

**SUSTAINABILTY STAFF REPORT FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
February 24, 2025**

Activities since the Sustainability Commission’s meeting on December 9, 2024, are listed below. Activities are keyed to goals in the 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
<b>Department of Conservation and Development</b>	
Staff is in the process of entering into contract with the Ocean Protection Council’s (OPC) for the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant, which was awarded in June 2024. The grant of almost \$1.5 million will support the development of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan. Staff has been working with OPC to complete requirements to execute the grant and expect to receive the funds in March 2025.	Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
Staff has received the County’s \$356,510 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant formula allocation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The grant will fund the following activities over a two-year period: (1) Providing energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades at no cost for buildings within the unincorporated area that operate as licensed childcare facilities. County staff will partner with community-based organization CocoKids to help identify eligible daycare facilities and provide educational materials and technical support to retrofit recipients during all phases of the project. (2) Hiring a technical consultant to conduct an inventory of the existing building stock in the unincorporated areas of the county and develop cost analysis on transitioning to low- or zero-carbon energy appliances. This inventory will provide critical insights to guide the development of a Clean Energy Roadmap for the unincorporated areas of the County. The technical consultant to conduct the building inventory and cost analysis has been selected and will begin work in February 2025. Staff expects to release a Request for Qualifications in March 2025 to select an entity to implement the energy efficiency upgrades for licensed childcare facilities.	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment
The County has been preliminarily awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) that will fund development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. The grant was submitted through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, <a href="#">Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program</a> . Staff are in negotiations with LCI to develop the budget and workplan, and are working with partners on the project to do so (The Watershed Project, Sustainable Contra Costa, Civicorps, Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County).	Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure
On February 25 <sup>th</sup> , the Sustainability Team will host the inaugural meeting of the Contra Costa All-Electric Working Group. The goals for this working group will include exploring the challenges related to transitioning the County’s building stock to operate on clean energy, promoting collaboration among stakeholders on funding opportunities to advance this work, and gathering input on the County’s draft Clean Energy Roadmap.	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 7 - Leadership

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
<p>On January 6, 2025, the County received a grant award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a \$19 million Community Change Grant for the North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative. The County is working to develop agreements with the partners to the project: Urban Tilth, The Watershed Project, Richmond Land, and the Community Housing Development Corporation. The project includes a resilience hub at the Urban Tilth farm, all-electric home retrofits, 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.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
<p>Sustainability staff released a video showcasing educational highlights and attendee takeaways from the October 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish language induction cooking demonstration event. The highlight video can be viewed with <a href="#">English</a> or <a href="#">Spanish subtitles</a> on Contra Costa TV’s YouTube channel.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p>
<p>Staff collaborated with the Ambrose Recreation and Park District to submit an application to the PG&amp;E Resilience Hubs Grant Program on January 31, 2025. The \$25,000 grant award would allow Contra Costa County and the Ambrose Recreation and Park District to partner on a gap assessment of the Ambrose Community Center in Bay Point. The gap analysis would help identify the climate-smart retrofits and expanded services necessary for the Ambrose Community Center to serve the community as a resilience hub. Should the grant be awarded, staff intend to leverage BayREN’s new Energy Roadmapping service to support the retrofit portion of the gap assessment.</p>	
<p>The County launched the <a href="#">Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program</a> on January 15, funded through a grant from the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund. The first phase of the Pilot Program offers rebates to cover up to 50% of the project cost (maximum of \$8,000) for the installation of qualified electric heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in eligible single-family homes.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
<p>The County hosted its second Drought and Water Shortage Task Force meeting on February 6. The Task Force is made up of County staff, groundwater sustainability agencies, water providers, and state agencies. At the second meeting, the Task Force reviewed a draft Risk Assessment to be incorporated into a countywide Drought Resilience Plan, in accordance with SB 552.</p>	<p>Goal 4 – Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Just Transition.</i> The Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone (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.</li> </ul> <p>The County continues to implement the strategic plan for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative, having received a \$500,000</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 7 - Leadership</p>

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
<p>grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for the Priority Production Areas Technical Assistance project, and having applied for a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Contra Costa County Brownfields Coalition.</p> <p>Economic Development and Sustainability staff attended a Sustainable Technology and Partnerships Workshop at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) on January 28. The workshop allowed community groups and local government staff to meet LLNL scientists and staff, learn more about ongoing research, and identify potential areas for collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force.</i> Department Heads received an update on February 11 on the 2024 CAAP and the Sustainability Fund, with an emphasis on work to help County employees become more comfortable with electric vehicles as part of their jobs. The G3 Champions met on February 12 and brainstormed ideas for how they can help achieve the CAAP goals in their departments.</li> <li>• <i>All-Electric Building Ordinance.</i> The new ordinance that amends the County building code to increase energy efficiency standards for newly constructed residential buildings, offices, hotels, and retail buildings to meet the County's Climate Action Plan goals will go into effect after it is approved by the California Energy Commission.</li> </ul>	
<p>The <a href="#">winter 2025</a> issue of the quarterly Sustainability in Contra Costa County newsletter was published on December 20, 2024. The newsletter included articles on the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, open seats on the Sustainability Commission, tips to host a sustainable holiday gathering, recent grants awarded to the County to work towards CAAP goals, the new administration building's sustainability achievements, and more.</p>	Goal 7 - Leadership
<p>Sustainability staff continue to monitor state and federal grant opportunities and prepare to apply for projects that will support key climate goals around all-electric buildings, active transportation, sea level rise, climate resilience, and Just Transition.</p>	All
<b>Department of Public Works</b>	
<p>On January 30, 2025, Public Works submitted a grant application for the San Pablo Dam Road Complete Street project for consideration of federal funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, previously known as Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability &amp; Equity (RAISE). The project proposes a road diet, new crosswalks, and other active transportation infrastructure and enhancements along San Pablo Dam Road from Appian Way to Tri Lane in El Sobrante.</p> <p>Note, Public Works also submitted the same project to the MTC Active Transportation Technical Assistance program on December 18, 2024, to fund preliminary design.</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network

ACTIVITY	2024 CAAP GOAL
On January 30, 2025, Public Works submitted three grant applications for consideration of Transportation Development Act funding. The three projects included: (1) Arlington Crosswalk Improvements; (2) Contra Costa Centre Pedestrian Improvements; and (3) Driftwood Drive Crosswalk Improvements. All three projects will install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at existing crosswalks and may include other pedestrian enhancements such as curb extensions or new sidewalk.	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	
The Department of Agriculture, co-led by the Department’s G3 Champion, organized the Board of Supervisors’ annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration on January 21 and incorporated numerous sustainability initiatives into the event. Sustainability initiatives included floral decorations sourced from local Contra Costa County farmers, three-stream (compost, recycle, and landfill) waste bins available during lunch, customized signage for the waste bins featuring images of items attendees used at the event, and collaborating with White Pony Express to collect and distribute for donation 40 pounds of leftover food.	Goal 7 - Leadership
<b>Ongoing</b>	
Staff participated in professional learning opportunities regarding environmental justice, carbon sequestration, climate resilience, communication and facilitation strategies, race and equity, and related.	All
Staff participated in regional activities.	All

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**Attachments**

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