

Contra Costa County Climate Action & Adaptation Plan 2024 Update

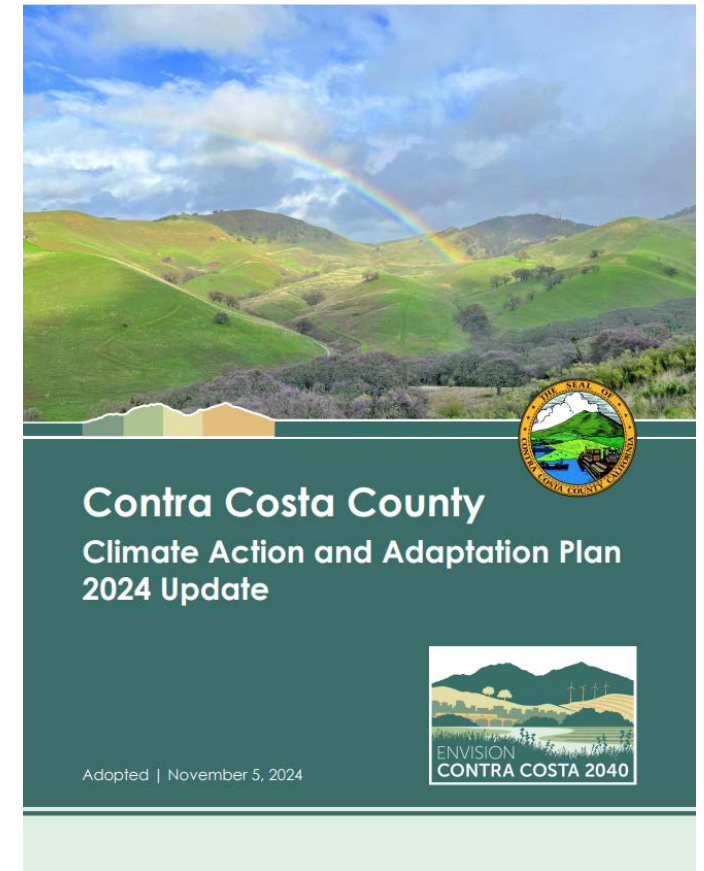


Sustainability Committee
February 10, 2025

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Background

- Board of Supervisors adopted the [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan \(CAAP\) 2024 Update](#) on November 5, 2024
- CAAP was developed with the 2045 General Plan through the Envision Contra Costa process
- 4 themes are interwoven through both plans:
 - Environmental justice
 - Community health
 - Economic development
 - Sustainability
- CAAP is County's strategic plan to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving climate resilience and adaptation, and promoting equity on climate issues
- Includes strategies for community-facing programs and County operations





CAAP Goals

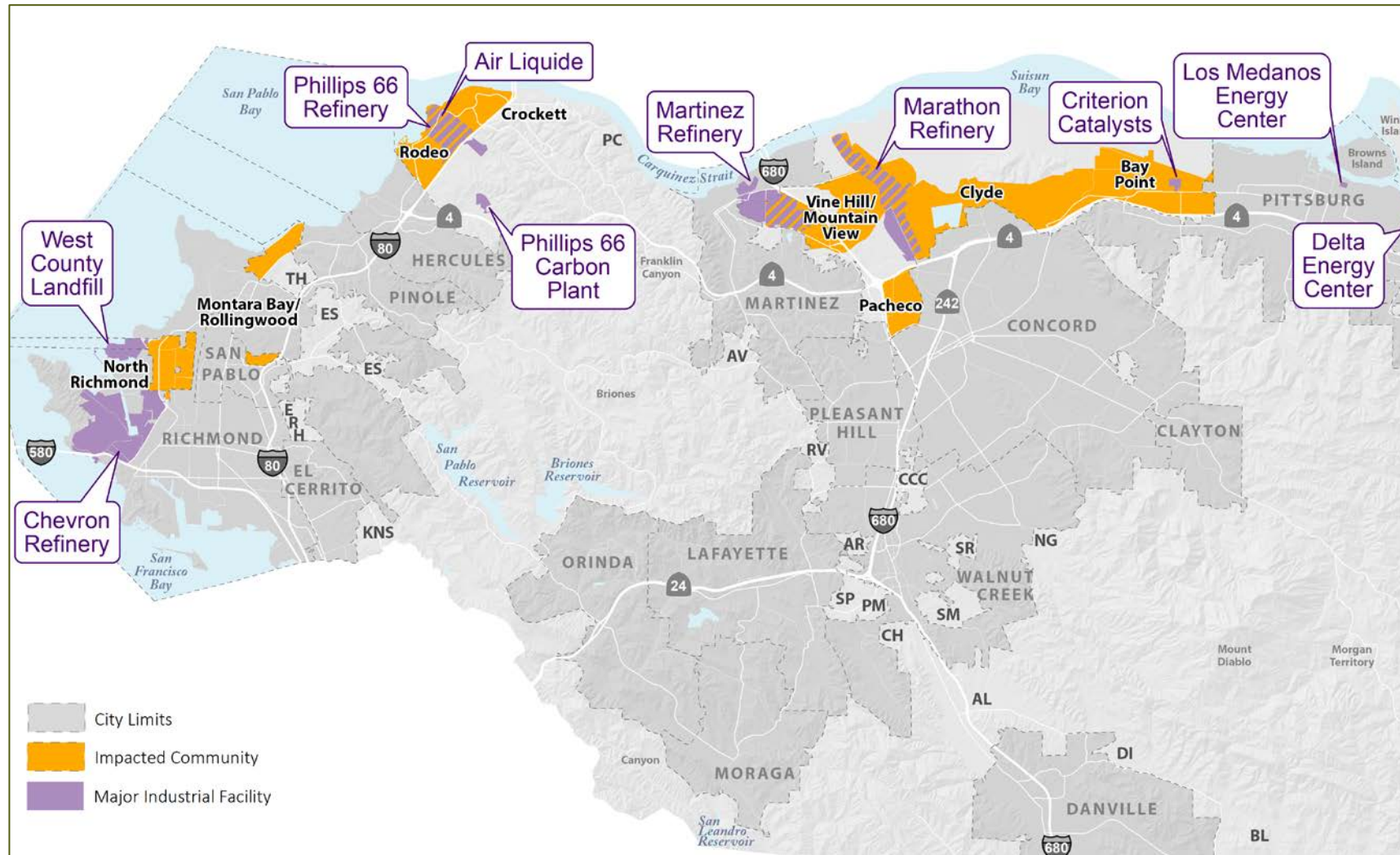
- Strategies and actions support the State's GHG emissions reduction goals through 2045, as established by State laws and regulations
 - Reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 40 percent from the 1990 levels by 2030.
 - Reduce community-wide GHG emissions by at least 85 percent from the 1990 levels by 2045 and be on a pathway to support statewide carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Improving community resilience to climate hazards through adaptation

Sector	2005 MTCO ₂ e	2013 MTCO ₂ e	2017 MTCO ₂ e	Percent change 2017 from 2013	2017 Percent of Total
Residential energy	274,690	258,420	252,730	-8%	20.7%
Nonresidential energy	118,740	125,350	122,040 *†	3%	10%
Solid waste	48,450	26,540	25,570	-47%	2%
Landfill	193,950	196,500	197,710	2%	16%
On-road transportation	628,200	651,130	550,490 †	-12%	45%
BART	2,300	2,680	1,350	-41%	.001%
Off-road equipment	71,880	66,230	17,580	-76%	.01%
Water and wastewater	8,080	7,400	5,690	-30%	.004%
Agriculture	57,320	58,200	46,180	-19%	3.7%
Total	1,403,610	1,392,450	1,219,340	-13%	
* 2013 data used as a proxy.					
† Subject to potential revisions as new data become available. MTCO ₂ e = metric tons equivalent of carbon dioxide					

February 2025

Transportation
and buildings are
key emissions
sources we can
influence.

What Motivates Us



CAAP Strategies: Clean and Efficient Built Environment

Homes, workplaces, and businesses in unincorporated Contra Costa County run efficiently on clean energy.

Clean and Efficient Built Environment

Community-Facing Programs

- **Adopt new or modified reach codes** that require higher energy efficiency and lower GHG emissions
- Support **energy efficient and carbon-free** retrofits in homes and businesses through education, policies, and programs
- Create a County **roadmap** to support converting buildings to rely on low-carbon or carbon-free energy using an equitable framework
- Study what the County should do to support **low-carbon concrete**
- Encourage project applicants to incorporate **sustainable building strategies, solar, and battery storage** into their projects
- Explore opportunities to install **community solar**

County Operations

- Design and construct new County facilities to be **zero-net energy**
- **Track energy and water use** and **conduct upgrades** of County facilities, including conversion to all-electric space and water heating
- Continue enrolling County facilities' electricity accounts in **MCE's Deep Green** tier
- Explore developing **microgrids** for County facilities



CAAP Strategies:

No Waste Contra Costa

Contra Costa County disposes of no more solid waste than 2.2 pounds per person per day (PPD).

No Waste Contra Costa



If the CAAP meets its goals, in 2045 the largest source of GHG emissions will be from material *already deposited* in landfills.

Community-Facing Programs

- Increase community-wide **composting** of organic waste, **recycling**, and **waste minimization programs**
 - Franchise agreements
 - Landfill operations
- Support edible **food recovery programs**
- **Reduce emissions** from landfill gas

County Operations

- **Reduce waste** and implement **three-stream collection** at County facilities
 - This and other CAAP goals should be included in lease agreements
- Implement the **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**

CAAP Strategies:

Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience

Contra Costa County uses less water, and communities are prepared for drought.

Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience



Irrigation pipe in East County

Community-Facing Programs

- Require use of **water-efficient fixtures**
- Encourage use of **drought-tolerant landscaping**
- Increase participation in **water conservation programs**
- Ensure **sustainable and diverse water supplies**
 - Including expanding recycled water systems

County Operations

- **Monitor water use** and implement additional ways to **reduce water use**
- Implement **drought-tolerant landscaping at County facilities**
- Evaluate opportunities for **graywater use**

CAAP Strategies: Clean Transportation Network

Contra Costa County's transportation network provides safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and transit. If residents and workers are driving, they are in zero-emission vehicles.

Clean Transportation Network

Community-Facing Programs

- Expand **bicycle, micromobility, public transit, and pedestrian infrastructure**
 - Implement the County's County Road Improvement and Preservation Program, Complete Streets checklist, Vision Zero Report and Action Plan, and Active Transportation Plan
- Build out **countywide bicycle and pedestrian network**
- Support efforts to **expand service area, frequency, and regional integration of transit systems**
- Support establishment of a **shared mobility program** and bicycle repair programs
- Increase access to **zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure**
- **Facilitate the transition to zero-emission vehicles** across communities, vehicle types, and sectors
- Support implementation of CCTA's **Contra Costa County Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint**

County Operations

- Implement programs to encourage transit use, bicycling, walking, telecommuting, and use of **alternative vehicle fuels** by County employees
- Require **new County vehicles to be zero-emission**
- Install **zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure** at County facilities to support fleet transition
- **Educate and empower County staff** to use zero-emission vehicles



CAAP Strategies:

Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

*Contra Costa County will increase resilience to climate hazards
and foster community health.*

Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Community-Facing Programs

- Support the use of **ecosystem restoration** and **green infrastructure** to adapt to climate change
- Prepare a **sea level rise adaptation plan**
- **Protect against and adapt to wildfire** events
 - Development requirements
 - Wildfire mitigation efforts
- Develop a **resilience hub master plan**
- Pursue **implementation of carbon sequestration feasibility study recommendations**, *Healthy Lands, Healthy People*
- Prepare an **Urban Forest Management Plan** to support expanded tree planting and maintenance
- Support and fund efforts to enhance **community and cross-sector engagement in community-level resilience**

County Operations

- Explore ways to **increase carbon sequestration** on County-owned properties
- Promote installation of **drought-tolerant green infrastructure**, including street trees
- **Consider projected impacts of climate change** when siting, designing, and identifying costs of County capital investment projects



CAAP Strategies: Climate Equity

Contra Costa County will address environmental factors leading to health disparities, promote safe and livable communities, and promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility.

Climate Equity

Community-Facing Programs

- Secure funding, in partnership with CBOs, to **provide low-cost or free home improvements** in Impacted Communities, e.g., air conditioning and filtration, solar and energy storage systems, and energy efficiency
- Support **transition from highly polluting industries to a net-zero emission economy** based on renewable and sustainable industries that provide living-wage jobs
- Continually **engage communities most affected by climate change** in developing and implementing climate solutions
- Increase access to **parks and open space**
- Ensure residents have **equitable, year-round access to affordable, local fresh food**, through farmers' markets, urban gardens, and grocery markets

County Operations

- Ensure **equitable investment in infrastructure and services in Impacted Communities** through County planning and expenditures
- Incorporate **addressing climate change, providing climate solutions, and enhancing community equity** more fully into County operations and services
- Include the use of **Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria** in investments, including investments related to the Contra Costa Employees Retirement Association, County's Deferred Compensation Plan, and County investment policy

CAAP Strategies: Leadership

Contra Costa County is a model for how local government can take action on climate issues.

Leadership

Community-Facing Programs

- Support legislative efforts to establish a **green bank** to equitably finance sustainability projects
- Ensure funding mechanisms to address climate change minimize or **avoid disproportionate financial impacts to Impacted Communities**



Department of Child Support Services staff with a new portable electric vehicle charger.

County Operations

- Encourage adoption of the **County's Green Business Program** best practices
- Explore funding mechanisms to **support the County's Sustainability Fund** for investments in County facilities
- Facilitate **trainings for County staff** on climate change
- Encourage County employees to **explore innovative technologies and programs** that address climate change
- Incorporate **integrated pest management** on County properties
- Implement the County's **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**, including in the contracting process
- Consider development standards for the **disclosure of climate and equity effects and vulnerabilities** in staff reports for the Board of Supervisors
- **Assess County programs, policies, operations, and projects** for their contribution to achieving the County's GHG emissions reduction goals

CAAP Strategies: Implementation

Contra Costa County will ensure it follows through to achieve the goals and actions in this Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Implementation



Green Government Group (G3) Champions tour the TRUE Gold- and LEED Platinum-certified new administration building at 1026 Escobar St.

The Department of Conservation and Development leads implementation of the CAAP.

- Ongoing CAAP progress reports
- Additional staff through General Fund
- Update greenhouse gas emissions inventory in Year 1
- Continue collaborative partnerships with public agencies, private partners, community groups, and residents, especially those in Impacted Communities
- All County departments can contribute
 - Key partners are Public Works, Health, and CAO

Thank you!
