

Memorandum



Date: January 27, 2026

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Subject: 2023 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The 2023 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for Unincorporated Santa Barbara County (the County), offers a detailed analysis of current emissions, enabling the County to track trends, evaluate progress toward emissions reduction goals, and support future tracking. It follows the same methodology and builds upon the 2018 community GHG inventory developed for the County's 2030 Climate Action Plan. Updates to transportation VMT have been applied to both 2018 and 2023 inventories to use the best available data.

Consistent with the 2018 Community GHG Inventory, the 2023 Community GHG Inventory follows the United States Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Community Protocol). Emissions are calculated based on activity data, such as energy use and transportation patterns, combined with emission factors that convert activity levels into GHG outputs. The inventory focuses on sectors under the County's jurisdictional control, including electricity, natural gas, transportation, water and wastewater, and solid waste. These sectors form the foundation for emissions forecasting and target setting, supporting the County's climate action planning and policy development efforts.

A full technical report was prepared by Rincon Consultants. Below are select tables and figures.

Table 1. 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Detailed)

Sector	Subsector	Activity Data	Unit	MT CO2e
Building Electricity	Residential Electricity	271,851,401	kWh	76,973
	Residential Electricity T&D	14,583,075	kWh	4,129
	Nonresidential Electricity	257,060,480	kWh	93,770
	Nonresidential Electricity T&D	13,126,561	kWh	4,788
	Direct Access Electricity	40,700,057	kWh	9,218
	Direct Access Electricity T&D	2,075,703	kWh	470
Building Natural Gas	Residential Natural Gas	20,397,658	therms	108,341
	Residential Natural Gas Leaks	574,004	therms	30,461
	Nonresidential Natural Gas	13,971,619	therms	74,210
	Nonresidential Natural Gas Leaks	393,171	therms	20,864
On-road Transportation	Passenger Vehicles	1,185,047,976	Vehicle Miles Traveled	393,572
	Commercial Vehicles	106,447,550	Vehicle Miles Traveled	125,070
	Buses	10,979,982	Vehicle Miles Traveled	87
	Bus Fuel Consumption	1,412,223	Gallons	10,051
	Passenger Electric Vehicles	14,091,251	kWh	3,990
	Commercial Electric Vehicles	20,416	kWh	7
	Bus Electric Vehicles	167,589	kWh	61
Off-road Equipment	Diesel	5,537,408	Gallons	58,028
	Gasoline	2,184,641	Gallons	19,828
	Natural Gas	347,201	Gallons	2,035
Solid Waste	Landfill Methane	151,401	tons	57,230
	Process Emissions	151,401	tons	1,665
Wastewater	Stationary Combustion	63,687	population served	4
	Process N2O Emissions	104,234	population served	163
	Effluent Discharge Fugitive N2O	104,234	population served	1,018
	Electricity Use	1,753,534	kWh	442
	Septic System	9,500	# of septic systems	3,155
Water	Water Use	7,267	MG	628
Total				1,100,259

Figure 1. 2023 Inventory

Santa Barbara Unincorporated County 2023 Community CO₂e Emissions

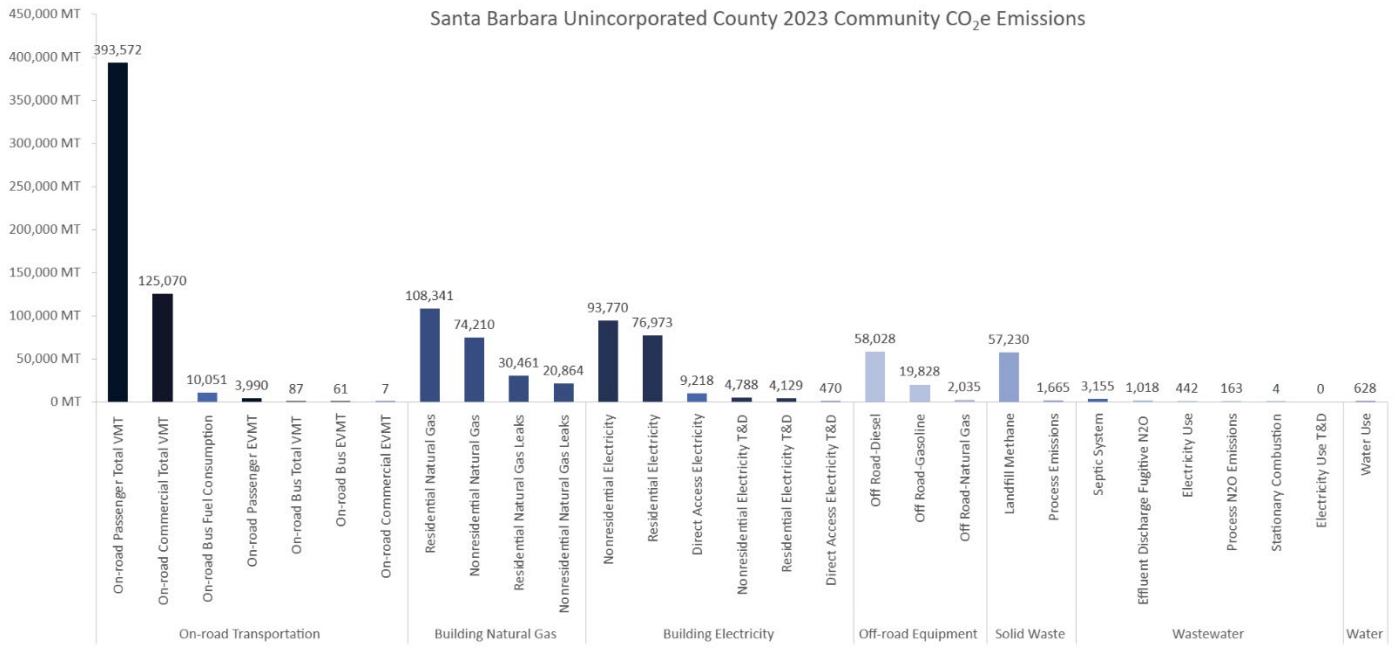


Table 2. Comparison between 2023 and 2018 (Simplified)

Sector	Subsector	2018			2023			% Change
		Activity Data	Unit	MT CO2e	Activity Data	Unit	MT CO2e	
Building Energy	Electricity	553,427,429	kWh	95,246	599,397,277	kWh	189,349	99%
	Natural Gas	41,307,150	therms	273,131	35,336,453	therms	233,876	-14%
On-road Transportation	Passenger & Commercial	1,133,260,449	VMT	572,111	1,302,475,509	VMT	532,839	-7%
Off-road Equipment	All Fuels	7,623,905	gallons	75,463	8,069,251	gallons	79,892	6%
Solid Waste	Landfilled Waste	143,397	tons	50,590	151,401	tons	57,230	13%
	Process Emissions	143,397	tons	1,577	151,401	tons	1,665	6%
Wastewater	Wastewater Treatment	N/A	N/A	4,899	N/A	N/A	4,781	-2%
Water	Water Use	7,312	MG	9,286	7,267	MG	628	-93%
Total				1,082,303			1,100,259	2%

Figure 2. Visual Comparison between 2023 and 2018 (Simplified)

