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Contra Costa County Interim Climate Action Work Plan 2024 Progress Report



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Contents

Executive Summary

Introduction	9
Clean and Efficient Built Environment	9
1.1 Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County	9
1.2 Replace fossil fuel electricity with renewable electricity.....	13
1.3 Increase electrical grid resiliency	15
1.4 Low-carbon building materials and strategies.....	16
Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure.....	17
2.1 Sequester carbon in natural lands in Contra Costa County	17
2.2 Address impacts of heat islands.....	18
No-Waste Contra Costa	18
3.1 Recover organic waste and edible food (SB 1383/Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Program)	18
3.2 Update the County’s existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy	19
Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience.....	19
4.1 Reduce water use in unincorporated County and in County facilities	19
4.2 Manage groundwater resources sustainably.....	20
Clean Transportation Network	21
5.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County by increasing number of people who bike, walk, and take public transit.....	21
5.2 Increase percentage of electric vehicles in Contra Costa County fleet	24
Climate Equity	25
6.1 All residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods, have access to parks, open space, and fresh food, and can easily move through the County.....	25
6.2 Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels.....	26
Leadership.....	27
7.1 Contra Costa County is a leader among local governments on how it addresses climate issues	27
7.2 Implement Climate Emergency Resolution	28
7.3 Build community and County employee support for Climate Action Plan	29
7.4 County investments support climate equity.....	30
Additional Achievements	30
Conclusion.....	31

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Executive Summary








This report provides a progress update on the 2023-2024 Contra Costa County Interim Climate Action Work Plan (Interim Work Plan). The Interim Work Plan outlines the actions the County took to address our changing climate while the County’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) was updated alongside the County’s General Plan. There are seven goals outlined in the Interim Work Plan, which aim to increase the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.¹

This Executive Summary provides a high-level overview of the County’s progress. More detail and additional context is provided in the main report. In general, the County met or made significant progress toward most of the 2023-2024 goals. The icons below indicate the County’s status on the goals included in the Interim Work Plan.










	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
1	Clean and Efficient Built Environment	<i>Homes, workplaces, and businesses in Contra Costa County run on clean energy.</i>		
		· All-electric buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board adopted an ordinance requiring increased energy efficiency standards for new construction after the suspension of the all-electric ordinance. - Staff continue work on the Clean Energy Roadmap to support transitioning existing buildings to clean energy. 	
1.1	Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County	· Energy efficiency and weatherization programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 422 BayREN Home+ projects were completed (25 in the unincorporated areas of the county). - 2 multifamily properties completed projects through the BayREN BAMBE program, with 12 properties in-progress. - 21 businesses completed projects through the BayREN Business program. - Contra Costa County had 1,356 approved Home Energy Scores (83 in the unincorporated areas of the county). - 183 households were served through the County Weatherization Program (26 in the unincorporated areas of the county). - 20 households participated in the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Program. - The County was awarded 3 grants to provide additional energy efficiency and all-electric services. - 3 high efficiency condensing boilers were installed at County facilities. 	






¹ The County’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) 2024 Update was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2024. Going forward, progress reports will focus on the CAAP 2024 Update.

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
1.2	Replace fossil fuel electricity with renewable electricity	- Increase participation in MCE Deep Green program by County facilities	- 88.8% total (residential and non-residential) accounts are enrolled in MCE. 6.2% of these accounts are enrolled in Deep Green. - 98.8% of County accounts are enrolled in Deep Green.	
		- Install more renewable electricity	- 1,170 residential solar permits and 15 commercial solar permits for rooftop and ground mount solar installations were issued. - The County has 7,332 kilowatts of solar installed at County facilities. No new solar was installed at County facilities in 2024.	
1.3	Increase electrical grid resiliency	- Energy storage	- The Solar Overlay Zone Ordinance will be updated through the Envision Zoning Code Update Project. - 145 permits were issued for residential battery energy storage system projects, with an additional 941 battery energy storage system installations included in residential solar permits. - One new battery energy storage system at a County facility is in the design phase.	
		- Energy use reduction in County facilities	- 19 County facilities are participating in demand response load shedding.	
1.4	Low-carbon building materials and strategies	- Consider recommendations from low-carbon concrete study	- Staff continue to monitor State embodied carbon requirements and strategies.	
		- Continue use of zero-waste construction practices in County construction projects	- The County has one True Resource Use and Efficiency (TRUE) gold-certified project: the Administration Building and Jail Demolition and Redevelopment Project. The project also achieved LEED Platinum certification and was honored with the California Green Building Award for Honor in Zero Waste & Circular Solutions. - The project diverted 95.07% of material from the landfill. - The project's use of low-carbon concrete resulted in a 58.50% reduction in kgCO2e emissions compared to the CALGreen industry baseline.	
		- Develop tool to track embodied carbon in material choice for new construction and major renovations	- The tool has not yet been developed.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
2	Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure	<i>Contra Costa County will increase resilience to climate hazards and foster community health.</i>		
2.1	Sequester carbon in natural lands in Contra Costa County	- Carbon sequestration on public and private lands	- Staff have begun implementing recommendations included in <i>Healthy Lands, Healthy People: A Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study</i> . - The County was awarded a \$750,000 grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan.	✓
		- Install green infrastructure	- The County continued to make progress on implementation of the County's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan. Green stormwater infrastructure is treating a total of 6.897 acres with another 10.980 acres to be treated by planned projects.	✓
		- Explore opportunities to incorporate pervious paving in County projects - Encourage applicants to incorporate pervious paving in private projects	- The County incorporated green infrastructure into the Administration Building and Jail Demolition Redevelopment Project, including both a rain garden and pervious pavement.	✓
2.2	Address impacts of heat islands	- Increase number of cool roofs	- 558 permits were issued for residential cool roofs, and 5 permits were issued for commercial cool roofs. - 4 cool roof projects were completed at County facilities.	✓
		- Increase tree canopy in unincorporated County	- The County was awarded a \$750,000 grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan.	✓
3	No-Waste Contra Costa	<i>Contra Costa County generates no more solid waste than 2.2 pounds per person per day (PPD).</i>		
3.1	Recover organic waste and edible food (SB 1383/Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Program)	- Outreach and education to residential and commercial customers in County franchise areas	- Haulers provided information to their customers about Senate Bill (SB) 1383 via mail, contamination tags, and website.	✓
		- Implement weekly organics collection services for all residential and commercial customers served in County franchise areas	- All four of the County's solid waste franchise agreements have services compliant with SB 1383.	✓
		- Explore opportunities to reduce the use of single-use plastics.	- Staff continue to monitor State requirements to reduce single-use plastics.	➔
		- Implement Edible Food Recovery Inspection Program - Educate Tier 1 & 2 businesses per adopted ordinance	- 10 Tier 1 generators were inspected since 2023, and 1 Tier 2 generator was inspected in 2024.	✓
3.2	Update the County's existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy	- Educate County staff on EPP and monitor implementation	- 65% of paper products purchased by the County contained at least 30% recycled content. - The G3 Champions provided ideas and feedback on strategies for promoting and training staff on the updated EPPP.	✓

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
4	Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience	<i>Contra Costa County uses less water and communities are prepared for drought.</i>		
4.1	Reduce water use in unincorporated County and in County facilities	· Promote water conservation	· The County retrofitted all restrooms with motion sensing faucets and toilets at 2 County facilities. · The County receives reports from water districts detailing overall water use.	
4.2	Manage groundwater resources sustainably	· Groundwater Sustainability Plan	· The County continues to implement the East Contra Costa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.	
5	Clean Transportation Network	<i>Contra Costa County's transportation network provides safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and transit. If residents and workers are driving, they are in electric vehicles.</i>		
5.1	Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County by increasing number of people who bike, walk, and take public transit	· Bicycle network in the unincorporated portions of the County that connects to the county-wide network	· 9,500 feet of bikeways were constructed. · The existing unincorporated bicycle network spans 120 miles, which is approximately 37% of the planned network. Grant awards received in 2024 will support progress in this area in the coming years.	
		· Provide pedestrian network gap closures	· 1 pedestrian network gap was closed. · 125 feet of pedestrian pathways were constructed.	
		· Projects that add pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall be tracked over time to document the County's implementation of the County Road Improvement and Preservation Program (CRIPP), Complete Streets, Vision Zero, Active Transportation, and equity-focused plans, programs, and policies	· The County received over \$2 million across 5 regional, State, and Federal grants to support transportation infrastructure improvement projects. · 5 transportation infrastructure improvement projects were completed, and 24 funded projects were in the design or construction phase.	
		· Increase equity in and continue promoting Safe Routes to School, Injury Prevention, and Building Healthy Communities programs	· County won 1 grant of over \$200,000 to promote active transportation and advance bicycle and pedestrian roadway safety. · The Building Healthy Communities Program continues to provide bicycle and pedestrian education and encouragement programming.	
		· Identify strategies and funding to implement recommendations in 2019 Employee Commute Survey of County employees	· The County continues to implement the Remote Work Policy for County employees. Based on a survey conducted in August 2024, 7,750 individual trips are avoided per week because of employees working remotely. · 12 employees used the pre-tax commuter benefit. · The County participates in Bike to Work Day.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
5.2	Increase percentage of electric vehicles (EVs) in Contra Costa County fleet	- Increase number of EVs in Contra Costa County	- All-electric vehicles (EVs) make up about 6% of the County's fleet. - The County ordered 48 EVs.	
		- Install EV chargers at County facilities	- 115 active charging ports were installed at County facilities. - 1,477 public and 905 shared private EV chargers are available across Contra Costa County. - Zero-emission vehicles made up 32.7% of light-duty vehicle sales.	
		- Provide leadership and coordination on transportation electrification strategies outlined in the Contra Costa County EV Readiness Blueprint	- Over \$24 million has been secured for EV supply equipment infrastructure at County facilities. - The County's Energy Manager convenes a monthly meeting for public agencies to collaborate on EV readiness.	
6	Climate Equity	<i>The CAP will mitigate environmental factors leading to health disparities, promote safe and livable communities, and promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility.</i>		
6.1	All residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods, have access to parks, open space, and fresh food, and can easily move through the County	- Adopt environmental justice policies in General Plan update - Ensure Climate Action Plan is equitably implemented in impacted communities	- The 2045 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2024 Update were adopted by the Board on November 5, 2024.	
6.2	Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels	- Implement Community Funding Project grant from U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to support development of the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan Roadmap - Collaborate with stakeholders to develop an inclusive process	- The County completed the required environmental review for the County's Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan, funded by a \$750,000 Community Project Funding grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. - The County is supporting the Green Empowerment Zone and continues to implement the strategic plan for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative.	

	Goal	Tools	Achievements	Status
7	Leadership	<i>Contra Costa County is a model for how local government can take action on climate issues.</i>		
7.1	Contra Costa County is a leader among local governments on how it addresses climate issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue work of Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force - Participation by County departments in County's Green Government Group (G3) Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force met on February 26 and August 14 and provided reports to the Board on March 18 and October 8. - Approximately 85 G3 Champions across 17 County departments participate in the program. - The G3 Champions developed the Low-Waste Office Events Checklist to help County departments save money and resources when planning events. - The Contra Costa County Library launched its departmental Climate Action Plan in August. 	 
7.2	Implement Climate Emergency Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement climate emergency resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution is ongoing. Focus in 2024 was on the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force, G3 Champions, Just Transition, and new ordinance requiring increased energy efficiency standards for new construction. 	
7.3	Build Community and County Employee Support for Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletters - Meetings - Collaboration with cities and community-based organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability staff publish a quarterly Sustainability Newsletter and regular column in the Contra Costa FOCUS employee newsletter. - Sustainability staff have attended and hosted events for community members and local government staff. - The Office of Communications and Media created numerous videos highlighting the County's climate action work. - The County led multiple initiatives to increase community access to and familiarity with induction cooking technology. 	
7.4	County investments support climate equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend the County investment policy to divest from fossil fuels, consider the use of Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria, and prohibit investment in all securities issued by fossil fuel companies - Evaluate the issuance of labeled bonds or other projects to be funded by municipal securities for "Green," "Sustainable," or "Social" - Evaluate the use of third-party certifiers for labeled bonds to promote the integrity of the bond sale and avoid appearances of "greenwashing" - Evaluate the implementation of retail order periods to encourage local retail investors to purchase County bonds, including "labeled bonds" such as Green Bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These measures were completed in 2023 with the Board's adoption of the County's updated Investment Policy and Debt Management Policy. 	

Contra Costa County Interim Climate Action Work Plan 2024 Progress Report

Introduction

This report provides a progress update on the 2023-2024 Contra Costa County Interim Climate Action Work Plan (Interim Work Plan). The Interim Work Plan outlines the actions the County took in 2023 and 2024 to address our changing climate while the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) was updated alongside the County's General Plan through the Envision Contra Costa process. The CAAP 2024 Update and 2045 General Plan were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2024.

There are seven goals outlined in the Interim Work Plan, which aim to increase the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Additionally, the Interim Work Plan allows the County to monitor progress towards its climate goals. Under each goal, there are sub-goals and corresponding actions that will help the County achieve the main goal. Various departments and agencies are responsible for implementing these goals and reporting on measures of effectiveness. The achievements and progress made towards the Interim Work Plan goals in 2024, as well as additional achievements that support the County's climate goals, are detailed below. Going forward, progress reports will focus on the CAAP 2024 Update.

Clean and Efficient Built Environment

Homes, workplaces, and businesses in Contra Costa County run on clean energy.

Increase the number of carbon neutral buildings in Contra Costa County

All-Electric Buildings

On February 27, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) suspended its enforcement of the requirement that most new buildings in Contra Costa County be constructed using all-electric technology (Ordinance No. 2022-02). While Section 74-4.010 will remain in the County's building code, it will not be enforced at this time. The Board took this action because in January 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a similar City of Berkeley ordinance that prohibited natural gas infrastructure in new buildings.

At the same time, the Board affirmed its commitment to the goals that prompted it to adopt the all-electric requirement: improving public health and fighting climate change, and the Board directed staff to look for other methods of meeting the County's CAAP goals while also complying with the Ninth Circuit's decision. On June 4, 2024, the Board directed staff to develop an ordinance amending the County building code to increase the energy efficiency standards for certain types of newly constructed buildings to meet the County's CAAP goals.

The Board adopted Ordinance No. 2024-17 on October 1, 2024, which amends the 2022 California Energy Code to require increased energy efficiency standards for newly constructed residential buildings, hotels, offices, and retail buildings. The ordinance will go into effect once it is accepted by the California Energy Commission, which is expected to occur in early 2025.

Prior to February 27, 2024, seven single-family or duplex residential projects, two multifamily residential projects, 15 ADU projects, and no commercial projects that were issued permits in the unincorporated county were all-electric. *Figure 1* shows the number of projects that received permits in alignment with the all-electric ordinance between June 1, 2022, when the ordinance went into effect, and February 27, 2024.

Figure 1: Permits Issued in Unincorporated County in Alignment with All-Electric Ordinance

Permit Category	Number of Permits Issued June 1, 2022, Through February 27, 2024.
Single-Family or Duplex	158
Multifamily	10
ADU	146
Commercial	4

Staff continued developing the Contra Costa County Clean Energy Roadmap that examines the opportunities, challenges, and strategies for transitioning existing buildings to use low-carbon or carbon-free appliances, as well as supporting the conversion of buildings to rely on low-carbon or carbon-free energy. The Clean Energy Roadmap will help implement actions in the updated CAAP. A draft of the Clean Energy Roadmap is expected to be completed in 2025.

One new County facility was constructed to be all-electric: the new administration building at 1026 Escobar Street in Martinez. Additionally, nine rooftop gas-fired package units that provided heating and cooling were replaced with all-electric heat pumps at two County facilities.

Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs

BayREN

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) provides energy efficiency programs, services, and resources to the nine Bay Area counties. Through October 18, 2024, there were 422 single-family homes in Contra Costa County that participated in the BayREN Home+ program, which provided rebates to single-family homeowners for energy efficiency improvements. \$341,352.25 in rebates were dispersed across Contra Costa County. 25 of the Home+ projects were located in unincorporated areas of the county, receiving \$19,210.30 of the rebates dispersed across the county.

The number of Home+ projects decreased from 2023 levels (*Figure 2*). In 2022, BayREN began redesigning its Single-Family Program to better serve moderate-income and hard-to-reach residents. To prepare for the launch of the [BayREN Efficiency and Sustainable Energy \(EASE\) Home program](#) in 2025, BayREN’s Home+ program rebates were sunset throughout 2024. The [first wave of phase-outs](#) began on April 15, 2024; it included rebates for heat pump water heaters and heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. On October 18, 2024, the [Home+ program was officially retired](#) and concluded all Home+ incentives and Energy Advisor services. Given the sunset of measures throughout

2024 and the uncertainty around when the Home+ incentive budget would be exhausted, Home+ program participation in 2024 was lower than in 2023. See *Figure 3* for participation levels in the BayREN Home+ program across the county.

Figure 2: Contra Costa County BayREN Home+ Projects

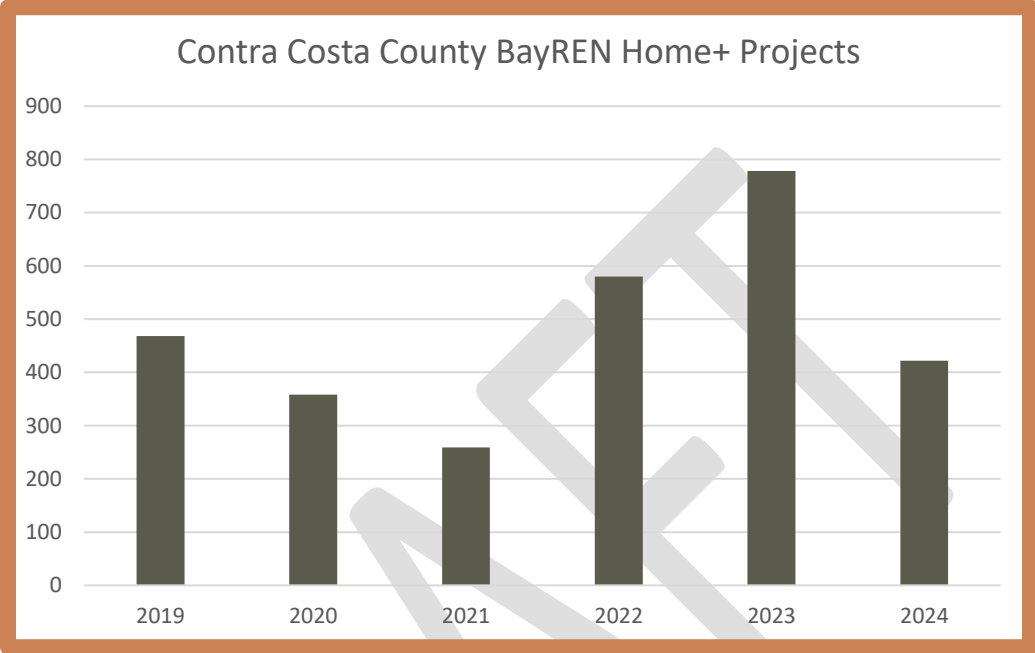
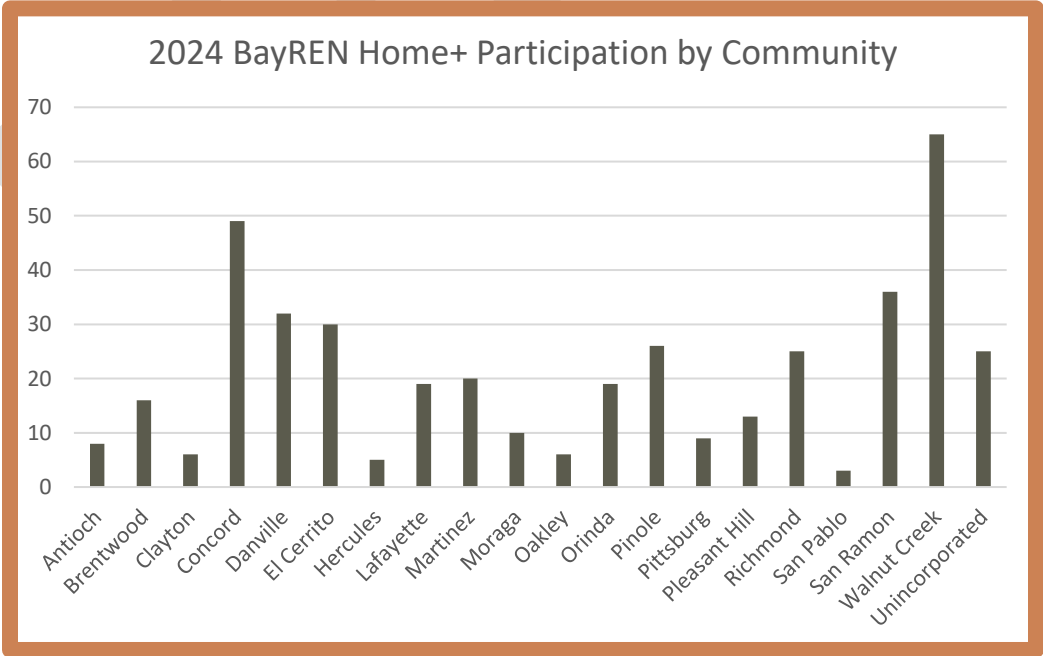


Figure 3: BayREN Home+ Participation Across Contra Costa Communities



There were two properties in Contra Costa County in 2024 that completed projects through the [BayREN Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements \(BAMBE\)](#) program, which seeks to promote energy savings

and enhance resident well-being in multifamily buildings. These projects represented 52 units and received \$93,000 in incentives. 11 additional projects, representing 577 units, are in the technical assistance stage, and one project, representing 141 units, is moving forward with an established scope of work.

The [BayREN Business](#) program supports local, small, hard-to-reach businesses through energy efficiency projects. 21 projects were completed across the county in 2024, saving 85,966 kWh of energy with \$164,738.83 of incentives disbursed across all the projects.

BayREN also offers the [Home Energy Score](#), which provides residents with insights into their home's efficiency potential prior to undertaking home upgrade projects. In 2024, Contra Costa County had 1,356 approved Home Energy Scores, with 83 of these assessments taking place in the unincorporated areas of the county. \$338,450 in incentives for Home Energy Scores were paid out across Contra Costa County, with \$20,750 in incentives paid out to households in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The Contra Costa County Library has Energy Efficiency Toolkits, provided by BayREN and the Department of Conservation and Development, available for checkout, so residents can test the electricity use of their home appliances and the temperatures of their rooms, refrigerators, and freezers. As of August 15, 2024, 37 toolkits have been checked out 645 times and put on hold 293 times since the Library began offering them at all its branches in 2019.

Additional Energy Efficiency Programs and Initiatives

The [County Weatherization Program](#) is a Federal and State-funded program whose purpose is to assist low and/or fixed income people in making their homes more energy-efficient and is available regardless of whether you own or rent and live in a house, apartment, or mobile home. In 2024, 183 households were served through the County Weatherization Program with a total of \$837,346.65 spent on home repairs. 26 households were served in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The County partnered with the City of Pinole to administer the [Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate \(PEER\) Program](#) on the City's behalf. The PEER Program launched on January 1, 2024. 20 households participated in the PEER Program in 2024, with \$105,900 in incentives issued.

The Contra Costa Green Business Program (CCGBP) began serving as a bilingual (Spanish-speaking) outreach partner for the MCE Small Business Energy Advantage Program (SBEA) in fall 2024. SBEA provides small businesses located in impacted communities with access to bill reducing energy efficiency upgrades that also offer health, comfort, and safety benefits. In 2024, CCGBP staff engaged with 29 businesses, and 11 businesses enrolled in SBEA.

The County was awarded three grants to provide additional energy efficiency and all-electric services:

- \$19 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Change Grant Program for the North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative, which includes all-electric home retrofits, a resilience hub at the Urban Tilth farm, improvements to Wildcat Creek Trail, establishing a community garden, rehabilitating low-income housing, establishing an e-bike lending library, installing green infrastructure throughout the community, and creek and watershed stewardship and education.

- \$356,510 from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to retrofit home-based childcare facilities in impacted communities to improve energy efficiency and create a building inventory to inform the County’s Clean Energy Roadmap.
- \$150,000 from the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund to implement the [Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program](#), which offers incentives for qualified energy efficient and all-electric home improvement projects.

The Contra Costa Asthma Initiative was a comprehensive home-based asthma pilot program that provided asthma education and home energy efficiency retrofits to asthma patients referred through Contra Costa Health Services. The Asthma Initiative was funded by grants from the Sierra Health Foundation and Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Both grant terms ended in 2023. The Contra Costa Health Plan continues to offer environmental asthma home remediation and education services to its members. However, this service is no longer tied to energy efficiency improvements or performed in coordination with partners outside of the Contra Costa Health Plan.

Three high efficiency condensing boilers were installed at County facilities in 2024.

1.2 Replace fossil fuel electricity with renewable electricity

MCE Deep Green Participation

As of January 1, 2025, 88.8% of total (residential and non-residential) accounts in the unincorporated areas of the county are enrolled in MCE, equating to 62,627 accounts. 6.2% of these accounts, equating to 3,881 accounts, are enrolled in MCE’s Deep Green electricity service, which provides electricity from 100% renewable energy. As a result of MCE’s generation services, an estimated 12,015.69 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent were reduced in the unincorporated areas of the county through 2023 since 2018 when Contra Costa County joined MCE, a 7.5% savings of CO₂ equivalent compared with PG&E.² See *Figure 4* and *Figure 5* for a summary of overall MCE participation and MCE Deep Green participation across Contra Costa communities.³

Approximately 98.8% of County-owned accounts are enrolled in MCE’s Deep Green electricity service, covering 595 individual accounts.

² The emissions reduction estimate was calculated based on usage data from 2023 and the 2023 emission factor.

³ Only cities and towns that participate in MCE are listed.

Figure 4: MCE Participation Across Contra Costa Communities

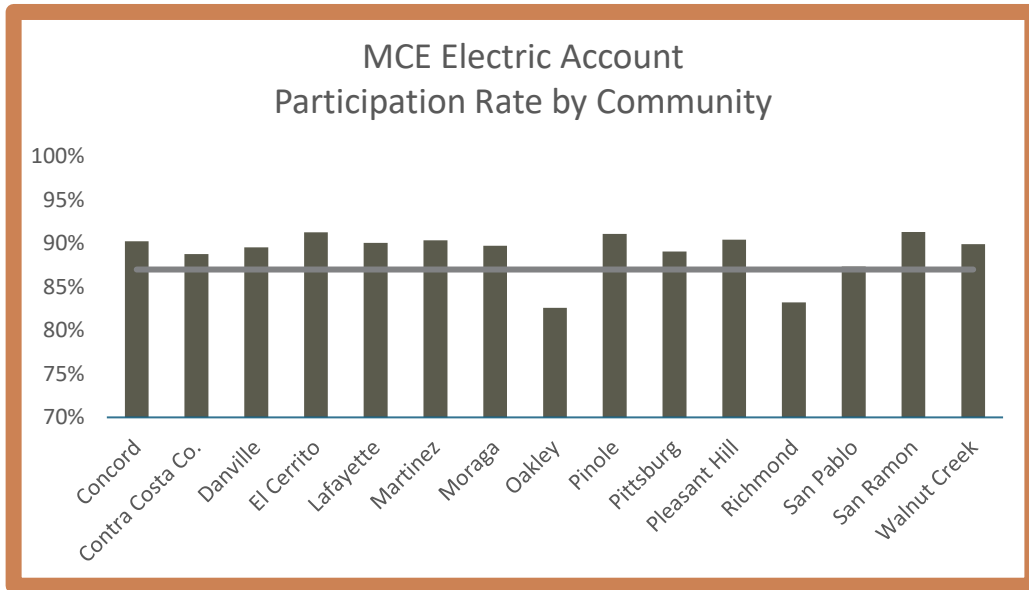
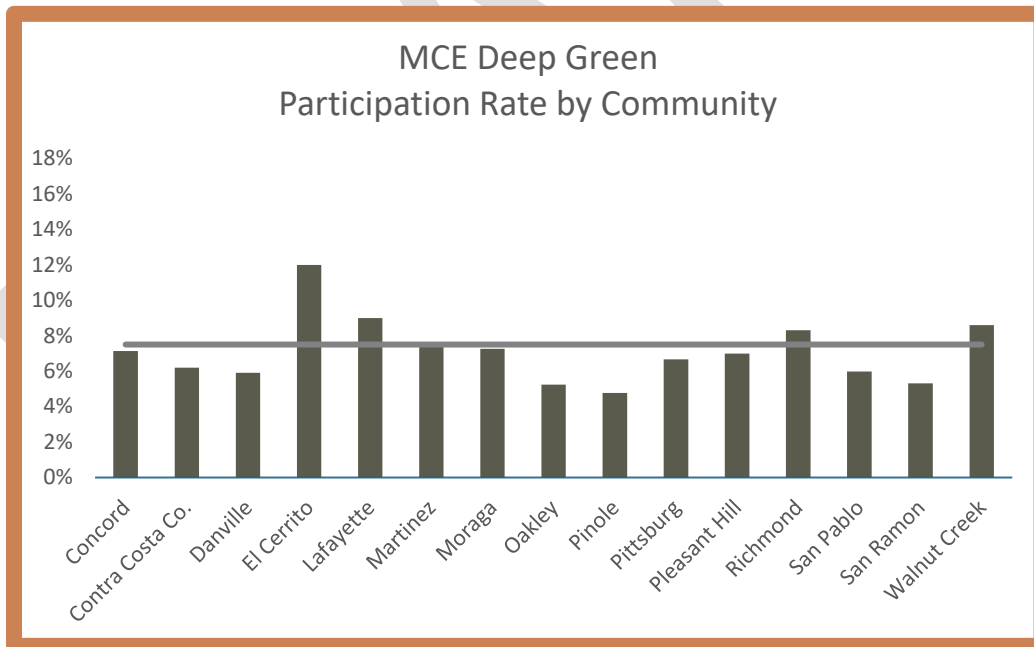


Figure 5: MCE Deep Green Participation Across Contra Costa Communities



The gray lines in Figure 3 and Figure 4 represent the MCE average.

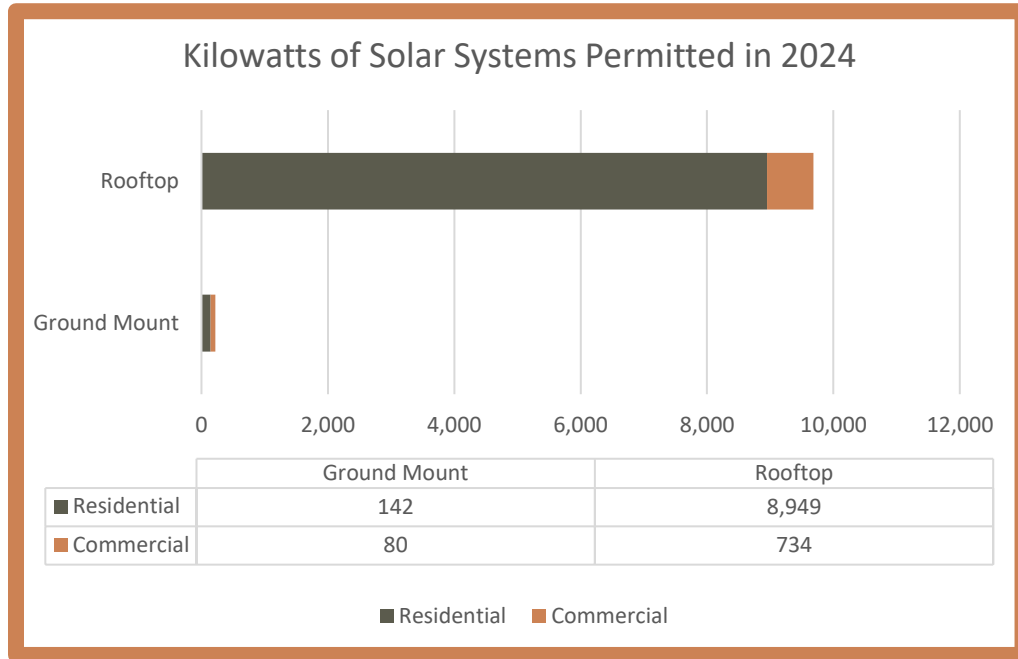
Solar Installations

There were 1,170 total permits issued for residential solar projects in the unincorporated areas of the county, including 1,158 rooftop and 12 ground mount projects, totaling approximately 9,091 kilowatts.⁴

⁴ Please note that due to corrections in the data for kilowatts associated with permitted solar systems, the reported kilowatts of solar systems permitted in 2024 is lower than in past progress reports.

A total of 15 permits were issued for commercial solar installations, including six rooftop and nine ground mount projects, totaling approximately 814 kilowatts. *Figure 6* describes the kilowatts associated with rooftop and ground mount solar systems that were issued permits in 2024.

Figure 6: Kilowatts of Solar Systems Permitted in 2024



The County partnered with the Bay Area SunShares program for the 2024 season, which ran from September 1 through November 15, 2024. This program resulted in the completion of two solar projects, two battery storage projects, and eight projects with both solar and battery storage in Contra Costa County.

Renewable Electricity in County Facilities

The County has 7,332 kilowatts of rooftop and parking lot solar installed at County facilities. There were no new solar projects completed at County facilities in 2024. Some gas load to electricity conversions occurred in leased facilities, though the County Energy Program is not yet set up to track and manage energy use in leased facilities.

1.3 Increase electrical grid resiliency

Energy Storage

The Solar Overlay Zone Ordinance has been identified for inclusion in the first round of comprehensive zoning code changes as part of the Envision Zoning Code Update Project. The inclusion of battery energy storage systems will be examined during the update to the Solar Overlay Zone Ordinance.

145 permits were issued for residential battery energy storage system projects in the unincorporated areas of the county. An additional 941 battery energy storage system installations were included in residential solar permits, bringing the total number of permits issued for residential battery energy storage systems to 1,086.

The County has battery storage systems at three facilities, totaling 1,500 kW of capacity. One new battery energy storage system was in the design phase.

Energy Use Reduction in County Facilities

There were 19 County facilities actively participating in demand response load shedding in 2024. The amount of energy consumption avoided and incentives received by the County for participating in demand response programs was not yet available at the time of this report's publication.

1.4 Low-carbon building materials and strategies

Staff continue to monitor state action on low-carbon concrete. On August 2, 2023, the California Building Standards Commission updated the California Green Buildings Standards Code (CALGreen) Title 24 to include embodied carbon requirements. These requirements became effective statewide on July 1, 2024. Nonresidential commercial building projects over 100,000 square feet and school building projects under the Division of the State Architect over 50,000 square feet are required to comply with one of three embodied carbon reduction pathways. The scope of projects required to comply with these embodied carbon requirements will expand in the coming years to achieve the State's comprehensive building sector goal of achieving 40% net reductions in building materials greenhouse gas emissions by no later than December 31, 2035.

The County has one True Resource Use and Efficiency (TRUE) Gold-certified project: the [Administration Building and Jail Demolition and Redevelopment Project](#) (ADR) at 1026 Escobar Street in Martinez, which was completed in summer 2024.⁵ This is the first government building to achieve TRUE for Construction certification. The project also achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification, the highest level awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, and was honored with the California Green Building Award for Honor in Zero Waste & Circular Solutions. The project achieved a 95.07% waste diversion rate and prevented 10,346 tons of material from being sent to the landfill through a variety of techniques and processes to reuse, repurpose, and reduce materials used. Among the sustainable construction techniques used in the project was the use of low-carbon concrete, which resulted in a 58.50% reduction in kgCO₂e emissions compared to the CALGreen industry baseline.



The County has not yet developed a tool to track embodied carbon in construction materials for new construction and major renovations.

⁵ Administration Building and Public Plaza [TRUE Case Study](#) and Sustainability Video Tour ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))

Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Contra Costa County will increase resilience to climate hazards and foster community health.

2.1 Sequester carbon in natural lands in Contra Costa County

Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study

The Board of Supervisors accepted [Healthy Lands, Healthy People: A Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study](#) in 2023. The study found that the practices with the most potential to sequester greenhouse gases include applying compost to all land types; nutrient management to improve soil health; urban forestry through the maintenance of existing healthy trees and planting of new trees; alley cropping; and conserving, maintaining, and restoring forested areas next to streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Staff have begun implementing the recommendations included in the report, including securing funding to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan.

The County was notified in December 2024 that it will receive a \$750,000 grant from the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program for the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan. The County is currently negotiating the budget and workplan for this grant.

Green Infrastructure

The County continued to make progress on implementation of the [County’s Green Infrastructure Plan](#). Green infrastructure refers to constructing and retrofitting storm drainage systems to mimic natural processes by enabling stormwater to infiltrate the soil rather than to runoff into storm drains and pipes. This is a multi-department and multi-year plan that is still being expanded. See *Figure 7* for completed and planned County green infrastructure projects in 2024. Green infrastructure is treating a total of 6.897 acres⁶ from projects completed between January 2021 and December 2024, with another 10.980 acres to be treated by planned projects.

The County incorporated green infrastructure into the Administration Building and Jail Demolition Redevelopment (ADR) Project at 1026 Escobar Street in Martinez, including both a rain garden and pervious pavement, on a total of 0.317 acres. Future County pervious paving opportunities are being explored, and pervious paving is listed as an option for developers’ stormwater treatment requirements.

⁶ Please note that due to an adjustment in how acres treated is calculated, the reported number of acres treated by green infrastructure projects is different than in past progress reports. Acres treated in this progress report represent reported or estimated potential impervious surface treated (in acres) for green infrastructure projects. Five projects completed prior to January 2021 represent 2.48 acres treated that were calculated based upon total drainage management areas treated by the green infrastructure facilities, not simply impervious surfaces, and are not included in the total number of acres being treated by green infrastructure in this progress report.

Figure 7: Completed and Planned Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects in Unincorporated Contra Costa County and at New County Facilities in 2024

Project Name	Project Location	Acres Treated	Project Type	Installation Date
Administration Building & Jail Demolition Redevelopment (ADR) Project	650 Pine and 651 Pine St., Martinez (Now 1026 Escobar Street)	0.145	Rain Garden	April 2024
Pine Street Plaza (ADR Project)	650 Pine and 651 Pine St., Martinez (Now 1026 Escobar Street)	0.172	Pervious Pavement	April 2024
Brookside Drive Frontage Improvements (Urban Tilth Richmond Farm)	Brookside Drive, just east of Fred Jackson Way	0.08	Rain Garden	April 2025
Marsh Creek Road Bridge Replacement	Bridges No. 28C0143 and 28C0145, Clayton	6.35	Vegetated Swale	July 2025
Byron Highway Bridge Replacement	Over California Aqueduct, 3.75 miles southeast of Byron	4.55	Vegetated Swale	December 2027

2.2 Address impacts of heat islands

There were 558 residential and five commercial permits issued for cool roofs. Four cool roof projects were completed at County facilities.

No-Waste Contra Costa

Contra Costa County generates no more solid waste than 2.2 pounds per person per day (PPD).

3.1 Recover organic waste and edible food (Senate Bill (SB) 1383/Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Program)

Outreach and Education

All haulers mailed information about SB 1383 to their customers. Mailers included service guides, quarterly newsletters, or postcards. Haulers notified customers of contamination found in their carts by providing tags that identified mis-sorted items. Information about SB 1383 can also be found on all the haulers' and the County's websites.

Weekly Organics Collection Services

All four of the County's solid waste collection [franchise agreements](#) have services compliant with SB 1383. The Board approved the final franchise agreement for SB 1383-compliant service on March 26, 2024. Areas covered by the franchise agreements now have weekly organics collection service with food waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper accepted in the organics bins.

Single-use Plastics Reduction

The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54) was signed into law by the governor in 2022. Staff continue to monitor progress on its implementation. SB 54 establishes an extended producer responsibility program to reduce waste associated with single-use packaging and single-use plastic food serviceware in California and requires that these single-use items be recyclable or compostable by 2032. In 2024, the State published a list of covered materials categories and continued developing SB 54 regulations.

Edible Food Recovery

SB 1383 requires certain food generators to donate excess edible food that would otherwise be disposed to food recovery organizations. County Environmental Health performs inspections on Tier 1 and Tier 2 Commercial Edible Food Generators regarding compliance with SB 1383 and provides information on food recovery requirements. In the unincorporated areas of the county, there are a total of five Tier 1 generators, which include wholesale food vendors, food service providers, food distributors, and grocery stores, and four Tier 2 generators, which include hotels, restaurant facilities, health facilities, large venues and events, local education agencies, and State agency cafeterias. Since 2023, there were a total of 10 inspections of Tier 1 generators. One inspection of Tier 2 generators occurred in 2024.

3.2 Update the County's existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy

The [Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy](#) (EPPP) was updated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 12, 2023. It includes purchasing requirements to minimize environmental impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance the goals of the CAAP. Public Works Purchasing Division staff are tracking the purchase of paper products made from recycled content in compliance with SB 1383 and the EPPP. 65% of paper products purchased in 2024 contained at least 30% recycled content; 3% contained below 30% recycled content; and 32% contained no recycled content.

On June 12, 2024, Public Works Department Purchasing Division staff provided an overview of the updated EPPP to the G3 Champions. The G3 Champions provided ideas and feedback on strategies for promoting and training staff on the updated EPPP in their departments.

Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience

Contra Costa County uses less water, and communities are prepared for drought.

4.1 Reduce water use in unincorporated County and in County facilities

The County implements water saving practices such as drought tolerant plantings and automatic irrigation system shutoffs in the event of rain, leaks, or breaks. In 2024, the County retrofitted all restrooms with motion sensing faucets and toilets at two County facilities.

The majority of residents and businesses in the county receive their water from two water districts: Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), which serves north central and eastern portions of the county, and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), which serves the western and south central portions of the county.

See *Figure 8* and *Figure 9* for total water usage in the unincorporated areas of the county covered by CCWD and EBMUD’s service areas. EBMUD water usage data for 2024 was not yet available at the time of this report’s publication. In 2024, water use for both non-residential and residential CCWD customers increased. Residential water use for EBMUD customers continued to decrease in 2023, though non-residential water use increased compared to previous years.

Figure 8: Contra Costa Water District CCF Per Year Water Usage^{7 8}

Contra Costa Water District CCF Per Year Water Usage					
Unincorporated Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Non-Residential	337,170	322,729	312,771	303,870	323,330
Residential	752,961	726,026	678,909	665,032	683,479
All Accounts	1,090,131	1,048,755	991,680	968,902	1,006,809

Figure 9: East Bay Municipal Utility District CCF Per Year Water Usage

East Bay Municipal Utility District CCF Per Year Water Usage				
Unincorporated Area	2020	2021	2022	2023
Non-Residential	3,779,268	3,837,469	3,980,418	4,093,836
Residential	6,012,011	5,546,508	5,090,536	4,806,887
All Accounts	9,791,279	9,383,977	9,070,954	8,900,723

4.2 Manage groundwater resources sustainably

The [East Contra Costa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) (GSP) was approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2023. The GSP was created to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The GSP goals are consistent and complementary with the County’s CAAP and focus on groundwater management strategies that protect and maintain safe and reliable groundwater sources in the face of climate change.

⁷ Each CCF (one hundred cubic feet) is equivalent to 748 gallons.

⁸ CCWD data includes CCWD’s retail service area. Wholesale service area customers are not included.

Clean Transportation Network

Contra Costa County's transportation network provides safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and transit. If residents and workers are driving, they are in electric vehicles.

5.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County by increasing number of people who bike, walk, and take public transit

Bicycle and Pedestrian Network

The Public Works Department (Public Works) continues to implement the [Capital Road Improvement & Preservation Program \(CRIPP\)](#), [Complete Streets Policy](#), [Vision Zero Final Report](#), [Active Transportation Plan](#), and equity-focused plans, programs, and policies. In 2024, Public Works was awarded numerous regional, State, and Federal grants to support the implementation of these initiatives, including:

- \$900,000 from the Safe Routes to BART Program for the North Bailey Road Active Transportation Corridor Project;
- \$200,000 across three Transportation Development Act (TDA) grants for projects focused on crosswalk enhancements and pedestrian improvements; and
- \$1,000,000 from Congressionally Directed Spending provisions for the San Pablo Avenue Complete Street/Bay Trail Gap Closure Project.

The existing unincorporated bicycle network spans an estimated 120 miles, which is approximately 37% of the total estimated 327 miles of planned bicycle network in the unincorporated areas of the county. In 2024, approximately 9,500 feet of bikeways and 125 feet of pedestrian pathways were constructed. One pedestrian network gap was closed. Completed transportation infrastructure improvement projects in 2024 and their associated plans and policies included:

- The 2024 Countywide Surface Treatment Project,
- Bixler Road and Regatta Drive Intersection Improvements (Complete Streets, Active Transportation),
- Danville Boulevard/Orchard Court Complete Streets Improvements (Complete Streets, Vision Zero, Active Transportation),
- Livorna Road Shoulder Widening, and
- Walnut Boulevard Shoulder Widening (Vision Zero, Equity-Focused).

Transportation infrastructure improvement projects that have been funded and were in the design or construction phase in 2024, as well as their associated plans and policies, are listed in *Figure 10*.

Figure 10: Planned Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Planned Projects	Complete Streets	Vision Zero	Active Transportation	Equity-Focused	Grant Funding ⁹
Appian Way at Fran Way Crosswalk Enhancements	X		X	X	HSIP, TDA
Appian Way Utility Undergrounding Project				X	
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Project					
Briones Area Guardrail Upgrades					HSIP
Byron Highway Bridge Replacement over California Aqueduct (Bridge No. 28C0121)					
Byron Highway Safety Improvements	X				HSIP
Camino Tassajara/Tassajara Road Realignment Project		X			
Countywide Guardrail Upgrades - Phase 2					HSIP
Deer Valley Road Traffic Safety Improvements			X		HSIP
Del Monte Drive Bridge Painting and Poly Overlay (Bridge No. 28C0207)					
Franklin Canyon Road Safety Improvements		X			HSIP
Freeman Road and Briones Valley Road Bridge Maintenance Project					
Market Avenue at UPRR Crossing Improvements Project		X		X	
Morgan Territory Road Bridges 5.0 & 5.2 Replacement			X		
Norris Canyon Road Slide Repair and Safety Improvements					
North Bailey Road Active Transportation Corridor	X		X	X	ATP
Pacifica Avenue Safe Routes to School	X		X	X	ATP
San Miguel Drive Pedestrian Path	X		X	X	TDA
San Pablo Avenue Complete Street/Bay Trail Gap Closure	X		X		ATP
Second Avenue Bridge Replacement (Bridge No. 28C0383)	X		X	X	
Tara Hills Curb Ramps on Shawn Drive	X		X		TDA
Treat Boulevard Corridor Improvements				X	
Vasco Road Safety - Phase 2	X		X		
Vasco Road Safety Improvements				X	HSIP

Building Healthy Communities

In 2024, the Contra Costa Health Building Healthy Communities Program (BHC) was awarded a one-year \$205,000 grant through the California Office of Traffic Safety’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program to advance Vision Zero, build community capacity to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety, and disseminate bicycle and pedestrian safety campaigns. This grant added to three other multi-year grants

⁹ HSIP = Highway Safety Improvement Program; ATP = Active Transportation Program

already being administered by BHC, with funding for bicycle and pedestrian education totaling over \$1.1 million.

BHC continues to provide bicycle and pedestrian education, encouragement, and engagement programming, with a focus on equity-priority communities. BHC partnered with County Public Works Department engineers and local school stakeholders to conduct four street safety assessments with a focus on school zones and identifying how existing infrastructure can support educational efforts to encourage walking and rolling to school.



Community Walk Audit at Nystrom Elementary School in Richmond.

Through funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant Cycle 3, BHC began developing Safe Routes to School curricula for elementary through high school students. The Safe Routes to School curricula will be piloted in public schools across the county in the 2025/26 school year. These curricula will encourage increased active transportation for students and families, advancing educational efforts for active transportation and encouraging the reduction of vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County.

BHC's Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funding stream remains pivotal to the continuous delivery of its countywide bike and pedestrian education, outreach activities, and promotion strategies. The past year saw a robust increase in community partnerships that accentuated the program's reach. Some highlights from the TDA Article 3 FY 2024 activities include:

- The City of Richmond and District 1 Supervisor's Office's Thrive Thursday health and wellness event that saw over 100 community residents receive free bike and pedestrian safety resources, including helmet distribution and fittings;
- Coordination with the Contra Costa Health Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion Program to observe and celebrate the National Walk and Roll to School Day celebration in West County; and
- League of Cycling Instructor-led bike rodeos reaching up to 170 school-aged kids in East and West Contra Costa County.

In its sunset year, BHC's Safe Routes to School multi-year grant from the California Department of Transportation, which is administered by the Public Works Department and funds West Contra Costa High School programming at seven sites, continued to see increased student and staff engagement. Notably, four walk-and-bike student-led clubs have been established at four of the seven high schools, with staff leading efforts that surveyed over 180 high school students on their travel habits as BHC looks to continue promoting active transportation encouragement and awareness in impacted school communities.

County Employee Commutes

The County's Remote Work Policy remains in effect and is being implemented by departments. Based on a survey conducted by the County Administrator's Office in August 2024 of all County departments

related to employee participation in the County’s remote work policy, it is estimated that the total number of weekly commutes avoided because of employees working remotely is 3,875, which is approximately 7,750 individual trips¹⁰ saved per week. There were 12 employees as of the end of 2024 using the pre-tax commuter benefit. The County participates in Bike to Work Day and does an extensive outreach campaign with rewards in various categories.

5.2 Increase percentage of electric vehicles in Contra Costa County fleet

County Fleet

All-electric vehicles (EVs) make up about 6% of the County’s fleet of approximately 1,276 vehicles. In 2024, the County ordered 48 EVs. 29 non-electric vehicles were purchased, which included a small number of trailers and heavy equipment vehicles. 115 active charging ports were installed at County facilities in 2024, bringing the total number of active charging ports to 142 with an additional 89 ports in permitting or under construction.

The County acquired over \$24,000,000 in funding to continue to install EV supply equipment infrastructure at additional County facilities to facilitate the transition of the fleet to all-electric and increase the availability of EV charging for the community. This funding includes:

- \$2,500,000 from the County’s Sustainability Fund, which is supported by the Measure X sales tax;
- \$15,000,000 awarded from the Federal Highway Administration’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program;
- \$3,000,000 in match funding secured from a third party for the CFI grant; and
- \$3,644,000 awarded from the California Energy Commission’s grant solicitation for Charging Infrastructure for Government Fleets.

The County’s Energy Manager convenes a monthly meeting for interested public agencies in the county to collaborate on EV readiness and pursue goals identified in the [Contra Costa County EV Readiness Blueprint](#). 62 local governments and public agencies are participating in coordination activities.

In the Community

Across the entirety of Contra Costa County, there are 1,477 total public EV chargers, including 1,060 Level 2 and 417 DC Fast chargers, as of August 26, 2024. Additionally, there are 905 shared private EV chargers at locations such as workplaces and multifamily residences.¹¹ In Contra Costa County, zero-emission vehicles made up 32.7% of total light-duty vehicle sales in 2024 with 14,732 light-duty zero-emission vehicles sold.¹²

¹⁰ For the purposes of this progress report, an individual trip is considered a single trip either to or from an employee’s work site.

¹¹ [Electric Vehicle Chargers in California, California Energy Commission](#)

¹² [New ZEV Sales in California, California Energy Commission](#)

Climate Equity

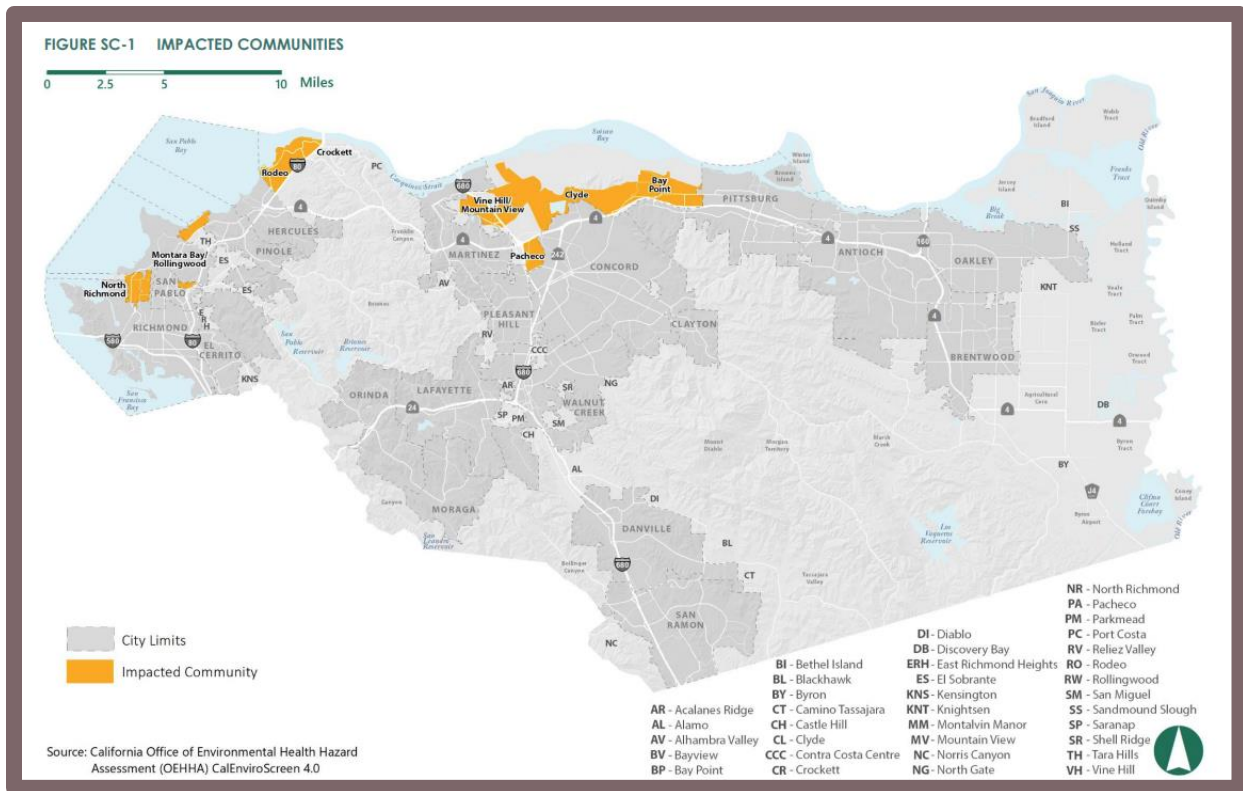
The CAP will mitigate environmental factors leading to health disparities, promote safe and livable communities, and promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility.

6.1 All residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods, have access to parks, open space, and fresh food, and can easily move through the County

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Contra Costa County [2045 General Plan](#) and [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan \(CAAP\) 2024 Update](#) on November 5, 2024. Four themes are interwoven throughout both plans: environmental justice, community health, economic development, and sustainability. Many of the General Plan's environmental justice policies can be found in the Stronger Communities Element. These policies work to counteract a history of discrimination, neglect, and disempowerment and improve the quality of life and health outcomes in low-income communities and communities of color.

As the County moves towards implementation of the updated General Plan and CAAP, the County is working to develop a comprehensive process to analyze funds spent by County departments on energy efficiency and other services and physical improvements in impacted communities compared to non-impacted communities. In fiscal year 2024, approximately \$1.68 million was spent on road improvement projects and approximately \$1.2 million was spent on electric vehicle charging infrastructure in impacted communities. *Figure 11* shows a map of the County's impacted communities as identified in the 2045 General Plan.

Figure 11: Impacted Communities in Unincorporated Contra Costa County¹³



6.2 Plan for transition to a local economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels

The County completed the required environmental review for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in October 2024 and submitted a voucher for and received \$29,038 in reimbursement for staffing costs for the \$750,000 Community Project Funding grant to fund the development of a Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan (JTERP). The JTERP is a plan for transitioning away from an economy that is dependent on fossil fuels to a zero-emission, clean, and green economy and for improving the health, safety, infrastructure, and job opportunities of residents in communities most impacted by the environmental burdens of the climate crisis. The County is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for sustained input from the community, with a special focus on highly impacted environmental justice communities, and workers, especially impacted workers.

¹³ This map is from the Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan – Stronger Communities Element (page 3-4). In the 2045 General Plan, Impacted Communities are defined as “An area, typically low-income, that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is the term Contra Costa County uses in place of ‘disadvantaged communities,’ as named in Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines disadvantaged communities per Health and Safety Code Section 39711, specifying CalEnviroScreen as the primary screening method for identifying these communities. In this General Plan, Census tracts with a cumulative CalEnviroScreen score of 72 or higher are identified as Impacted Communities.”

The Sustainability Commission held a meeting on October 28, 2024, to receive an update on the County's work on the JTERP. County staff presented the following funding allocations: \$200,000 for community engagement, \$200,000 for economic analyses, and \$150,000 for detailed studies. This brings the County's total anticipated expenditure on consulting assistance to \$550,000. The County's next step involves issuing a request for proposals to assist in developing the JTERP. Community engagement will include a JTERP Advisory Table, which is anticipated to include Sustainability Committee member(s), labor/impacted workers, environmental and frontline environmental justice community representatives, local government, business/industry, workforce development and training entities, the education sector, and academic partners.

The County is supporting the Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ), which was created by Assembly Bill 844 (Grayson, 2021). The purpose of the GEZ is to build upon the comparative advantage provided by the regional concentration of highly skilled energy industry workers by prioritizing access to tax incentives, grants, loan programs, workforce training programs, and private sector investment in the renewable energy sector. The Governing Board of the GEZ consists of local and state government, large employers, small business and economic development, universities, private sector, and workforce development and met five times in 2024. The County entered into an agreement with UC Berkeley Labor Center in August 2024 to support the GEZ with foundational research, technical assistance, and policy recommendations for a high-road clean energy manufacturing strategy for the GEZ.

The County also continues to implement the strategic plan for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative, having received a \$500,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the Priority Production Areas Technical Assistance project and having applied for a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Contra Costa County Brownfields Coalition.

Leadership

Contra Costa County is a model for how local government can take action on climate issues.

7.1 Contra Costa County is a leader among local governments on how it addresses climate issues

Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force

The County's Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force met on February 26 and August 14, 2024. The Task Force discussed the draft update of the County's CAAP; implementation of the Sustainability Fund to install EV chargers and energy efficient outdoor lighting at County facilities; the G3 Champions, including sustainability activities in the Department of Agriculture and a Low-Waste Office Events Checklist; and an initiative to build better relationships between County staff and community-based organizations with the goal of better serving community needs and collaborating in advance of grant opportunities. The Task Force also heard from Diablo Water District on its progress in meeting the net zero carbon by 2027 goal set by its Board; the Co-Directors of the Contra Costa County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice; and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District on wildfire preparedness.

The Task Force provided reports to the Board of Supervisors on March 18 and October 8, 2024. The March report covered the G3 Champions Activity Guide and guest speakers at recent G3 Champions meetings, implementation of the Sustainability Fund, and collaboration and innovation across County Departments to support the County’s climate action goals. The October report covered an update on implementation of the Sustainability Fund, the County’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, the G3 Champions Low-Waste Office Events Checklist, reducing key sources of emissions from County operations through the County’s remote work policy, and a cross-department collaboration to install a portable EV charger at the Department of Child Support Services office.

Green Government Group (G3) Champions

The G3 Champions form a network of County employees across departments who are focused on making Contra Costa County a cleaner, healthier place to live and work. Approximately 85 G3 Champions represent 17 County departments. At meetings, G3 Champions learned about best practices for reducing waste and assessing the sustainable qualities of products from staff at two local refill shops; the Contra Costa Green Business Program; the [Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge](#); the County’s draft Strategic Energy Management Program; and communication strategies to help connect with colleagues and community members about climate change. The G3 Champions also provided input on implementation of the County’s updated Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and met with the Co-Directors of the County’s Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. To help County departments save money and resources when planning events, the G3 Champions created a [Low-Waste Office Events Checklist](#).



G3 Champions tour the TRUE Gold- and LEED Platinum-certified new administration building at 1026 Escobar St. in Martinez.

In August, the Contra Costa County Library launched its departmental Climate Action Plan (CAP) specific to its operations. G3 Champions from the Library’s branches played an integral role in the development of the Library’s CAP by providing ideas and feedback on the goals, actions, metrics, and implementation information within the CAP.

7.2 Implement Climate Emergency Resolution

The County continued to implement the action items identified in the [2020 Climate Emergency Resolution](#). Accomplishments in 2024 include the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force’s reports to the Board of Supervisors; the ongoing work of the G3 Champions; continued progress towards developing a Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan through a Community Project Funding grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and the Board’s adoption of a new ordinance amending the 2022 California Energy Code to require increased energy efficiency standards for newly constructed residential buildings, hotels, offices, and retail buildings.

7.3 Build community and County employee support for Climate Action Plan



*Antioch Dunes Evening Primrose
(a federal endangered species)*

As part of its ongoing responsibilities, the Sustainability Team provides administrative support to the Sustainability Committee of the Board of Supervisors and the Sustainability Commission, a 17-member citizen advisory body. The Sustainability Team also facilitates two series of quarterly meetings for local government staff across the county. The [Sustainability Exchange](#) is a networking and professional development gathering. Topics of focus this year included climate communications, solid waste and the County's Illegal Dumping Initiative, and regional climate action planning, as well as a trip to the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge for a site tour and invasive species removal work day. Check out a video about the Sustainability Exchange in [English](#) and

[Spanish](#). The Energy Efficiency Collaborative is an opportunity for resource sharing and peer learning related to energy programs, covering topics such as Bay Area Regional Energy Network, MCE, and PG&E programming; policies to support all-electric and energy efficient buildings; and reach codes.

Sustainability staff published a quarterly [Sustainability in Contra Costa County](#) newsletter and regular Sustainability Corner column in the [Contra Costa FOCUS](#) employee newsletter. The Sustainability Team continued to maintain the [Sustainability Resources webpage](#), providing an overview of local, State, and Federal incentive programs for residents and business owners, and updated the [Green Building Materials webpage](#) with information on designing and constructing buildings that conserve energy, water, and material resources. The Office of Communications and Media created a variety of videos highlighting the County's climate action work, including a [video series about themes in the 2045 General Plan](#) and CAAP 2024 Update; Bike to Work Day (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)); and a collaborative project between the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and Public Works to implement a [portable EV charger at the DCSS office](#).



Department of Child Support Services staff with a new portable EV charger.

Department of Conservation and Development staff continued to meet with community groups and support the Supervisors' open houses that occurred during the 2045 General Plan and CAAP 2024 Update public comment period in early 2024. County staff promoted BayREN programs and County sustainability efforts at community events, including senior clubs, Rotary Clubs, building industry professional events, the City of Pinole's Earth Walk, and the Contra Costa Block Party. Other events at which staff spoke include a Climate Careers Chat hosted by the Sustainable Leaders in Action and Contra Costa County Library; Ignited's Sustainability Week, a workshop for local teachers; a webinar promoting the Bay Area SunShares program in partnership with the City of Martinez; and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's first Bay Adapt Summit to discuss sea level rise planning. County staff presented on the County's climate action work at a variety of conferences including the

Federal Government Energy Exchange Conference, California Climate and Energy Collaborative, and Urban Sustainability Directors Network annual meeting.



Live induction cooking demonstration at the Brentwood Community Center in October.

The County led multiple initiatives to increase community access to and familiarity with induction cooking technology. During summer and fall 2024, the [BayREN CookSmart Pilot Program](#) provided free portable induction cooktops and induction-compatible cookware to 97 households. Program participants had the opportunity to attend in-person or virtual cooking demonstrations that served as hands-on opportunities to become more familiar with induction. More than half the participants who joined the CookSmart Program had little to no familiarity with induction cooking, and by the end of the three-month program period, over 75% of participants shared they would recommend induction cooking to a friend or family member. On October

1, 2024, County staff partnered with BayREN and the Building Decarbonization Coalition to host a live induction cooking demonstration in Spanish. Watch the highlight video with [English](#) or [Spanish](#) subtitles.

7.4 County investments support climate equity

These measures were completed in 2023 with the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the County's updated Investment Policy and Debt Management Policy.

Additional Achievements

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) awarded the County \$1,499,285 for the development of the [Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan](#) (Plan) as part of the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program) at [OPC's June 4, 2024, meeting](#). The grant will fund an extensive participatory community engagement and visioning process, a strategic update to the County's existing vulnerability assessments, and the development of the Plan, which will include adaptation pathways, implementation actions, partnership needs, financing strategies, metrics, and priority projects. Work funded by the SB 1 Grant Program will begin early 2025. Staff are working to ensure the Plan is consistent with sea level rise planning requirements established in Senate Bill 272 and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's newly adopted Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Guidelines.

On July 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors established a new standing committee, the [Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Committee](#), which was previously an ad hoc committee established on May 16, 2023, to address sea level rise adaptation and resilience along the more than 90 miles of County shoreline.

Conclusion

The County met or made significant progress towards most of the goals included in the 2023-2024 Interim Climate Action Work Plan. As the County moves towards implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2024 Update, the County remains committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving climate resilience and adaptation, promoting equity on climate issues, and establishing itself as a leader on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

DRAFT