

County of Santa Barbara



One County. One Future.

One Climate Initiative

2025 Progress Report & Highlights



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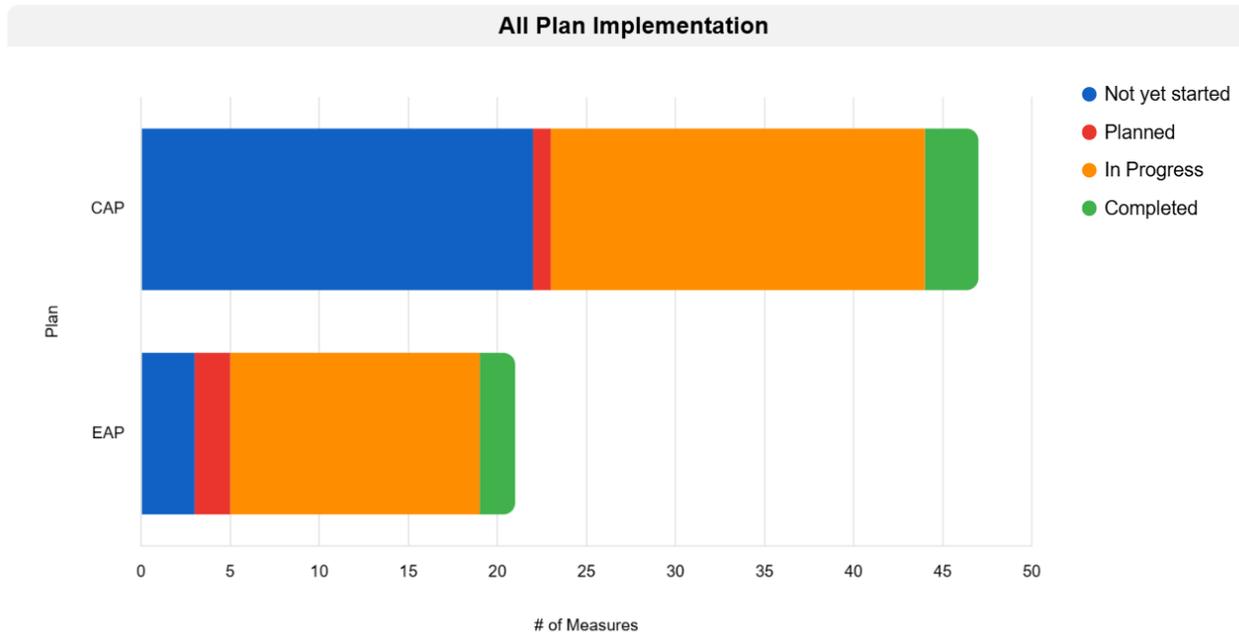
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Introduction

The One Climate Initiative spans a variety of topic areas that will shape the future of the County for decades to come to foster a more resilient Santa Barbara County. The One Climate Initiative:

- Unifies messaging and outreach for several major long-range climate plans;
- Increases visibility and awareness of the interrelated efforts; and
- Coordinates and aligns multiple strategic plans, while reducing costs and strain on staff capacity.

In August and October 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Energy Assurance Plan (EAP), respectively. This is the first progress report that combines updates from both plans to streamline tracking and reporting. The table below highlights the status of each action for both the CAP and EAP. This progress report tracks achievement of measure-specific goals and highlights recent actions taken. All plans can be viewed at countyofsb.org/climate.



2030 Climate Action Plan



The 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) seeks to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions from unincorporated County area 50% by 2030 (below 2018 levels).

Transportation & Housing

Measure TR-1: Increase the use of zero emission vehicles	2030 Goal	2025 Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase passenger zero emission vehicle ownership 	25%-45%	4.42%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase commercial EV car use 	15%-40%	<0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install publicly available EV chargers 	375	66
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install (170) privately-owned and publicly available EV chargers (L2 & DCFC) 	1,486	1,136
Measure TR-2: Increase affordable housing and mobility options		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease vehicles miles travelled by increasing public transit use, increasing biking, and implementing land use/development strategies 	14% reduction	Measurement under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate new housing units that are affordable to very low, low, moderate, and above moderate-income levels (by 2031) 	5,664 units	155 units
Measure TR-3: Decarbonize off-road equipment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonize off-road equipment 	21-35%	Measurement under development

- Affordable Housing:** As of March 2025, the County has completed or made progress on 43 of the 99 actions in the Housing Element Update, including rezoning, objective design standards, and ordinance updates to increase housing density and affordability.
- Vehicle Electrification:** The County secured a \$4.7M grant from the California Energy Commission in 2024 to install 150 charging ports at 14 sites in support of transitioning the medium- and heavy-duty fleet to zero emissions by 2035. The draft Zero Emission Vehicle Plan was released in summer 2025 and is anticipated to go to the Board for adoption in 2026.
- Carpool Incentives:** A new carpool pilot program for County employees is scheduled to launch in early 2026, in partnership with SBCAG.
- E-Bike and Transit Promotion:** The County promoted the statewide E-Bike Incentive Program and continues monitoring funding to launch local low-income bike-share programs. SBCAG and County partners also advanced efforts to increase rail ridership, with a Metrolink commuter pilot program approved in January 2025.

- **Transportation Planning:** The County now has access to real-time travel data through SBCAG's subscription to Replica, supporting data-driven transportation and emissions planning.

Clean Energy

Measure CE-1: Increase energy resilience in new and existing buildings	2030 Goal	2025 Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement energy efficiency programs to reduce energy usage in residential and commercial buildings 	4% reduction	Measurement under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrify new residential and new commercial construction 	100%	Measurement under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement electrification programs to reduce natural gas in existing residential buildings 	14%-20% reduction	Measurement under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement electrification programs to reduce natural gas in existing commercial buildings 	14%-23% reduction	Measurement under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers 	100%	PGE: 32.8% SCE: 37.6% 3CE: 30.3%

- Resilience Hubs:** The Sustainability Division and Office of Emergency Management continue to support Girls Inc. of Carpinteria and the broader Carpinteria community to build greater capacity for emergency preparedness. The County also supported the launch of a Central Coast Resilience Hubs Toolkit to support resilience hub development across the Central Coast.
- Building Electrification:** The Building Electrification Ordinance was discontinued due to legislation that effectively froze State and local updates to the Building & Energy Codes for residential units. Staff are considering alternative approaches.
- Streamlined Permitting:** The County’s use of a streamlined permitting tool, Solar App has issued over

740 solar PV permits. Additional improvements are planned for electrification-related permits, including tracking of all-electric new construction.

- Agricultural Energy Conservation:** In late 2024, 3C-REN launched the Agricultural Energy Solutions program providing technical assistance and energy efficiency resources to small- and medium-sized farms. To learn more, visit 3c-ren.org/agriculture
- Utility-Scale Solar:** A draft programmatic environmental impact report for the Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance was released in summer 2025 to facilitate potential future projects developed within rezoned areas. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Waste, Water & Wastewater

CAP Measure W-1: Reduce food waste and increase use of organic recycled materials	2030 Goal	2025 Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce landfilled organics 	80% reduction	101,273 tons landfilled
CAP Measure W-2: Reduce use of non-recyclable and non-compostable single use items		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce landfilled inorganic waste 	35% reduction	118,963 tons landfilled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet SB1383 procurement requirements for the unincorporated County 	100% achievement	118%

- Greywater Systems:** The Sustainability Division secured funding through a \$1 million Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant, which allocated resources to Quail Springs for the installation of greywater systems in eight households in the Cuyama Valley. This pilot project may inform broader policy development in the future. Learn more at countyofsb.org/cuyamavalley.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy:** The Board approved a contract in October 2024 to repair and maintain the existing 1 MW solar system. A feasibility study is underway to explore options for expanding renewable energy capacity at the Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) wastewater treatment plant. Current plans under consideration include installing an additional 50 kW of solar capacity on the west PG&E meter and 500 kW on the east meter, for a total of 550 kW in additional capacity. The LCSD has also completed a Climate Adaptation Plan that can support planning efforts.
- Organics Diversion:** The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division continues to expand and refine its programs to comply with SB 1383, including initiatives like the backyard composting and mulch programs, the North County source-separated organics collection program, and operations at the ReSource Center. However, challenges remain, particularly with post-consumer organics collection in commercial settings. Staff continue to provide bilingual education and outreach through TV, web, digital, print, social media and radio and the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network through community events, school programs, and business site visits.
- Solar and Battery Recycling:** Through the Regional Recycling Market Development Zone, funding was approved for a pilot project focused on solar panel reuse and repair. A public workshop was held in Fall 2025 to support this effort.

Nature-Based Solutions

CAP Measure NBS-1: Promote and support land management practices that sequester carbon	2030 Goal	2025 Metric
• Plant trees	3,000	480
• Compost application	6,000 acres annually	40 acres
• Silvopasture establishment	300 acres annually	
• Hedgerow planting	900 acres annually	40,000 linear ft planned
• Riparian restoration	60 acres annually	
• Nutrient management	900 acres annually	350 acres planned

- **Agricultural Outreach and Education:** The County partners with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD), Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, and other stakeholders to provide outreach and education to farmers and ranchers. The focus is on conservation practices that support climate mitigation and resilience, with particular emphasis on reaching socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Materials and programs are offered in both English and Spanish. This effort is supported by the Central Coast Soil Hub, which was established to coordinate sustainable agriculture initiatives across the region. Learn more at [Central Coast Soil Hub](#).
- **Tree Planting & Maintenance:** County departments are planting new drought-tolerant trees at County facilities, parks, and rights-of-way, especially in areas vulnerable to extreme heat. The Transportation Division has planted over 390 trees across five districts, offsetting the loss of older trees planted in the 1960s, supported by Measure

A funds. 90 trees were planted by the Parks Division at Goleta Beach and Lake Cachuma as components of larger capital projects.

- **Carbon Farm Planning:** The Sustainability Division supports efforts to implement carbon farming and sustainable land management practices such as cover cropping, compost application, hedgerow planting, and improved fertilizer management. Educational efforts included a carbon farming and carbon offset webinar series and an active Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming Subcommittee under the Regional Climate Collaborative.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** General Services is revising its environmental purchasing policy and developing sustainable purchasing guidelines to encourage departments to buy food and supplies from local producers, with preference given to regenerative agriculture and low-carbon foods.

Energy Assurance Plan

The EAP outlines a path to adapt our local electricity system to one that provides clean, reliable, resilient, and community-powered energy for all of Santa Barbara County.



EAP Goal 1: Increase renewable energy capacity	2030 Goal	2025 Metric
• Utility Scale	250 MW	190 MW
• Distributed	450 MW	134 MW
• Distributed (average per capita)	1 kW	0.30 kW
EAP Goal 2: Increase energy storage capacity		
• Utility Scale	200 MW	91 MW
• Distributed	45 MW	16 MW
• Distributed (average per capita)	0.1 kW	0-0.036 kW
EAP Goal 3: Increase demand response program participation	115,000 participants	94,887 participants (2023)
EAP Goal 4: Increase community resilience hubs with backup power	10	2 active sites

Community Empowerment

- **Equity-Focused Energy Upgrades:** With \$50,000 awarded through the Transformative Climate Communities grant, the Sustainability Division is supporting energy upgrades in Cuyama Valley. Partnering contractors are stacking incentives to offer free or low-cost projects. Learn more at countyofsb.org/cuyamavalley.
- **Power Outage Communications:** The Office of Emergency Management is proactively sharing power outage preparedness information, including a bilingual webpage and consistent promotion of ReadySBC alerts during public engagement.
- **Clean Energy Assurance Subcommittee Leadership:** The Sustainability Division and SBCAPCD launched the Clean Energy Projects Subcommittee under the Regional Climate Collaborative to share best practices in energy assurance with municipal, nonprofit, and commercial facility managers.
- **Commercial Energy Concierge Service:** In late 2024, 3C-REN launched business concierge services to help businesses and nonprofits navigate available programs to strengthen energy assurance and access funding. Learn more at [3C-REN Commercial Energy Savings](#).

- **Climate Resilient SBC:** The Sustainability Division, in partnership with 5 counties and other local jurisdictions, launched the Resilient Central Coast initiative — a tailored, place-based online resource to help residents find energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy resilience programs based on household information and behavior. Climate Resilient Santa Barbara County is the County’s own webpage within this initiative. A planned feature for interactive "challenges" on the Climate Resilient SBC platform was discontinued due to platform limitations. Instead, energy resilience education is delivered through events and newsletters. Learn more at ClimateResilientSBC.org
- Issuance of mobile backup batteries and hotspot-ready phones to OEM staff, enabling remote alerting.
- Installation of an emergency alert system at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Mutual aid agreement with Ventura County to issue alerts if Santa Barbara OEM is unable to.
- Vendor meetings planned to explore additional resiliency upgrades for public safety radio networks.

Leading by Example

- **Building Energy Management:** General Services Energy Division is developing and implementing BEMS at priority facilities—including the Northern Branch Jail, Calle Real Campus, Burton Mesa, and the Animal Shelter—to better monitor and optimize energy use. Additionally, the County actively participates in utility demand response programs to reduce peak energy use and support grid stability at its facilities.
- **Resilient Emergency Communications Systems:** The Office of Emergency Management works to ensure that emergency alert infrastructure remains functional during power outages. Efforts include:
 - Launch of a new County AM Radio Program, broadcasting on AM530 with infrastructure powered by UPS and generators.
- **Mobile Renewable Energy Backup Trailers:** The County owns two mobile power trailers capable of providing solar + battery (and one with green hydrogen) backup energy during emergencies. Although they have yet to be deployed in real-world emergency scenarios, they are fully operational and have been showcased at public events.
- **Significant Solar Expansion:** In the summer of 2025, the Board awarded power purchase agreements for 9 projects across County facilities, totaling 4.2 megawatts of solar capacity. Over 30 years, it is expected that this portfolio of projects will produce nearly 200 million kWh of electricity. This is equivalent to powering 18 million homes for an entire year, or roughly the electricity budget for all County-operated buildings for ten consecutive years. This portfolio will offset roughly 100,000 metric tons of CO₂e and will generate an estimated \$57M in net savings.

- **Community Microgrid Applications:** In December 2025, the County submitted applications to the Microgrid Incentive Program to design and develop community microgrids in Isla Vista and New Cuyama. Staff anticipate award notifications in Spring 2026.

Government and Utility Coordination

- **Regulatory & Legislative Advocacy:** Through continued participation in California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) rulemakings, the County works to influence program offerings that support local energy assurance and affordability goals. This includes maintaining strong relationships with PG&E, SCE, 3CE, and the CPUC, often through engagement with the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC).

Energy assurance has been identified as a priority within the County’s legislative strategy. Each year, the County updates its Legislative Platform to align with the Board of Supervisors-adopted policies and initiatives, creating opportunities to advocate for state and federal investments in local energy resilience infrastructure. Learn more at lgsec.org.

- **Power Outage Scenario Planning with Utilities:** The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) actively participates in planning exercises, after-action reviews, and training events with PG&E and SCE to improve preparedness for unplanned power outages. OEM is also working to update the County’s Emergency Power Outage Contingency Plan to clearly define roles and responsibilities in outage scenarios and improve overall coordination.