



2021 Annual Sustainability Report



*Prepared by the County of Santa Clara
Office of Sustainability*



County of Santa Clara
**Sustainability
Master Plan**
Livable. Equitable. Resilient.

Acknowledgments

Throughout the development of the 2021 Annual Sustainability Report, a number of departments and divisions were engaged to provide their updates and progress on sustainability goals:

CEO	Office of the County Executive
CEPA	Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency
DESJ	Office of the County Executive - Division of Equity and Social Justice
DPD	Department of Planning and Development
FAF	Facilities and Fleet Department
HHS	Health and Hospital Systems
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
OEM	Office of the County Executive - Office of Emergency Management
OSH	Office of the County Executive - Office of Supportive Housing
OOS	Office of Sustainability
Parks	Parks and Recreation Department
PRC	Procurement Department
PHD	Public Health Department
RDA	Roads and Airports Department
ROV	Registrar of Voters
SCCLD	Santa Clara County Library District
SSA	Social Services Agency

Other Acronyms

CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
DST	Directors Stewardship Team
FGOC	Finance and Government Operations Committee (County of Santa Clara Board Policy Committee)
HLUET	Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation Committee (County of Santa Clara Board Policy Committee)
SMP	Sustainability Master Plan
OOS	Office of Sustainability
SWG	Sustainability Working Group
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension

Photo Credits

Department of Planning and Development / Facilities and Fleet Department / Health and Hospital Systems / Parks and Recreation Department / Office of Communications and Public Affairs / Public Health Department / Registrar of Voters / [Our City Forest](#)

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Visit www.scccgov.org/sustainabilityplan for the Sustainability Master Plan and Data Dashboard.



Executive Summary

With the adoption of the Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) in January 2021, the focus for the first year of implementation has been to support County departments operationalize the SMP and integrate sustainability as a core function within County operations. The Office of Sustainability (OOS) facilitated the following activities to support internal coordination, collaboration, and communications across County departments:

- Hosted four Directors Sustainability Team and Sustainability Working Group quarterly meetings and coordinated a Learning Exchange to promote continual sharing of best practices;
- Launched and provided on-going support to the following SMP working groups: Sustainable Purchasing Policy, Green Building Policy, Telecommute, Equity, and an Employee Climate Training Ad-Hoc Committee;
- Created 12 new dashboards for tracking progress on actions, raising the total number of dashboards that are featured on the SMP website to 42;
- Revised three SMP targets based on feedback from departments for clarity and conciseness;
- Coordinated with departments on the 2021 Annual Sustainability Report and maintained the SMP website and data dashboards.
- Developed an SMP road show for departments to learn about sustainability related initiatives and help integrate sustainability into employees work and everyday lives; and
- Built an internal Sustainability SharePoint site and revamped the Green Memes employee newsletter.

Welcome to the County's Sustainability site for County Employees.

Learn about County Sustainability programs and initiatives and get tips on how to be more sustainable at work and home!

News

+ Add ▾



Green Memes Resources

New Employee Resource: County Sustainability SharePoint Site

Come and explore the new County Sustainability...
January 19



Green Memes Resources

Employee Blog: Can I Be "More" Sustainably Active? A Journey ...

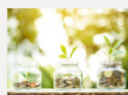
By Alice Santos, Executive Assistant...
January 19



Green Memes Resources

Help the Registrar of Voters Reach its Sustainability Goals i...

By the end of 2022, the Registrar of...
January 19



Green Memes Resources

New County Sustainable Purchasing Policy Adopted

On December 7, 2021, the Board of...
January 19

See all

Quick Links

Sustainability Master Plan

Employee Commute

Zero Waste

Green Memes Newsletter

Sustainability Policies

Contact Us



Climate Protection and Defense

Decarbonization Efforts

- **Green Buildings.** The County opened their first all-electric facility, the Vietnamese American Services Center (VASC).
- **Clean Transportation.** Decarbonization of transportation continues through:
 - A new shuttle service from Diridon Station to Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center (SCVMC).
 - 28 electric vehicle charging ports added across County facilities.
 - A Countywide Teleworking Policy to allow flexibility and reduce commute time and carbon emissions.
- **Climate Roadmap.** Work continues on the County Climate Roadmap as supported by these policy wins:
 - All-electric Reach Codes adopted for new buildings in Unincorporated County.
 - Approved the Coyote Valley Climate Resilience District, the nation's first zoning overlay to protect and invest in climate resilience.

Preparedness and Resilience

- **Renewable Energy Aggregated Project (REAP).** Approved installation of 12MW of solar systems at 15 County facilities with accompanying 5MW of energy storage, saving nearly \$38.9 million in energy costs.
- **Residential Energy Efficiency and Electrification.** 3,035 residences countywide completed energy efficiency and electrification improvements.
- **Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant.** 10-12 projects focusing on soil resilience and health potentially to be awarded, covering over ~3,700 acres of County land.
- **County Climate Collaborative.** A cross-sector impact network to advance regional solutions to climate change was launched with various stakeholders across the county.



Natural Resources and Environment

Water Conservation

- **Sustainable Landscaping.** The new VASC installed a recycled water system for landscaping.
- **Drought and Water Conservation Report.** Recommendations for water conservation outlined in the report include tree preservation, leak detection and water audits, and exploring nature-based bio-engineered solutions.

Protecting Water Quality

- **Stormwater Inspections.** 52 commercial/industrial inspections, an increase of 189% from 2020, were done to prevent polluted water from getting into local water systems.
- **Reduced Pesticide Use.** 27 high risk pesticides were phased out of use and 25 of 30 regional parks are now being managed non-chemically.

Trash Management and Reduction

- **River and Coastal Cleanups.** A total of nearly 7,000 lbs of trash were collected during National River Cleanup Day and California Coastal Cleanup Day.
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).** 3,103,847 lbs of HHW was collected in 2021, the most to date.

Natural Lands Stewardship

- **Tree Planting.** 606 of a targeted 1,000 trees per year were planted during the first half of annual planting season.
- **Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA).** A total of over 200 urban foresters, municipal administrators, and policy makers were engaged and educated through online webinars and workshops facilitated by SCVUFA.
- **Habitat Protection.** Noxious weeds at 10 sites around the County were eradicated and 260 shipments carrying invasive species were intercepted.
- **Countywide Trails Program.** New Parks program is implementing the County's Countywide Trails Master Plan, and approximately 339 miles of countywide trails are currently being developed.



Community Health and Well-Being

Physical and Mental Health

- **Active Transportation Plan.** Support studies and public outreach were completed to help inform ways to improve walking, bicycling, and rolling along Unincorporated County roadways.
- **Juntos Initiative.** Since October 2021, 10 hikes/gardening sessions were held, with 25-40 attendees per session, for pediatric patients and their families.

Civic Engagement and Leadership

- **Voter Education.** The Registrar of Voters engaged and educated community through different mediums and methods including webinars in 14 languages, Facebook Live events, and educational videos.
- **County Leadership Programs.** Over 400 community members participated in programs to help train youth, County staff, and other professionals on issues such as LGBTQ, advancement of women and girls, and mental health.

Safety Net Services

- **Social Services.** 1,199,298 meals were served to 12,702 older adults, CalFresh enrollment increased by 19% for individuals and 23% for cases, while overall enrollment for CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and General Assistance increased by 9% for individuals and 10% for cases.
- **Supportive Housing.** 3,643 households have been permanently housed since March 2020 and shelter capacity has increased by 21%.

Access to Learning

- **BookDash.** A new program for contact less home delivery of library materials for home-bound community members was developed and implemented.
- **Library Resources.** Participants in Santa Clara County Library District's (SCCLD) virtual programs doubled and there was a 51% increase in downloaded e-materials in FY 2020-2021.



Prosperous and Just Economy

Sustainable Economy

- **Green Business.** 70 businesses certified in 2021, which will save a total of 29,223 lbs of CO₂ or the equivalent of planting 45 acres of urban trees.
- **Workforce Development.** CalTrans and San Jose Conservation Corps provided 39,724 hours of on-the-job training to remove 2,976 cubic yards of solid waste, vegetation, and debris.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- **County Food Systems Workplan.** Created to address gaps and improve coordination within countywide food system and make it more resilient, equitable, and sustainable. Current progress includes:
 - A Food Security Working Group and partnership with University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to quantify food insecurity and the need for food assistance in the County.
 - A new Agriculture Liaison position that will support beginning and historically underrepresented farmers and facilitate equity-focused projects in food access and other agriculture initiatives.
- **Project Funding.** More than \$850,000 in grant funding was secured for multi-jurisdictional climate resiliency projects.

County Sustainability Leadership

- **Staff Training.** 44% of all staff from Public Health Department (PHD) completed a Climate, Health and Equity web-based training, while staff from PHD and Office of Sustainability (OOS) attended a Resilience Hub Leadership Training Program.
- **Sustainable Purchasing Policy.** A policy that outlines the County's commitment to make purchasing decisions that consider environmental and social impact was approved and purchasing standards are being developed to implement this policy.

Looking Ahead

The Earth's climate is headed for irreversible and catastrophic conditions if we do not curb our carbon emission immediately. Aggressive collective action is needed today to reduce emissions and protect people and places. Several new efforts will be launched or completed over the next two years that will further the County's standing as a leader in sustainability and resilience.

Carbon Neutrality Roadmap for County Operations

- A Building Electrification Feasibility Study and commencement of Energy Audits at County hospitals.
- A Commuter Platform to improve employee commute through increased utilization of alternative modes of transportation and County Teleworking policy.
- A Waste Characterization Study and stakeholder engagement towards a Zero Solid Waste Plan.
- Fleet and Equipment Electrification Plan to eliminate diesel fuel from County operations.
- Exploration of nature-based strategies to store carbon on County owned landscapes.
- Updated County Green Building Policy to include electrification, zero-net energy and resilience standards for existing County-owned buildings.

Community Climate Roadmap

- Prioritized climate actions for unincorporated areas of the County, and regional partnerships and to achieve coordinated action on shared sustainability goals.
- Implementation of SolarApp+ to fast track the solar installation in unincorporated county.
- New ordinance requiring organic waste service for residential and commercial customers and edible food recovery from large businesses to serve food insecure community members.
- Measures to reduce water use and use of single-use foodware in unincorporated county.

Preparedness and Resilience to Climate Hazards and Impacts

- Updated Safety Element and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to include climate risks and resiliency goals and strategies and new Environmental Justice Element for the County's General Plan.
- Climate Risk Planning including Resiliency Strategy for flooding and sea level rise and actions to improve resiliency to heat waves, and impaired air quality.

Natural Resource Management

- Regional urban forestry management and planning through the Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA), and development of foundational planning data and community-based strategies to expand the regional canopy and connect people with trees.
- Expansion of the County's natural resources management initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, drought resiliency, water use management and conservation, green infrastructure, bio-sequestration, and sustainable agriculture and landscaping.

SMP Implementation

- Creation of a County Sustainability Commission to guide implementation of the SMP and formalization of the County Climate Collaborative to help implement regional climate solutions.
- A sustainability training program/curriculum to build capacity of County employees in becoming sustainability practitioners.
- Grant development services to capitalize on the forthcoming Federal and State climate package.
- A refined data management system to enhance sustainability initiatives tracking and reporting.



Climate Protection and Defense

Goal #1: Carbon Neutrality

Become a carbon neutral County that supports a transition to zero waste and zero emissions.

Goal #2: Resilient and Prepared County

Increase preparedness and resilience to respond to the shocks and stressors that impact Santa Clara County and the services it provides.



Decarbonization Efforts

Carbon Neutrality for County Operations

Several actions in 2021 continue to support the County's efforts to reduce the carbon footprint from its operations. These included addition of new electric vehicle charging stations at County facilities, the completion of the County's first all-electric building, implementation of a Countywide Teleworking Policy and significant increase in percentage of employees teleworking and initiation of new solar projects with inclusion of design features to facilitate future microgrid projects at 15 county facilities.

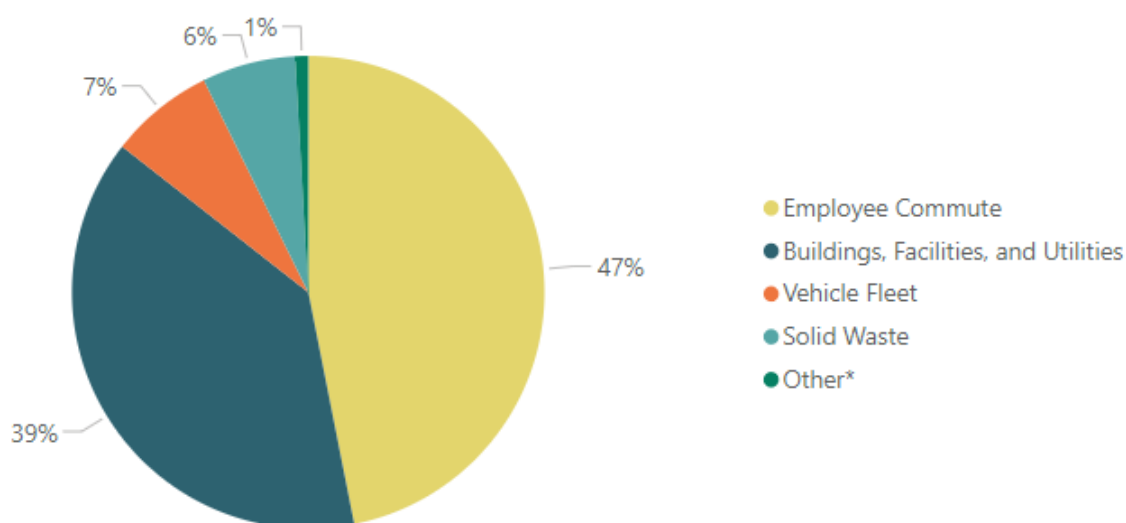
Office of Sustainability (OOS) and Facilities and Fleet (FAF) staff are currently assessing feasibility and potential actions to accelerate the County's carbon-neutrality by 2045 goal for operations. To achieve this, the County will need to eliminate or decrease emissions across four key sectors (buildings, employee commute, vehicle fleet and solid waste) and supplement emission reduction with carbon offsets needed to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions. An implementation roadmap will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in 2022.

2020 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Study

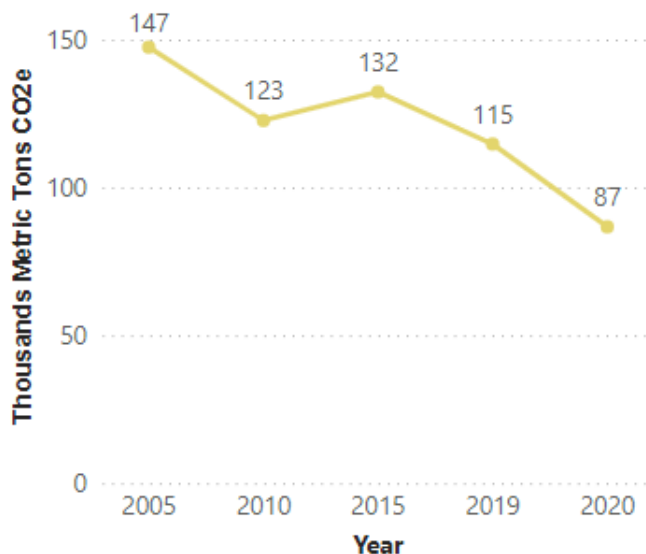
The 2020 emissions are estimated to be 24% less than 2019 as result of the continued implementation of the County's Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) and variations in the County's operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic resulted in the temporary closure of some County facilities as well as the more intensive use of the County's hospital system. As a result, energy and waste related emissions increased while fleet and employee commute emissions decreased due to employees whose functions could be performed remotely, teleworking during COVID-19 shelter in place orders.

Overall GHG emission in 2020 decreased 24% from 2019, 34% from 2015, and 29% from 2010 (baseline year). For the 2020 and past inventory reports, visit <https://sustainability.sccgov.org/reports-and-resources>.

2020 County Operational Emissions by Sector



Total County Operational Emissions Since 2005



GHG Emissions from 2020 compared to 2019:

- Employee commutes decreased 38%
- Buildings and facilities decreased 4%
- Vehicle fleet decreased 14%
- Reimbursed employee miles decreased 35%
- Solid waste increased 14% and closed landfills decreased 81% from 2019, respectively.

Go Green Campaign



Since the Registrar of Voters (ROV) launched the [Go Green Campaign](#) in 2021, a total of 51,000 voters have proactively elected to receive their County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) electronically. This reduced the amount of printed CVIGs, resulting in saving paper approximately equivalent to 204 trees and reducing the carbon emissions associated with transporting CVIGs from mills in neighboring states to ROV headquarters.

"The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future."

Hans-Otto Pörtner, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II Co-Chair

Green Buildings

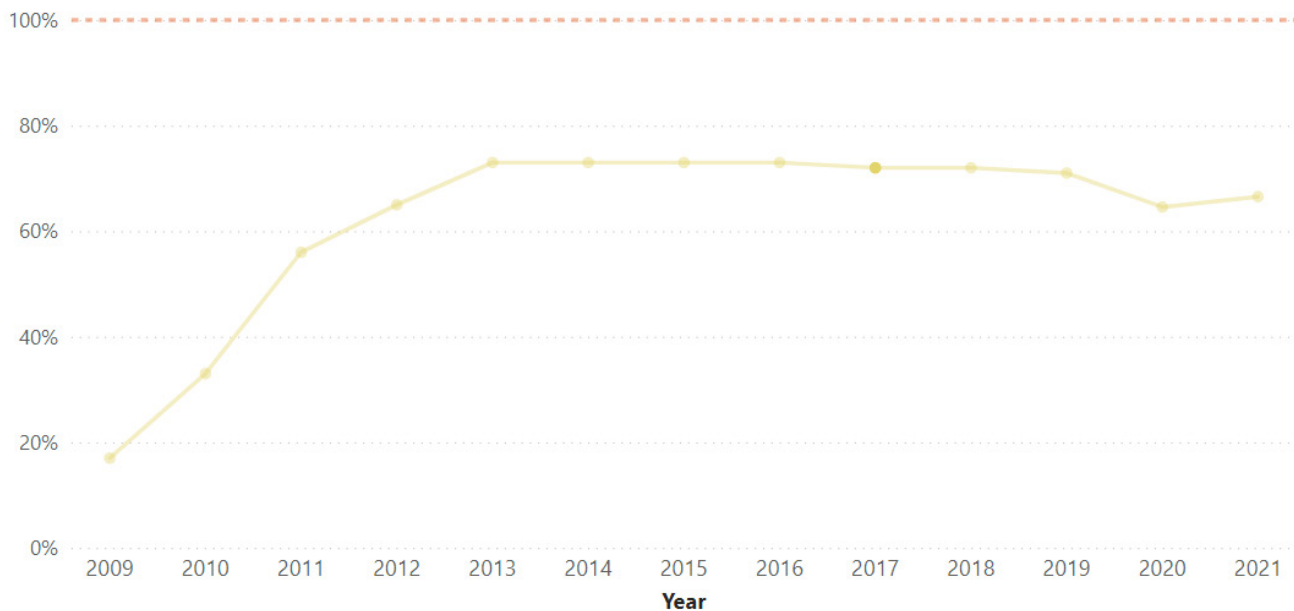


The County opened their latest LEED Certified facility in October 2021. The Vietnamese American Services Center is the County's first all-electric building. It is also the County's first one-stop location in Santa Clara County to offer a wide range of services in Vietnamese and Spanish, a long-awaited development that will bring more equitable resources to the county's diverse residents. The center, located at 2410 Senter Road in East San José, will be a resource hub for culturally competent and language accessible health and human services.



Zero Waste

% of Waste Diverted from Landfills since 2009



In unincorporated county, diverse services for recycling, organic waste composting, and other curbside diversion programs continued in 2021, despite pandemic conditions, in addition to robust education about strategies for waste reduction and diversion. While these strategies may have resulted in continued reductions of waste disposed, the impact of the pandemic on behavior is unknown at this time. Research is being undertaken by third party contractors to identify potential changes in behavior patterns, and a customer survey will be completed in the Spring of 2022 to get a greater understanding of recent changes in solid waste management.

Zero Waste Progress in County Operations:

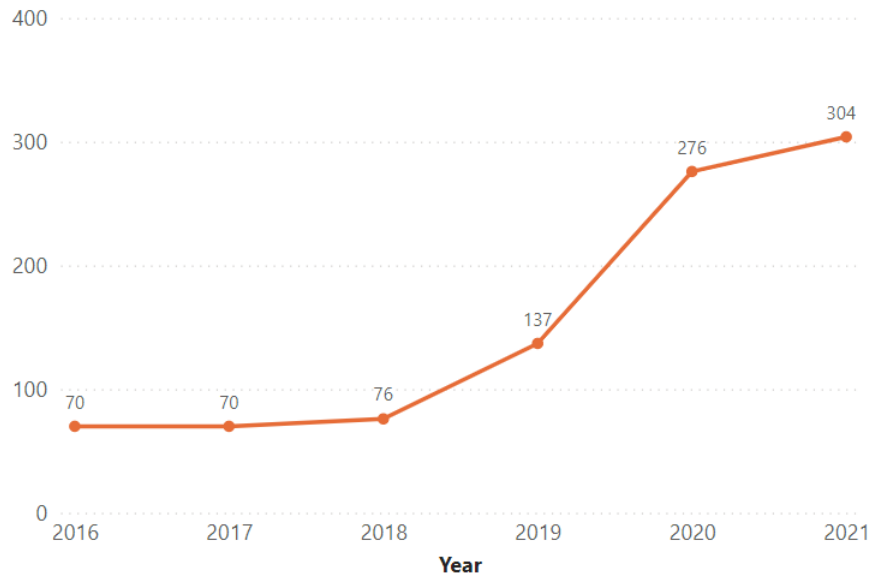
- Slight increase in waste diversion to 67%
- Administrative buildings diverting 82% of waste
- New RFP for waste service to be released early 2022 with a focus on increasing diversion throughout all County facilities.
- New waste service will support implementation of comprehensive composting and recycling programs at O'Connor and SCVMC campuses.

"Refuse what you do not need; reduce what you do need; reuse what you consume; recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse; and rot (compost) the rest."

Bea Johnson, Zero Waste Home

Clean, Safe, and Active Transportation

Total Number of Active EV Charging Ports



28

charging ports added at various County facilities in 2021, bringing total to 304 charging ports

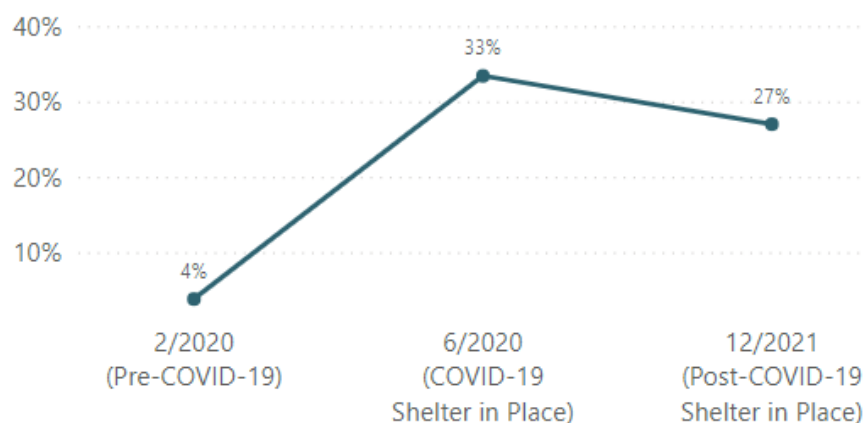
Shuttle service

On June 14, 2021, the County of Santa Clara partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to offer a nonstop shuttle service from Diridon Station in downtown San Jose to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) campus. Since implementation, the SCVMC shuttle has had a positive impact on the environment by encouraging the use of public transportation and removing dozens of cars off the road each day. This service has been especially useful for long-distance commuters who would normally drive to work from as far as the San Joaquin Valley, San Mateo County, and Santa Cruz County. A recent SCVMC shuttle survey showed that shuttle riders use this service primarily to avoid driving in rush-hour traffic and to reduce their impact on the environment.



Telework

% of County employees telecommuting over time



In 2021, 27% of employees teleworked an average of 2 days per week, continuing to meet the Cut the Commute pledge of having at least 25% of eligible employees teleworking.

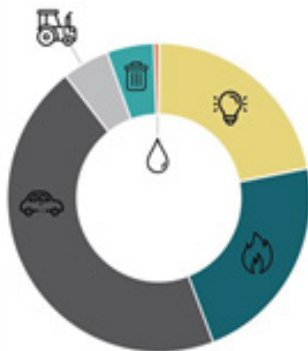
To streamline telework practices for the portion of the County workforce that began to return to on-site work after the lifting of COVID-19 shelter in place orders, the County implemented a Countywide Teleworking Policy on July 15, 2021, that recognizes that flexible work arrangements and reduced commutes may benefit the employee, the department, and County residents by making more efficient use of staff time.



Maria Leticia Gomez, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, working from home

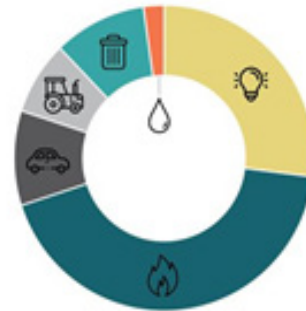
Community Climate Roadmap

Countywide GHG Emissions



22%	Electricity	27%
22%	Natural Gas	43%
45%	On-road Transportation	10%
5%	Off-road Equipment	8%
5%	Waste	10%
0.4%	Water and Wastewater	2%

Unincorporated County GHG Emissions



**** Unincorporated County GHG emissions are 3.7% of countywide emissions**

In 2021, the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast for countywide and unincorporated County were completed. A number of outreach and engagement efforts were completed to share information about the Climate Roadmap and receive feedback, including surveys, listening sessions, presentations, stakeholder meetings, a virtual visioning board, and a community workshop. Nearly 300 people were engaged in 2021 via listening sessions, presentations, and/or meetings about the Climate Roadmap. More information is available at www.sccgov.org/climateroadmap.

7

listening sessions

11

presentations

22

1:1/stakeholder meetings

Santa Clara County - Climate Roadmap 2030

Share your vision for a climate-friendly Santa Clara County. See detailed instructions below to learn how to use this virtual bulletin board.

About the Roadmap

The County is embarking on the process of creating the Climate Roadmap 2030, which will outline actions the County and partners will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our community. Learn more here:

Anonymous 7d
State and city counsel to revamp building codes & to include green energy for use, or regulating the amount of waste per household.

Electrify Buses

Anonymous 1mo
Here is an article from the VTA website about electrifying their buses: <https://www.vta.org/blogs/vta-electric-buses-will-use-electronic-thermostatic-technology>

Anonymous 1mo
Also, we can improve the public transport system as a whole. Buses are far more efficient than cars in terms of energy/fuel consumed per person, and a big roadblock in getting people to use them in Santa Clara County is the friction many of the inconveniences in public transport cause. We can be more efficient (ex. have

How to use this board

Post pictures, stories, videos, and ideas by clicking on the red '+' button on the bottom right-hand side of the screen. Review existing contributions, and if you like someone's idea, you can like the post and leave your comment on it! Please be polite when adding posts, comments, or responding to other comments. To ensure that this board remains a safe space for all individuals, groups, and ideas, comments will be moderated by our team. Rude or hateful comments will be removed.

Walkability

Anonymous 1mo
Keep downtown streets closed - e.g. Mt View Castro St, Sunnyvale Murphy St, to encourage more sense of community through increased walkability.

Anonymous 1mo
Stop that weird thing where there's a sidewalk and then it goes away (it just ends) so you have to awkwardly walk on

Electrify Buildings

Anonymous 2mo
Ban gas infrastructure in new buildings!

Anonymous 1mo
Help existing homeowners convert their gas stoves to electric stove.

Anonymous 1mo
Incentivize solar panels on investment properties so that landlords will install them.

Anonymous 1mo
Preinstall electric vehicle supply equipment (ex. grids) to allow for lower-cost placement of chargers in the future

Anonymous 1mo
Move toward all-electric utilities (no gas)

Anonymous 2d
They said we could not get solar panels because we did not have large enough open spaces. Don't say what we can do without addressing the roadblocks.

Anonymous 9d
Work with technical schools to create a regional certification that focuses on the switch from gas to electric. This would fast track the process to have a skilled labor pool.

Anonymous 7d
Gas station to install solar panels to allow free EV charging

Green Economy & Good Jobs

Local Solar

Anonymous 2mo
With virtual inspections, there is no need for the high Building Permit costs. There should be a standard form for a 6kw or less rooftop installation. Also, the Building Permit should be tied to the PG&E NEM Agreement so there is not duplicate and complicated paperwork. You are not supposed to activate the solar system until the NEM agreement is completed.

Anonymous 2d
Promote solar + battery storage

Anonymous 9d
Microgrid!

Anonymous 7d
Legislate that all new homes or renovation over \$30,000 should include solar system and backup battery

Anonymous 7d
Legislate that all multi level buildings have solar panels on building top, and commercial buildings to install solar panels at building top and in parking area.

Bike Infrastructure

Electric Vehicles

Anonymous 2mo
Require multi-family buildings to have enough car chargers for electric cars. Target gasoline superusers - old cars included.

Anonymous 1mo
More accessibility to charging stations to be sure to make people more get electric cars.

Anonymous 1mo
Incentive program for the poor to convert polluting old gasoline guzzlers into electric cars. Target gasoline superusers - old cars included.

Anonymous 1mo
INCENTIVIZE Electric Vehicle Preinstall grids on land so Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment is double and affordable.

Anonymous 1mo
Increase required electric equipment in new buildings will reduce friction for the future.

Anonymous 2d
Install more DC Fast Chargers

Anonymous 2d
Explore opportunities to people to buy used EVs (affordable for many people than new ones)

Anonymous 7d
Allow free EV charging at government own facilities at off office hours or school hours or in the weekend

Anonymous 1mo
planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, eutrophication, land use and water use. It is far bigger than cutting down on your flights or buying an electric car," he explained, which would only reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Roadmap Wins

All Electric Reach Codes Adopted

On December 7, the County [passed an ordinance](#) that requires new buildings in unincorporated parts of Santa Clara County to use electricity (not natural gas) for water heating, space heating, cooking, clothes drying, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, and decorative appliances, as well as include infrastructure for charging electric vehicles, which goes further than state requirements related to climate change. Within unincorporated Santa Clara County, 43% of total GHG emissions are attributed to commercial and residential natural gas use and these requirements will ensure that no new emissions from natural gas use in new buildings are added to the atmosphere. This ordinance will also improve indoor air quality and safety, reduce new building construction costs, and help transition county's building stock to State's planned phase-out of natural gas infrastructure.

SB 1383 Food Recovery Ordinance Adopted

On December 7, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a [Food Recovery Ordinance](#) that is a key step to prepare for SB 1383 that became effective January 2022. The ordinance will require certain large-scale businesses in unincorporated County areas to recover and donate surplus edible food for food insecure community members. Unincorporated staff helped to lead the development of the County-wide food recovery program, which will be managed by Joint Venture Silicon Valley through 2024. More information can be found at: <https://reducewaste.sccgov.org/food-recovery>.

In addition, another [ordinance relating to garbage and refuse](#) was also adopted that would include mandatory organic waste service for residential and commercial customers starting June 2022 to help reduce organic waste in landfills and their associated greenhouse gas emissions.

New Coyote Valley Climate Resilience Combining District

On December 14th, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved the nation's first zoning overlay specifically intended to protect and invest in regional climate resilience. Coyote Valley is a unique ecosystem, well-positioned to serve as natural infrastructure to the surrounding urban areas mitigating the future impacts of climate change. The County's new [Coyote Valley Climate Resilience district](#) establishes a zoning overlay that will help to retain and promote the natural characteristics of this area.



Preparedness and Resilience

REAP Solar Project

On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved the [Renewable Energy Aggregated Procurement \(REAP\) Project](#) to install 15 solar systems with a total capacity of 12 megawatts (MW) and 4 energy storage systems with a total capacity of 5 MW. Each solar and energy storage system will be designed to facilitate future microgrid projects, which includes installing controllers that allow the solar and energy storage systems to communicate with one another, as well as with a site back-up generator and any future master microgrid controller. The enhancement to the County's current 18 megawatts systems in solar PV through additional on-site renewable power generation will result in nearly \$38.9 million in net energy savings costs over the agreement terms, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency in case of power loss.

Residential Energy Efficiency and Electrification



The County continued to administer Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) programs to provide local energy efficiency and electrification resources for homeowners, renters, multifamily property owners, businesses, and jurisdictions in the County. The program upgraded over 3,000 single and multifamily homes, paid over \$2.7 million in rebates to residents and property owners, provided nearly 500 residents with energy and water efficiency kits, enrolled 10 Santa Clara County contractors into the program, and facilitated 15 multilingual energy efficiency and electrification webinars. For more information, see the [2021 Impact of BayREN Programs in Santa Clara County](#) and [2021 Climate Careers](#) reports.

Additionally, as a member of Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), Unincorporated Santa Clara County communities have been receiving carbon-free electricity for almost five years. For more information, see the [2021 Unincorporated Santa Clara County Community Impact Report](#).

1,782
Metric Tons of CO₂e Reduced Countywide,
and is equivalent to:

215
Homes not
consuming
electricity



388
Passenger cars
removed from
the roads



376
Tons of waste
recycled instead
of landfilled



Unincorporated Santa Clara County and Silicon Valley Clean Energy 2021

96% reduction in electricity related emissions - 54,303,000 million pounds greenhouse gas emissions avoided

\$755,000 in on-bill savings for customers - \$7,265,000 since launch

Thank you for your commitment to a clean energy future.

Wildfire Prevention

County Parks continues to work on implementing an \$850,000 grant from Cal Fire to remove fire-prone eucalyptus across 22 acres at Mt. Madonna County Park and reduce fuel loading along 2.5 miles of Pole Line Road to improve community safety and escape routes.



Forest Health Grant

In coordination with Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MPROSD), San Jose Water and the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council,

County Parks has been awarded \$7.5M of Cal Fire grant funding to improve forest health conditions on 400 acres of park land, including at Sanborn County Park, which combined with partners treatment areas, will result in a 955-acre project that focuses on creating ecosystem resilience, mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfire while enhancing the safety of communities in the southern Silicon Valley, protecting sensitive native and endemic species and habitats, and protecting the drinking water in Lexington and Elsmar reservoirs which supply over 100,000 residents (<https://www.lgwatershedhealth.com/>)

Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program

In May 2021, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) completed the first grant solicitation for the first round of the ARI Grant Program. The intent of this program is to facilitate the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices to improve soil quality while sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Best estimates anticipate that the awarded projects will capture between 1,860 – 2,400 MTCO₂e/year.

64

total applications

10-12

projects potentially to
be awarded

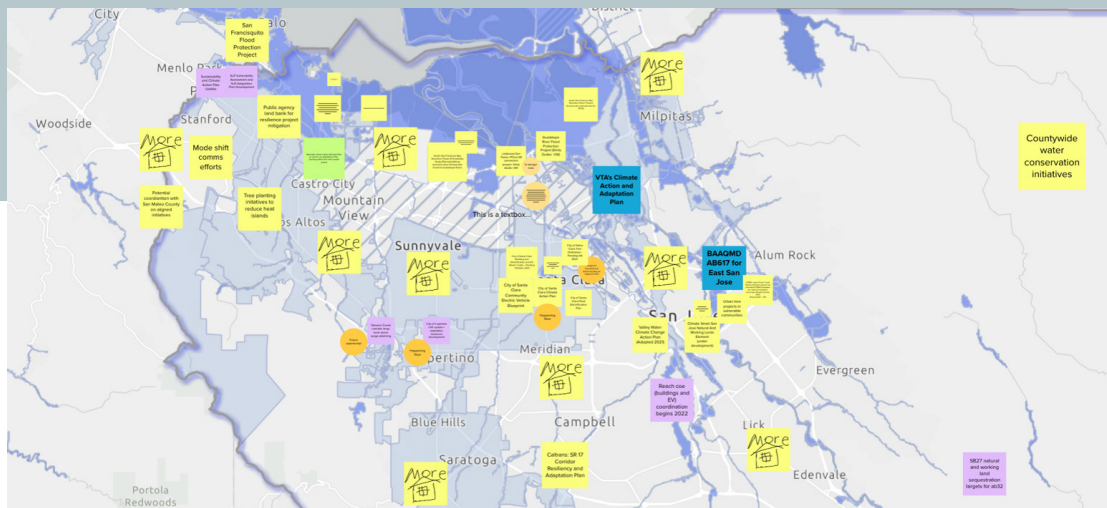
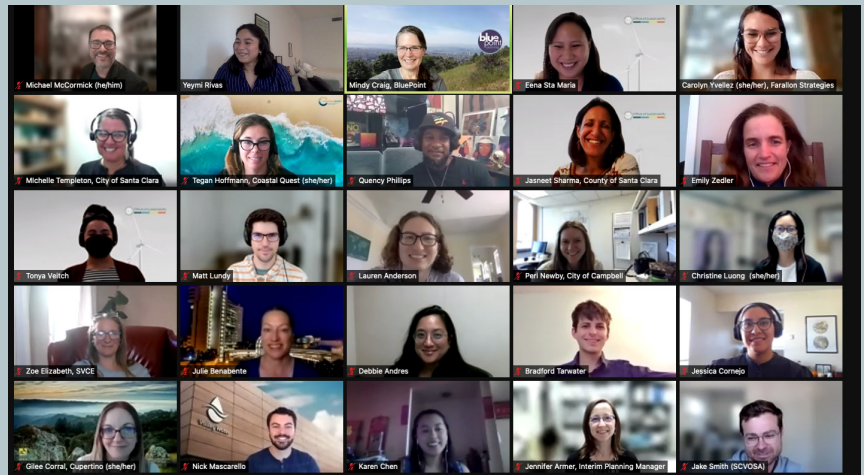
~3,700 acres

of County land covered
by proposed projects

County Climate Collaborative

Work continues to build the County Climate Collaborative into a cross-sector network and community of practice for public agencies, academia, nonprofit organizations, and business and community leaders to advance regional solutions to climate change through coordination, partnerships, resource and expertise sharing, and joint funding. The Collaborative continues to guide the development of the County Climate Roadmap, the Santa Clara County Resilience Strategy for flooding and sea level rise. In 2021, the Collaborative completed the following activities:

- Held 2 collaborative meetings and an introductory meeting with representatives from 20 community based organizations
- Launched an Ad-hoc Governance Working Group to develop the Collaborative Charter.
- Initiated planning activities to integrate future adaptation projects such as the Heat and Air Quality Resilience project into the Collaborative
- Provided space for organizational partners to identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration



Collaborative members identifying areas for collaboration

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) Community Resilience Program

The solar plus battery storage project at the South Santa Clara County Fire Department Masten Station is underway with an estimated completion date of August 2022. Additionally, OOS is coordinating with FAF and Parks on a project to support off-grid mobile solar charging and battery storage. The mobile solar station will also be used to support operations in the event of a power outage with the ability to move the station to any location where stored electricity is needed. Four initial sites have been chosen because of the lack of electric vehicle supporting charging infrastructure in County Parks within unincorporated areas.

Heat and Air Quality Resilience

Through a joint effort between the OOS and the Public Health Department (PHD), the County was awarded a five-year CDC [Building Resilience Against Climate Effects \(BRACE\) grant](#) totaling \$1.5 million. Of the 11 recipients, Santa Clara County was one of two local health departments to receive funding. Grant activities focus on building organization capacity and community resilience by implementing adaptation action to protect populations most vulnerable to climate threats and improve health equity, specifically to extreme heat and impaired air quality. Since August 2021, the County has taken initial steps to:

- Create a climate education and training for all County staff
- Enhance County climate communications for and with the community
- Develop a Heat and Air Quality Resilience stakeholder group
- Implement internal systems to advance health protective behaviors of clients served through County services
- Engage the community and community based organizations to inform and develop local adaptation actions and a Climate Resilience Leadership Academy
- Increase access and utilization of community cooling centers

A partnership between the County and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) complements BRACE activities. BAAQMD will supply portable air filtration units for deployment across Santa Clara County to provide clean, healthy air during poor air quality days such as those stemming from wildfire smoke. Dissemination will prioritize the vulnerable communities, many of which are central to BRACE projects.



Wildfire smoke from the 2016 Loma Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains as seen from Gilroy. (credit: Michelle Wexler)





Natural Resources and the Environment

Goal #3: Air and Water Resources

Maintain a health environment for all residents and living creatures.

Goal #4: Natural Lands and Land Use

Enhance and protect natural and working lands so that they provide a range of social, environmental, economic, and health benefits for County residents and businesses.



Water Stewardship and Drought Preparedness

Sustainable Landscaping

- County continues to prioritize implementing drought-tolerant landscaping and recycled water systems. The new Vietnamese American Service Center that opened in October 2021 includes a recycled water system for landscaping.
- Potable water usage for FAF serviced facilities continues to remain stable despite increases in real estate square footage. This is primarily due to an increase in telework and limited occupancy at Silver Creek and Tasman campuses.



Water Conservation Planning

The [Drought and Water Conservation Report](#) was presented to the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee and included recommendations to reduce water use in County operations and develop a programmatic and infrastructure plan for water conservation. OOS is working with County Parks, FAF, and Roads and Airports Department (RDA) to implement water conservation projects such as sustainable landscaping and tree preservation, conducting leak detection and water audits, identifying opportunities for installing recycled water systems and exploring nature-based bio-engineered solutions.

Water Quality

In 2021, the Consumer Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) Clean Water Program (CWP) conducted 52 commercial/industrial inspections in unincorporated county to ensure best practices are implemented to prevent discharge of polluted stormwater into the County's storm drain system and local water bodies. This is an increase of 189% from last year as inspections were stopped in early 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Reduced Pesticide Use

27

high risk pesticides
phased out of use

25 of 30

regional parks, including
recreational, open space,
and rangelands, managed
non-chemically

Trash Management and Reduction

Trash Reduction Efforts

- Volunteer cleanup events hosted National River Cleanup Day in May, and Coastal Cleanup Day in September.
- Trash Capture Devices installed in storm drain catch basins to prevent trash from entering storm drain pipes.
- Litter cleanup initiatives led by local neighborhood groups, including the San Martin Neighborhood Alliance and other small groups of concerned citizens who clean litter in various locations throughout the County.



National River Cleanup Day (May 22, 2021)	California Coastal Cleanup Day (Sep 18, 2021)
Over 175 volunteers	Over 170 volunteers
Cleaned 5 parks	Cleaned 6 parks
Nearly 2,000 lbs of trash collected	Over 5,000 lbs of trash collected

Education and Outreach

County engaged in outreach and education efforts with messaging focused on not littering, encouraging residents to volunteer at cleanup events, and promoting reusable items to cut down on single-use plastic waste such as food ware, water bottles, bags, and straws. Efforts included:

- Anti-littering billboards and VTA bus ads in partnership with the San Jose Sharks
- Public outreach at the County's annual Day on The Bay Multicultural Festival
- Educational videos posted to the CWP website and social media
- "The Eco Hero Show", an anti-litter education program for school-aged children

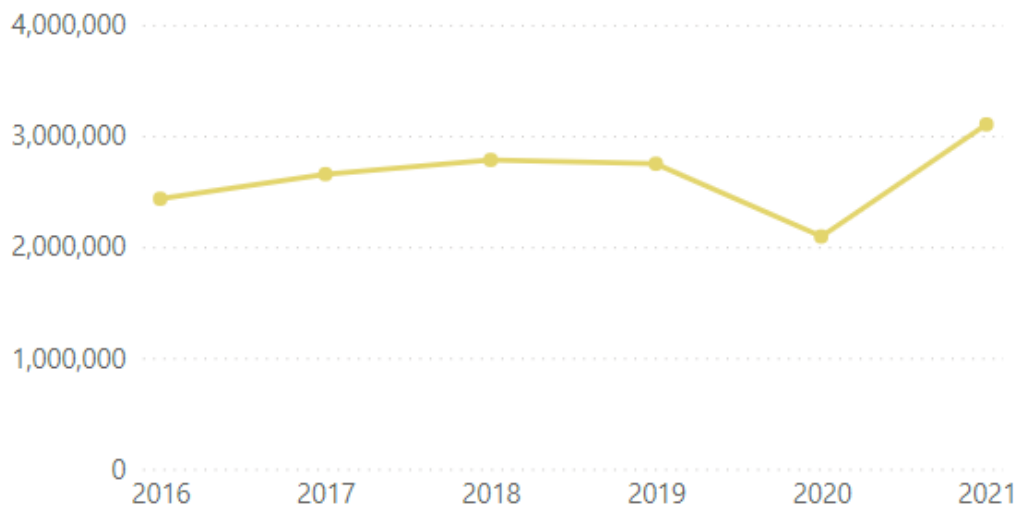


Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Reduction



The year 2021 was the most successful to date for the HHW Program both for participation and collection amounts. During the year the program collected a total of 3,103,847 pounds of HHW material from Santa Clara residents; to put it in perspective, this is equal to 10 adult size blue whales full of hazardous materials leaving the County.

Annual Total Pounds of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collected Since Fiscal Year 2016



"I have become quite good at repurposing and reusing much of what comes into the house. The goal is to generate as little waste as possible."

Anna Getty, Healthy Lifestyle Spokesperson

Stewardship of Natural Resources

Urban Forestry

Tree Planting

606

trees planted from October to December 2021 (first half of planting season)

Since June 2020, the County's tree planting program has had a goal of planting 1,000 trees per year between 2020-2023. Planting season is from October to May, and by December 2021, more than half the year's goal has been achieved. Through December 2021, 1,302 trees have been planted throughout the County.

Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA)

OOS continued expansion of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA) to facilitate collaboration and sharing of tools and resources to preserve and expand the urban canopy within Santa Clara County, especially in areas with disadvantaged populations. Over 7 hours of webinar presentations on urban forestry were presented, with a total audience of over 200 urban foresters, municipal administrators, and policy makers in attendance. OOS applied for a \$1 million Cal FIRE community and urban forestry grant to facilitate continued improvement of regionwide forest management and collaboration through SCVUFA. For more information, visit the [SCVUFA website](#).

Urban Forestry Education and Outreach

"More Trees Please" Webinars	8-Week Community Forestry School
over 500 participants	42 community member participants
81-91% of participants found webinar helpful	Topics included tree biology, tree care, species selection, and advocacy



Habitat Protection

CEPA has been awarded a Noxious Weed Grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). In collaboration with the Santa Clara Weed Management Area regional group, CEPA has conducted field surveys, mapped weed locations, and implemented control methods on infested sites. As of January 2022, CEPA continues to conduct regular visits to 10 sites located throughout the county, and actively eradicate the presence of A- and B-rated noxious weeds.

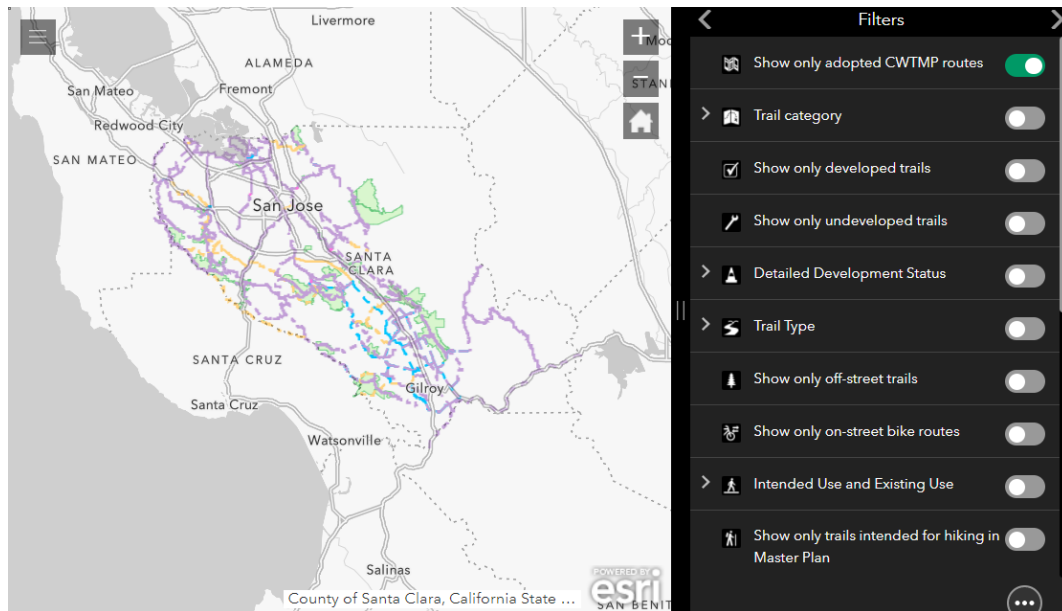


To prevent the spread of hitchhiking pests, CEPA continues to conduct regular inspections of all incoming parcels to the County. From September 2020 to September 2021, CEPA intercepted 260 shipments that carried invasive pests of agriculture, preventing potential infestations in the County.

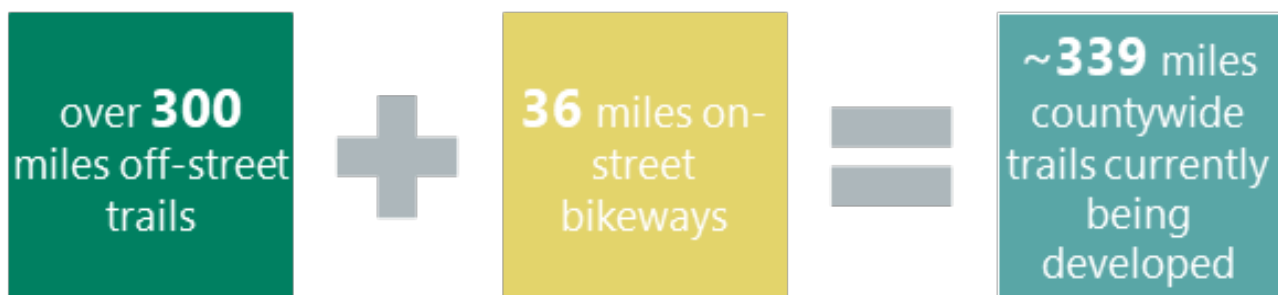


Parks and Recreation

In February 2021, the County Parks Department created a new Countywide Trails Program, tasked with implementing Santa Clara County's Countywide Trails Master Plan, which envisions a comprehensive network of over 800 miles of regional, subregional, and connector trails throughout Santa Clara County. The Countywide Trails Program works to advance equitable public access and sustainable trails that provide regional benefits related to outdoor recreation, public health, active transportation, and climate goals. The Countywide Trails Program integrates internal Parks Department efforts and drives external collaboration around countywide trails.



A new, interactive [Countywide Trails Dashboard](#) was created to share updated countywide trails data and better answer key questions about the trail network.



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Community Health and Well-Being

Goal #5: Healthy Communities

Improve the overall health and well-being of all County employees, residents, and visitors and eliminate health inequities to minimize the potential impacts of disasters and climate change on the most vulnerable residents.

Goal #6: Equitable and Inclusive County

Encourage the civic participation, leadership, and engagement of all County residents and ensure all are supported in getting their basic needs met and reaching their full potential.



Healthy and Safe Communities

Active Transportation Plan

The Roads and Airport Department (RDA) is leading the development of an Active Transportation Plan that will focus on improving walking, bicycling, and rolling (e.g., wheeled mobility devices, strollers, scooters, skateboards etc) along county-controlled roadways in unincorporated county.

Support studies completed:

- Equity and health disparity assessment
- Infrastructure gap analysis
- Safety collision analysis of the bike and pedestrian network on the expressways and unincorporated roadways

Public outreach activities in 2021:

- Pop-up events at the Morgan Hill and Gilroy Farmers Markets
- Viva Calle San Jose in September 2021

More technical analysis and focused public outreach with various community-based organizations are planned in 2022. The project team continues to work toward a public draft plan available in Fall 2022 and seek adoption in 2023. More details on the plan can be found at: <https://activesantaclaracounty.org/>



Improve Patient Engagement



Dr. Amna Khan, Pediatrics, Valley Health Clinics

MHO Statistics

- 63% of paneled patients enrolled
- 63,625 patients entered clinical updates
- 59,835 questionnaires submitted
- 412,999 medical advice messages
- 15,813 prescription refill requests

Patient to provider engagement via myHealthOnline, the online patient portal tool that is part of HealthLink, the County Health System's electronic health record, improves patient access to providers and information, helping reduce the need for in person visits. Through myHealth Online, patients can get up-to-date information about their health including after visit summaries and test results. They can also schedule new phone, video or in-person appointments with their provider, and send and receive secure clinical messages to and from their healthcare team.

Juntos Initiative

Previously known as the Parks Prescription or Parks Rx Program, the Juntos Initiative was launched in October 2021 providing Valley Medical Center Pediatric patients and their families prescriptions to attend guided park activities. Activities have included guided hikes, gardening, outdoor family games and feeding farm animals. Planning is underway to add Promotore and Youth Leadership Components to this Initiative.

- 10 hikes/gardening sessions since October
- About 25-40 attendees for each session

Due to high interest, program expansion plans include adding more participating physicians and unguided park walks.

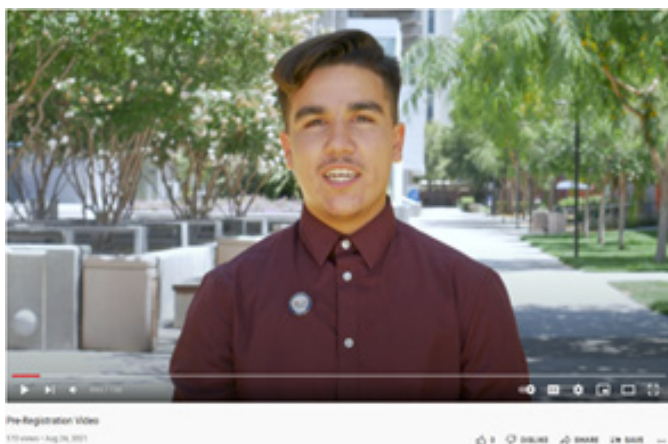


Civic Engagement and Leadership

Voters Education and Engagement

The Registrar of Voters (ROV) continued to engage County residents through various voter education and outreach efforts. Information shared included available voting options and voter registration for historically disadvantaged populations such as voters formerly incarcerated, voters without a fixed address, and those who are hospitalized, incarcerated, or persons with disabilities who are unable to retrieve their ballots personally.

- Held workshops in 14 languages
- Hosted multiple Facebook Live presentation events in multiple languages
- Attended 78 diverse outreach events in 2021
- Built relationships and collaborated with Santa Clara Office of Education (SCCOE), County Reentry Services, Social Services Agency (SSA), and the League of Women Voters (LWV) to enhance voter education and outreach opportunities for County residents
- Created videos to support voter education



[Pre-Registration Video - YouTube](#)



[Youth Vote Team Presents: Voting Videos! - League of Women Voters of Palo Alto \(lwvpaloalto.org\)](#)

County Leadership Programs

The County offers several leadership programs to help train youth, County staff, and other professionals on a range of issues, including LGBTQ, advancement of women and girls, and mental health. The total number of participants in these programs in 2021 was similar to last year, doubling the number of participants since 2019.

800+

participants in County
Leadership Programs
since 2019

"Civic engagement is very important. We all live here together and we need to look out for one another."

*Elizabeth Goreham, Former Mayor
of State College, PA*

Social Services

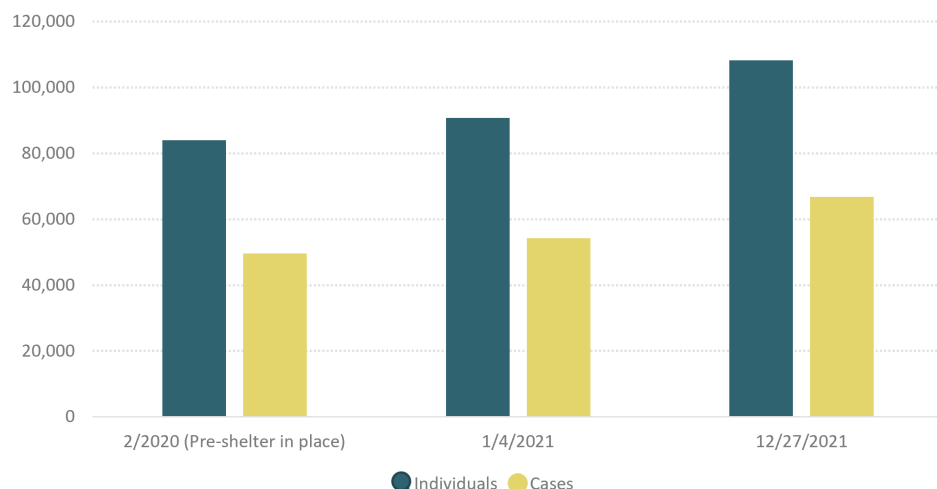
Safe, Secure & Loved Resilient Families Program. Over 70% of participants from the Resilient Families education program, offered to parents and caregivers of children 0-to-3 years of age return as promotoras or community champions to share what they learned about supporting their child's early development.

New Hope for Youth. 80% of youth served (e.g., gang impacted and at-risk youth) achieved higher attainment of resiliency and reduction in risks.

Community Events and Outreach. The Department of Family and Children Services engaged over 1,200 people through webinars about racism, disproportionality, gentrification within the community, immigration, and others.

Senior Nutrition Program. 1,199,298 meals served to 12,702 older adults, with 2,113 new participants. A newly opened site at the VASC is currently serving 500 meals Monday-Saturday and is the largest cafe program in the County.

CalFresh Enrollment



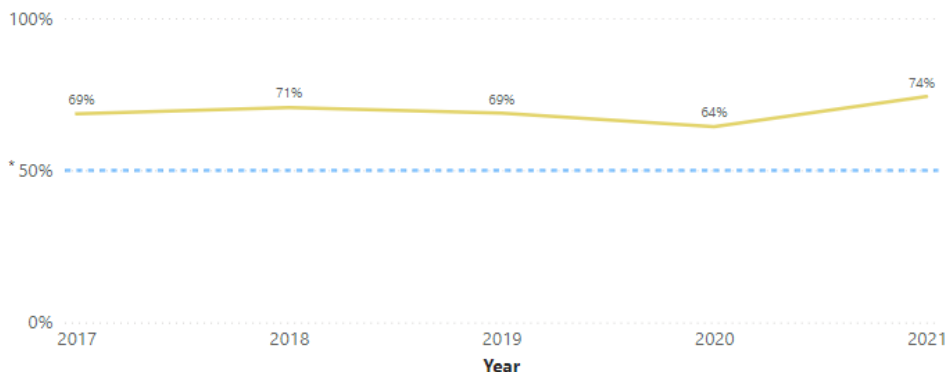
CalFRESH enrollment showed significant growth since COVID-19 shelter in place. Individual enrollment increased by 28% and Cases increased by 35%.

In 2021 alone, Individual enrollment increased by 19% and Cases by 23%

9% Individuals **10% Cases**

Overall enrollment growth in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and General Assistance

Work Participation Rate for CALWORKs



*The required WPR for FY20-21 is determined by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

More details on the different Social Services programs can be found in the [Senior Nutrition Program Annual Report](#) and the [Employment & Benefit Services Annual Report](#).

Supportive Housing

3,643
households
permanently housed
since March 1, 2020

The Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) launched the HEADING HOME: No More Families Living on Our Streets Campaign, a new effort to end family homelessness by 2025. The HEADING HOME campaign is also a key element of the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness and will contribute to the goal of permanently housing 20,000 homeless individuals in the next 5 years.

Improvements in emergency housing was made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 21% increase in shelter capacity from January 2020 with a total of 2,227 beds in December 2021
- Joint Department Operation Center (JDOC) worked with medically vulnerable unhoused residents to secure and transition to permanent housing or longer-term temporary housing.
 - 287 households moved to permanent housing
 - 220 households moved to Emergency Interim Housing sites
 - 355 have moved to other temporary housing sites

In 2021, shelter capacity decreased by about 6% from January to December 2021 as temporary hotels used during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic closed. With COVID-19 measures, such as social distancing requirements, starting to ramp down, capacity at congregate shelters are expected to increase over time and return to pre-pandemic levels.

3,285
referrals placed to
shelters from [Here4You](#)
and the JDOC hotlines
in 2021

OSH also developed a Strategic Plan for acquiring properties and advancing development of County-owned properties for affordable and supportive housing.

"To truly end homelessness in Santa Clara County, we must summon the collective will and resources to not only respond to the current crisis and scale our successful housing strategies, but also address and eliminate the root causes of homelessness in our community."

***Community Plan Steering Committee, 2020-2025
Community Plan to End Homelessness***

BookDash

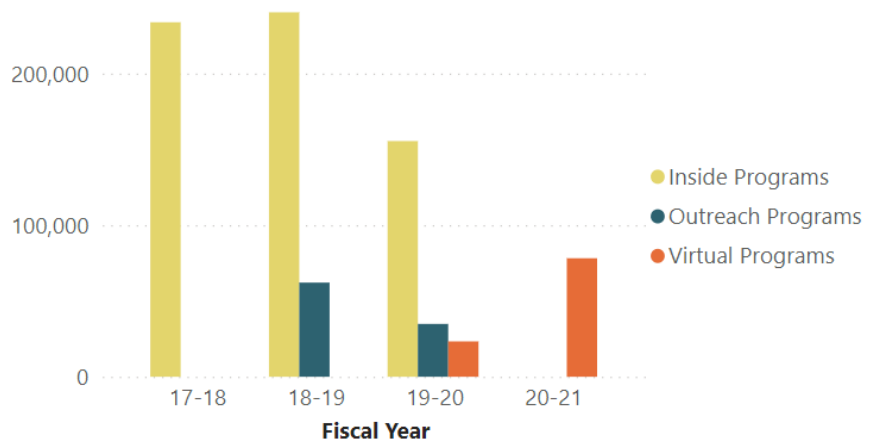


The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) developed and implemented BookDash, a contactless home-delivery solution to meet a need for the growing older adult community and for those who could not get to a library during the pandemic due to family illness, injury, medical condition, or disability. The library [Bookmobile](#) team delivers books right to a patron's front door. BookDash modernized and personalized homebound service with current plans to expand.

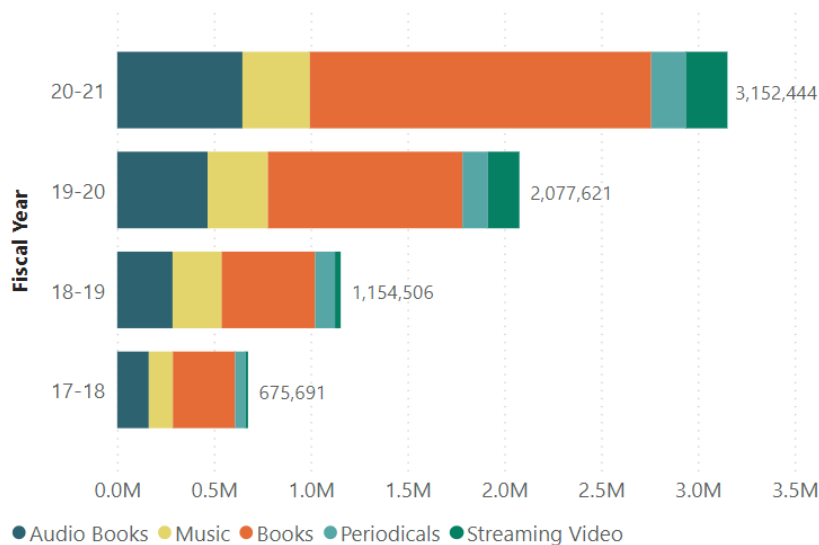
Library Usage

Participants in virtual programs more than doubled in FY 2020-2021.

Total Number of Participants in Library Programs



Total Number of E-materials Downloaded



51%
increase in e-materials
downloaded in FY 2020-
2021





Prosperous and Just Economy

Goal #7: Prosperous County

Cultivate a prosperous and economically vibrant County that builds career pipelines to match County residents with job opportunities through education, training, and resources.

Goal #8: Lead by Example

Leverage the County's resources and influence to advance sustainability, strengthen internal operations and responsiveness, and lead by example.

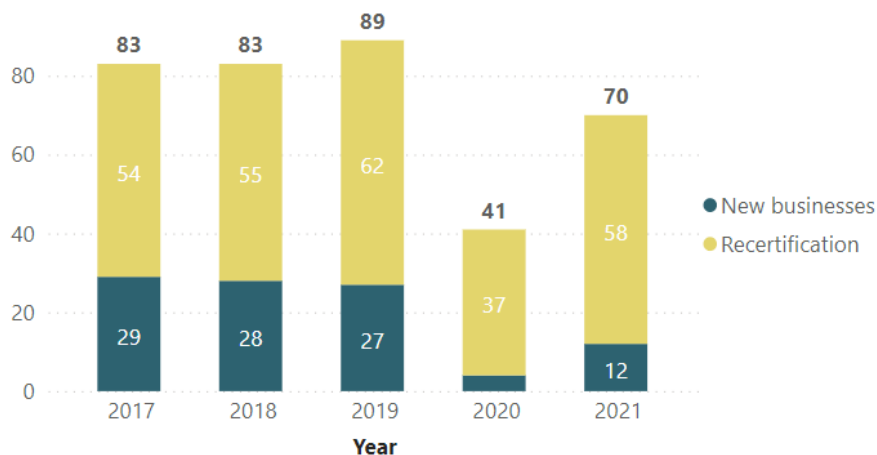


Sustainable Economy

Green Business

- A total of 70 Green businesses were certified in 2021, which included both new businesses and recertifications.
- Certification jumped up 170% compared to 2020.
- A hybrid model offering both virtual and in person meetings provided flexibility to allow staff to meet safely with businesses at their comfort level while still assisting businesses to meet strict certification requirements.

Number of Green Businesses Certified



These 70 businesses saved 29,223 lbs of CO₂, equivalent to planting 45 acres of urban trees, 2,313,679 gallons of water, or the equivalent of 6 bathtubs of fresh drinking water per hour for a year, and 1,391 gallons of hazardous waste (calculated using the [California Green Business Network Tracker](#))

Workforce Development

CalTrans/San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) litter reduction program provided on the job training to young adults, teaching them to become better environmental stewards.

In 2021, SJCC worked **39,724 hours** to remove **2,976 cubic yards** of solid waste, vegetation, and debris.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnership with University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

UCCE has conducted outreach on the CDFA Healthy Soils Incentive Program, which provides financial support to growers in implementing agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improve soil health. UCCE has hosted educational workshops in English, Chinese, and Spanish, reaching out to a total of 40 growers.



County Food Systems Workplan

The County Board of Supervisors approved the [Food System Initiative Workplan](#) in May 2021, which was created to address gaps and improve coordination within the countywide food system and offers a roadmap to guide County actions towards creating a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. Since the adoption of the Workplan, some of the recommendations from the workplan underway include:

- Establishment of a Food Security Working group that includes staff from key County departments and cities and food assistance partners and charitable food providers and partnership with UCCE to a) determine the levels of food insecurity among Santa Clara County residents, and b) quantify the need for food assistance by geography and sociodemographic characteristics and c) identify various opportunities to meet that need through utilization of nutrition assistance and food assistance programs.
- Staffing of a new Agricultural Liaison position between CEPA and UCCE to provide technical leadership and support to the local agricultural community, notably beginning and historically underrepresented farmers, and to coordinate with county departments and community stakeholders to facilitate equity focused projects in food access and sustainable agriculture.

Funding Secured for Multi-Jurisdictional Projects

\$300,000

Building Resilience
Against Climate Effects
(BRACE) Year 1 Funding

Funded by: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

\$412,751

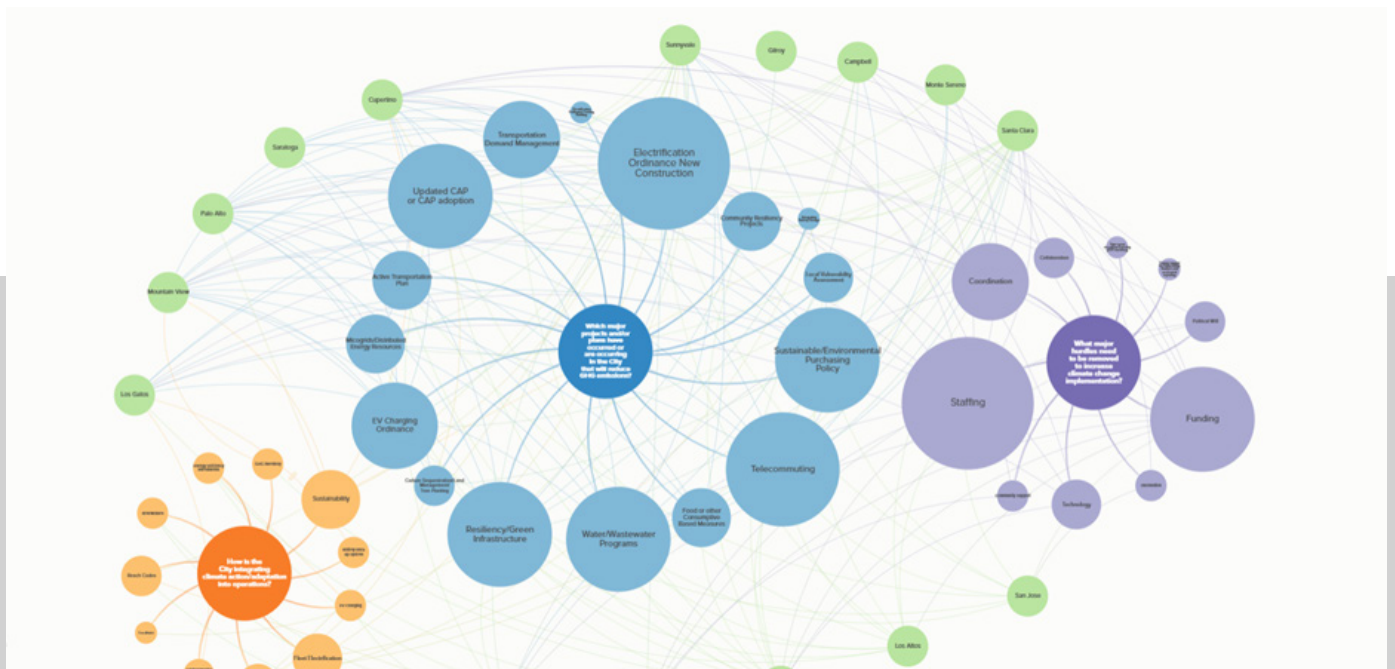
Community Resilience
Program

Funded by: [Silicon Valley Clean Energy \(SVCE\)](#)

\$150,000

National Coastal
Resilience Fund

Funded by: [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#)



A network analysis map developed for the Community Climate Roadmap that could be used to identify cross-jurisdictional projects and partners.

Climate Change and Health Staff Training

- As of December 31, 2021, 44% of all Public Health Department (PHD) staff have completed a Climate, Health and Equity web-based training .
- Staff from PHD and OOS participated in the NorCal Resilience Network's 2021 Resilience Hub Leadership Training Program with the intent of learning how to catalyze Resilience Hubs in Santa Clara County. The training was an 8-month program where a variety of speakers and community leaders shared their experiences on building resilient communities. Lessons learned from this training will support efforts to build and enhance Resilience Hubs across the County.

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

- [Approved by the Board of Supervisors](#) on December 7, 2021.
- Policy outlines the County's commitment to making purchasing decisions that consider the environmental and social impacts in addition to the economic impacts.
- The purchasing standards for paper products and printing services are currently being incorporated into the County's Administrative Guidelines for Contracting and Procurement as required under SB1383. The Administrative Guidelines and supporting program documents will be finalized and published in 2022 and shared with County vendors and staff for implementation.
- Next steps include:
 - Holding a sustainability-focused vendor outreach event to educate vendors on the County's goals, how the new standards will impact them, and share upcoming opportunities.
 - Conducting a spend analysis to identify high areas of impact for sustainable purchasing in the future.

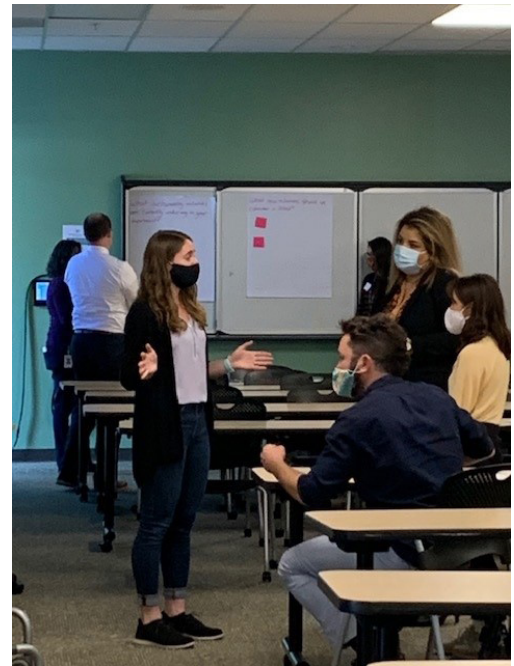
"Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, Former Prime Minister of Norway

SMP Management

The SMP has four Priority Areas, eight goals, 30 strategies and 90 targets, all outlined in a [publicly accessible website](#). The website also includes the SMP Data Dashboard that allows community and County leaders to easily view and track annual progress through interactive, easy-to-understand visualizations of data for targets currently available.

The status of SMP goals, strategies, and targets, collectively referred to as Priority Area Actions, as well as the County's performance and progress on sustainability programs and initiatives, are reviewed annually by the Director's Sustainability Team (DST). The DST, comprised of the directors from each department who have a significant impact on County sustainability goal performance, suggest updates to the Priority Area Actions and Dashboard as new or updated targets are added and achieved targets are retired.



New Dashboards

In 2021, OOS worked closely with departments and created 12 new dashboards to track progress on targets. These targets and their corresponding strategies are:

Strategy #	Target
1.2	Reduce per capita energy use by at least 50%.
1.3	Adopt a County Active Transportation Plan and identify targets to track progress.
2.1	Climate risks and resilience strategies are incorporated into the County General Plan and Planning regulations to address new development projects by 2030.
2.2	Install at least five microgrids by 2025 at the County's most critical operations, such as the Emergency Operations Centers and County Communications.
2.3	Update and maintain a climate vulnerability and adaptation interactive web-based tool.
3.4	Increase awareness of the importance of riparian areas, and protect them, by working with Community Based Organizations and other partners to provide interpretive elements and programming.
5.2	Increase the number of healthcare workers educated/trained on the public health impacts of climate change.
6.4	Maximize self-sufficiency, safety, health, independence, and in some instances stabilize, protect, and monitor financial situations for older adults, people with disabilities, and the severely mentally ill and their families.
6.4	Support economic self-sufficiency and the well-being of public assistance recipients through increased participation in CalWORKs and CalFresh workforce programs to gain skills, tools, basic education, training, and work experience to obtain and retain a living wage job.
6.4	Protect children and promote their healthy growth by increasing the percentage of children in foster care that achieve permanency within 12 months.
8.1	Develop a Comprehensive Countywide Work Plan to build a food system that provides for agricultural and food sector viability, improves coordination among food system partners, and promotes community wide food security.
8.1	Secure funding for Countywide or multi-jurisdictional collaborative proposals and projects.

Revised Targets

Three targets were revised to ensure alignment with departments' current goals and priorities. Two targets were from the Climate Protection and Defense Priority Area, under Strategy 1.2 Decarbonization of Buildings and Facilities and Strategy 1.3 Clean, Safe, and Active Transportation. One revised target was from Prosperous and Just Economy, under Strategy 8.2 Procurement and Investment. The details are outlined in the table below.

Climate Protection and Defense	1.2 Revised: Increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities.
	1.2 Original: Increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities based on the recommendations of the County fleet study on alternative fuel vehicles.
	1.3 Revised: Decrease the percentage of County employee single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) commuters by at least 10% by calendar year (CY) 2025.
	1.3 Original: Decrease the percentage of County employee single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) commuters by at least 10% below the 2020 Employee Commute Survey levels by calendar year 2022.
Prosperous and Just Economy	8.2 Revised: Support the development of an adopted Sustainable Purchasing Policy in partnership with the Office of Sustainability and commencing a pilot in calendar year 2022 to develop two sustainable purchasing categories and related standards for implementation.
	8.2 Original: Support the development of an adopted Sustainable Purchasing Policy in partnership with the Office of Sustainability and partner in calendar year 2021 on a pilot of two to five new acquisitions for Countywide implementation.



First in-person meeting of the Sustainability Working Group in November 2021 after almost two years of virtual meetings.



*Prepared by the County of Santa Clara
Office of Sustainability*

