



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, September 8, 2025

1:00 PM

11780 San Pablo Ave., Ste. D,
El Cerrito, CA 94530 |

2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 202
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81614339223>

| Dial: 888-278-0254 |
ACCESS CODE: 841892

The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location(s). The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.

AGENDA ITEMS:: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee.

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to Order and roll call.

Supervisor Gioia called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Gioia announced that Supervisor Carlson was unable to attend the meeting, and Lia Bristol from Supervisor Carlson's office is attending on his behalf but not participating as a Committee member.

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jason Crapo, Deputy Director, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Carlson's Office;
Jennifer Quallick, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Andersen's Office;
Tiffany Uhri Chu, Attorney, County Counsel

Attendees: Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair
Cheryl Sudduth
Lisa Jackson
Bruce Ohlson

Present: District I Supervisor John Gioia

Excused: District IV Supervisor Ken Carlson

2. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVE Record of Action of May 12, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: [5.12.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)

This item was deferred to the Sustainability Committee meeting scheduled for November 10, 2025.

4. APPROVE Record of Action from July 14, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: [7.14.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)

This item was deferred to the Sustainability Committee meeting scheduled for November 10, 2025.

5. RECEIVE REPORT on adoption of 2025 State Building Code and RECOMMEND APPROVAL to Board of Supervisors.

Attachments: [2025 CBSC Adoption Sustainability Committee 09.08.25 V2](#)

Jason Crapo, Deputy Director of the Dept. of Conservation and Development (DCD), provided a presentation on the 2025 California Building Code Adoption. Crapo began by outlining the purpose of the presentation: DCD is working on a code adoption ordinance for the Board to consider in time for the ordinance to become effective January 1, 2026.

Crapo explained the State's process of releasing a new building code every three years, with the newest code going into effect on January 1, 2026. Cities and counties can adopt local code amendments that are more restrictive than the State code. The County has historically adopted several local code amendments regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging and energy efficiency. Earlier in 2025, State Budget Legislation (AB 130) was passed which restricts local amendment authority until June 1, 2031, with certain exceptions. The intended purpose of this restriction is to reduce the number of local changes to building code requirements, helping developers reduce their costs and increase housing construction. Crapo explained the significance of each of the six exceptions allowing local amendments to the building code that affect residential construction.

Crapo explained how these exceptions affect the County's ability to amend the new State building code. The first exception allows all adopted local building code amendments in effect prior to September 30, 2025, to continue into the next code cycle. The fifth exception allows local code amendments that align with a jurisdiction's General Plan, permit mixed-fuel residential construction consistent with federal law, and incentivize all-electric construction as part of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy. The fifth exception is expected to be the primary exception for the County to utilize to institute more sustainability-related initiatives such as increasing EV chargers and energy efficiency standards for buildings.

Crapo demonstrated multiple examples that showed how the new State building code may

require fewer EV charging parking spaces in some construction projects than the previous code; the County's current local code amendment requires more EV chargers than the State code in those cases. Crapo recommended the Board continue to keep the current amendment that encourages more EV charger installations.

The 2025 California Energy Code will exceed the energy efficiency standards stated in the County's current local Energy Code amendments, so they will no longer be necessary when the 2025 California Energy Code goes into effect on January 1, 2026.

Crapo discussed the potential for future Energy Code amendments and the requirements listed under AB 130. One requirement for local amendment approval is to show that energy efficiency upgrades required in the amendment are cost-effective, meaning the energy savings over time will be greater than the extra costs to install the upgrades. However, no cost-effectiveness studies have been completed at this point for the County to leverage, so staff recommend monitoring the development of new cost-effectiveness studies and the implications for future energy code amendments.

Committee Discussion:

Supervisor Gioia stated that he is comfortable moving forward with the County's current local building code amendments into the next code cycle and agreed on these recommendations going to the full Board. Gioia expressed appreciation to Crapo for a thorough presentation that answered many questions regarding this complicated field.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

6. ACCEPT public comments and CONSIDER recommending adoption of the Contra Costa County Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings to the Board of Supervisors.

Attachments:

[Attachment 1 Summary of Public Comments Received](#)

[Attachment 2 350 Contra Costa Action Public Comment](#)

[Letter 4-21-25](#)

[County Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings_FINAL
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Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner at the Department of Conservation and Development, provided a verbal report on the final draft of the County's Clean Energy Roadmap (Roadmap). Public comment was received on an earlier draft from March through April of 2025. Staff hosted two information sessions. Feedback gathered on the Roadmap indicated that more detail was desired to align with the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. A new section was added to the Roadmap as a result: the Implementation Action Plan.

This section of the Roadmap outlines the framework for a document, the Implementation Action Plan, that will be published within 12 months after the Roadmap is adopted, which will include a timeline for implementing key items in the Next Steps section. Hardman-Saldana also highlighted the website for the Roadmap, which displays these steps and will be updated with more information regarding new updates to legislation or programs pertaining to the Roadmap, to keep the public updated and invite public comment.

Committee Discussion:

Supervisor Gioia asked if this item would go to the full Board for adoption, and Hardman-Saldana confirmed that the plan is to bring it to the Board as a discussion item in October or November.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

7. RECEIVE Report on Contra Costa Asthma Initiative Grant Project and PROVIDE DIRECTION, if needed.

Attachments: [CC Asthma Initiative Report 7-2025](#)

Demian Hardman-Saldana provided a slideshow presentation on the lessons learned from the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative project. This project studied the relationship between air quality and asthma rates. A map of the county produced during the most recent General Plan update indicates that several areas of the county are in the top 20% of census tracts for emergency room visits related to asthma per 10,000 residents compared to the rest of the state. In 2018-2019, the County received a technical assistance grant to develop a business plan to reduce healthcare costs by making improvements to homes to improve indoor air quality and reduce visits to the emergency room. In 2020, the State and the Bay Area Air District awarded grants to the County to implement this business plan.

The implementation of this effort included home visits for asthma education to reduce exposure to asthma triggers, assessing homes, removing asthma triggers from homes, lowering energy bills, and improving comfort of the home. Results from this project's implementation from 2021-2023 indicated increased asthma control test scores for home visit participants; 12 homes were renovated with asthma reduction measures at no cost to the client or property owner; and a study was done showing the frequency of landlords agreeing to, declining, or not responding to requests for their rental properties to participate in the program.

Hardman-Saldana described the lessons learned from the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative:

- Success of future programs depends on having a tight implementation timeline because lags between steps can hurt participation and follow-up.*
- Future success will require more participation with rental properties, knowing that not all landlords will be willing to participate and goals should be set accordingly.*
- Layering funding from multiple sources will be helpful for successful implementation of future programs.*
- Pairing asthma trigger mitigation services with regional or state energy efficiency programs could be beneficial.*

Committee Discussion:

Supervisor Gioia mentioned a large Chevron fine from a health-related settlement that will provide around \$36 million in West Contra Costa County and asked if staff could look into the best ways that the money can be utilized to reduce asthma while applying any lessons learned from the presented project. Hardman-Saldana agreed to look into ways that money could be used efficiently based on the lessons learned from the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

8. RECEIVE report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee.

Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, stated that the August 25, 2025, meeting was cancelled due a lack of quorum. Instead, Wechsler reported on the previous meeting that took place on July 28, 2025. At that meeting, Dr. Bret Andrews, a neurologist and member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, presented a report on the connection between greenhouse gas emissions, criteria pollutants, and health impacts from pollution. The Commission learned from this presentation that focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions has added co-benefits of improving health across all age ranges in the most impacted communities in Contra Costa.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

9. RECEIVE report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

Attachments: [2025_09_08 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMTE](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, provided highlights from the written report on the County's Sustainability work included in the agenda:

- Staff are moving into implementation of two grant-funded projects: the Urban Forest Management Plan and development of the County's Shoreline Adaptation Plan.*
- The County will be utilizing a portion of funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to conduct all-electric retrofits for licensed family-based daycare facilities.*
- Staff continue to implement the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program through a grant from the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund.*
- An extern from the Rising Sun Opportunity Center is working with staff to update the County's energy efficiency toolkits, which are available check-out at Library facilities.*
- Staff are active in the California Public Utilities Commission proceeding looking to remove gas lines from certain neighborhoods across California.*
- A grant from PG&E has been awarded to the County to study key features for resilience hubs across the county, using the Ambrose Community Center in Bay Point as the first location to consider.*
- Grants have been received by staff in other County teams/departments, such as Transportation, Housing, and Public Works, for sustainability-related projects.*

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

10. **ADJOURN** until the next Sustainability Committee meeting to be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT