CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, March 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

ZOOM LINK
https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/81614339223

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

The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via ZOOM or call-in.

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and roll call.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Staff Present:
Raquel De La Torre, Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Salvador Morales, Planner, Dept. Of Conservation and Development;
Blake McPherson, Sustainability Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff to Supervisor Carlson

Attendees:
Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair;
Denice Dennis
Lisa Jackson

Carol Weed
Marti Roach

Present: District I Supervisor John Gioia and District IV Supervisor Ken Carlson

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

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVE Record of Action from December 12, 2024, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: Meeting Minutes 12.12.24
City of Richmond, BC Presentation

The Record of Action was approved by Supervisor Gioia and Supervisor Carlson abstained.

4. APPROVE Record of Action from February 10, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: Meeting Minutes 02.10.25
Public Comment Email 2.10.25

The Record of Action was approved unanimously.

5. RECEIVE Report on the County's Draft Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings and PROVIDE DIRECTION, as needed.

Attachments: CCC Clean Energy Roadmap Presentation to Sustainability Commi 3-10-25_Final
County Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings_DRAFT_3-5-25_Final

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner in the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD), gave a presentation on the Draft Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings (Roadmap). The Roadmap is essential to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the County. The Roadmap helps implement the 2024 Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CAAP) strategy BE-2, which calls for creating a detailed County roadmap to convert existing homes and businesses to use all-electric appliances. Additionally, approximately 30% of GHG emissions in the County, according to the most recent GHG inventory data, can be attributed to energy use in residential and non-residential buildings.

Hardman-Saldana mentioned the health benefits, improved safety, climate resilience, and improved air quality of replacing gas-powered home appliances with all-electric ones. The Roadmap calls for conducting preliminary research and analysis, working

with community-based organizations, workforce development, and facilitating an equitable transition focusing on impacted communities.

Hardman-Saldana explained the Roadmap emphasizes regional and state collaboration. The Roadmap recommends working with the County's Legislation Committee and Board of Supervisors to develop a policy framework allowing staff to establish new and/or expand existing relationships with state-level regulatory agencies, including filing public comments with state regulators on behalf of the County.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee suggested that this work should focus on water heaters and home heating systems that will have legal mandates to comply with Zero Nitrous Oxide regulations approved by the Bay Area Air District. The Committee also acknowledged that community members need help understanding the associated cost as well as benefits from programs regarding all-electric appliance upgrades or updating electrical infrastructure prior to replacing appliances.

The Committee discussed the proposed timeline for adoption of the Roadmap. The suggested timeline includes a 30-day public comment review for the Roadmap in March-April 2025, Committee review of the final draft of the Roadmap with public comments incorporated in May-July 2025, and consideration for adoption by the Board of Supervisors in June-Aug 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marti Roach, 350 Contra Costa Action, made three recommendations concerning the Roadmap:

- ***Further delineate the two retrofit strategies for more affluent homeowners and equity approaches. Roach also agreed with prior discussion prioritizing the transition of water heaters and home heating systems to all-electric.***
- ***Create a more robust and thorough community education strategy in the Roadmap.***
- ***Differentiate the Community Engagement section of the Roadmap by objective. For example, objectives could be listed as seeking technical knowledge, seeking partners to support implementation, and learning from the community about barriers and concerns with electrifying.***

Roach commended staff for a good first draft.

Lisa Jackson, 350 Contra Costa Action, provided recommendations on two sections of the Roadmap:

- ***In Section 10 (Next Steps), include more detailed deliverables, timelines, and strategies similar to what was done previously with the 2024 CAAP. Spell out what the County's role is in these areas since some areas will be dependent on the Count or on other organizations. Consider adding visual representation of interdependence between strategies.***
- ***In Section 9 (Policy Options and Other Strategies), consider reviewing and implementing potential policies as an early part of the timeline.***

Denice Dennis, 350 Contra Costa Action and 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations, asked the Committee to ensure the community engagement strategy of the Roadmap be fully funded through dedicated County funding or through a secure alternative funding stream, separate from the Federal Government, in order to meet 2030 GHG emission reduction goals.

The Committee acknowledged its understanding of the challenges associated with the current policies of the Federal Government and potential lack of funding for future projects.

6. RECEIVE update 2024 Climate Action Plan Progress Report.

Attachments: ATTACHMENT A - 2023-24 CAP Interim Work Plan - final
ATTACHMENT B - 2024 Interim Climate Action Plan Progress Report_2025-03-10

Emily Groth, Planner in DCD, gave a presentation on the progress update for the 2023-2024 Contra Consta County Interim Climate Action Work Plan (Interim Work Plan). The progress update was approved by Sustainability Commission on February 24, 2025, and will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda on March 25.

Groth highlighted key areas where the County made significant progress in 2024 regarding the Interim Work Plan. Areas mentioned include:

- ***The Board adopted an ordinance in October that requires increased energy efficiency standards for new buildings, which is expected to go into effect once accepted by the California Energy Commission in early 2025.***
- ***Use of zero-waste construction practices for the County's new Administration Building at 1026 Escobar resulted in the first award for Total Resource Use and Efficiency (TRUE) Gold certification for the Coua government entity. The project also received several other awards for sustainable construction practices.***
- ***The County was awarded $750,000 to create an Urban Forest Management Plan to address extreme heat and create more resilient communities.***
- ***The County updated its Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to reduce emissions associated with operations.***

- ***The transportation sector remains a great focus for reducing emissions, with work ongoing to increase the bicycle and pedestrian network and transition the County vehicle fleet to zero GHG emissions.***
- ***The County strives to be a leader in addressing climate issues. The Office of Communications and Media created numerous videos highlighting the County's climate action work and community engagement.***

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee expressed gratitude for the presentation and asked if the County is pursuing the $10 million grant for electric vehicle charging infrastructure put out by the Bay Area Air District. Jody London replied that Brendan Havenar-Daughton at the Public Works Department is likely tracking that grant along with other opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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

Shoshana Wechsler, the recently elected Sustainability Commission Chair, reported that the Commission believes the County's Sustainability program is doing very well and is pursuing every avenue for improvement. The Commission had been focused on development of the CAAP and is now shifting to tracking goals and identifying areas for GHG reduction. Wechsler emphasized how now is a critical time to be working in the sustainability field and believes Contra Costa County can be an incubator for progressive sustainability work.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee agreed that now is a critical time regarding federal policies and suggested the County may need to re-word documents/statements avoiding specific language to get Federal buy-in. The Committee expressed gratitude for the Commission's work and their ongoing relationship.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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

Attachments: 03.10.25 Sustainability Staff Report to Sustainability Committee

DRAFT

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, gave a short report about the Sustainability team's work securing grants and preparing to publish Requests for Qualifications to implement the grants.

London highlighted challenges with the status of the $19 million Community Change grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for North Richmond. The grant status has returned to "suspended", and the termination or transfer of EPA project officers has made it difficult to reach anyone to clarify things. London stated that County expenditures have been approved for this grant, but not for County partners.

The Committee asked if the County drew down money when the grant status was open. London replied that $30,000 was drawn in February to cover staff time to date.

London shared a video about an induction cooktop demonstration presented in Spanish that the County organized as part of its work with the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN). London expressed that this video is a great example of the County's collaboration with BayREN and the County's Office of Communications and Media

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Committee Meeting to be held on, Monday, May 12, 2025, at 1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT