



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

AGENDA

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, July 14, 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. 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.
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).
3. APPROVE Record of Action of May 12, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee. **[25-2808](#)**
Attachments: **[5.12.24 Sust Cmte MINUTES-DRAFT](#)**
4. RECEIVE Report on Contra Costa Asthma Initiative Grant Project and PROVIDE DIRECTION, if needed. **[25-2809](#)**
Attachments: **[CC Asthma Initiative Report 7-2025](#)**

5. RECOMMEND that the Board of Supervisors DIRECT staff to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 for the purpose of identifying communities that could potentially be designated to participate in pilot projects of neighborhood-level conversion to all-electric buildings. [25-2810](#)

Attachments: [Attachment A - SB-1221 Gas corporations _ceasing service_ priority neighborhood decarbonization zones](#)
[Attachment B - Article re Richmond Gas Line Removal](#)
[Attachment C - This Oakland Block Tried to Quit Fossil Fuels. Here's What They Learned _KQED](#)

6. RECEIVE report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee. [25-2811](#)

7. RECEIVE report on staff activities that support sustainability goals. [25-2812](#)

Attachments: [2025_07_14 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMTE](#)

8. **ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Committee Meeting to be held on, Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:00pm.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

This meeting provides reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend a the meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any public records subject to disclosure related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at:

30 Muir Rd., 1st Floor, Martinez, CA 94553

HOURS:

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons who wish to address the Committee during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing *9 on their phones.

Public comments generally will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. In the interest of facilitating the business of the Board Committee, the total amount of time that a member of the public may use in addressing the Board Committee on all agenda items is 10 minutes. Your patience is appreciated.

Public comments may also be submitted to Committee staff before the meeting by email or by voicemail. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jody London
(925) 655-2815



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-2808

Agenda Date: 7/14/2025

Agenda #: 3.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: APPROVE Record of Action of May 12, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee

Submitted For: SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Department: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Jody London || Sustainability Coordinator | DCD

Contact: Jody London | (925) 655-2815

Referral History:

This is a standing item of the Committee.

Referral Update:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

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

Fiscal Impact (if any):

None.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, May 12, 2025

1:00 PM

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

2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 202,
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ZOOM LINK

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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.

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Warming, Program Manager, Contra Costa Health;
Jeff Valeros, Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works;
Joe Smithonic, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works;
Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, CCTA;
Danielle Elkins, Executive Director of Planning, Programs, and Policy, CCTA;
Mary Griswell, Sm. Business Enterprise Outreach Liaison, Tax Collector's Office;
Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Carlson's Office;
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Robert Sarmiento, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Samantha Harris, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Salvador Morales, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Ronda Boler, Executive Secretary, Tax Collector's Office

Attendees: Shoshana Wechsler (Sustainability Commission Chair)
OG Strogatz

Lisa Jackson
Carol Mascali
Allison Brown
Andrea Bailey

Present: District I Supervisor John Gioia and 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 from March 10, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes 03.10.25](#)

Record of Action approved.

There was no public comment.

4. RECEIVE report on County Progress in Achieving Active Transportation Goals and Implementing Programs and PROVIDE DIRECTION, as needed.

Attachments: [Presentation on TR-1](#)

The Committee received a presentation highlighting the County's progress in achieving its active transportation goals as part of the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) implementation. The presentation covered a range of topics beginning with an overview provided by Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, of the CAAP transportation goals and the policy levers available to staff to advance these goals. The next update was given by Jamar Stamps, Principal Transportation Planner, on the County's Vision Zero Policy, the County's Active Transportation Plan, and the Complete Streets Program where Stamps highlighted four Complete Streets Project locations:

- *Fred Jackson Way in North Richmond*
- *Danville Boulevard in Alamo*
- *Bailey Road/SR-4 Interchange in Bay Point*
- *Treat Boulevard in Walnut Creek (currently in planning phase)*

Joe Smithonic, Associate Mechanical Engineer, shared the existing and planned paths, lanes, routes, and bikeways in the County, highlighting the regions of the County with high rates of bike/pedestrian collisions and the locations within each supervisorial district where grant funding is supporting active transportation projects. Smithonic discussed the Fred Jackson Way First Mile/Last Mile connection and a bike/pedestrian improvements project along the Treat Boulevard Corridor in Walnut Creek which is currently in the design phase with construction beginning in 2026. Also highlighted were the efforts by staff in developing an interactive web

map to view the County's Active Transportation Plan projects and their status.

Emily Warming, Program Manager for Contra Costa Health's Healthy Communities Program, share the program's goal to improve safety and promote active transportation in the County. Warming provided updates on the Safe Routes to School Programs in the County and the Slow Roads Save Lives marketing campaign. She also reinforced that the County continues working to integrate public health principles into transportation infrastructure planning through the County's Planning Integration Team for Community Health (PITCH) group. PITCH includes representatives from the County's Public Works, Conservation and Development, and Health Departments.

Staff concluded the presentation by highlighting the strategies that continue and accelerate this work which included continuing to leverage General Fund dollars for grant matching, strengthening the connection between the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program (CRIPP) and the Active Transportation Plan, and continued support from the Board of Supervisors for improved active transportation access.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee asked what the measures for success for projects and plans around this work. Smithonic responded citing safety and pre/post counts of active transportation users as the primary metrics..

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. RECEIVE update from Contra Costa Transportation Authority on Active Transportation Goals and Programs.

Attachments: [CCTA SustainabilityCommittee-BoS_ActiveTransportationUpdate](#)

The Committee received a presentation from Danielle Elkins, Executive Director of Planning and Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, both of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA).

The presentation began with a general overview and timeline for the Integrated Transit Plan (ITP) and Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). CCTA is working towards adoption for the ITP in Winter 2025 and for the CTP in early Summer, 2025. As part of this work, CCTA completed a needs assessment concurrently with the CTP development and the report identified transportation needs in the County and opportunities for CCTA to work to meet these needs. These opportunities include continuing to implement the County's Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, advancing Safe Routes to Schools programs, further building out the County's regional active transportation network, and utilizing the CCTA Countywide Toolbox for Designing Safer Travel policy framework. An additional needs assessment was conducted with a focus on Regional Routes of Significance (RORS) which resulted in the following conclusions RORS projects' success.

- *Continue to progress the Countywide Smart Signals project*
- *Continue implementation of complete streets projects*
- *Taking a context-sensitive approach in some RORS by differentiating streets that are intended for moving people and goods from streets that are intended as places for people to*

live, work, and enjoy

Elkins provided an overview of the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CBPP) goals and objectives. The CBPP aims to encourage more people to walk and bicycle in by creating a safe, connected, and comfortable network of bikeways and walkways that increases livability in communities and districts with a focus on projects posing the greatest benefit. The CBPP includes objectives for tracking progress toward these goals which include:

- Percentage (%) increase of trips made by biking or walking*
- Rate of pedestrian and bicycle injury/fatality per capita*
- Miles of low-stress bikeway increase*
- Number of jurisdictions with bicycle, pedestrian, or active transportation plans increase*
- Integration of Complete Streets principles and best practices into CCTA funding and design guidance*

CCTA staff have developed a Dashboards and Mapping webpage to convey the number of projects, project status, and location/project sponsor.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee asked for clarification on the killed or seriously injured (KSI) rates mentioned on Slide 7. Do these always involve collisions with automobiles or does this capture both accidents involving automobiles and accidents not involving automobiles. Staff responded that the metric does include both types of collisions and clarified that the vast majority of these accidents do involve automobiles. The Committee also asked about the intended use for these low-stress safe biking routes, inquiring as to whether they were intended for recreation, commuting, or both. Staff indicated that there is precedent in other regions for utilizing trail systems for economic activity and that CCTA has been coordinating with the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) and other entities to reorient land-uses along these trails to be more compatible with trail access. In response, Chair Carlson highlighted that the Transportation Partnership and Cooperation Committee (TRANSPAC) has also been focusing on increasing accessibility for these active transportation networks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

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

Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, gave an update on the Sustainability Commission's activities. At the last meeting of the Commission spent much of the session working to onboard 17 new members. The Commission also received a presentation from Jamar Stamps on the County's new tree protection ordinance which was well received. Wechsler ended her report by highlighting an upcoming presentation on native trees for the urban forest by the Native Plant Society at the City of Albany Library on May 18, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

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

Attachments: [Sustainability Staff Progress Report](#)

Jody London gave an update on the County's Sustainability work. Staff are working to finalize contract agreements and starting to develop RFPs for two grants the County has been awarded; a grant to help the County prepare for Sea Level Rise as well as a grant to fund the development of the County's first Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). Staff are currently implementing the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). These grant funds will be used to complete an inventory of the County's existing building stock and an analysis of the costs related to transitioning the building to be all-electric, which is currently underway, as well as retrofitting licensed home-based daycare facilities to be more energy efficient and to run on clean energy. Staff are currently working to draft the RFP for the retrofit component of this work. Last week, staff received an official termination letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the \$19 million grant awarded in late 2024. The County is currently exploring options to dispute the termination.

In addition to grants, staff have begun organizing an All-Electric Working Group for Existing Buildings which is open to virtually any stakeholder interested in transitioning existing buildings to be all-electric. Staff continue to work on finalizing the Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings (Roadmap). The public comment period for the Roadmap ended on April 24, 2025 so staff is going through and addressing the comments received and preparing to bring the Roadmap back to the Sustainability Committee over the Summer for recommendation to the Board.

Staff have developed a new program in the City of Pittsburg based on the Pinole Energy Enhancements Program (PEER) model. This new program, dubbed the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Program, is funded through the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund and open to those in the community living near the Keller Canyon Landfill. Currently the program offers additional rebates for heat pumps to community members living in the program area.

London quickly highlighted a few additional items the Sustainability Team is working on:

- Staff continue to monitor the work related to the Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ)*
- On May 1, 2025, the County's Energy Efficiency Ordinance (2024-17) went into effect*
- The upcoming Sustainability Newsletter scheduled to be published at the end of May*
- The latest Sustainability Exchange focused on the County's Green Business Program*
- The Sustainability Team lost its AmeriCorps Fellow due to the Federal Governments' defunding of the AmeriCorps program*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

- 8. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Committee Meeting to be held on, Monday, July 14, 2025, at 1:00pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-2809

Agenda Date: 7/14/2025

Agenda #: 4.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: Report on Contra Costa Asthma Initiative Grant Project

Submitted For: SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Department: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Demian Hardman-Saldana || Energy Principal Planner | DCD

Contact: Demian Hardman-Saldana | (925) 655-2783

Referral History:

In November 2019, a Business Plan was completed through a technical assistance grant provided to the County Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) in coordination with the County Department of Conservation and Development (DCD), Marin Clean Energy (MCE), and Association for Energy Affordability, Inc. (AEA), a nonprofit corporation, to implement a comprehensive home-based asthma program (also referred to as the "Contra Costa Asthma Initiative").

In coordination with the technical assistance team, CCHS submitted a funding proposal to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (now the Bay Area Air District, or BAAD) to support the implementation of the Business Plan and was awarded \$100,000 in March 2020 to implement the program.

In July 2020, CCHS was also awarded a \$527,558 grant with the State of California Department of Health Care Services and Sierra Health Foundation to implement and administer a Asthma Mitigation Project (or "Contra Costa Asthma Initiative"). Both the BAAD and Sierra Health Foundation funding grant agreements with the County allocated funding to AEA to implement the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative project, which provided, among other things, project management for homes selected in coordination with CCHS for enrollment in home improvement upgrades related to energy efficiency, all-electric building retrofits, weatherization, and other such improvements known to improve indoor air quality and reduce asthma.

Referral Update:

The Contra Costa Asthma Initiative project was implemented for approximately three (3) years from 2021 through 2023.

Staff will provide a report on the Asthma Initiative project and discuss lessons learned.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

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

Fiscal Impact (if any):

None.

Lessons Learned: Contra Costa Asthma Initiative

Sustainability Committee

July 14, 2025



Demian Hardman-Saldana

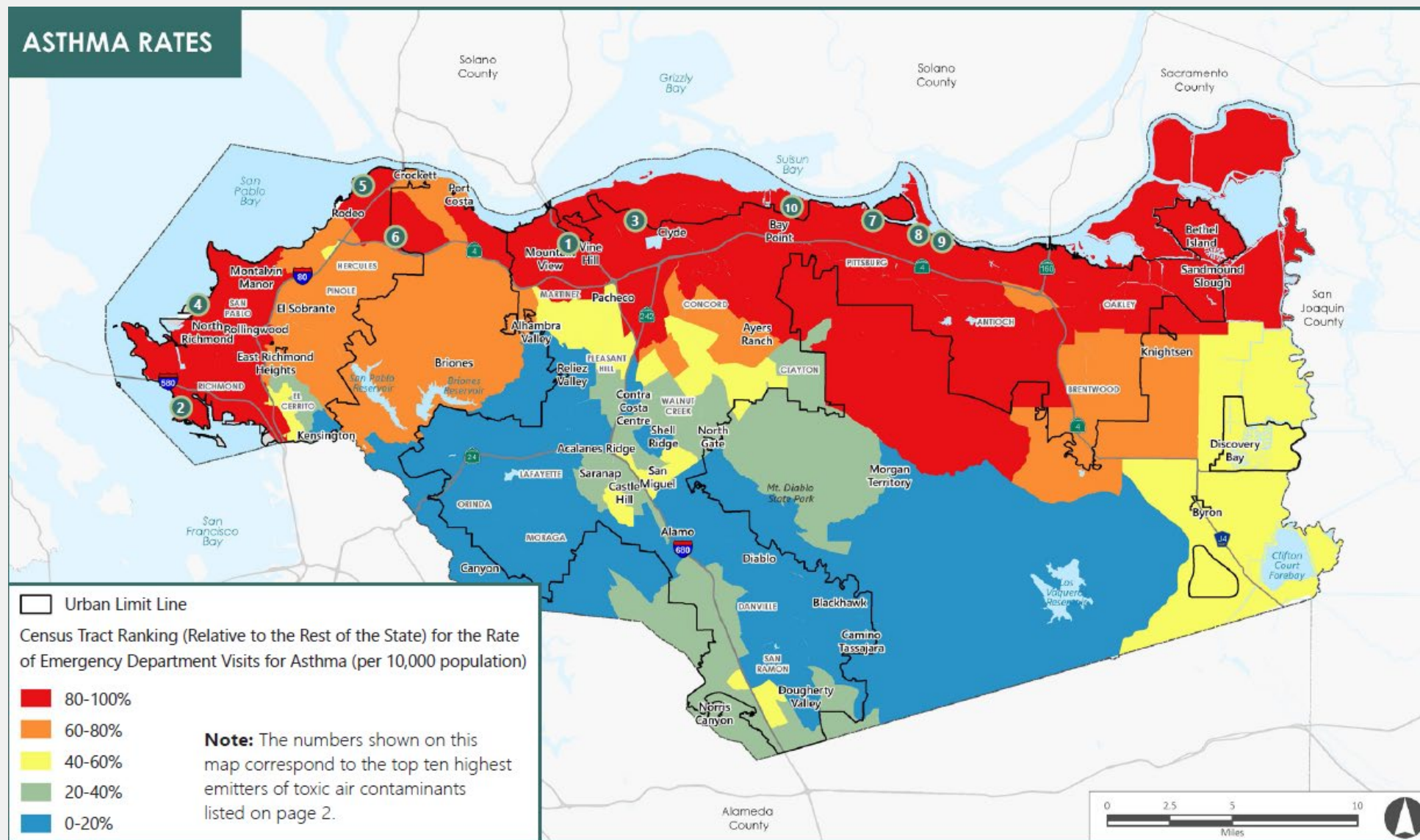
Department of Conservation and Development

County of Contra Costa

925-655-2816 · demian.hardman@dcd.cccounty.us

What Motivates Us

1. Martinez Refinery
 2. Chevron Products Company
 3. Marathon Refinery*
 4. West Contra County Landfill
 5. Phillips 66 – San Francisco Refinery*
 6. Phillips 66 Carbon Plant
 7. Los Medanos Energy Center
 8. Delta Energy Center
 9. Air Liquide Large Industries US
 10. Criterion Catalysts Company LP
- * Approved to process renewable fuel 5/2022.



Funding for the Contra Costa County Asthma Initiative (Asthma Mitigation Program)



2018/2019: Awarded Phase I Technical Assistance Grant from the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative to Develop Business Plan to Expand Services to improve Health Outcomes



2019/2020: Awarded Phase II Technical Assistance Grant from Green and Health Homes Initiative Research feasibility of integrating Project into the State health care billing system



2020: Awarded grants from State and Regional Air District to implement Business Plan



2021-2023: Implemented Contra Costa Asthma Initiative

Connecting County Health Plan clients to reduce Asthma related ER visits with in-home asthma education and energy efficiency services

Program Component

Staffing Organization

Home Visits

3 Home Visits for Asthma Education

Coordinate with PCP on Asthma Action Plan; medication usage training; environmental triggers training; follow up with PCP and care managers

Consumer Supplies to reduce asthma triggers

e.g. green cleaning supplies, hypo-allergenic mattress and pillow covers, integrated pest management, food storage containers



Home Assessment

Environmental assessment

Identify home-based asthma triggers and write remediation scope

Single-Family:
County
Weatherization

Multi-Family:
Association for
Energy Affordability

Trigger Remediation

Remove asthma triggers from home

Moisture issues (mold removal, ventilation, plumbing leaks)
Allergens (carpet removal/cleaning), and
Irritants (HVAC, combustion gases, VOCs)



EE/ Weatherization

Lower energy bills and improve comfort of home

Leveraged funds

Lighting, heat pumps, energy-efficient appliances, HVAC



Asthma client Home Visits

- 150 First Home Visits
- 185 Supply drop-offs for 134 members (some had more than one supply drop-off for air purifier deliveries)
- 64 Third Home Visits
- 37 Forth Home Visits

Your Asthma Control Test Score

20
YOUR SCORE

Average Asthma Control Test Scores before and after went from 15.4 to 18.9



Home Asthma Mitigation Measures Implemented

12 Home Upgrades Provided with Asthma Related Energy Efficiency Measures at no cost to client or property owner

- \$10,797 – Average Cost per Home Upgrade (contractor installation equipment cost only)

3 Homes were served exclusively by the State's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Measures Implemented

- Bathroom Fan replaced – 11
- Kitchen Exhaust component – 8
- Electric Panel upgrades – 8
- Gas Stove replacements – 6
- Duct repair and sealing – 6
- Window replacements – 4
- Minor envelope repairs – 4
- Cleaning Services – 7 homes (2 of 7 received some of the energy efficiency measures above)

Rental Property Participation Rates

Landlord Status	Count of Landlord Status
Didn't Make Contact - Landlord Unresponsive	6
Client was the Homeowner (no landlord permission needed)	12
Landlord Agreed to Services	14
Landlord Declined Services	11
Made initial Contact - Landlord ultimately Unresponsive	6
N/A*	36
Never Reached Out to landlord - Member Declined Services	35
Never Reached Out to the landlord - Member Unresponsive to contact by AEA	50
Grand Total	170
*The N/A includes members who were removed from the list for a variety of reasons. Some of them received virtual visits and/or assessments from AEA and some received no services from AEA. Some were not counted towards the total enrollment in the program.	
Landlord Information Obtained by AEA	n= 37
% Agreed	37.8%
% Declined	29.7%
% Unresponsive	32.4%

Lessons Learned



Success of future programs depends on having tight timeline of implementation – lags between steps in the pilot hurt uptake, participation and follow-up.



Future success will depend on increasing Rental Properties willingness to participate in similar programs. Recognize that not all landlords are going to be willing to participate and that goals need to be set accordingly.



Ability to pull resources from different energy efficiency and other home improvement programs. Only 6 homes received measures implemented by an additional program. Were not able to provide additional mitigation measures to homes served by the LIHEAP program. Layering funding from multiple sources of funding is necessary to address mitigation measures not covered by energy efficiency programs.



Pairing asthma trigger mitigation services through the MediCal CalAIM program with EE programs is challenging because of the different models of CalAIM implementation regionally. In CCC, MediCal CalAIM is implemented through a service provider contracted with by the Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP). TBD if future collaborations between this service provider, CCHP and an EE provider will be possible.

Thank You!



Contact:
Demian Hardman-Saldana
Principal Planner

Contra Costa County
Conservation and Development Department
demian.hardman@dcd.cccounty.us
P: 925-655-2816



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-2810

Agenda Date: 7/14/2025

Agenda #: 5.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: RECOMMEND that the Board of Supervisors DIRECT staff to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 for the purpose of identifying communities that could potentially be designated to participate in pilot projects of neighborhood-level conversion to all-electric buildings

Submitted For: John Kopchik || Director | DCD

Department: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Jody London || Sustainability Coordinator | DCD

Contact: Jody London | (925) 655-2815

Referral History:

Contra Costa County has an opportunity to identify neighborhoods that might be interested in converting all homes in the neighborhood to clean energy by removing gas lines. Contra Costa County has long placed a priority on ensuring that County residents live and work in buildings that operate on the cleanest, most efficient electricity sources available, thereby improving indoor air quality and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases that pollute the environment. Starting in 2010, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the County administered a program that provided energy efficiency retrofits to homes throughout the County. In 2013, with the commencement of the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), the County assumed a more permanent role in designing and delivering energy efficiency programs for residents and businesses in Contra Costa County and the nine-county Bay Area.

Contra Costa County is a leader in adopting policies and programs that improve indoor air quality for residents. The County administers the low-income weatherization program, a program funded by the federal and state governments that retrofits homes to improve indoor air quality, reduce leaks, and install more efficient appliances. From 2021-2023, the County piloted an Asthma Initiative that identified patients of the Contra Costa Health Plan who had the highest rates of visits to the Emergency Room for asthma and referred them for home energy retrofits. In 2023, the County adopted a requirement that new homes built in the County rely solely on electricity. After similar requirements in other jurisdictions were struck down by a federal court, the County in 2024 replaced its requirement with one that sets an efficiency standard that new buildings can meet using a combination of design elements and technologies. The 2024 *Climate Action and Adaptation Plan* (CAAP) sets goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment for both new and existing buildings.

Staff in the Department of Conservation and Development have been studying strategies for retrofitting existing buildings to operate on clean electricity for several years. In 2021-22, staff participated in an incubator with RMI to learn more about the benefits of clean energy in homes in partnership with a local community group (Richmond Progressive Alliance) and begin to develop strategies. The Sustainability Committee has received several reports on the progress of the *Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings* (Roadmap), most recently in March 2025, when staff presented an update on the draft Roadmap. Staff anticipates bringing a final version

of the Roadmap to the Sustainability Committee and then Board of Supervisors for approval later this year.

There are over 50,000 homes in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. A house-by-house approach to providing clean electricity could be lengthy and expensive. One option for utilities and communities is to remove gas lines from entire neighborhoods. This avoids costly upgrades to the gas distribution system and eliminates gas from homes, where methane emissions contribute to poor indoor air quality. Attachments B and C provide information on neighborhood approaches to clean energy conversion in nearby communities.

Referral Update:

SB 1221 (2024, included as Attachment A) requires gas utilities to, starting July 1, 2025, annually submit to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) maps that identify the location of all potential upcoming gas distribution line replacement projects. SB 1221 requires the CPUC by January 1, 2026, to designate “priority neighborhood decarbonization zones” and to facilitate up to 30 pilot projects statewide wherein gas lines would be removed rather than replaced. Those zones would instead be served by “zero-emission alternatives.” Zero-emission alternatives are defined as “methods of providing gas customers with suitable substitute energy service that does not require new investment in gas distribution lines, including, but not limited to, electrification of gas end uses and energy efficiency, thermal energy networks, and demand flexibility measures to alter energy needs.”

Investor-owned utilities like PG&E have an obligation to provide service. Usually that obligation to serve would require the utility to receive approval from all property owners in an area before it removes gas service. SB 1221 states that the pilot projects should include no more than one percent of a gas utility’s customers. It also states that for purposes of the pilot projects, a neighborhood can proceed if two-thirds of the property owners agree, rather than all.

DCD staff participated last month in a meeting PG&E hosted to describe the process by which it will be identifying potential “priority neighborhood zones.” These zones have been tentatively defined as having the following characteristics:

- Disadvantaged or low-income
- Environmental and social justice communities as defined by CPUC
- Support from local government or community partners
- Concentration of gas line replacement projects

Contra Costa County has a large number of Impacted Communities (as referred to in the CAAP and 2045 General Plan) that could potentially be eligible for participation in the pilot projects. While there are many details to work out, most notably how the gas line removal and appliance retrofits will be funded and how the program will be deemed cost-effective, this program could provide an opportunity to advance the County’s clean energy goals and Roadmap priorities.

The CPUC is the lead for implementing SB 1221, and has established the following timeline for identifying potential priority neighborhood zones:

- July 1, 2025 - utilities will publish maps
- July 21, 2025 - utilities propose priority neighborhood zones
- August 8, 2025 - parties submit comments on maps and proposed zones

- August 29, 2025 - parties submit reply comments
- Jan. 1, 2026 - CPUC identifies zones
- Projects must be complete by 2030

The maps that PG&E will publish on July 1, 2025, will include 10 years (about 2000 miles) of foreseeable gas distribution work. PG&E will aggregate by census tracts for public maps; PG&E will provide more details to the CPUC under confidentiality rules. PG&E recognizes that it will need funding and trusted, local community support for these projects to be successful, hence the meeting last month to begin assessing interest from potential partners.

County staff do not typically participate in proceedings before the CPUC. The process of participating in CPUC proceedings involves reviewing relevant rulings and decision from the CPUC, reviewing the information filed by other parties to the proceeding, developing and submitting comments based on review of information submitted by others, and developing and reviewing comments on proposed decisions issued by the CPUC. As seen in the schedule above, the proceedings can move at a pace that does not provide time for staff to report back to the Board and obtain further direction.

The SB 1221 program is in early stages of development. It is too early to know if this will be an program of interest to communities in Contra Costa County. One reason to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 is to learn more about the program and maintain eligibility of Contra Costa communities to participate. In light of the opportunities that the SB 1221 program presents to meet County priorities for buildings that operate on clean energy, staff recommend that the Board authorize staff to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 for the purpose of identifying communities in Contra Costa County that could potentially be designated as priority neighborhood zones.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECOMMEND that the Board of Supervisors DIRECT staff to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 for the purpose of identifying communities that could potentially be designated to participate in pilot projects of neighborhood-level conversion to all-electric buildings.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

Participation in the CPUC Rulemaking will require staff time to analyze proposals, write and submit comments, and participate in meetings or workshops. Through Measure X, DCD receives funds to support work on community clean energy. Those funds can be used to fund staff time to participate in this proceeding.



SB-1221 Gas corporations: ceasing service: priority neighborhood decarbonization zones. (2023-2024)

SHARE THIS:



Date Published: 09/26/2024 02:00 PM

Senate Bill No. 1221

CHAPTER 602

An act to add and repeal Section 451.9 of, and to add and repeal Article 11 (commencing with Section 660) of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to gas corporations.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State September 25, 2024.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1221, Min. Gas corporations: ceasing service: priority neighborhood decarbonization zones.

Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations. Existing law requires every public utility to furnish and maintain adequate, efficient, just and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public.

This bill would require each gas corporation, on or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to submit to the commission a map containing certain information, including the location of all potential gas distribution line replacement projects identified in its distribution integrity management plan and other foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacements. The bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2026, to designate priority neighborhood decarbonization zones considering, among other things, the concentration of gas distribution line replacement projects identified in the maps. The bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2026, to establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, as defined, not to exceed 30 pilot projects across the state and affecting no more than 1% of each gas corporation's customers within its service territory, except as provided. The bill would prohibit the commission from establishing pilot projects on or after January 1, 2030. The bill would require the commission to establish various processes, criteria, methodology, and requirements in administering the pilot projects, including by establishing the criteria and methodology for determining the cost-effectiveness of zero-emission alternatives, as defined, and establishing the appropriate rate of return and recovery period that a gas corporation is eligible to receive for their costs to implement zero-emission alternatives. The bill would authorize a gas corporation to cease providing, and would require the commission to relieve the gas corporation of its obligation to provide, service in an area within the gas corporation's service territory where a pilot project has been implemented if the commission determines that adequate substitute energy service is reasonably available to support the energy end uses of affected gas corporation customers, as provided. The bill would also require the commission to submit various reports to the relevant committees of the Legislature regarding the pilot projects, as provided. The bill would, except as provided, repeal the above-described provisions on January 1, 2031.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or an order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime.

Because the above requirements would be codified in the act and a violation of those requirements or a commission action implementing those requirements would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (1) California is leading the nation in moving toward clean, renewable forms of energy to fight climate change and improve the health and well-being of residents.
- (2) Natural gas demand is already declining as California transitions away from natural gas to achieve the state's energy efficiency, climate, and air quality objectives.
- (3) Without active planning and management, reduced demand for natural gas will result in higher gas rates, with a disproportionate burden on vulnerable customers.
- (4) A longer term planning process is necessary to evaluate zero-emission alternatives, including neighborhood electrification and thermal energy networks, that could avoid new capital investment in the gas system that may become stranded assets and to reduce upward pressure on gas rates.
- (5) Installation of electric heat pump space conditioning systems, which provide both efficient heating and cooling, is particularly valuable in frontline communities to improve occupant comfort and increase resilience to heat waves because members of those communities are more likely to lack access to air conditioning.
- (6) Cost-effective, zero-emission alternatives to pipeline replacement projects both reduce gas system costs and further California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
- (7) Deployment of zero-emission alternatives should prioritize high road jobs for workers.
- (8) Deployment of zero-emission alternatives should prioritize benefits to disadvantaged and low-income communities and include tenant protections.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Public Utilities Commission authorize gas corporations to deploy a limited and targeted number of pilot projects to decommission portions of the natural gas corporation distribution system.

(c) It is further the intent of the Legislature that pilot projects authorized by the Public Utilities Commission will provide lessons, including by identifying, documenting, and reporting on key challenges and successes, hurdles to customer participation, cost and affordability implications, customer satisfaction, and other outcomes concerning natural gas corporation distribution system decommissioning and electrification.

SEC. 2. Section 451.9 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

451.9. (a) Notwithstanding Section 451, a gas corporation may cease providing service in an area within its service territory where a pilot project has been implemented pursuant to Section 663 if the commission determines that adequate substitute energy service is reasonably available to support the energy end uses of affected gas corporation customers.

(b) (1) In determining what constitutes adequate substitute energy service and when the substitute energy service is reasonably available, the commission shall adopt guidelines necessary to ensure that the rates for substitute energy service are just and reasonable as provided by a load-serving entity as the provider of last resort pursuant to Section 387.

(2) The commission may authorize a gas corporation to recover the undepreciated costs of any gas plant or asset, including the cost to retire the gas plant or asset that will no longer be used and useful. The commission shall determine the just and reasonable recovery of undepreciated costs, including the period over which the undepreciated costs are recovered so as to minimize impacts to remaining gas distribution system customers.

(c) This section does not modify the authority of the commission to determine adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service.

(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), this section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2031, and as of that date is repealed.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not affect the termination of a gas corporation's obligation to provide service that is authorized under this section on or before January 1, 2031.

(3) Paragraph (1) does not affect the authority of the commission under this section to relieve a gas corporation of its obligation to provide service within the approved boundary of a pilot project approved pursuant to Section 663 that is pending as of January 1, 2031.

SEC. 3. Article 11 (commencing with Section 660) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

Article 11. Neighborhood Decarbonization Zone Pilot Projects

660. For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Disadvantaged community" means a community identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Distribution integrity management plan" means a plan developed pursuant to Part 192 (commencing with Section 192.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Subtitle B of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) "Gas distribution line" means either a gas distribution main line or gas distribution service line.

(d) "Gas distribution main line" has the same meaning as "main" set forth in Section 192.3 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(e) "Gas distribution service line" has the same meaning as "service line" set forth in Section 192.3 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) "Low-income" means having a household income no greater than 80 percent of area median income or qualifying for participation in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program or Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program.

(g) "Priority neighborhood decarbonization zone" means a zone identified pursuant to Section 662.

(h) "Thermal energy network" means a network of piped noncombustible fluids used for transferring heat into and out of buildings for purposes of providing zero-emission heating and cooling services.

(i) "Tribe" means a California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code.

(j) "Zero-emission alternatives" means methods of providing gas customers with suitable substitute energy service that does not require new investment in gas distribution lines, including, but not limited to, electrification of gas end uses and energy efficiency, thermal energy networks, and demand flexibility measures to alter energy needs.

661. (a) On or before July 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, each gas corporation shall submit to the commission a map that includes all of the following:

(1) The location of all potential gas distribution line replacement projects identified in its distribution integrity management plan and any foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacements.

(2) The city, county, and census tract boundaries within the gas corporation's service territory.

(3) Locations of disadvantaged communities, tribes, and priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, as designated by the commission pursuant to Section 662, that are within the gas corporation's service territory.

(4) Any additional information required by the commission.

(b) This section does not modify a gas corporation's safety requirements under state or federal law.

(c) On or after January 1, 2030, the commission may determine whether gas corporations will continue to be subject to the requirements of this section.

662. (a) On or before January 1, 2026, in a new or existing proceeding and following recommendations from each gas corporation and the opportunity for public comment, the commission shall designate priority neighborhood decarbonization zones. In designating the zones, the commission shall consider factors that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Presence of disadvantaged or low-income communities in high-temperature climate zones or low-temperature climate zones that disproportionately lack cooling or heating.

(2) Presence of environmental and social justice communities as defined in the commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan.

(3) Availability of supportive local government or community partners.

(4) Concentration of gas distribution line replacement projects identified in the map submitted pursuant to Section 661.

(b) The commission shall coordinate with relevant agencies to identify nonratepayer funding, such as state and federal funds, that may be used to execute pilot projects in priority neighborhood decarbonization zones that would be cost effective with supplemental nonratepayer funding.

(c) If pilot projects for zero-emission alternatives pursuant to Section 663 are implemented in a priority neighborhood decarbonization zone, the commission may direct gas corporations and electrical corporations, if appropriate, to leverage other available programs, including, but not limited to, energy efficiency, low-income weatherization, and distributed generation programs.

(d) The commission may, after providing an opportunity for public comment, update the priority neighborhood decarbonization zones as necessary.

663. (a) On or before July 1, 2026, in a new or existing proceeding, the commission, in consultation with the state's gas corporations, shall establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, not to exceed 30 pilot projects across the state and affecting no more than 1 percent of each gas corporation's customers within their service territory. A pilot project where a gas corporation obtains the consent of 100 percent of property owners with natural gas service within the pilot project boundary shall not count toward the 30 pilot project limit.

(b) In administering the pilot projects established pursuant to subdivision (a), the commission shall establish all of the following:

(1) A process for gas corporations to determine and submit pilot projects for approval.

(2) Criteria and methodology for determining the cost-effectiveness of a zero-emission alternative as compared to replacement, repair, or continued operation of the affected asset of the gas system. Nonenergy benefits may be considered in prioritizing pilot projects, but shall not be used to calculate cost-effectiveness. The total cost incurred by the gas corporation for the zero-emission alternative shall be less than the total cost that would have otherwise occurred. Gas corporations shall use nonratepayer funding when available.

(3) Requirements and programs to ensure that a substitute for gas service for low-income customers is affordable, adequate, efficient, and just and reasonable.

(4) A requirement that no less than 67 percent of the property owners with natural gas service within the pilot project boundary consent to the pilot project. The commission shall establish the manner in which consent shall be received and notifications about the pilot project shall be provided to property owners and affected customers. Notifications shall include information about the anticipated costs and benefits of the zero-emission alternative offering. Notifications shall be made available in the zone's prevailing languages.

(5) A requirement for addressing master-metered properties to ensure tenants receive adequate notification and engagement.

(6) A preference for pilot projects that provide prevailing wages and use high road job programs.

(7) A requirement that gas corporations and electrical corporations, local publicly owned electric utilities, load-serving entities, local governments, and, if feasible, core transport agents affected by the pilot project coordinate and collaborate.

(8) A requirement that gas corporations recover costs related to the pilot projects that are deemed just and reasonable and a requirement that prohibits a gas corporation from recovering behind-the-meter costs associated with the pilot projects as capital costs that are afforded a rate of return.

(9) The appropriate rate of return and recovery period that a gas corporation is eligible to receive for its costs to implement a zero-emission alternative. A gas corporation shall not receive ratepayer funding for the costs of a zero-emission alternative that are covered by incentives under federal, state, or local laws.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, if the commission approves a pilot project proposed by a gas corporation pursuant to subdivision (a), the commission shall, pursuant to Section 451.9, relieve the gas corporation of its obligation to provide service within the pilot project boundary upon completion of all affected customers' conversion to zero-emission alternatives. A property owner's withholding of consent to a pilot project shall not give rise to a right to continued natural gas service if the commission approves a pilot project that includes that property within its boundary.

(d) The commission shall not establish pilot projects under this section on or after January 1, 2030.

664. (a) (1) Beginning on January 1, 2029, the commission, in a new or existing proceeding, shall review the efficacy of the pilot projects established pursuant to Section 663 in providing benefits to gas corporation customers and in assisting the state in meeting the state's climate change goals.

(2) On or before March 1, 2030, the commission shall submit to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature a report on the review performed pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) On or before March 1, 2026, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter, the commission shall submit a progress report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature summarizing the findings of the pilot projects, including the locations of the pilot projects, the number of customers affected, the costs of the pilot projects, the funding used to pay for the pilot projects, any assistance provided to customers, and any outcomes, challenges, and recommendations.

(c) Reports submitted pursuant to this section shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

665. In a new or existing proceeding, the commission shall evaluate the costs and benefits of thermal energy networks and identify potential implementation barriers.

666. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) or (c), this article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2031, and as of that date is repealed.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a pilot project that has been established pursuant to Section 663 and is pending as of January 1, 2031, may continue until the completion of the pilot project.

(c) Subdivision (a) does not affect the commission's authorization to relieve a gas corporation of its obligation to provide service within a pilot project boundary under subdivision (c) of Section 663.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.



In California, plans to move low-income neighborhoods off of gas advance

Neighborhood-scale decarbonization is an efficient way to electrify communities that might otherwise be left behind.



By **Twilight Greenaway**, Inside Climate News
26 June 2025



Pacific Gas and Electric gas meter (Smith Collection/Gado/Getty Images)

This article originally appeared on [Inside Climate News](#), a nonprofit, non-partisan news organization that covers climate, energy, and the environment. Sign up for their newsletter [here](#).

In Richmond, California, Zenaida Gomez is ready to say goodbye to the gas stove in the apartment she has rented for over a decade. She has a hunch that the pollution it emits is exacerbating her 10-year-old son's asthma attacks, and she has heard from public health experts and doctors who've said it probably is.

"I've learned that not only do we have contaminated air when we are outside in Richmond, but there's contamination and toxins within our homes," Gomez said in a recent phone call.

She started attending City Council meetings and organizing with her neighbors as a member of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action, because, she said, "I



But ACCE Action's goal isn't simply to get rid of gas stoves. In a city where about one in four people – nearly double the national average – suffer from asthma due in large part to pollution from heavy industry, the group wants to shut off or “prune” the lines that send natural gas into homes in some neighborhoods. The phenomenon is called “neighborhood-scale decarbonization,” and it's just getting off the ground in California.

Pacific Gas & Electric, the utility in the area, is on board with the idea. It has expressed a willingness to spend a portion of the money it would otherwise use to maintain gas lines to help electrify the homes in the neighborhood that will no longer use the gas.

David Sharples, county director at ACCE Action, says the group is looking at different neighborhoods that PG&E has identified as likely candidates. Once the group chooses an area, it plans to run a pilot project with the goal of electrifying all the appliances and adding solar panels and batteries for up to 80 homes.

“We're looking at the Coronado, Iron Triangle, and Santa Fe neighborhoods, which are working-class, Black and brown neighborhoods where ACCE has been organizing for years,” Sharples said. “They all have old gas lines that need to be replaced, so it represents an opportunity to electrify.”

To understand the appeal of neighborhood-scale decarbonization, which is also sometimes called “zonal decarbonization,” it helps to be able to envision the vast network of gas pipelines that exist under most cities in the Western U.S. That network holds a potentially explosive gas, and it requires constant, expensive upkeep.

California has pledged to install 6 million heat pumps by 2030 as part of its larger effort to reach net-zero by 2045. And while a rule will begin going into effect in the Bay Area in 2027 requiring that broken water heaters and furnaces be replaced by electric appliances, a similar rule was just rejected in Southern California.

Experts say a large-scale effort just makes more sense than a piecemeal approach in many parts of the state. And as dramatic as it might sound to transition a whole block or neighborhood off gas at once, the approach may also cost less overall and make it easier to employ people fairly.

Neighborhood-scale decarbonization has also been popular with lawmakers. Last fall, the California Legislature voted to adopt SB 1221, a bill that will enable up to 30 neighborhood-scale projects of this type over the next five years.

The catch is that most residents in the neighborhoods must agree to the change. While the state's obligation to serve currently requires 100% approval, SB 1221 will lower the threshold to 67% as the pilot projects start rolling out. Several groups have begun the work of educating communities about the benefits of the switch.

In Albany, a city of about 20,000 people north of Berkeley, Michelle Plouse, the city's community development analyst, has spent the last few years working with PG&E to pilot one of the first neighborhood-scale projects in the state. Using the gas line mapping tool developed

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potential blocks. This spring, they narrowed it down to three.

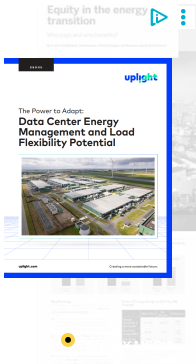
The goal, Plouse said, is to find blocks that are easier to electrify while also focusing on lower-income parts of the city, where residents are less likely to be able to afford to electrify.

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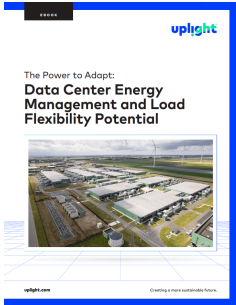
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“What will happen if we don’t decommission the gas line is that the cost of maintaining it will continue to increase over time, and the user base will drop as people electrify,” said Plouse. “The folks who don’t have the money to electrify will be stuck on gas that will get more expensive every year.”



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they've used the funds to support an outreach plan that involves a block party, a focus group, and a team that goes door-to-door in hopes of talking to everyone on the three blocks. "It's going to be a lot of listening and a lot of connecting with different people," said Plouse.

Rachel Wittman, a senior strategic analyst at PG&E, said the utility provided a letter of commitment in support of Albany's DOE grant, but it won't be providing financial support for the project.

Although the California Public Utilities Commission is soliciting interest from communities that want to take part in the SB 1221 pilot program, a spokesperson for the commission said it won't have a list of potential sites until the second half of 2026, at the soonest.

The Albany project will begin before then, so it won't likely be considered one of the 30 pilots, and Plouse said they're hoping to get 100% of the residents to sign on. "What's most likely is that we continue serving as a kind of first test run that can provide information for those pilots," she said. If that doesn't work, they may decide to wait until they only need 67% resident approval.

"Albany's learnings from their efforts in community outreach and advocacy during this project will provide valuable insights that can inform zonal electrification outreach strategy," said Wittman. "This applies not just for SB 1221 and PG&E, but for any utility or community." She said over three dozen cities, counties, and other energy providers have reached out to the utility with interest in zonal decarbonization.

ACCE Action and others in Richmond hope its neighborhood-scale project – dubbed Clean Energy and Healthy Homes – will be included in the list of pilot projects, and it appears to have a good chance at making the list. If they're able to decommission a gas line there, Sharples estimates that it could cost as much as \$15 million to upgrade and electrify homes spanning a few different neighborhoods and provide them with solar power. He hopes PG&E will cover around 10% of that cost.

The Richmond City Council approved the effort in early 2024, but the remaining funding is still in question. Chevron, whose local refinery has been a major polluter for more than a century, entered into a settlement with the city for \$550 million over the next 10 years to avoid paying a per-barrel tax on the oil it produces. ACCE Action wants to see a portion of that money spent on the neighborhood-scale project. The group has been hosting community events and engaging community members like Gomez.

Tim Frank, a representative of the Building and Construction Trades Council in the county, wants to see the project move forward because it could also create a model for so-called high-road work in the home-electrification space. Currently, unionized workers tend to do larger electrification projects, while one-off residential projects are done by smaller companies not affiliated with unions. While some pay their workers well, many hire temporary laborers and keep wages low.

Electrifying all the homes on one block allows for the efficiency and stability associated with larger projects while benefiting individual families. It's also more cost-efficient because it allows for bulk purchases of supplies.



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promise of the strategy and we want to help prove out the model and scale it up," he added.

For Gomez, who has been talking to her neighbors about the possibility that all their homes could be upgraded and electrified at once, the biggest barrier is convincing them that it's not a scam. Richmond's low-income communities have seen their share of companies that go door-to-door trying to extract money from people who are stretched thin and working multiple jobs. Some clean energy providers have turned out to be imposters.

"It's something they've never heard of before. So, people ask: Is this a real thing? Can it actually happen?" And she tells them that yes, if the plan goes as a growing number of people hope it will, it just might.

This story was produced with support from the Climate Equity Reporting Project at Berkeley Journalism.

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Twilight Greenaway is a contributor at Inside Climate News.

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NEWS

This Oakland Block Tried to Quit Fossil Fuels. Here's What They Learned

By [Laura Klivans](#)  Jun 12

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Jesse Hassinger stands amidst construction work outside of his home in Oakland on Nov. 13, 2024, part of the EcoBlock project. As the innovative project to cut gas out of an entire block comes to a close, residents and researchers share their lessons. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

Just before the 2019 holiday season, musician Isaac Zones got an **email**, forwarded from a friend. It asked, “Do you and your neighbors want to save money on your energy bills, reduce carbon emissions and survive the next power outage?”

His answer was, well, yeah.

“Basically, I read it as like free solar for everybody on my block,” Zones said. Zones lives on an East Oakland street lined with century-old single-family Victorians, mid-century, boxy apartment buildings and everything in between.

The initiative, headed by researchers at UC Berkeley, invited entire neighborhoods to apply for major upgrades: energy- and water-efficient appliances, insulation and solar panels, along with a shared back-up battery and microgrid to protect the street from power blackouts. All for free.

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In return, the researchers would get to test out a theory: would retrofitting buildings together, all at once, save money by buying in bulk? Would it save time for a contractor to walk from one job across the street to another? Would people even want to sign up?

The project would tackle a significant but overlooked issue: the planet-warming pollution that comes from buildings and the energy they use. In the U.S., that's roughly one-third of all emissions.

A way to cut that pollution is to wean buildings off fossil fuels like natural gas and swap out gas appliances for electric ones. But doing this home by home and business by business is expensive and slow.



Therese Pepper, a researcher from UC Berkeley's California Institute for Energy and Environment CITRIS Climate initiative, helps neighbors plant trees on a block in Oakland on Jan. 26, 2025. The block is part of EcoBlock, a collaborative project bringing together academics, professionals, government agencies, utilities, private donors and residents. The initiative aims to help an entire city block reduce emissions through insulation upgrades, electric appliances and solar panels. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

So researchers at UC Berkeley's California Institute for Energy and Environment set out to study if there was another way to slash pollution from buildings.

They felt there was already enough attention on how to construct new buildings for a warmer world. “New construction is easy, right? It’s sexy and it’s fun, but it’s not where the biggest problem is,” said Therese Pepper, who heads the project.

“If we’re going to try to really combat climate change, it is looking at the existing buildings in this country,” Pepper said — the millions of offices, warehouses, restaurants and homes we already have.

In 2019, Pepper and her colleagues at UC Berkeley got a **\$5 million grant** from the state of California to test out a new, block-scale approach.

And Isaac Zones was ready to sign his block up as the guinea pig.

Getting neighbors on board

Isaac Zones and his wife, Vivian Santana Pacheco, had always cared about the environment, but their passion grew after they had their child, now in elementary school.

“We want this world to be a habitable one for him,” Santana Pacheco said. “Already, I feel like we’re behind, and that I’m not doing enough. This feels more tangible than showing up to a protest.”



Issac Zones (left) and Vivian Santana-Pacheco (right) stand for a portrait in front of their electric vehicle in Oakland, California, on Aug. 11, 2023. The couple is a part of a group of neighbors in Oakland that are beginning to electrify their home appliances. (Juliana Yamada/KQED)

The pair went door to door, selling neighbors on the project, called “EcoBlock.” The task wasn’t unfamiliar: they’d gone door-knocking after moving to the block almost a decade ago. But that time it was to invite people out for a block party, which has since become an annual tradition.

Asking neighbors to come out for a beer is different than asking them to overhaul their largest asset, but Santana Pacheco and Zones had a lot of success.

Some residents were immediately game: they wanted air conditioning to deal with California's increasing heat waves, and they valued how the project prioritized a low and middle-income neighborhood.

In the end, Santana Pacheco and Zones convinced 15 out of the 25 properties on the block to sign on.

The holdouts

So, who didn't want to be part of EcoBlock?

Steve Johnson lives in a white Victorian that's been in his family for almost 100 years. He's a retired contractor and spent decades remodeling his home.

"I'm 70 years old. I just didn't want to go through a lot of new construction all over again because I really don't need it," Johnson said.



Steven Johnson stands in his kitchen in Oakland on Nov. 13, 2024. Johnson decided against participating in the EcoBlock project. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

His energy bills are incredibly low already, and he thinks there are other ways to tackle planet-warming pollution; things like aviation fuel and shipping.

Plus, he isn't ready to give up all fossil fuels just yet.

“I just can’t imagine not cooking on gas. And the whole EcoBlock wanted to take away the gas,” Johnson said.

That was a major goal of the project — weaning homes off natural gas, which is a **powerful climate pollutant**.

Other people who opted out of the project had done unpermitted work on their homes, and feared they’d get in trouble with the city. And some people felt distrustful of an outside institution leading the project.

EcoBlock faced other hurdles: a pandemic, supply chain issues and inflation.

As prices rose, the project shrank. Instead of an all-electric utopia, EcoBlock would mostly address the biggest sources of a home’s pollution: heating and cooling.

Workers, workers everywhere

Finally, in 2024, construction began.

Suddenly, there were workers everywhere, blowing insulation into walls, replacing HVAC systems and installing solar panels.

“We had this joke on the block: who’s getting the porta party in front of their house? That’s how we know who’s getting construction done,” Zones said.



Salalai Vongsy, a contractor with Eco Performance Builders, works in Jesse Hassinger's home in Oakland on Nov. 13, 2024, as part of the EcoBlock project. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

Now, five-and-a-half years after the block signed on, the work is almost done.

Neighbors are reveling in their new comforts: new heating and cooling, insulation, bathroom fans to improve air circulation, solar panels, new roofs to support them and more. The block has also had a facelift, with chunks of sidewalk concrete ripped up and trees and native plants put in.

Several more ambitious aspects of the project were scrapped along the way due to funding and feasibility limitations: a shared back-up battery, a community microgrid and a shared electric vehicle and charger.

But residents ultimately seem grateful for their upgrades and for having an outside entity coordinate all the details for them.

Did it work?

Now that the first EcoBlock is near completion: Did Therese Peffer and her colleagues' theory work? Is upgrading a whole block faster and cheaper than going house by house?

Peffer's takeaway: yes.

Here is why, and what they've learned.



Nick Corlett stands next to a newly installed heat pump at his home in Oakland on Nov. 13, 2024, as part of the EcoBlock project. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

1. Costs

- **This pilot project was far more expensive than future ones.** The EcoBlock pilot cost \$8 million, funded by a state grant and a private donor. But that included the cost of all kinds of experts, and parts of the project that were designed but never used.

Peffer thinks the next attempt would cost just a third of that, and go much faster. “It takes that first time of kicking the tires and trying to break things to kind of lay that pathway for the next one,” she said.

- **Buying in bulk saves money.** Peffer estimates EcoBlock saved 10-20% on bulk purchases of equipment like appliances, wires and electric panels. They were also able to get more competitive bids from contractors, because multiple homes needed work.
- **Return on investment for energy efficiency for low-income residents faces an unexpected hurdle.** Many low-income residents have discounted energy rates and/or relatively low energy use, which means the timeline for the return on investment for energy efficiency improvements can be prohibitively long, according to the California Energy Commission.

2. **Proximity of buildings helps, but being on the same street might not be so important.** The project contractor, Keith O’Hara, who heads Eco Performance Builders, said his crews saved time by being able to use the last few hours of a day to cross a street and start on a new project, or simply to help another crew carry a heavy appliance. But if a full block isn’t attempting to remove all gas appliances from their homes with the goal of removing a gas main beneath their road, they don’t necessarily need to be on the same block. “I just think it’s really hard to get all those people on the block to agree,” O’Hara said.



➡ Meet the Power Plant Tucked into Garages and Basements

Instead, O'Hara said, homes could be in the same general area as one another.

3. **You don't need to overhaul everything.** While this project had lofty goals, Peffer thinks future EcoBlocks could focus on smaller, more manageable upgrades. "Maybe it's bulk purchasing. Like, 'I want an induction stove, do you want an induction stove? Let's go in together and see if we can get a 10% discount,'" she said.
4. **It all hinges on the neighbors.** Neighbors are crucial to the success of a project like this in several ways:
 - **The neighbors need to be committed.** EcoBlock attempted to do these upgrades on a different Oakland block at first, one that did not raise its hand for the project, and that attempt ended in failure. But having a block volunteer made for much greater buy-in and patience when obstacles came up.
 - **It helps to have a neighborhood where there is already some sense of camaraderie.** Because Santana Pacheco and Zones had built ties through an annual block party, they'd already established a baseline of trust among neighbors, which "made it easier for folks to take a leap of faith and not get

completely discouraged through all the ups and downs,” Zones reflected.

If you don’t have a sense of trust among your neighbors, the first step is to build that: share fruit from your backyard tree, host a gathering or start a group chat.

- **The best publicist for a project like this is your neighbor.** Because your neighbor can better understand your specific interests, they may speak your language or have some other cultural similarity.

“Also because we are sticking it out and probably have as much to lose as they do,” Santana Pacheco said.



Friends and neighbors plant trees on their block in Oakland on Jan. 26, 2025. The block is part of EcoBlock, a collaborative project bringing together academics, professionals, government agencies, utilities, private donors and residents. The initiative aims to help an entire city block reduce emissions through insulation upgrades, electric appliances and solar panels. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

- **Group projects help increase buy-in.** One of the major project funders, the California Energy Commission, reported that aspects of the project, which brought the block together, such as planned tree plantings, increased engagement.

The final EcoBlock solar panels are slated to turn on in the fall. After gathering data about costs and electricity use for some time, Peffer and her team will have more detailed lessons to share, including guides for other blocks to use.

Overall, though, it is the desire people have to build community that has stuck with residents and researchers.

There's "something about tapping into a community and strengthening the real relationships with good people, not the Facebook relationships or Instagram or whatever," Peffer said. "The door to door, the face to face, the people that pass you day to day on the street."

For Zones, the project has meant a lot as he considers how to tackle climate change, which often feels overwhelming.

"So much of it seems like a string of losses. And this felt like a victory of some kind," Zones said.

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-2811

Agenda Date: 7/14/2025

Agenda #: 6.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: RECEIVE Report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee

Submitted For: SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Department: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Shoshana Wechsler || Chair | SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Contact: Jody London | (925) 655-2815

Referral History:

This is a standing item of the Committee.

Referral Update:

The Sustainability Commission Chair provides an update at each meeting of the Sustainability Committee on the work of the Commission.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECEIVE report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

None.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-2812

Agenda Date: 7/14/2025

Agenda #: 7.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: RECEIVE Report on staff activities that support sustainability goals

Submitted For: SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Department: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Jody London || Sustainability Coordinator | DCD

Contact: Jody London | (925) 655-2815

Referral History:

This is a standing item of the Committee.

Referral Update:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECEIVE report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

None.

**SUSTAINABILTY STAFF REPORT FOR
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
July 14, 2025**

Activities since the Sustainability Committee's meeting on May 12, 2025, are listed below. Activities are keyed to goals in the 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
Department of Conservation and Development	
Staff received the fully executed agreement from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant on May 19, 2025. The grant of almost \$1.5 million will support the development of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan. Staff released two Requests for Proposals for technical and community engagement subconsultants to support the development of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan, with bids due on July 7.	Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
<p>Staff continues working to organize and plan the activities which will be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).</p> <p>Staff continues to work with a technical consultant, San Timoteo, to develop an inventory of existing buildings and cost analysis for transitioning the unincorporated County's existing building stock to all-electric to support the County's Draft Clean Energy Roadmap. San Timoteo has already begun work on this task. It is expected that the final Existing Buildings Inventory and Cost Analysis will be completed by the end of 2025.</p> <p>Staff will be working to execute a contract in July with CocoKids to work with County staff to partner and identify licensed home-based childcare facilities that are eligible for energy efficiency and all-electric transition retrofits.</p> <p>Staff will be releasing a solicitation in July to select an entity to implement energy efficiency upgrades for licensed childcare facilities. This task has experienced delays due to recent changes in Federal Government priorities.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
The County has executed an agreement with the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) on the budget and workplan for a \$750,000 grant to support development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. Staff are developing contracts with partners on the project (The Watershed Project, Sustainable Contra Costa, Civicorps, Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County). We received 5 bids to the Request for Proposals for a technical consultant and are in negotiations with one of those firms.	Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
In March 2025, the County accepted public comments on its Draft Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings . The deadline to submit public comments was Thursday, April 24, 2025. During the public comment period, County staff hosted two virtual information sessions (April 9 th and April 16 th) for the public to learn more about the draft roadmap. County staff is currently reviewing all comments received and will bring a Final Draft of roadmap to the Sustainability Committee	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
for a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to consider for adoption later this year.	
<p>On May 1, 2025, the County received a Notice of Termination Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), cancelling the \$19 million Community Change Grant for the North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative. The County is contesting the termination and sent EPA a Notice of Disagreement and a Dispute on May 20. EPA has notified the County that it will issue a decision within 180 days.</p> <p>Urban Tilth, one of the grant partners, has more information about the North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative on its web site.</p> <p>The County submitted a declaration that was included in a Class Action Lawsuit filed on June 25 suing the Trump administration for unlawful termination of the EPA's Section 138 Environmental and Climate Justice Grant Program.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
<p>The County continues to implement the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program, funded through a grant from the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund. The Pilot Program offers rebates to cover up to 50% of the project cost (maximum of \$8,000) for the installation of qualified electric heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in eligible single-family homes. The first phase of the Pilot Program ended on June 30, 2025. Should funding remain available, the Pilot Program may be extended beyond June 30, 2025. Staff presented on the Pilot Program and opportunities to stack incentives with the BayREN Single-Family EASE Home Program at a variety of community meetings in East County.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Just Transition</i>. Staff provided an update that include refining to the Supervisors of Districts I and V on June 16. On May 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that Contra Costa County was awarded \$1.2 million to lead a Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant. Grant funds will be used to develop a brownfields site inventory and conduct 14 Phase I and nine Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to develop five cleanup and five reuse plans and support community engagement activities. • <i>Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force</i>. Staff provided a bi-annual update to the Board of Supervisors on May 20, highlighting community education through BayREN on induction cooktops, and training for County fleet managers on how to use electric vehicle chargers. The G3 Champion meeting on June 11 included a hands-on exercise for sorting recyclables and organics, intended for Champions to present to their colleagues. • <i>All-Electric Building Ordinance</i>. The new ordinance that amends the County building code to increase energy efficiency standards for newly constructed residential buildings, offices, hotels, and retail buildings to meet the County's Climate Action Plan goals went into effect on May 1, 2025. In April, Sustainability staff assisted in preparing training materials and attended 	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 7 - Leadership</p>

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
trainings with building department staff on how to implement the new ordinance requirements.	
Staff organized the second quarter Sustainability Exchange on May 29, 2025, on the topic of heat resilience and resilience hubs. The meeting featured two presentations. The first presentation was from the Office of Emergency Services and Health Services about the Extreme Weather Working Group and the County's present-day response to extreme heat events. The second presentation was from the County of Santa Barbara sustainability staff about their experience running a Resilience Hubs Pilot Program. Participants were invited to share how their jurisdiction or organization is starting to think about resilience hubs and their role in climate resilience.	Goal 7 - Leadership
Because the federal government canceled the Americorps program, the Sustainability Service Corps fellowship for Blake McPherson ended on April 28. The County has been able to hire Blake as a Student Intern through the summer. He will focus on updating the County's greenhouse gas emissions inventory.	All
<p>In the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily Groth and Nicole Shimizu attended the Contra Costa Mobile Monitoring meeting on May 1, East Bay Clean Air Coalition meeting on May 8, and East County Networking Group and Pittsburg Community Advisory Commission meetings on June 4 to update community members about the opportunity to layer the new BayREN Single-Family EASE Home Program with the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program. Jody London and Nicole Shimizu attended the Western Regional Meeting of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network June 16-18. Nicole presented on the BayREN induction cooktop program. Jody presented on the different methods the County and cities use to collaborate. Jody London, Nicole Shimizu, Emily Groth, and Brendan Havenar-Daughton attended the annual forum for the California Climate and Energy Collaborative on July 9-10. Brendan participated in a panel discussion on the importance of regional collaboration in deploying electric vehicle infrastructure. 	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p> <p>Goal 7 - Leadership</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.	All
Health	
<p>Building Healthy Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk and Bike Leaders (WABL): <p>Through the spring, the CCH Building Healthy Communities (BHC) Program and its subconsultant partner Rich City continued to offer its high school active transportation programming in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD), delivering walk and bike safety and encouragement activities at Pinole Valley High School (PVHS), Richmond High School (RHS), and El Cerrito High School (ECHS).</p>	<p>Goal 4 – Clean Transportation Network</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
<p>At PVHS, WABL staff and student club members led a walking/hiking activity for students and families on the Ponderosa Trail, promoting physical activity and health. Club members from RHS, PVHS, and De Anza High also participated in a Community Bike Ride from Richmond’s Lucas Park to the Landfill Loop, followed by a nature walk/hike.</p> <p>In celebration of National Bike Month and the Bay Area Bike to Wherever Day (BTWD) on May 15, BHC and Rich City organized BTWD events at PVHS, RHS, and ECHS. WABL staff, school personnel, and students hosted Energizer Stations, engaging with 65 cyclists, 8 scooter commuters, and 1 unicyclist, and distributed bike safety incentives and refreshments.</p> <p>Additionally, WABL staff conducted outreach workshops and bike safety clinics at ECHS and RHS as part of ongoing WABL programming, engaging Bike, Walk & Hike Club members and the broader student body in hands-on learning and safety activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Development Act (TDA) Grant: Throughout the spring, the BHC Program provided local schools, agencies, and community-based organizations with bike and pedestrian safety resources and educational activities including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helmet Distribution Total Helmets Distributed: 250 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 110 at the Bay Point Bike Rodeo and Safety Fair ▪ 60 to the Muslim Community Center (MCC) ▪ 50 to Monument Impact in Concord ▪ 20 to the Antioch Police Department ▪ 10 at Dover Elementary’s Multicultural Day ○ Bike Rodeos and Safety Education Events Total Bike Rodeos/Hands-On Safety Events: 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond Park Rx– bike rodeo and road safety instruction for kids and families ▪ Bay Point Bike Rodeo and Safety Fair – supported with helmets and the Safe Moves Bicycle Trailer ▪ Balboa Children’s Center (Head Start) – bike rodeo for 27 parent-child pairs, including a CHP-led child car seat safety demonstration ▪ Antioch Bicycle Safety Course – supported with helmets and safety materials ○ Safety Presentations and Community Engagement Events Total Presentations/Outreach Events: 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dover Elementary Multicultural Day – engaged students and parents with safety materials and helmet giveaways ▪ East Bay MUD Resource Fair at RYSE Youth Center – promoted active transportation and pedestrian safety 	

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing engagement with MCC to support pedestrian/bike safety education through resource provision ○ Bike and Pedestrian Safety Resource Sharing Safe Moves Bicycle Trailer Loans: 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concord Police Department – for annual bike rodeo ▪ Bay Point Bike Rodeo and Safety Fair ▪ City of Pinole Police Department 	
Library	
<p>The Library partnered with Sustainable Contra Costa and their Student Leaders In Action for a Climate Careers Chat program on March 27th. The Climate Careers Chats are interactive, quarterly events featuring a broad and diverse range of speakers from green-related careers who share their personal journeys with the audience. These free events aim to educate everyone—from students to seasoned professionals—about available green career paths and include a live Q&A segment at the end of each program. March’s program featured Cat Kiser, an Environmental and Community Steward, and Avril Levasseur, Senior Associate at Point Energy Innovations. They shared their unique educational and career trajectories with the audience.</p> <p>The Library partnered with the Master Gardeners for four programs from March through May of 2025. These programs featured information on planting and harvesting berries, container gardening, firescaping, and edible landscaping. These programs were virtual with 1,400 people registered for the events through the library’s event’s page.</p> <p>The Library has 25 Outdoor Explorer Backpacks that have all circulated consistently through the last quarter with 72 current holds. We are in the process of updating the backpacks with new passes that will no longer expire.</p> <p>The Library has 36 Energy Efficiency Toolkits that have all circulated consistently through the last quarter with 2 current holds.</p>	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
