

CLIMATE EQUITY (CE)

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WILL ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS LEADING TO HEALTH DISPARITIES, PROMOTE SAFE AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES, AND PROMOTE INVESTMENTS THAT IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESSIBILITY.



Ensuring that Contra Costa County's unincorporated communities are a welcoming and resilient home to diverse families, individuals, and businesses as the effects of climate change intensify around the world means ensuring that the County's climate action strategies are built on a foundation of justice and equity. Equity, justice, and the climate resilience they engender can take many forms across different sectors and include such strategies as supporting family-sustaining jobs in sustainable industries, providing equitably distributed green space, facilitating access to fresh and healthy food, and ensuring that all Contra Costa County departments and citizens are actively engaged in climate action planning. An important aspect of Climate Equity will be using culturally and linguistically appropriate methods. Climate action planning entails mobilizing the entire community to adopt a way of life and way of doing business that will not only weather the disruptions caused by climate change but will continue to thrive far into the future.

CE-1: Provide access to affordable, clean, safe, and healthy housing and jobs.

Strategy CE-1 aims to ensure that all residents live in clean, healthy homes and neighborhoods; have access to parks, open space, and fresh food; have easy access to safe and affordable mobility options; and are trained for and have access to living wage jobs. The County commits to implementing the 2024 CAAP strategies for equitable benefits to Impacted Communities, ensures every County department integrates climate issues and climate-related effects in services to residents, and meaningfully and continuously engages the communities most affected by climate change with developing and implementing appropriate solutions.

Strategy CE-1 Co-benefits:



Enhanced recreation opportunities



Greater community resilience



Improved community equity



Increased economic opportunities



Increased resilience to pests

Strategy CE-1 Actions:

- In partnership with community-based organizations, reverse community deterioration and blight and improve personal and property safety in neighborhoods throughout Contra Costa County.
- Ensure that new housing for households making less than the area median income and housing for other Impacted Communities are outside of hazard-prone areas, including for wildfires, landslides, floods, and sea level rise, or that they are hardened or make use of nature-based solutions to remain habitable to the greatest extent possible.
- In partnership with community-based organizations, secure funding to create a program to provide low-cost or free air conditioning and filtration, improved insulation, low-emitting materials, energy solar and storage systems, energy efficiency, and indoor ventilation in homes, emphasizing buildings that are home to Impacted Community members. (Supported by SC-A6.2 and SC-A6.3)
- Track development of local micro-grid battery storage policies and systems in other jurisdictions and identify potential opportunities for Contra Costa County.
- Encourage companies and entrepreneurs from local universities and national labs to create jobs in such industries as renewable energy, transportation technology, diverse forms of manufacturing, biotech/biomedical, and clean tech.
- In partnership with residents of Impacted Communities, affected workers, business/industry, environmental and environmental justice advocates, community colleges, workforce development and training entities, local government, and other involved agencies, support transition from highly polluting industries to a net-zero emission economy based on renewable and sustainable industries that provide living-wage jobs. (SC-P1.1)



5. Climate Adaptation Strategy

- Provide support for State and federal programs that support family-sustaining jobs in sustainable industries, efforts to support organized labor, and living wage labor standards.
- Adopt an ordinance at least as stringent as the State’s maximum idling law, and coordinate with CARB and law enforcement to achieve compliance. (HS-A1.5)