

**ATTACHMENT A.4**

**DRAFT 2045 GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN  
2024 UPDATE USER GUIDE**



# Draft Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan User Guide

## What is the Draft General Plan?

The Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan is the County's primary policy tool to guide physical changes in the unincorporated areas of the county over the next 20 years. It serves as the basis for planning- and infrastructure-related decisions made by County staff and decision makers. It is built around the themes of environmental justice, community health, economic development, and sustainability.

## What is the Draft Climate Action Plan?

The Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the County's strategic plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to adapt to changing climate conditions, such as heat, flooding, droughts, and wildfires, in the unincorporated areas of the county. The CAP implements the General Plan's policy guidance and addresses behaviors, regulations, and investment decisions that directly reduce GHG emissions or promote climate resilience.

## How can I Participate?

The Draft General Plan and CAP are available for community review and input. Visit [EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org) to view the plans, learn about upcoming meetings about the plans, and provide feedback. You can also email your comments to [advanceplanning@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:advanceplanning@dcd.cccounty.us)



## What are the major themes of the Draft General Plan?



### Environmental Justice

Environmental justice policies intend to improve the quality of life and health outcomes in Impacted Communities - those that experience the highest levels of historic discrimination, pollution, and social and economic disadvantages.



### Sustainability

Sustainability policies and strategies in the General Plan and CAP conserve resources, improve resiliency, protect the environment, reduce pollution, and enhance quality of life.



### Economic Development

Economic development policies aim to develop the county's workforce and attract and support sustainable businesses and industries that provide living-wage jobs, hire from the local workforce, and engage with communities.



### Community Health

Community health policies guide decisions to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce exposure to pollutants that can adversely affect people's health.



[EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org)

Photo Credit: Jennifer Groth.

# Where can I find the issues I care about in each element?

The Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan is made up of these chapters, or **Elements**, that cover a wide range of topics important to community members.



## Element Name      Important Topics

<b>Stronger Communities</b>	Environmental justice, community health, healthy homes, arts and culture, workforce development, business and innovation, community engagement.
<b>Land Use</b>	Land use designations and map, Urban Limit Line, 65/35 Land Preservation Standard, sustainable growth, quality design, land use and infrastructure coordination, intergovernmental coordination.
<b>Transportation</b>	Transportation safety and sustainability, coordination with other agencies, roadway definitions, connectivity, biking and walking, goods movement, airports.
<b>Conservation, Open Space, and Working Lands</b>	Open space, agricultural resources and economy, ecological resources, water resources, Delta and shoreline resources, historic and cultural resources, tribal communities, scenic resources, mineral resources, energy resources.
<b>Public Facilities and Services</b>	Water and wastewater service, drainage and flood risk, public safety and emergency services, solid waste management, parks and recreation, schools, libraries.
<b>Health and Safety</b>	Air quality, GHG emissions, climate change resilience and adaptation, flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, extreme heat, hazardous materials and waste, seismic and geologic hazards, emergency preparedness, evacuation, noise.
<b>Growth Management</b>	Growth impacts on facilities and services, cooperative planning with regional agencies, efficient land use patterns, infill and redevelopment.

The County's 2023-2031 **Housing Element** was adopted on June 13, 2023. It is the County's blueprint for all housing-related decisions and sets an action plan to meet State required housing allocations and other statutory requirements, and to ensure that housing can be provided for all residents and community members. Visit [EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org) to learn more.

## What about the environmental impacts of new development?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan and CAP will be published in November 2023 and will be available on [EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org). The EIR will evaluate potential impacts to the county's physical environment, examining topics like transportation, air quality, noise, and natural resources. The EIR will help the community and decisionmakers understand the anticipated pros and cons of the General Plan and CAP before they are adopted. Visit [EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org) to sign up for our mailing list to receive a notification when the EIR is published.

[EnvisionContraCosta2040.org](https://EnvisionContraCosta2040.org)