



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Commission

Jamie Duran, Business Seat 1
Susan Hurl, Business Seat 2
Luz Gomez, Community Seat 1
Howdy Goudey, Community Seat 2
Shoshana Wechsler, District 1 Seat
Kim Jones, District 1 Alternate
Victoria Smith, District 2 Seat
Christopher Easter, District 2 Seat Alternate
Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, District 3 Seat
Vacant, District 3 Seat Alternate
Brandon Matson, District 4 Seat
Wesley Sullens, District 4 Seat Alternate
Solomon Belette, District 5 Seat
Reilly Kent, District 5 Seat Alternate
Devin Jackson, Education/Research Seat
Kiara Pereira, Environmental Justice Seat 1
Sarah Foster, Environmental Justice Seat 2

Monday, October 27, 2025

5:00 PM

**1025 Escobar Street, Room 110
Martinez, CA 94553**

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/85088039888>

**| Dial: 888-278-0254 US Toll-free |
ACCESS CODE: 841892**

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

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

1. INTRODUCTION Call to order and roll call.

Chair Wechsler called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Blake McPherson, Sustainability Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Nick Spinner, Senior System Engineer, Dept. of Information Technology;
Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;

Justin Sullivan, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Samantha Harris, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Carlson;
Jennifer Quallick, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Andersen;
David Brockbank, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Derene Allen Hinchliff, Bruce “Ole” Ohlson

Present	Jamie Duran, Christopher Easter, Sarah Foster, Luz Gomez, Howdy Goudey, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, Susan Hurl, Devin Jackson, Kim Jones, Reilly Kent, Brandon Matson, Victoria Smith, and Shosana Wechsler
Absent	Solomon Bellette, Kiara Pereira, and Wesley Sullens

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

There was no public comment on this item.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for July 28, 2025, Sustainability Commission Meeting.

Attachments: [2025_07_28_Contra_Costa_County_Sustainability_Commission_Minutes_Registar_Draft](#)

The Record of Action was unanimously approved.

This Discussion Item was approved.

Motion: Haas-Wajdowicz

Second: Matson

4. RECEIVE Report on the No Waste Contra Costa section of the Climate Action Adaptation Plan and PROVIDE DIRECTION, as needed.

Attachments: [Sustainability Commission - CAAP No Waste CC Presentation](#)

Justin Sullivan, Planner in the Solid Waste section at Dept. of Conservation and Development, provided a visual presentation on the County’s progress in meeting the four No Waste (NW) strategies and their associated implementation actions specified in the County’s 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Sullivan highlighted progress in each No Waste implementation action set forth in the CAAP. Some highlights of the presentation include:

- *Organics collection service is included in every contract for County-controlled waste collection franchise areas*
- *Organizations working with the County have coordinated with ~700 local businesses to use organic waste to be processed through anaerobic digesters that produce enough electricity to power ~59 homes per year.*
- *The County has been successful in partnering with other jurisdictions, local food recovery organizations, and food generators to divert more excess edible food from good generators to food recovery organizations, reducing future greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while distributing more food to people in need.*
- *The County’s partnerships with local organizations have produced effective*

informational campaigns and useful websites to promote better waste sorting and provide ideas for reusing items to reduce waste.

- *All landfills in the county have landfill gas collection facilities that are operational.*

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners asked for more clarification on the eligibility of food generators to be considered Tier 1 or Tier 2 with regards to food recovery regulations put in place by Senate Bill 1383.

Questions were posed about methane emissions from composting and how the magnitude of those emissions compares to methane emissions from landfills. David Brockbank, Solid Waste Principal Planner at Dept. of Conservation and Development, answered that there are methane emissions composting but certainly less than landfills. The new Ameresco project at Keller Canyon Landfill captures 70% or more of methane generated at the landfill.

PUBLIC COMMENT::

There was no public comment on this item.

5. RECEIVE Report on the Clean Transportation Network section of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and PROVIDE DIRECTION, as needed.

Attachments: [Report on Clean Transportation Network Section of Climate](#)

Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner in the Transportation Planning section at Dept. of Conservation and Development, provided a visual presentation on the CAAP's Transportation strategies and progress regarding implementing actions specified in the CAAP. Some highlights of the presentation include:

- *The County's jurisdiction is only the unincorporated areas, though the County's Transportation Planning group collaborates with cities and other jurisdictions in the county through subregional transportation planning committees. The County also works closely with county's congestion management agency, Contra Costa Transportation Authority.*
- *Active transportation (walking, biking, riding scooters, etc.) is being encouraged by closing bike lane gaps, installing more pedestrian-friendly street crossings, and planning for mobility hubs centered around mass transit facilities.*
- *Alternative transportation modes are being promoted through incentive programs, of which many are implemented by 511 Contra Costa, to incentivize people to use transit modes other than cars to commute or travel.*
- *Transit-oriented development is being ensured by County staff making sure land development projects align with goals and policies of local and regional transit agency plans.*
- *County employees are encouraged to telecommute and use alternative transit modes where possible to help reduce traffic congestion, and the County is searching for better programs to incentivize and help employees make that switch easier and more affordable.*

Commission Discussion:

A Commissioner asked how much progress is being made with converting the County's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles where feasible. Stamps and Jody London described multiple grants awarded to the Energy Program in Public Works to implement electric vehicle chargers at County facilities. The Sustainability fund as part of Measure X sales tax revenue has been used to buy and install EV chargers for County fleet vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment on this item.

6. RECEIVE Report on the Contra Costa County Employee Commute Survey Report.

Attachments: [Sustainability Commission-Commute Survey Report Presentation](#)
[CCC Employer Survey 2025 Report](#)

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

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

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners discussed the potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions associated with increased use of teleworking for County departments and increasing use of vanpools or shuttles for County employees from public transit hubs like BART. Commissioner Smith suggested that the Commission could send a report to the Sustainability Committee to encourage more use of telecommuting for jobs at all County departments where feasible.

Commissioners discussed the importance of County employees receiving information about the commuter benefit program at time of hire.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment on this item.

7. RECEIVE Report on greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Attachments: [2023 Contra Costa GHG Emissions Inventory Update PPT](#)
[2023 CCC GHG Emissions Inventory Report](#)

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

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

emissions combined.

Results of the 2023 County operations inventory for municipal operations indicated an overall decrease in GHG emissions of 18% from 2017 to 2023. The employee commute sector remained near-constant in emissions, now comprising 69% of emissions related to government operations. However, employee commute would be ~24% higher without the increasing rate of adoption of electric vehicles and increased ability for employees to work from home. Electricity usage in County buildings has decreased, while natural gas usage has increased. Emissions from energy use in buildings are now almost entirely from natural gas usage because electricity was nearly zero-emissions in 2023. Smaller sectors of fleet gas consumption, water and wastewater, refrigerants, and solid waste comprised less than 12% of County operations emissions combined.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners discussed the difficulty for jurisdictions like the County to obtain data for GHG inventories, and how past legislation was sponsored but did not pass that would have had the State perform GHG emissions inventories for local jurisdictions rather than the jurisdictions trying to do inventories with very little staff time available for it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment on this item.

8. RECEIVE Reports on Staff Activities that Support Sustainability Goals.

Attachments:

[2025-10-27 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMSN v.2](#)

[2025-08-25 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMSN v.2](#)

Jody London provided a verbal report on Sustainability staff activity. Some highlights include:

- Staff are taking applications for the Sea Level Rise Shoreline Leadership Academy from the Senate Bill 1 Ocean Protection Council grant.*
- The County is recruiting in Impacted Communities for a Tree Stewardship Academy.*
- The Clean Energy Roadmap is going to the Board of Supervisors.*
- Many more topics are listed in the Staff Report.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment on this item.

9. RECEIVE Reports from Sustainability Commission members and alternates, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed.

There were no reports provided for this item.

10. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to the Committee on Sustainability.

Chair Wechsler encouraged Commission members to send potential topics to her via email.

11. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Commission meeting to be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT