reliability**	Partner with transit providers to increase transit service and provide subsidized or discounted transit passes for low-income commuters.	• Public Works	• Transit Agencies • SBCAG	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
TR-2.8	**LOSSAN Rail Ridership**	Work with the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to increase commuter rider services.	• Board	• SBCAG	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-2.9	**Park and Ride Expansion**	Convert underutilized County parking facilities to support commuter park-and-ride and electric bike share.	• General Services	• SBCAG	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
TR-2.10	**Employer Trip Reduction Requirements & Programs**	Develop an ordinance that requires large employers, including the County, to meet vehicle trip and emission reduction goals, or pay non-compliance fees to expand transit and commuter services and resources. Partner with SBCAG to work with large employers within the unincorporated County to achieve a 50-80% telework participation rate by eligible employees able to work remotely consistent with Connected 2050 RTP/SCS.	• Community Services	• County Auditor-Controller • SBCAG • Chambers of Commerce • Human Resources	$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-2.11	**Carpool & Vanpool Incentives**	Incentivize County employees to reduce the number of car trips by increasing rewards for carpooling, transit, and non-vehicular commuting. Conduct a feasibility study to implement employee parking fees. Partner with CalVans to promote use of the Vanpool Program to employers and employees, including the County. Consider offering incentives to increase rider participation for CalVans and transit.	• Community Services • Human Resources	• CalVans	$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-2.12	**Broadband Accessibility**	Work with SBCAG to increase internet access and speed to support telecommuting and remote workforce participation, especially in rural areas of the County.	• Public Works	• SBCAG	$$	2026–2028	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
Measure TR-3: Decarbonize off-road equipment							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Decarbonize 21% of off-road equipment by 2030 and 38% by 2045							▪ **2030:** Low (15,396 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** Low (27,619 MT CO_2e)
TR-3.1	**Off-Road Fleet Emissions**	Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of reducing emissions from major off-road equipment fleet operators.	• Community Services		$$	2023–2025	• General Fund
TR-3.2	**Time of Replacement**	Develop an ordinance to phase out light duty gasoline and diesel-powered off-road equipment, including the County's, at time of replacement where feasible.	• Community Services		$	2026–2028	• General Fund • Incentives • Rebates
TR-3.3	**Outreach & Incentives**	Support the expansion of programs such as the SBCAPCD Carl Moyer Program and CCCE's Agricultural Electrification Program to incentivize replacement of older, polluting equipment. Partner with Electric Drive 805, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition and other organizations to implement an outreach campaign to provide information to residents, businesses, and fleet operators about alternatives to fossil-fueled off-road equipment, public health and safety benefits of alternative equipment technology, and available funding opportunities.	• Community Services	• Electric Drive 805 • Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition • SBCAPCD	$$	2023–2025	Grants • Incentives

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Clean Energy							
Measure CE-1: Increase energy resilience in new and existing buildings							**GHG Reduction**
Goals: ▪ Implement residential and commercial building energy efficiency programs in 4% of buildings by 2030 and 7% of buildings by 2045 ▪ Electrify 100% of new residential and new commercial construction by 2023 ▪ Electrify 100% of new residential and new commercial construction by 2023 ▪ Electrify 14% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 90% by 2045 ▪ Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers into by 2030							▪ **2030:** High (131,582 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** High (124,380 MT CO_2e)
CE-1.1	**Building Electrification Ordinance**	Restrict natural gas infrastructure for new development and major remodels, including municipal projects. Work with partner agencies, like 3C-REN and Central Coast Community Energy, to provide incentives, programs, and support services to provide no- or low-cost retrofits, utility bill relief and no-net increase in bill payments for low-income customers.	• Community Services	• Planning & Development • Central Coast Community Energy • 3C-REN • PGE • SCE • Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Incentives
CE-1.2	**Existing Building Electrification Plan**	By 2024, complete an existing building electrification plan to identify the policies and programs needed to achieve the goal to electrify 14% of existing buildings. Focus on ensuring inclusive engagement of under resourced populations, maintaining affordability and equitable distribution of resources.	• Community Services	• Planning & Development • Central Coast Community Energy • 3C-REN • PGE • SCE • Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
CE-1.3	**Natural Gas Appliance Replacement**	Develop an ordinance to require 'replacement upon burnout' requirement for residential natural gas appliances.	• Community Services	• Planning & Development • Central Coast Community Energy • 3C-REN	$	2026–2028	• General Fund
CE-1.4	**Building Performance Ordinance**	By 2024, develop and adopt an ordinance that establishes a building performance standard for existing large buildings and facilities that requires the reduction of GHG emissions over time. Implement and promote programs, incentives, and technical support to facilitate and reduce the cost of retrofits.	• Community Services	• Planning & Development • Auditor-Controller	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund
CE-1.5	**Utility Renewable Energy**	Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers by 2030 through Central Coast Community Energy.	• Community Services	• Board of Supervisors	$	2023–2030	• General Fund
CE-1.6	**Resilience Hubs**	Support the creation of resilience hubs that utilize renewable energy and backup energy systems, prioritizing frontline communities.	• Community Services	• Office of Emergency Management • SBCAPCD • Community Environmental Council • Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative	$$$	2023–2030	• Grants
CE-1.7	**Energy Assurance Plan**	Develop and adopt the Energy Assurance Plan and install renewable energy and backup power systems at critical facilities.	• Community Services	• General Services • Office of Emergency Management	$$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
CE-1.8	**Electrification Education and Promotion**	Leverage relationship with 3C-REN, Promotores, and Climate Resilient SBC to promote incentives and resources for electrifying buildings and increasing energy efficiency, particularly for low-income populations, agricultural operations, and businesses.	• Community Services	• Tri-County Regional Energy Network • Promotores	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Incentives • Rebates • Grants
CE-1.9	**Electrification Permitting**	Implement best practices and streamline permitting for projects associated with renewable energy and energy storage systems, whole building retrofits and electrical infrastructure upgrades necessary to support electrification and resilience projects.	• Planning & Development		$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
CE-1.10	**Agricultural Solar**	Update and adopt the utility-scale solar ordinance to expand opportunities for solar development on agricultural, commercial, and industrial lands.	• Planning & Development • Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee	$	2023–2025	• General Fund
CE-1.11	**Agricultural Incentive Education**	Promote incentives and grants to improve water, energy, and fuel efficiency from agricultural operations.	• Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee • Tri-County Regional Energy Network • Central Coast Community Energy • Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$	2023–2025	• Staff Time • Consultant • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Waste, Water, and Wastewater							
Measure W-1: Reduce food waste and increase use of organic recycled materials							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Reduce landfilled organics 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2045							▪ **2030:** Low (45,513 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** Medium (57,171 MT CO_2e)
W-1.1	**Facility Participation**	Support the expansion of the Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program through participation of all County facilities that provide food or food services.	• Public Works • General Services	• Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program • Santa Barbara County Food Action Network	$	2023–2025	• General Fund
W-1.2	**Local Composting Program**	Develop a program to support local residential and commercial composting by providing compost made from recycled organics at Tajiguas Landfill, in compliance under SB 1383.	• Public Works • Community Services	• Santa Barbara County Food Rescue Program • Santa Barbara County Food Action Network	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
Measure W-2: Reduce use of non-recyclable and non-compostable single use items							**GHG Reduction**
▪ **Goals:** ▪ Reduce landfilled inorganic waste 35% by 2030 and 90% by 2045 ▪ Meet SB1383 compost procurement requirements for the unincorporated County of 0.08 tons per capita							▪ **2030:** Low (2,250 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** Low (2,793 MT CO_2e)
W-2.1	**Reusable Food Service Containers**	Partner with local restaurants to pilot and adopt reusable container programs.	• Public Works • Community Services	• Santa Barbara County Green Business Program	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
W-2.2	**Solar and Battery Recycling**	Support reuse, e-waste, or recycling programs to deal with waste associated with solar panels, battery storage units, inverters, and power optimizers when they reach the end of their useful life.	• Public Works • Community Services		$$	2028–2030	• General Fund • Grants
W-2.3	**Recycled Pavement**	Utilize recycled materials for pavement projects to the greatest extent feasible.	• Public Works		$$	2028–2030	• General Fund

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Waste, Water, and Wastewater							
Measure W-3: Increase energy- and carbon-efficiency of water production treatment conveyance and use							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Establish a baseline and set a regional target to reduce emissions as well as improve water and energy efficiency essential for water system operations, including water treatment, pumping, and conveyance by 2024							▪ Supportive
W-3.1	**Greywater Systems**	Streamline policies and processes to encourage greywater systems in new and existing buildings.	• Community Services	• Planning and Development • Public Works, Public Health	$	2023–2025	• General Fund
W-3.2	**Water Intensity Tracking**	Partner with local water agencies to track energy intensity of water treatment and conveyance operations and support carbon reduction projects.	• Public Works	• Community Services Department	$	2023–2025	• Staff Time • Consultant
W-3.3	**Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy**	Conduct a feasibility study to assess options for the expansion of renewable energy at Laguna County Sanitary District water treatment plant.	• Community Services • Public Works		$$	2023–2025	• Staff Time • Consultant

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Nature-based Solutions							
Measure NBS-1: Promote and support land management practices that sequester carbon							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Plant 3,000 trees by 2030							▪ **2030:** Low (159 MT CO_2e) ▪ **2045:** Low (690 MT CO_2e)
NBS-1.1	**Agricultural Outreach and Education**	Partner with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, and other stakeholders to provide outreach and education to farmers and ranchers on conservation practices that contribute to climate mitigation and increase resilience, and incentives available to adopt these practices. Provide resources in both English and Spanish and focus outreach to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.	• Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee • Cachuma Resource Conservation District • Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau • The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County	$	2026–2028	• General Fund
NBS-1.2	**Natural Land Restoration Plan**	Develop a restoration plan to implement natural land restoration projects including riparian, native grassland, oak woodland restoration, and wetland restoration.	• Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee • Land Trust for Santa Barbara County • U.S. Forest Service • Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$$	2026–2028	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
NBS-1.3	**Compost Application Expansion**	Conduct a pilot project to study the application of food safe compost on rangeland and orchards for improved vegetation, soil health and carbon storage.	• Public Works • Community Services • Agriculture Commissioner	• Agricultural Advisory Committee • Community Environmental Council • Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
NBS-1.4	**Residential Education**	Educate residents regarding the climate impact of their food choices, food waste, food storage methods, and correct disposal methods.	• Public Works • Community Services	• SBC Food Action Network	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants
NBS-1.5	**Williamson Act Program**	Continue to support the Williamson Act Program while exploring the expansion of tax incentives to conserve agricultural lands.	• Planning & Development	• Agricultural Advisory Committee	$	2023–2030	• General Fund
NBS-1.6	**Permitting Support and Streamlining**	Address policy barriers that prohibit or discourage the voluntary creation or restoration of habitats and ecosystems by coordinating with local, State and Federal agencies. Consider development of a Voluntary Local Program to provide a permitting solution for impacts to species listed under the California Endangered Species Act.	• Planning & Development • Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee	$$	2026–2028	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
NBS-1.7	**Carbon Farm Planning**	Lead or support efforts to obtain external funding, through programs like the Sustainable Land Initiative, to support land managers in implementing carbon farm plans and sustainable agricultural practices that reduce emissions and/or sequester carbon. Example practices include cover crops, composting/compost application, mulching, hedgerow planting and improved nitrogen fertilizer management.	• Community Services	• Agricultural Advisory Committee • Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$	2023–2030	• General Fund • Grants • Mitigation Funds • Carbon Credits
NBS-1.8	**Pesticide Reductions**	Lead or support efforts to obtain external funding to support the transition away from fossil fuel-based pesticides.	• Community Services	• Agricultural Commissioner • UC Cooperative Extension • Cachuma Resource Conservation District	$	2023–2030	• General Fund • Grants
NBS-1.9	**Tree Planting & Maintenance**	Plant new drought tolerant trees at County facilities, parks and in rights-of-way, focusing on areas that are at risk from extreme heat. Secure additional funding to maintain existing trees. Apply to Tree City USA to become a recognized jurisdiction expanding benefits of trees and committing to the four-step framework outlined by the Arbor Day Foundation.	• Community Services • General Services • Public Works		$$	2026–2028	• Grants
NBS-1.10	**Sustainable Procurement**	Direct County departments to procure food and supplies from local producers and vendors, giving preference to regenerative agriculture and low-carbon foods.	• General Services • Sheriff Department		$	2023–2025	• General Fund

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Low Carbon Economy							
Measure LCE-1: Limit the increase of fossil-fuel extraction emissions and develop a sunset strategy							**GHG Reduction**
▪ Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence							▪ Supportive
LCE-1.1	**Pilot Carbon Capture & Storage**	Partner with an industrial facility to conduct a feasibility study or pilot project on cost effective technologies to reduce energy use and capture and store carbon from industrial operations.	• Community Services	• Planning & Development • SBCAPCD	$$	2023–2025	• Grants
LCE-1.2	**Economic Development Collaboration**	Partner with other agencies and stakeholders to create workforce pathways in clean energy and sustainability careers with an emphasis in North County.	• County Executive Office	• Uplift Central Coast • Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce • John Hancock College • Central Coast Community Energy	$$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
Measure LCE-2: Support local business in becoming more sustainable							**GHG Reduction**
Goal: ▪ Certify 150 new Green Businesses by 2030							▪ Supportive
LCE-2.1	**Extended Producer Responsibility**	Support efforts to increase reuse and recycling programs through extended producer responsibility through State legislation.	• Public Works		$	2026–2028	• General Fund
LCE-2.2	**Green Business Program**	Enhance the services and incentives provided by the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County and sign up at least 150 new businesses to participate in the certification process by 2030.	• Community Services	• Santa Barbara County Green Business Network • Tri-County Regional Energy Network	$$	2023–2030	• Staff Time
Measure LCE-3: Facilitate mechanisms to value and fund carbon sequestration projects							**GHG Reduction**
▪ Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence							▪ Supportive
LCE-3.1	**Carbon Offsets**	Explore ways to reduce cost or barriers associated with carbon offsets to increase participation from local land managers.	• Community Services		$		• General Fund • Grants
LCE-3.2	**Carbon Sequestration Budgeting & Procurement**	Develop a County framework, budget, and procurement policy for investing in local carbon sequestration projects to offset the balance of community-wide emissions by 2030.	• Community Services	• County Executive Office • Auditor-Controller	$	2026–2028	• General Fund • Grants

Action #	Action Name	Measures and Respective Actions	County Lead	Partners	Cost	Timeframe	Resources Required
FOCUS AREA: Municipal Operations							
Measure MO-1: Increase sustainability and resilience of County-operated facilities							**GHG Reduction**
▪ Goals are not included for this measure as all GHG reductions associated with the measure are captured within other focus areas and measures							▪ Supportive
MO-1.1	**Electrification Policy**	Adopt a policy requiring all new county buildings to be all-electric and replace or retrofit space and water heating devices and equipment in existing buildings with heat pumps at time of replacement.	• General Services	• Community Services Department	$$$	2023–2025	• Staff Time • Consultant • Grants
MO-1.2	**Energy Procurement**	Procure renewable natural gas for County-owned facilities that cannot be electrified.	• General Services		$	2026–2028	• Staff Time • Grants
MO-1.3	**Retrofit Partnerships**	Partner with other agencies and institutions to jointly procure all-electric equipment and services to accelerate retrofits, reduce costs and create green jobs.	• General Services	• Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative	$$	2023–2030	• Staff Time • Consultant
MO-1.4	**Renewable Energy Expansion**	Expand the use of renewable energy and energy storage at County facilities.	• General Services		$$	2023–2030	• Staff Time • Consultant • Grants
MO-1.5	**Water – Energy Nexus Projects**	Implement cost-effective measures to reduce County facilities' water use and water-related energy use.	• General Services	• Public Works	$	2023–2030	• General Fund • Incentives • Rebates • Grants
MO-1.6	**Carbon Neutrality**	Conduct a feasibility study and develop a plan to achieve carbon neutrality in municipal operations as soon as possible.	• Community Services	• General Services • Public Works	$	2023–2025	• General Fund • Incentives • Rebates • Grants

6.

CONCLUSION

Making meaningful progress towards reducing our GHG emissions starts with County leadership through policies, education, ordinances, and investments that act as catalysts for change throughout the wider community. As such, the County can update building codes, provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and designate bike lanes, but it is up to the broader community to embrace these new services and technologies and gain the benefits outlined in this plan.

This CAP provides a roadmap for the County to implement progressive climate action policies and programs. Community partners can then support these policies with incentives and programs and businesses can leverage these policies to provide new services and adopt new practices. Finally, residents that have been provided with the incentives and education, can adapt behaviors to lower GHG emissions com-munitywide. As policies and programs are developed and infrastructure is constructed, County staff will work to engage the community on progress and opportunities for improvement.

Addressing climate change is just one frame through which to view opportunities to improve our communities and bolster our region. However, we recognize that residents, businesses, and communities are facing a multitude of complex challenges that continue to divide our attention and strain our capacity to engage. This plan seeks to improve equitable outcomes and our quality of life to ensure a stable climate future.

The success of this plan will require significant collaboration, partnership, and engagement across the county. We invite residents, businesses, and organizations to join the County in meeting its goals and improving community wellbeing.

As part of this CAP, existing funding and financing mechanisms that may support measure implementation for a prioritized list of GHG emission reduction themes were established.

APPENDICES

Credit: Mark Bright