



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** June 27, 2023  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department  
Director George Chapjian, Community Services Director  
(805) 568-2467  
Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Sustainability Division Chief  
(805) 568-3514  
Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager  
(805) 568-3503

**SUBJECT: 2030 Climate Action Plan Development Update & Financial Analysis Options**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Receive and file an update on the development of the draft 2030 Climate Action Plan;
- b) Provide direction to staff on any changes to the draft 2030 Climate Action Plan;
- c) Provide direction to staff regarding the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal as follows:
  - i. Retain the Board-adopted goal to reduce unincorporated county GHG emissions 50% by 2030 (below 2018 baseline levels) and direct staff to incorporate the actions necessary to achieve the goal in the draft CAP; or
  - ii. Adopt a new goal to reduce unincorporated county GHG emissions 40% by 2030 (below 2018 levels) and maintain the CAP as currently drafted;
- d) Provide direction to staff regarding potential options to expand the scope and amount of the existing Agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for climate action planning services for the purpose of conducting additional financial analysis on the costs to implement the 2030 Climate Action Plan as follows:
  - i. Conduct County Government Cost Analysis (Cost range: \$45,000-\$60,000);

- ii. Conduct Community Cost Analysis (Cost range: \$25,000-\$35,000); and/or
  - iii. Conduct Green Economy & Employment Analysis (Cost range: \$35,000-\$55,000); or
  - iv. No further analysis; and
- e) Determine that the above-recommended actions do not constitute a project and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as they are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. When projects and programs proceed to implementation, they may be subject to environmental review under CEQA.

### **Summary Text**

This item is on the agenda to request Board input on the draft 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) (Attachment A), and direction on updating or maintaining the County's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal. Staff also requests Board direction on options for additional financial analysis on the costs associated with implementation of the CAP. A County Government Cost Analysis would range from \$45,000-\$60,000, a Community Cost Analysis would range from \$25,000-\$35,000, and a Green Economy & Employment Analysis would range from \$35,000-\$55,000. Additional financial analysis would require staff to expand the scope and amount of the County's agreement with Rincon Consultants for climate action planning services and could delay adoption of the CAP.

### **Background**

In response to "Santa Barbara County Climate Change Principles" (Resolution 09-059), the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the County of Santa Barbara Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) in May 2015. The ECAP was developed by the Planning & Development Department's Long-Range Planning Division. After adoption, the Community Services Department's Sustainability Division was tasked with tracking and reporting on the ECAP's progress and coordination of the County Sustainability Committee. The ECAP established a goal of reducing GHG emissions in the unincorporated county by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 and identified 53 emissions reduction measures (ERMs) to achieve this goal.

On December 11, 2018, Sustainability Division staff presented an ECAP Progress Report to the Board, which identified that an increase of GHG emissions in the unincorporated part of Santa Barbara County to 14 percent above 2007 levels as of 2016. In response, the Board directed staff to develop a 2030 CAP and set a new GHG emission reduction target of 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (50x30). The Board also directed staff to employ a regional approach inclusive of interested neighboring jurisdictions and community representatives and to incorporate resilience measures into the updated CAP.

On July 7, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for climate action planning services for a total amount not to exceed \$516,235.

On April 5, 2022, the Board received a presentation on the 2015 ECAP Final Report and 2018 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The Board adopted the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner, as feasible, and updated the interim 2030 goal from 50% reduction below 2007 levels to 50% net reduction from current (2018) levels. The Board also directed staff to begin implementation of early climate actions, including developing an ordinance to restrict natural gas infrastructure, updating the Zero Net Energy Resolution for County buildings to Zero Carbon, and developing a Zero Emission Vehicle Plan.

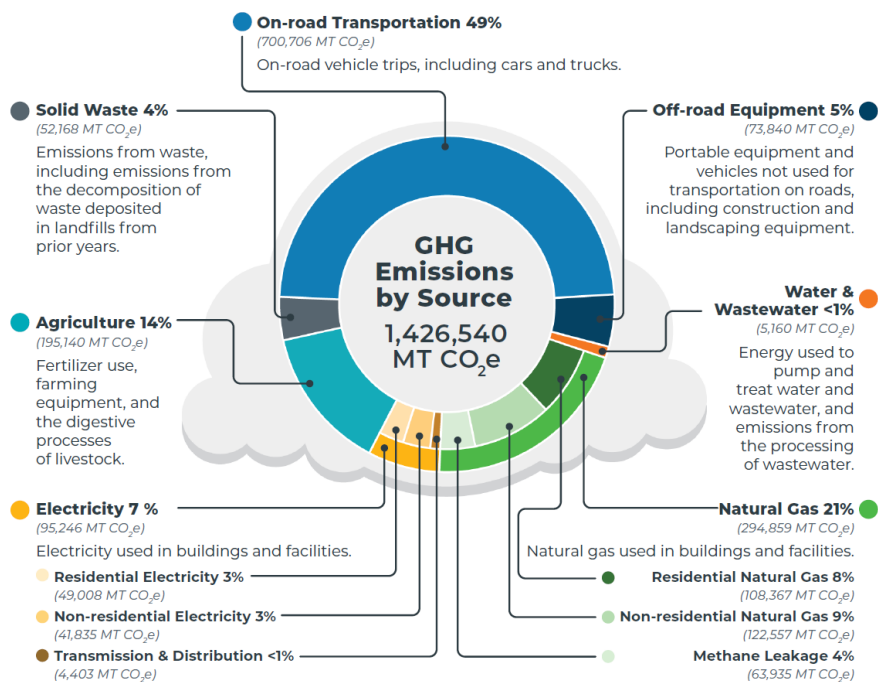
**Discussion**

**Draft 2030 Climate Action Plan Overview**

The [draft 2030 Climate Action Plan](#) (Attachment A) seeks to address the County’s largest sources of GHG through ambitious, cross-cutting policies and programs. The draft CAP incorporates technical and feasibility analyses, internal and external stakeholder input, and leverages new and existing initiatives, organizations, and collaborations in the region.

The plan development process began with preparing the latest GHG inventory to identify key sources of GHG emissions (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. 2018 Unincorporated County GHG Emissions by Source**



Staff and consultants then worked extensively with internal and external stakeholders to prepare the draft 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP). The project team has held various workshops, listening sessions, and roundtables, and provided presentations to stakeholder groups like the regional chambers of commerce and the Agricultural Advisory Committee. A list of outreach activities can be found in Attachment B. In order to solicit as much feedback as possible, the project team provided draft measures and actions through an online platform, “Consider It.” Approximately 266 people participated and provided over 150 comments and new ideas.

Additionally, staff worked with the Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee (EAOC) 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.

- **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.

The project team vetted all proposed and community-suggested measures and actions with the Sustainability Committee, including County departments and divisions ultimately responsible for implementation.

**Table 1. 2030 Climate Action Plan Focus Areas, Measures, and Goals**

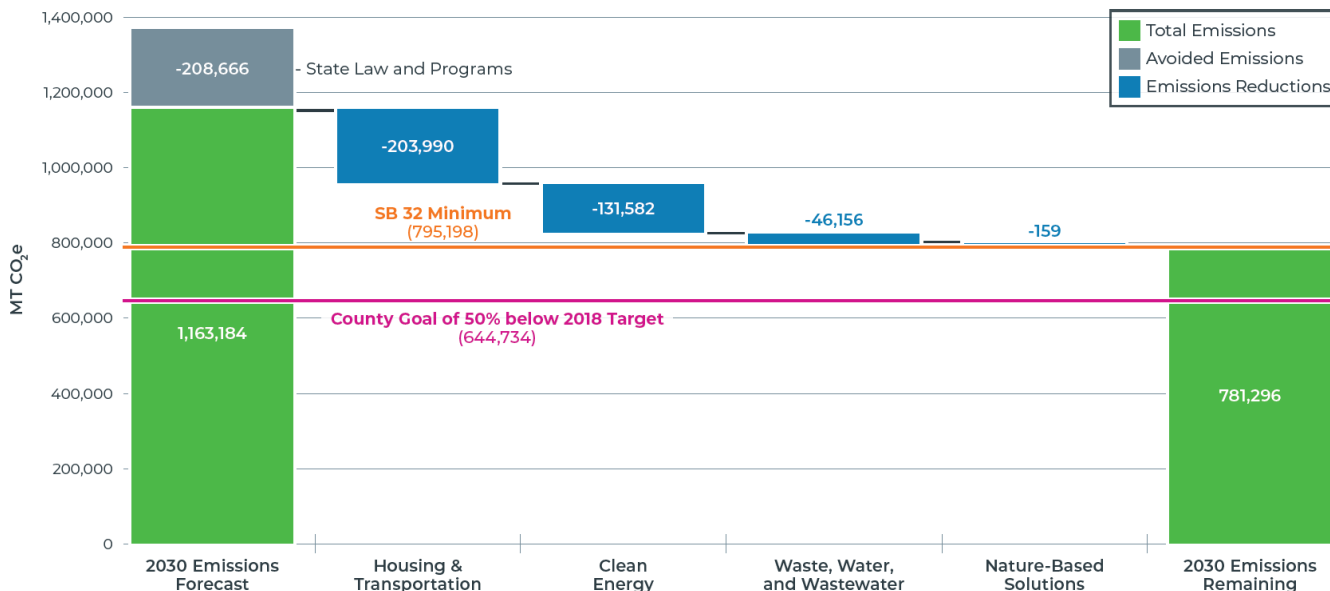
Measure #	Measures	Goals
<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
TR-1	Increase the use of zero-emission vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase passenger EV car ownership to 25% by 2030 and 90% by 2045</li> <li>• Increase commercial EV car use to 15% by 2030 and 75% by 2045</li> <li>• Install at least 375 publicly available EV chargers by 2030</li> </ul>
TR-2	Increase affordable housing and mobility options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public transit mode share by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2045</li> <li>• Increase bike-mode share 1% by 2030 and 5% by 2045</li> </ul>
TR-3	Decarbonize off-road emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonize 21% of off-road equipment by 2030 and 38% by 2045</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Energy</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
CE-1	Increase clean energy use and energy resilience in new and existing buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement residential and commercial building energy efficiency programs in 4% of buildings by 2030 and 7% of buildings by 2045</li> <li>• Electrify 100% of new residential and new commercial construction by 2023</li> <li>• Electrify 14% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 90% by 2045</li> <li>• Electrify 14% of existing commercial buildings by 2030 and 75% by 2045</li> <li>• Achieve 100% renewable electricity for all residential and commercial customers into by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>Waste, Water, &amp; Wastewater</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
W-1	Reduce food waste and increase use of organic recycled materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce landfilled organics 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2045</li> </ul>
W-2	Reduce use of non-recyclable and non-compostable single use items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce landfilled inorganic waste 35% by 2030 and 90% by 2045</li> <li>• Meet SB 1383 compost procurement requirements for the unincorporated County of 0.08 tons per capita</li> </ul>
W-3	Increase energy- and carbon-efficiency of water production treatment conveyance and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
<b>Nature-Based Solutions</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
NBS-1	Promote and support land management practices that sequester carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant 3,000 trees by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>Low-Carbon Economy</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
LCE-1	Limit the increase of fossil fuel extraction emissions and develop a sunset strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence</li> </ul>
LCE-2	Support local business in becoming more sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certify 150 new Green Businesses by 2030</li> </ul>
LCE-3	Facilitate mechanisms to value and fund carbon sequestration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals are not included for this measure as there are no quantifiable actions with substantial evidence</li> </ul>
<b>Municipal Operations</b>		
<b>Goals</b>		
MO-1	Increase sustainability and resilience of County-operated facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metrics are not included for this measure as all GHG reductions associated with the measure are captured within other focus areas and measures</li> </ul>

**2030 Emissions Reduction Target**

With the proposed Measures, Goals, and Actions, the CAP is estimated to achieve a 40% reduction in emissions from 2018 levels, which is consistent with State goals, as shown in Figure 2. All measures and actions in the draft CAP would need to be fully implemented to achieve the 40% reduction.<sup>1</sup> This falls short of the Board-adopted goal of 50% reduction below 2018.

<sup>1</sup> This assumes County is able to adopt and implement an ordinance restricting natural gas in new residential and non-residential construction, which requires navigating the implications resulting from the Ninth Circuit’s recent ruling against the City of Berkeley’s natural gas ban in new construction.

**Figure 2. Emissions Forecast and Estimated 2030 CAP Emission Reductions**



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines<sup>2</sup> establish several criteria for a CAP to meet to be considered a GHG reduction plan to allow for a program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that streamlines the environmental review process of subsequent projects’ GHG emissions and mitigation requirements.

The CAP could be modified to achieve the 50% target, while still qualifying as a GHG reduction plan under CEQA. All of the following modifications would have to be included:

- Shift the implementation of a replace on burnout (natural gas appliances for electric ones) ordinance from 2025 to 2023 for both residential and commercial buildings (rather than just residential) to achieve significant up-front emissions reductions (CAP Action CE 1.3). This would be logistically challenging as unpermitted replacements are already commonplace. Additionally, the draft ordinance restricting natural gas in new construction is still under development, and there are uncertainties due to the recent Ninth Circuit decision invalidating the City of Berkeley’s gas-banning ordinance.
- Set more aggressive 2030 targets for electric vehicle (EV) mode share; from 25% to 30% for passenger vehicles and from 15% to 22% for commercial vehicles. At the end of 2022, just over 2% of passenger vehicles were fully electric, hybrid, or fuel cell, and only 23 electric buses were in operation in Santa Barbara County. A substantial amount of infrastructure buildout and aggressive actions enabling or supporting this shift would be needed to substantiate these targets.
- Set more aggressive 2030 targets to increase active transportation and public transit ridership. Achieving both would be difficult as transportation infrastructure is costly, and the County has limited ability to influence transit operations in terms of service areas, frequency, reliability, speed, or cost.

<sup>2</sup> Section 15183.5(b)(1)

Alternatively, carbon credits could be procured to offset the remaining balance of emissions. However, with an estimated balance of over 151,000 metric tons between the current estimated reductions (40%) and the 50% goal, offsets would be a high cost option with minimal return on investment compared to investments in local projects, businesses, and households.

Staff request that the Board provide direction on either the modification of the draft CAP measures, goals, and actions, or adjusting the 2030 target.

### ***Public Comment & Board Feedback***

From December 2021 to February 2022, the County solicited feedback on draft actions through an online platform, called “Consider It.” Participants could provide their support level on a scale of 1 – 10 (1 being oppose, 10 being support) and submit comments. Participants could also propose a new action if their idea was not reflected by an existing proposed strategy. Over 266 people participated, and most actions received over 100 comments. Most actions proposed by the County received a support level of 50% (neutral or split opinion) or higher. Many community-created actions had low support, were not feasible, or did not have significant GHG emission reduction potential, and therefore were not included in the draft CAP. Community-created actions that were similar to existing actions were merged to reduce duplication. On March 1, 2023, staff released the draft CAP for public comment and held in-person workshops in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria and one virtual workshop. To date, staff have received 62 comments from 16 participants. The comments can be viewed online at [the CAP public comment webpage](#).

The draft CAP public comment period will be open until the EIR public comment period closes near the end of July. Once staff has received Board input, it will incorporate that with public comment and release the final draft CAP and final draft EIR.

### ***Financial Analysis***

The CAP functions as a high-level roadmap developed to achieve a balance between the required GHG emissions reductions, cost savings, and feasibility. To support the adoption of priority actions within the CAP, the CAP consultant team developed a Financial Strategy Memo (Attachment D) that provides a qualitative economic analysis of four measures that involve the development, adoption, and enforcement of County ordinances, including: 1) CE-1.3 Natural Gas Appliance Replacement; 2) CE-1.4 Building Performance Ordinance; 3) TR-2.10 Employer Trip Reduction Requirements & Programs; and 4) TR-3.2 Time of Replacement (which was combined generally with a discussion on zero emission vehicle adoption costs).

The analysis to date provides high-level guidance on potential cost ranges as well as options for funding and financing those programs. This level of financial analysis is considered standard for local governments when adopting CAPs. Additionally, specific costs will range widely from building to building or vehicle to vehicle and depend on a wide range of variables.

Additional analysis could be undertaken but would require additional time and resources. Staff requested Rincon provide a memo with information on options for additional analysis and costs as detailed in Attachment D and described briefly below. These analyses would utilize a research-based approach and no new community-specific data would be generated. In other words, information for these analyses would depend on direct information from County staff, County stakeholders, case studies, and the expertise of professionals in the industry. The following analyses describe additional economic analyses that can be

conducted to support the adoption and implementation of the CAP if more detailed cost estimates are desired.

**A. Complete County Government Cost Analysis**

- Timeframe to complete the analysis: 6 – 8 months
- Cost range: \$45,000 - \$60,000

An analysis that evaluates costs to County government would include confirmation of key indicators such as total capital investments, annual operating expenses, staffing costs, and potential shared costs with other jurisdictions or private entities, among others. The analysis would also provide an order of magnitude estimate of both one-time and ongoing costs to the County.

**B. Complete Community Cost Analysis**

- Timeframe to complete the analysis: 2 – 3 months
- Cost range: \$25,000 - \$35,000

A high-level evaluation of probable costs considerations attributable to the community would be conducted. This community cost evaluation would provide cost ranges based on information derived from the consultant team’s past projects, case studies, and available research.

**C. Green Economy and Employment Analysis**

- Timeframe to complete the analysis: 2 – 4 months
- Cost range: \$35,000 - \$55,000

An analysis that would identify sectors and industries that are part of the County’s green economy now and in the future. The resulting analysis would estimate the number of “green” jobs expected to be generated per million dollars spent based on measures to be selected from Table 1.

These analyses all carry a high degree of uncertainty due to the conceptual nature of some actions and the high variability of costs for any household or business or building. Typically, analytical analyses associated with the development of measures and actions are developed after the adoption of the CAP and are one of the first steps of CAP implementation.

**Performance Measure:**

Unincorporated County community emissions reduced by 50% below 2018 baseline levels by 2030.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If the Board opts to conduct further financial analyses, staff will return with a budget expansion request and contract amendment.

**Staffing Impacts:** None

**Special Instructions:** Please send one copy of the minute order to Ashley Watkins

**Attachments:**

- A. Draft 2030 Climate Action Plan



**2030 Climate Action Plan Development Update & Financial Analysis Options**

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- B. List of Outreach Activities and Presentations
- C. Financial Strategy Memorandum
- D. Economic Analysis Memorandum
- E. PowerPoint Presentation

**Authored by:**

Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager

**cc:**