

**SUSTAINABILTY STAFF REPORT FOR
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
April 29, 2024**

Key activities since the Sustainability Commission’s meeting on February 26, 2024, are listed below. Activities are keyed to goals in the 2023-2024 Interim Climate Action Work Plan.

ACTIVITY	2023-2024 INTERIM CAP GOAL
Department of Conservation and Development	
<p>Staff submitted an application to the Ocean Protection Council Senate Bill (SB) 1 Grant Program on March 22, 2024. Staff is preparing an application to the Office of Planning and Research Adaptation Planning Grant Program due on June 3, 2024. If awarded, this funding would be used to support the preparation of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan to conduct a community visioning process and explore short- and long-term adaptation pathways that would guide the County’s response to sea level rise.</p>	<p>Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure</p>
<p>On March 26, 2024, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to secure the County’s \$356,510 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant formula allocation from the US Department of Energy (DOE). The recommended grant activities include: (1) providing energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades at no cost for buildings within the unincorporated area that operate as daycare facilities and (2) funding to retain technical consultants to conduct an inventory of the existing building stock and cost analysis on transitioning low or zero-carbon energy appliances. Sustainability staff will be submitting the grant application to the DOE on or before April 30, 2024.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p>
<p>The draft All-Electric Roadmap for existing buildings, to convert existing homes and businesses to use low- or zero-carbon appliances, is being further revised to incorporate the suspension of enforcement of the County’s ordinance requiring all-electric construction in most new buildings</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p>
<p>The draft General Plan and Climate Action Plan were released for public review on October 17. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released February 9. Public comment on the EIR closed on April 8. Public comment on the General Plan and Climate Action Plan was extended to April 22, 2024.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Staff are working on two grant applications to support development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. The first grant, due May 7, is for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program. The second grant, due May 30, is for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program.</p>	<p>Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure</p>
<p>The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) on April 1 submitted a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application. The proposal is focused on reducing GHG emissions through full electrification of single-family and small multi-family buildings in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the nine-county Bay Area region while addressing systemic barriers to scaling decarbonization.</p>	<p>All</p>

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<p>The Metropolitan Transportation Commission also submitted a CPRG application. MTC’s application is focused on unfunded, near-term opportunities to transform transit stations into mobility hubs that will enable walking and biking connections to transit, shifting trips from single occupancy vehicles to sustainable and healthy ones, and turning 10 BART transit stations into community centers to make transit more inclusive and resilient. All funding will be dedicated to increasing access for low-income residents to use high-capacity transit service and emission free last-mile travel options.</p> <p>County staff contributed to the development of both proposals.</p>	
<p>Sustainability staff contracted with Sustainable Contra Costa using funding from the Bay Area Regional Energy Network to launch the CookSmart Program, a portable induction cooktop pilot program to increase community access to and familiarity with induction cooking technology. The program will provide portable induction cooktops and induction-compatible cookware to up to 100 households.</p>	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment
<p>The spring 2024 issue of the quarterly <i>Sustainability in Contra Costa County</i> newsletter was published on March 28. The newsletter included articles on \$19 million in grant funding recently awarded to the County to support clean transportation and green workforce goals, the new CookSmart Pilot Program, the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Program, the G3 Champions Activity Guide, and more.</p>	Goal 7 - Leadership
<p>On April 24, the Sustainability Team hosted the first quarterly Contra Costa Sustainability Exchange of 2024 to the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Staff from US Fish and Wildlife Services provided a site tour and led an invasive species removal work day.</p>	Goal 7 - Leadership
<p>In the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jody London provided the El Cerrito Senior Club on April 1 with an overview of the County’s work on climate action. • Nicole Shimizu participated as a panelist in the Sustainable Leaders in Action and Contra Costa County Library’s first Climate Careers Chat of 2024 on April 2, sharing her career path as a sustainability professional working in local government. • Emily Groth attended the Rotary Club of Pinole on April 4 to provide information on the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Program. • Jody London and Demian Hardman-Saldana presented to the Pinole City Council on April 16 on the County’s work on climate action and the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Program. • Nicole Shimizu attended the April 16 meeting of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) of Diablo Valley and provided information about BayREN residential programs. • Nicole Shimizu tabled at the City of Pinole’s Earth Walk on April 20 and provided Pinole residents with information about BayREN programs and the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Program. 	Goal 7 - Leadership
<p>Climate Emergency Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Just Transition</i>. Staff issued a request for proposals for consultants who will provide assistance with community engagement, economic analyses, and 	Goal 7 - Leadership

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<p>detailed studies on other topics, in support of the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan. Staff are supporting the Green Empowerment Zone, which met on April 19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force</i>. The Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force provided an update to the Board of Supervisors on March 19. The Green Government Group (G3) Champions meeting on April 10 featured a presentation on the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge from Sustainable Contra Costa. The G3 Champions discussed how to encourage staff participation in the Challenge, as well as Bike to Work Day 2024 and Earth Day activities for their departments. • <i>All-Electric Building Ordinance</i>. In light of the recent federal court ruling in <i>California Rest. Ass'n v. City of Berkeley</i>², the Board of Supervisors on February 27, 2024, suspended the County's all-electric requirement for new construction (Section 74-4.010 (Amendments to the California Energy Code) of the County Ordinance Code). Staff provided an update to the Board's Sustainability Committee on March 18. Staff are identifying alternative strategies to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions the all-electric requirement provided. In addition to research, staff are meeting with other jurisdictions that are have taken similar steps. 	
<p>Sustainability staff continue to monitor state and federal grant opportunities and prepare to apply for projects that will support key climate goals around all-electric buildings, active transportation, sea level rise, climate resilience, and Just Transition.</p>	All
Department of Public Works	
<p>Public Works was awarded \$200,000 in Transportation Development Act, Article 3 funding to construct the following bicycle/pedestrian improvements: Olinda Road Crosswalk Improvements (El Sobrante), Miranda Avenue Safe Routes to School (Alamo), and Timber Point Crosswalk Improvements (Discovery Bay).</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
<p>Public Works will be submitting four grant applications to the State Active Transportation Program to fund the following bicycle and pedestrian projects: Verde Elementary Safe Routes to School, San Pablo Dam Road Diet, Appian Way Pedestrian Improvements, and North Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Network. Applications are due to the State by June 17, 2024.</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
<p>The Walnut Boulevard Bikeway Gap Closure project is currently being advertised and will be constructed this summer. This grant-funded project will widen the shoulder along an 860-foot segment of Walnut Boulevard between Marsh Creek Road and Vasco Road to provide Class II Bike lanes in the unincorporated Brentwood area. Additional improvements include grinding and overlaying the roadway pavement section, and installing a centerline rumble strip, striping, pavement markings, and signage.</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
<p>The Bixler Road and Regatta Drive Intersection Improvements project is currently being advertised and will be constructed this summer. This grant-funded project will construct advance warning signs, rectangular rapid-flashing beacons a</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network

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pedestrian refuge island, additional pavement markings, truncated domes and a pedestrian path at a highly trafficked intersection in Discovery Bay.	
On November 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2023/622 to achieve zero annual transportation-related fatalities and severe injuries on unincorporated county roads. This action officially makes Contra Costa County a Vision Zero Agency.	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
On March 31 the grant-funded North Richmond Watershed Connections Project was completed. Green infrastructure and over 30 trees were installed.	Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
The County is partnering with the Ambrose Park District and Resource Conservation District on a grant-funded GSI project at Ambrose Center Park in Bay Point.	Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
The Flood Control District kicked off its planning effort for a Walnut Creek Watershed Restoration Plan with its partners, the Walnut Creek Watershed Council (WCWC) and the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRC). Several outreach meetings via zoom received input from various agencies, tribes, organizations, and the public. The plan will identify potential restoration opportunities within the greater Walnut Creek Watershed to improve habitat, flood protection, and water quality in and near the creeks.	Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
County staff has prepared a grant proposal for a CEC funding opportunity focused on government fleet EV charging infrastructure. The proposal is requesting \$3.6M for 20 DC Fast Chargers and 158 Level 2 chargers across 14 county-owned or leased facilities. If awarded, this funding would expedite the County's transition to a zero emission vehicle fleet.	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
County Energy Manager presented at Federal Government Energy Exchange Conference in Pittsburg PA, March 2024. The conference presentation track was entitled: <i>Scaling EV Purchasing and Charging Station Deployment</i> . County Energy Manager Brendan Havenar-Daughton provided an overview of how the County is strategically tackling fleet electrification goals, lining up federal and state funding and future-proofing EV charger design across the County. Networking with federal agencies, national labs, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector has strengthened the County's planning and implementation approach to scaling EV infrastructure across the County.	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
Health	
<p>Contra Costa Health has used several funding sources to help clients with poorly-controlled asthma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through grants from the Sierra Health Foundation and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Contra Costa Health 150 MediCal clients with in-home asthma trigger assessments and education and asthma trigger mitigation supplies. Also provided 15 of these clients with energy efficiency/weatherization measures. Funding from the Sierra Health Foundation grant also provided an additional 120 portable air purifiers and replacement filters to MediCal clients through the Youth Ambassador program and the Public Health Nursing Program. 	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 6 - Climate Equity</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the BAAQMD Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative grant, Contra Costa Health provided 70 MediCal clients with in-home asthma trigger assessments and education, and asthma trigger mitigation supplies. Some of these clients will be provided with energy efficiency and weatherization services through a separate contract between the BAAQMD and AEA, a contractor. • Through a grant from the U.S. EPA, Contra Costa Health grant provided pass-through funding to La Clinica and Lifelong to conduct 60 in-home asthma trigger assessments and education to their clients, and provide asthma trigger mitigation supplies. La Clinica and Lifelong also received training about energy efficiency and weatherization services available to their clients. They also had contracts with the BAAQMD to provide their clients with portable air purifiers. • A different BAAQMD grant allowed Contra Costa Health to leverage the grants described above to distribute portable air purifiers to MediCal clients with poorly controlled asthma or other medical vulnerabilities. This grant provided portable air purifiers and replacement filters to 150 MediCal clients through the Sierra Health Foundation grant, 70 MediCal clients through the Bay Area Healthy Homes Initiative grant, 30 Medical clients through the Public Health Nursing program, and 101 people through the Youth Ambassador program for a total of 351 portable air purifiers and replacement filters distributed through this grant. 	
<p>The Community Wellness program accomplished the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk & Bike Leaders Project (WABL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conducted five (5) active transportation promotion tabling events at West County high schools (Richmond HS (2 events), Pinole Valley HS, Greenwood HS, and Contra Costa College Career Day). ○ Created and distributed active transportation travel maps for Richmond High School and Pinole Valley High School to promote walking and rolling to school. • Promoting National Bike Month (May 16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of our Walk & Bike Leaders grant, Community Wellness program staff are promoting Bike to Wherever Day (May 16) at 7 West County High Schools by recruiting volunteers to host Bike Energizer Stations at the schools. So far three (3) schools have committed to hosting Energizer Stations. To support the volunteers, the Community Wellness Program is partnering with West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee and 511 Contra Costa to provide small incentives for students who arrive to school by bike on May 16. ○ As part of a Office of Traffic Safety grant, the Community Wellness Program is collaborating with the Contra Costa Health Community Education and Information Office (CEI) to develop 	<p>Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network</p>

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<p>social media posts to promote Bike to Wherever Day within CCH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of a Transportation Development Act grant, the Community Wellness Program is collaborating with CEI to develop CCH Screensavers promoting the County interdepartmental Bike to Wherever Day Challenge. ● Helmet Fittings/Distribution and Community Resource Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of the Transportation Development Act grant, the Community Wellness Program is working on developing "community safety outposts" for helmet distribution and helmet fittings. The program recently delivered 95 helmets, as well as bike locks, lights, and helmet safety fliers to the Muslim Community Center (MCC) for their refugee resettlement program in Contra Costa. The program also shared 11 helmets to Bike East Bay for students of a bike safety class at the Richmond Multicultural Institute. ○ On April 27, the Building Healthy Communities program will fit and distribute over 250 new helmets to residents at the Bay Point Bike Rodeo and Safety Fair. This event is hosted by the Contra Costa County Office of the Sherriff. ● Walk Audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Building Healthy Communities Program, in partnership with Public Works, applied for and was selected by UC Berkeley SafetREC for their Complete Streets Safety Assessment Program to assess Concord Ave. In March, staff from Building Healthy Communities, Public Works, City of Concord, and Bike East Bay, conducted a walk/bike audit of Concord Ave with a consultant from SafeTREC. Based on the observations and crash data, SafeTREC is developing a report with recommended active transportation infrastructure improvements. 	
<p>Green Business Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Contra Costa Green Business Program (CCGBP) filled a vacancy in January 2024 for a permanent Pollution Prevention Specialist. In addition to supporting Green Business Program administration, filling this vacancy increases in-person bandwidth for business assistance and outreach activities. The new Pollution Prevention Specialist is bi-lingual and can provide direct sustainability and pollution prevention technical support to Spanish-speaking businesses. ● Contra Costa Green Business Program staff tabled at John Muir Birthday Earth Day on April 20, 2024. Staff are hosting a Bike to Work Day Energizer station on May 16, 2024 at the Concord BART station (7am-9am). ● Contra Costa Green Business Program staff are pursuing grant and collaboration opportunities in partnership with the CA Green Business Network (CAGBN) for 1) providing technical assistance to childcare 	Goal 7 - Leadership

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facilities in integrating reusable dishware and low-toxicity janitorial products into their operations and 2) providing energy efficiency support for businesses within MCE territory.	
Office of Communications and Media	
The County's Office of Communications and Media released a series of videos about the Envision Contra Costa project, including videos on the themes of environmental justice and sustainability. Members of the Sustainability Commission were included in some of the videos.	Goal 7 - Leadership
Ongoing	
Staff participated in professional learning opportunities regarding environmental justice, carbon sequestration, climate resilience, communication and facilitation strategies, race and equity, and related.	All
Staff participated in regional activities.	All

Attachments
