



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Sustainability Committee

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair  
Supervisor Ken Carlson, Vice Chair

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Monday, November 10, 2025

1:00 PM

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

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

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#### 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 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 Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm.***

**Staff Present:** Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Trish Dominguez, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Sophia Hermelin, Sustainability Service Corps Fellow, Dept. of Public Works;  
Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Energy Manager, Dept. of Public Works;  
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Carlson's Office;  
Jennifer Quallick, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Andersen's Office;  
Samantha Harris, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
John Kopchik, Director, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;  
Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;  
Blake McPherson, Sustainability Service Corps Fellow, Depts. Of Conservation and Development & Public Works;

**Attendees:** Matt Murdock, Shoshana Wechsler, JuliAnne Thomas, Elise Hunter, Tom White, Nicolle Guimaraes, Bruce Ohlson, Charles Davidson, Carol Weed, Lisa Jackson

**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 for the Sustainability Committee meetings of May 12, 2025; July 14, 2025; and September 8, 2025.

**Attachments:** [3a. 05.12.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)  
[3b. 07.14.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)  
[3c. 09.08.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)

*The Records of Action were approved unanimously.*

*There was no public comment.*

4. RECEIVE Report on hydrogen production methods and benefits.

**Attachments:** [4a. Raven - Comparing Hydrogen Production Methods 11.10.2025](#)

*Matt Murdock of Raven SR provided a visual presentation on hydrogen production methods. Hydrogen provides many benefits when replacing diesel applications, including: improving local air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating skilled local jobs, and scaling up zero-emissions freight. Hydrogen is non-toxic and clean, generating only water as a by-product when recombined with oxygen to produce electricity for different applications. Murdock recommended considering the overall outcome when deciding how sustainable any manufacturing or energy production processes that the measure of sustainability for a process should rely on the overall outcome, not one quantitative label or factor. Murdock recommended considering how a process or technology balances energy, water, carbon, and community impact rather than just one measure, like carbon intensity.*

*Murdock explained the three main hydrogen production methodologies: fossil resources, biomass/waste, and water splitting. Fossil resources divide the carbon atoms from hydrogen atoms and produce a solid carbon byproduct alongside the usable hydrogen gas. Biogas reforming and fermentation of waste streams are options of the biomass/waste methodology, which is desirable near waste treatment facilities to turn waste into energy. The water splitting method uses electricity to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen atoms.*

*The carbon intensity of a process measures the amount of emissions per unit of useful energy, while carbon footprint measures the amount of greenhouse gases emitted during the process. Electrolysis has a very low carbon intensity if 100% of the electricity comes from solar and wind power. Electrolysis has a larger carbon intensity if electricity is powered by less renewable sources. Raven SR has been permitted to construct a facility at the West Contra Costa Landfill to convert solid and gaseous waste to clean hydrogen to deliver to hydrogen fueling stations. Murdock discussed local co-benefits, such as circular reuse, water efficiency, and improving air quality. Preventing methane emissions while producing clean hydrogen from that methane provides twice the emissions benefits versus baseline operations.*

*Committee Discussion:*

*Supervisor Carlson expressed gratitude for the presentation and the education about hydrogen production for the public. Carlson looks forward to a future where waste produced in the county could avoid being transported long distances to be dumped and would instead be turned into hydrogen for energy use applications. Murdock also highlighted the opportunity for hydrogen power to be produced from medical waste as well.*

*Supervisor Gioia explained that hydrogen technology is being used more frequently in the heavy duty transportation sector than the light duty vehicle industry, which is prioritizing battery electric vehicles. Murdock said he believes that hydrogen vehicles could catch up with battery electric vehicles in the light duty sector, however a hydrogen refueling network would need to be built before widespread adoption of hydrogen powered vehicles.*

*Public Comment:*

*Charles Davidson, a member of the public, acknowledged that the efficiency of hydrolysis to produce hydrogen gas that is used to power a car is inefficient when compared to using electricity to charge a battery in an electric vehicle, stating that hydrogen powered vehicles have an energy efficiency of ~33% while battery electric vehicles achieved nearly 90% efficiency. Davidson also highlighted that China decided to mass-produce only battery electric vehicles instead of hydrogen due to decreased maintenance costs and the efficiency of electric batteries. Davidson also noted that some unhealthy byproducts of processing plastics for energy can be emitted from processing facilities.*

*Matt Murdock explained that plastic will not be processed at the Raven SR facility in Contra Costa County; it will only process biogenic plastic waste from the compost stream. Murdock also extended an invitation to answer the rest of Davidson's questions outside of this meeting.*

5. RECEIVE report on County Fleet Zero Emission Vehicle Plan and CONSIDER recommending approval of the plan to the Board of Supervisors.

**Attachments:**

[5a. CCC\\_ZEV\\_PLAN\\_11.4.25](#)

[5b. ZEV Plan Presentation 11.4.25 v3](#)

*Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Energy Manager with the Department of Public Works, provided a visual presentation for the proposed Contra Costa County Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition Plan. Policies, such as the County's Vehicle Replacement Policy and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), are ensuring gas-powered cars are phased out and replaced with ZEVs to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Contra Costa County. Nearly half of the surveyed employees at the County plan to buy a ZEV in the next 10 years. One of the strategies in the CAAP is to achieve a zero-emission County vehicle fleet by 2035. The State has nearly \$1 billion in ZEV grants and incentives available to support the ZEV transition for vehicles and charger infrastructure.*

*The County is focusing on installing EV chargers at County facilities prior to buying EVs, and in 2024 began purchasing more EVs to replace County fleet vehicles as chargers are becoming operational at County facilities with fleet vehicles. Presenting three scenarios for EV replacement, Havenar-Daughton highlighted that the most aggressive replacement strategy of replacing all fleet vehicles with ZEVs by 2035 is projected to save ~\$40 million versus the baseline of buying gas-powered vehicles instead of EVs. These savings exist because ZEVs cost*

*less in maintenance and there are lucrative incentives for medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles to be transitioned prior to the California Air Resources Board deadline to do so.*

*Replacing fleet vehicles with ZEVs by 2035 is predicted to reduce 2,880 metric tons of carbon equivalent emissions annually and removes 750 pounds of harmful particulate matter over 15 years, reducing asthma risk to Impacted Communities. This ZEV transition plan aims to first replace the fleet vehicles with predictable, shorter distance driving before larger vehicles with more unique use cases. EV chargers are currently being installed with Measure X funds (Sustainability Fund) as well as other grants. Havenar-Daughton's team is working to publish an EV Transition Toolkit to empower fleet vehicle drivers throughout the ZEV transition.*

*Committee Discussion:*

*Supervisor Gioia highlighted that heavy duty vehicles are often looked at through a maintenance and life cycle cost, while light duty vehicles that individuals buy often don't look at lifecycle costs to inform their purchase decision.*

*The Committee agreed unanimously to move the County Fleet ZEV Transition Plan forward for approval by the Board of Supervisors.*

*Public Comment:*

*There was no public comment.*

6. RECEIVE Report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

**Attachments:**

[6a. 2023 CCC GHG Emissions Inventory Report](#)

[6b. 2023 Contra Costa GHG Emissions Inventory Update PPT](#)

*Blake McPherson, Energy and Resilience Fellow at the Departments of Conservation and Development and Public Works, provided a visual presentation on the results of the 2023 Contra Costa County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory. This inventory was conducted by McPherson during the summer of 2025 while working as a Student Intern. Two different inventories for the calendar year of 2023 were completed: one for unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County and one for municipal government operations.*

*Results of the county's community-wide inventory in unincorporated areas showed an overall decrease in emissions from 2019 to 2023. The sectors of transportation and energy use in buildings remained the two largest sectors of emissions in the county, comprising 46% and 26% of emissions, respectively. Emissions in these sectors have decreased due to increased electric vehicle adoption, lower vehicle miles travelled, and significantly lower emissions associated with electricity generated and delivered in the county. The sector of solid waste contributed 24% of annual emissions, most of which comes from waste-in-place (that is, already buried in landfills). Smaller sectors of off-road equipment, agriculture, water and wastewater, and BART comprised less than 15% of total emissions combined.*

*Results of the 2023 County operations inventory for municipal operations indicated an overall decrease in GHG emissions of 18% from 2017 to 2023. The employee commute sector remained near-constant in emissions, now comprising 69% of emissions related to government operations. However, employee commute would be ~24% higher without the increasing rate of adoption of electric vehicles and increased ability for employees to work from home. Electricity usage in County buildings has decreased, while natural gas usage has increased. Emissions from energy use in buildings are now almost entirely from natural gas usage because electricity was nearly*

*zero-emissions in 2023. Smaller sectors of fleet gas consumption, water and wastewater, refrigerants, and solid waste comprised less than 12% of County operations emissions combined.*

***Committee Discussion:***

*Supervisors Gioia and Carlson expressed gratitude for the presentation and update to the county's greenhouse gas emissions inventory.*

***Public Comment:***

*There was no public comment.*

7. RECEIVE Report on Employee Commute Survey.

**Attachments:**

[7a. CCC Employer Survey 2025 Report](#)

[7b. Sustainability Commission-Commute Survey Report Presentatio](#)

*Samantha Harris, Planner in the Transportation Planning section in the Department of Conservation and Development, provided a visual presentation on the results of the County's 2025 employee commute survey. The goals of the survey were to understand employee commute patterns, promote transit programs to benefit employees, and update GHG inventory data related to employee commute. The survey was hosted by 511 Contra Costa and received a response rate of over 20% of County employees (2,300) with over 550 comments.*

*Results of the survey indicate that most County employees commute by driving alone (95%), yet nearly three-quarters would like to use an alternative mode of transit or telecommuting. Many employees expressed problems with car parking and bicycle parking at select County facilities, the most frequently mentioned site being the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez. The employee commuter benefit program was also not very well-known by employees, and 600+ employees requested more information regarding this benefit. Harris vouched that this commuter benefit program saves her about \$70 per month, through the ability to use pre-tax income to pay for eligible commuting methods, such as Amtrak or busses.*

***Committee Discussion:***

*Supervisor Carlson asked if employees know about 511 Contra Costa's incentives to help their commute. Harris replied that staff will send follow-up information to departments to disseminate to employees regarding all of the programs and incentives available to them.*

*Supervisors Carlson and Gioia expressed appreciation for the presentation.*

***Public Comment:***

*There was no public comment.*

8. DISCUSS Potential Agenda Items for 2026 Meetings of the Sustainability Committee and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

*Supervisor Gioia suggested two topics: updates on the Urban Forest Management Plan and the County's policies on electrification of warehouses because of strategies listed in the CAAP.*

9. RECEIVE Report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee

*Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, relayed a suggestion from the Commission regarding the employee commute survey’s results that indicate increase remote work for County employees where feasible would be beneficial to employees, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Wechsler asked the Committee to instruct the Sustainability Commission on how it can better assist the Committee in implementing CAAP strategies, such as creating programs to better educate communities about new clean technologies.*

***Committee Discussion:***

*The Committee agreed to think more about different ways the Commission can help the Committee. Supervisor Gioia highlighted that many problems, such as plastic pollution, require a multi-faceted approach to restrict manufacturing, clean up past pollution, and reduce demand for those products.*

***Public Comment:***

*There was no public comment.*

- 10. RECEIVE Report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

**Attachments:**                    [10a. 2025-11-10 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CTTE](#)

*Due to time constraints, Demian Hardman-Saldana provided a verbal report on Sustainability staff activity pointing out two of the main highlights of the staff report. The highlights mentioned include:*

- The Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. Staff will soon begin working on the implementation action plan for the Roadmap, which is planned to be completed in 2026.*
- Applications are being processed for a rebate program for heat pumps in the Bay Point/Pittsburg area that is utilizing mitigation funds. Under this program, 13 homes will be retrofitted with all-electric heat pumps to replace gas-powered HVAC systems.*

***Public Comment:***

*There was no public comment.*

- 11. **ADJOURN** until the next Sustainability Committee meeting, held at a date to be determined in January or February 2026.

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**