



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name:	Community Services
Department No.:	057
Agenda Date:	January 27, 2026
Placement:	Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time:	45 min
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	N/A
Vote Required:	Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors DS
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department JL
 Contact: Garrett Wong, Division Manager, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Progress Update on the One Climate Initiative, 2030 Climate Action Plan & Energy Assurance Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the One Climate Initiative 5-Year Review (Attachment A), the One Climate Initiative 2025 Progress Report (Attachment B), the 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Memo (Attachment C), and the Summary of Policy Impacts on Local Climate Action (Attachment D); and
- b) Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(5), as the actions are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The One Climate Initiative was launched in late 2019 to support a variety of climate-related planning projects. Staff prepared a 5-Year Review (Attachment A) to highlight the adopted plans and forthcoming plans.

Staff have also prepared a One Climate Initiative 2025 Progress Report tracking implementation progress and highlights from the 2030 Climate Action Plan and Energy Assurance Plan (Attachment B).

Staff and consultants have prepared a 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Attachment C) to track progress toward achieving 50% reduction by 2030 (below 2018 levels). Overall, communitywide emissions in 2023 were 1% higher than they were in 2018. The County's emissions are trending

downwards from pre-2018 levels but not at a rate that is sufficient to meet the goal of 50% below 2018 by 2030.

Recent changes at the federal, state and regional levels have generated significant headwinds for local climate action (Attachment D). Staff will continue to monitor these developments and future funding opportunities and confer with other local governments to identify pathways to scale and accelerate local climate action.

Staff recommend that the Board receive and file all of these reports and documents.

Discussion:

One Climate Initiative 5-Year Review

The One Climate Initiative is the County's centralized platform for climate-related planning and implementation. The Initiative offers a platform for the County to engage a wider audience and create linkages across interrelated topic areas.

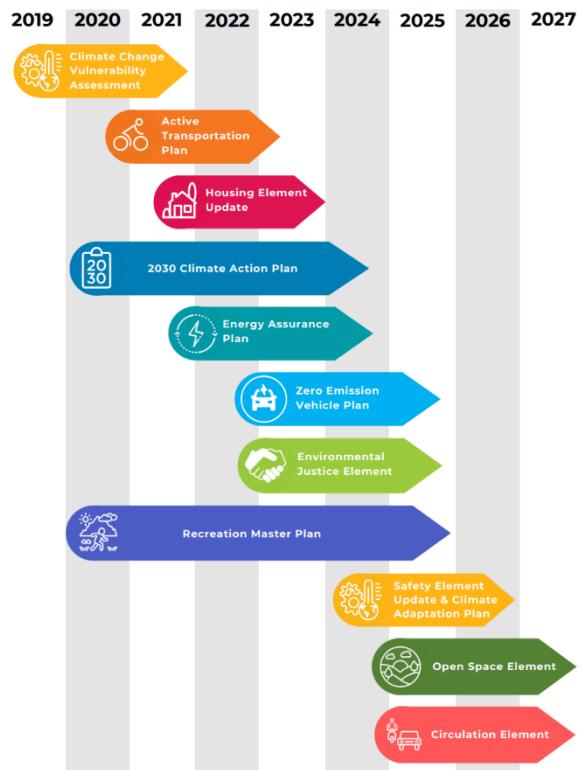
Launched in late 2019, the One Climate Initiative provided unified branding and aesthetic for several County-led planning efforts, including the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, 2030 Climate Action Plan and the Active Transportation Plan.

The Initiative serves as a means of coordinating departmental resources and outreach activities. Examples include:

- Establishing a centralized webpage to navigate a variety of climate-related plans;
- Launching the Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee, which continues to serve as the County's go-to advisory committee for climate planning and implementation;
- Coordinating Spanish-speaking outreach services through the Children & Family Resource Services and Santa Barbara County Promotores Network;
- Developing an overarching Vision Statement to align all plans; and
- Developing a voluntary implementation tracking & reporting tool for all plan implementation leads.

Previously adopted plans (Active Transportation Plan, Housing Element Update, 2030 Climate Action Plan, Energy Assurance Plan) have begun implementation. This year Community Services Department staff will present for your consideration the Zero Emission Vehicle Plan and Recreation Master Plan; separately, Planning & Development (P&D) will be presenting the Environmental Justice Element. P&D staff have also initiated planning activities for the Circulation Element and Open Space Element. The Sustainability Division will continue to coordinate with departments on all related plans and their implementation. The One Climate Initiative 5-Year Review (Attachment A) provides an overview of the Initiative, and the adopted and forthcoming plans.

Figure 1. One Climate Initiative Projects

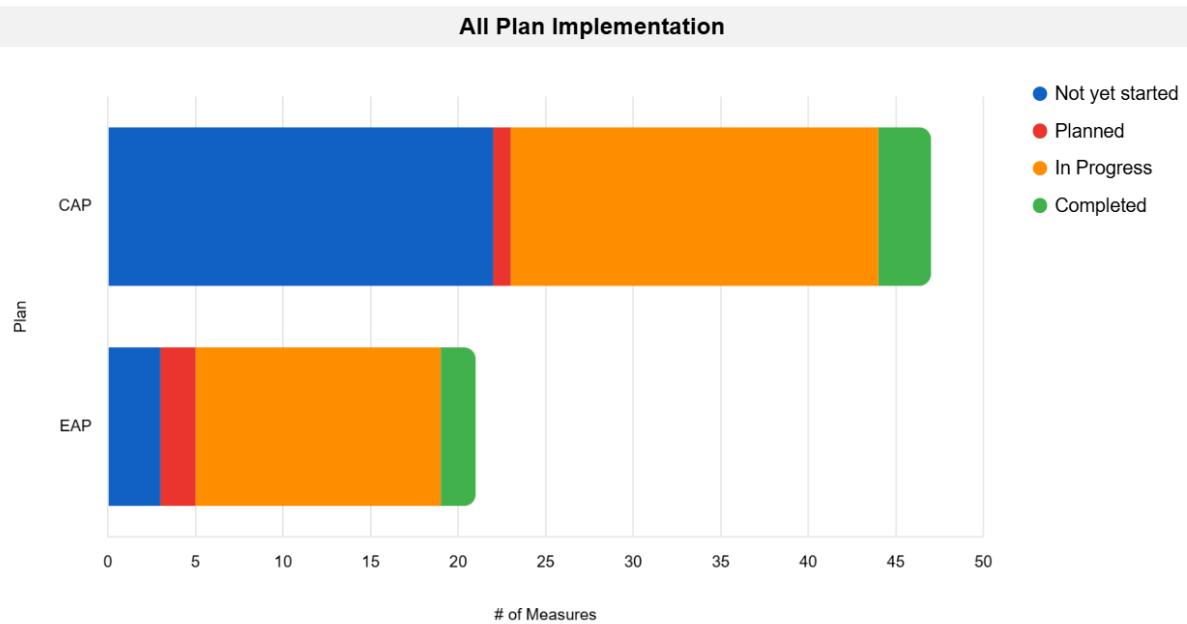


Progress Reporting

Staff have developed a voluntary internal implementation tracking and reporting tool that can be utilized by all departments with adopted plans. Staff built the tool to streamline progress reporting to multiple plans and to increase synergies across plans where departments and staff have overlapping and related tasks. Updates have been compiled into the inaugural One Climate Initiative Progress Report (Attachment B).

The One Climate Initiative Progress Report combines updates from both the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Energy Assurance Plan. The progress report tracks achievement of measure-specific goals and highlights in brief narrative from recent actions taken by County departments, partner agencies and organizations. Going forward, staff intend for the One Climate Initiative to serve as the primary vehicle for climate-related plans to track and report their progress.

Figure 1. Implementation Status by Plan



2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Staff and consultants prepared a 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Summary, Attachment C). The Inventory provides a one-year snapshot of greenhouse gas emissions generated from residential and commercial activity in the unincorporated area and is the primary method for evaluating progress toward the County's goal of reducing emissions 50% by 2030 (below 2018 levels). Below is a chart summarizing the activity data and emissions between 2018 and 2023. A detailed table is included in Attachment C.

Figure 2. Unincorporated County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Comparison by Sector



Here are some highlights and observations:

- Nonresidential natural gas use declined by 29% between 2018 and 2023.
- While electricity consumption increased moderately, emissions associated with electricity generation (emissions factor) increased by 84 percent, contributing to the County's overall emissions increase. In 2020, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) stopped procuring Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to lower its emissions and directed investment to building new renewable energy projects. Not using RECs increases emissions from electricity generation in the near term as 3CE's renewable energy portfolio expands over time.
- Passenger vehicle driving increased while commercial driving decreased. Use of electric vehicles has increased significantly but still represents a small portion of overall vehicle trips.
- Between 2018 and 2023, the County's water supplied by energy-intensive imports reduced by over 70%
- Overall, communitywide emissions in 2023 were just 1% higher than they were in 2018.

Climate Action Plan

The County's emissions are trending downwards from pre-2018 levels but not at a rate that is sufficient to meet the goal of 50% below 2018 by 2030. Recent changes at the federal and state and levels have generated significant headwinds for local climate action (Attachment D).

Despite this, progress continues in advancing retrofits of residential and commercial buildings and transitioning vehicles to all-electric. The pace of reductions needs to be accelerated. Below are a few efforts underway:

Commute Trip Reduction

- In early 2026, the interdepartmental Clean Commute Committee will launch a pilot program, funded by the Board-approved Sustainability Initiatives Fund (SIF), to incentivize County employees to form carpools and take carpool trips.
- Sustainability staff are currently researching existing conditions to assess the feasibility of developing an ordinance to reduce commuter trips from large employers. Once the research is completed, staff intend to return to the Board for direction.

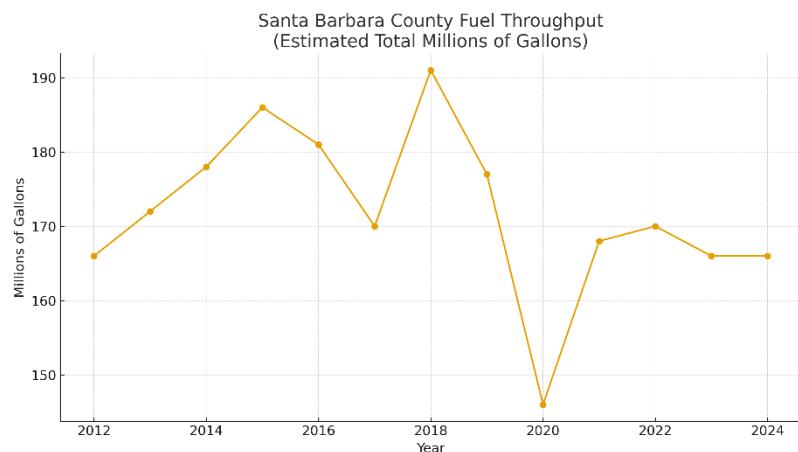
Residential Electrification

- In August of 2025, Sustainability Division launched the Green Appliance pilot program, also funded by the SIF. As presented to the Board, this pilot program provides renters and low-income households the opportunity to obtain readily available plug-in technologies (for example, portable air conditioners, induction cooktops) that can reduce a household's carbon footprint, improve indoor air quality and enhance energy resilience. Over 1,100 applications were received. Staff hope to extend the program to meet all requests by leveraging external funding from other agencies.
- In early 2026, Sustainability Division will be kicking off a feasibility study to explore new models for partnership and program implementation to accelerate the conversion to all-electric appliances and equipment, while reducing utility costs for households.

Fossil Fuel Trends

Retail gasoline consumption in Santa Barbara County has shifted over the past decade. Total estimated fuel sales peaked in 2018, with fuel demand having since plateaued or declined. Total retail throughput fell sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and has rebounded only partially, stabilizing at levels below historic highs.

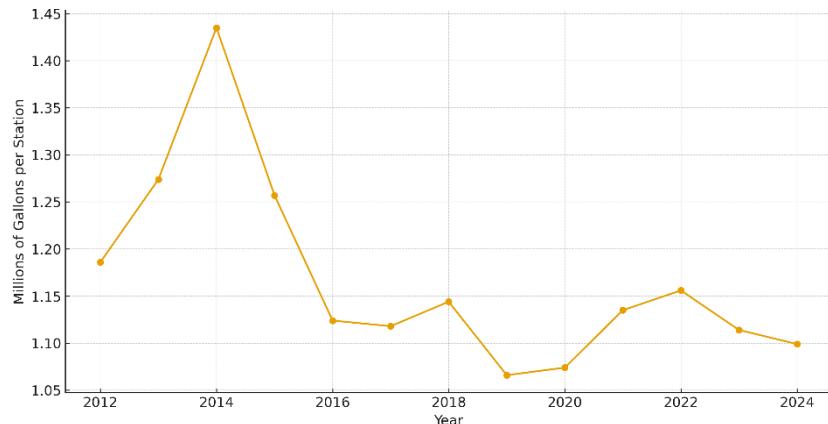
Figure 3. Total Gasoline Fuel Consumption in Santa Barbara County
(Source: CA Energy Commission)



The number of fueling stations has increased moderately over this period. As a result, average fuel throughput per station has continued a gradual downward trend, declining 15% since 2012. This

indicates that even as fuel locations may have increased, overall fuel demand has declined slightly or remained relatively flat.

Figure 4. Average Throughput per Retail Fuel Station in Santa Barbara County
(Source: CA Energy Commission)



Oil & Gas Emissions Trends

While emissions from oil and gas are not a part of the County's official Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory or the County's 50% emission reduction target, based on Board direction staff continue to track emissions from oil and gas operations in the County. Below is the latest available information from the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Table 1. Local Production and Emissions from Oil and Gas

Local Oil Activity	2018	2023	% Change
Well Production Volume (bbl) from CalGEM	3,306,958	2,444,410	-26%
Reported Emissions (metric tons of CO ₂ e) from CARB ¹	122,987	106,791	-13%

- Companies with less than 10,000 metric tons of CO₂e are not required to report their emissions to CARB. Some operators report to CARB and participate in Cap-and-Trade. Cap-and-trade requires regulated companies to transact/purchase allowances and offsets equal to their allowed emissions cap. However, this should not be construed as companies 'offsetting' their emissions.

Per Board direction given on October 21, 2025, staff have initiated the process to develop ordinances that would prohibit new drilling of oil and gas wells and phaseout the operation of existing wells.

Background:

On August 27, 2024, the Board adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan.

On October 1, 2024, the Board adopted the Energy Assurance Plan.

On May 13, 2025, the Board directed staff to prepare a framework, scope of work, timeline and cost estimate to develop and adopt ordinances that would prohibit new oil and gas well drilling and phaseout existing oil and gas well operations.

On October 21, 2025, the Board directed staff to initiate work to draft an ordinance to prohibit new oil and gas well drilling and to issue a request for proposals to prepare an amortization study that would inform a future phaseout ordinance.

Performance Measures:

Each plan has specific goals and targets to be achieved. See Attachment B for more details.

Attachments:

Attachment A – One Climate Initiative 5-Year Review

Attachment B – One Climate Initiative 2025 Progress Report

Attachment C – 2023 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Memo

Attachment D – Summary of Policy Impacts on Local Climate Action

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