

**SUSTAINABILTY STAFF REPORT FOR
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
December 9, 2024**

Activities since the Sustainability Commission’s meeting on October 28, 2024, are listed below. Activities are keyed to goals in the 2023-2024 Interim Climate Action Work Plan.

ACTIVITY	2023-2024 INTERIM CAP GOAL
Department of Conservation and Development	
On November 5, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted the new General Plan, updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The culmination of a long development process with significant community engagement, the General Plan and CAAP are notable for how tightly they are linked and the inclusion of four themes throughout: environmental justice, sustainability, economic development, and community health. Sustainability staff are now turning our attention to educating colleagues about the new CAAP and developing implementation strategies. The adopted documents can be found at https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/documents/ .	All
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. 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 early 2025.	Goal 2 – 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. On November 14, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy shared a press release highlighting the next round of Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant funding recipients. Contra Costa County was one of a select few recipients to have their projects featured in the press release announcing the awards.	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment
The County participated in an interview with the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation on October 30 for a grant that would fund development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. The grant was submitted through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, Extreme Heat and	Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

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<p>Community Resilience Program. No announcements have been made regarding grant awards.</p>	
<p>Sustainability staff are working with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as it develops the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan (BARCAP, formerly referred to as CCAP) through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>The fourth quarter Sustainability Exchange meeting on December 5, 2024, featured Air District staff engaging with Contra Costa County jurisdictions about priorities for the BARCAP.</p>	All
<p>The County was notified on December 2 that the \$19 million Community Change Grant application for the North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative submitted to U.S. EPA has been selected for potential funding. Before any award is made, the County must negotiate the terms of the agreement with U.S. EPA, a process that takes on average 120 days. The application, which has multiple community group partners as well as the County’s Public Works Department, 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</p> <p>Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure</p> <p>Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
<p>Sustainability staff contracted with Sustainable Contra Costa using funding from the Bay Area Regional Energy Network to launch the CookSmart Program, a portable induction cooktop pilot program to increase community access to and familiarity with induction cooking technology. The pilot concluded in October 2024.</p>	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment
<p>On November 19, the Sustainability Team hosted the final quarterly Contra Costa County Energy Efficiency Collaborative of 2024. Staff from the City of Pinole and County presented on energy efficiency and all-electric policies in climate action planning documents and reach codes. Attendees also received an update on BayREN’s single-family program..</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment</p> <p>Goal 7 - Leadership</p>
<p>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 2 solar projects, 2 battery storage projects, and 8 projects with both solar and battery storage.</p>	Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment
<p>County staff hosted an extern through the Rising Sun Center for Opportunity’s Climate Careers Program from August through November. The extern refreshed the information on the County’s green building materials webpage and created digital and printable collateral to educate County residents about local green building material options. The extern also provided recommendations on how to improve the user experience of the County’s Sustainability Resources webpage.</p>	<p>Goal 3 – No-Waste Contra Costa</p> <p>Goal 7 - Leadership</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Just Transition</i>. The Economic Development Committee of the Board of Supervisors held its first meeting on December 4. • <i>Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force</i>. The Green Government Group (G3) Champions will meet on December 11. The meeting will include a tour of 	Goal 7 - Leadership

ACTIVITY	2023-2024 INTERIM CAP GOAL
<p>the new County Administration Building at 1026 Escobar in Martinez, which has received TRUE certification for its low-waste construction, and a presentation from the Co-Directors of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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. 	
<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
Department of Public Works	
<p>In November 2024, Public Works submitted a grant application to the California Transportation Commission Local Partnership Program 2024 cycle for the North Bailey Active Transportation Corridor project. The project will install a class IV two-way cycle track from Willow Pass Road to the westbound State Route 4 on-ramp in the Bay Point community.</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
<p>On December 2, 2024, Public Works submitted three preliminary grant applications for consideration of Transportation Development Act funding. The three projects include: (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.</p>	Goal 5 – Clean Transportation Network
Health	
<p>The Contra Costa Green Business Program is serving as a bilingual (Spanish-speaking) outreach partner for the MCE Small Business Energy Advantage Program (SBEA). SBEA provides small businesses located in underserved communities with access to bill reducing energy efficiency upgrades that also offer health, comfort, and safety benefits.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment Goal 2 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure Goal 6 – Climate Equity</p>
Ongoing	
<p>Staff participated in professional learning opportunities regarding environmental justice, carbon sequestration, climate resilience, communication and facilitation strategies, race and equity, and related.</p>	All
<p>Staff participated in regional activities.</p>	All

Attachments
