

Priority Area Actions Summary Table



Climate Protection and Defense

Goal #1: Carbon Neutrality. Become a carbon neutral County that supports a transition to zero waste and zero emissions.		Coordinating Departments
Target:	County Operations and Facilities	Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from County’s operations, facilities, vehicles, and equipment below 2010 levels with a 13.5% reduction every five years from 2020 through 2050.
Strategy 1.1. Clean Energy.		Transition to a zero-emission energy system. FAF, OOS
Target:	Countywide	Transition to a 100% renewable energy system by 2045.
Strategy 1.2. Decarbonization of Buildings and Facilities.		Enhance energy efficiency of and electrify new and existing buildings. FAF, DPD, Health System, OOS
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Ensure that 100% of new County-owned buildings meet CALGreen Tier 1 requirements and large projects, as specified by size, type or by the Board, are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.
		Evaluate strategies and implement pilot projects for zero-net energy retrofits, solar hot water, boiler efficiency measures, or biogas procurement that contribute toward County facility decarbonization over the next five years.
		Ensure that the most energy-efficient lighting is installed, when feasible, on new construction, major renovation projects, and energy-efficiency projects where the energy savings will cover the cost of the lighting investment.
		Increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities based on the recommendations of the County fleet study on alternative fuel vehicles.
	Unincorporated County Areas	Decarbonize all healthcare facilities and operations to become carbon-neutral and resilient to climate impacts.
		Ensure that private development in unincorporated County areas meet the requirements of the County Green Building Ordinance.
Countywide	Reduce per capita energy use by at least 50%.	
Strategy 1.3. Clean, Safe, and Active Transportation.		Expand zero-emission transportation/travel choices and create safe and accessible streets for all users. DPD, ESA, FAF, OOS, PHD, RDA
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Where alternatives exist, ensure that 100% of public fleet vehicles are electric, hybrid-electric, or run on alternative fuels.
		Establish Telecommuting Policies and targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from employee commutes and meet local and regional requirements.
		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.
	Unincorporated County Areas	Adopt Complete Streets policies into the General Plan Circulation and Mobility Element by 2024.
Adopt a County Active Transportation Plan and identify targets to track progress.		
Countywide	Increase percentage of people age 16 and over who walk, bike, or take public transportation to work.	
Strategy 1.4. Smart Growth.		Promote smart growth development patterns to reduce land consumption, lower vehicle miles traveled, and support active transportation. DPD, FAF, OOS, RDA
Targets:	Unincorporated County Areas	Employ Vehicle Miles Traveled as a metric of transportation impacts to meet state and County greenhouse gas reduction targets.
	Countywide	Reduce per capita passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 19% relative to 2005 by 2035.
		Increase the proportion of households located within 0.5 miles of high-quality transit.

Strategy 1.5. Zero Waste.		Reduce overall waste generation by supporting the sustainable consumption of resources and diverting or reusing materials.	CEPA, FAF, OOS
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Divert 100% of achievable waste from landfills. Implement strategies to convert waste to energy from organics. Achieve a 50% reduction in the disposal of organic waste from 2014 levels by 2020 and a 75% (or more) reduction by 2025.	
	Unincorporated County Areas	Reduce per capita waste generation by at least 25% by 2030.	
Strategy 1.6. Carbon Sequestration.		Explore and implement practices that sequester carbon, including agricultural practices and urban ecology to help offset greenhouse gas emissions.	DPD, FAF, OOS, Parks
Target:	Countywide	Secure dedicated and sustainable funding to continue the Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program on an annual basis, facilitating the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices such as planting perennials and carbon farming, which improves soil quality while sequestering atmospheric carbon.	
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.			Coordinating Departments
Target:	County Operations and Facilities	Integrate climate adaptation into planning, procurement, asset management and operations by 2030.	
Strategy 2.1. Planning and Assessment.		Conduct and continually maintain a multi-hazard risk assessment to understand vulnerabilities across the County and regularly update resilience and climate adaptation plans and policies to address changing hazard risks and potential impacts to the efficient delivery of County services.	DPD, OEM, OOS
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Climate risks to be considered in all County-owned and operated assets, design and construction projects, and property acquisitions by 2025. Department continuity of operations plans to be completed and regularly maintained by 2025.	
	Unincorporated County Areas	Climate risks and resilience strategies to be incorporated into the County General Plan and planning regulations to address new development projects by 2030.	
	Countywide	Local Hazard Mitigation Plans and safety elements to be updated by 2022 to include climate risks and resiliency goals and strategies.	
Strategy 2.2. Emergency Preparedness and Response.		Implement hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies to increase preparedness and response and ensure the existing infrastructure/personnel are adequate to meet the existing levels of service while accommodating for future growth.	FAF, OEM, PHD
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	All County employees to complete Disaster Service Worker Training and/or other specialized training by 2025. At-risk critical infrastructure and service facilities to be identified and hardened or relocated to avoid hazards. Install at least five microgrids by 2025 at the County's most critical operations, such as the Emergency Operations Centers and County Communications.	
	Countywide	An additional 10% of County residents to sign up for AlertSCC by 2025.	
Strategy 2.3. Regional Collaboration and Training.		Coordinate Countywide and cross-jurisdictional resilience efforts with leaders from diverse sectors through ongoing collaboration, communication, and education.	OEM, OOS
Targets:	Countywide	Create resilience networks that provide education and awareness building on climate impacts and risks. Update and maintain a climate vulnerability and adaptation interactive web-based tool.	



Natural Resources and the Environment

Goal #3: Air and Water Resources. Maintain a healthy environment for all residents and living creatures.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 3.1. Air Quality and Pollution.		Protect air quality and reduce the release of air-borne toxins/contaminants, focusing on reducing the exposure of historically marginalized communities to sources of environmental pollution.
Targets:	Unincorporated County Areas	Adopt measures to protect sensitive receptor uses by locating uses 500 feet away from state highways, interstates, and stationary area sources of pollution or incorporating measures to minimize exposure to pollutants if uses cannot be located more than 500 feet away.
	Countywide	Meet state and federal standards for 11 air pollutants.
Strategy 3.2. Water Use and Conservation.		Ensure a sustainable and safe supply of drinking water and the efficient delivery of water service and increase water conservation, reuse, and efficiency.
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Beneficially reuse 100% of wastewater by 2050.
	Unincorporated County Areas	Reduce water use by at least 20% relative to a 2013 baseline by 2025.
Strategy 3.3. Water Quality and Stormwater Management.		Protect the creeks and rivers of the Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay watersheds from stormwater pollution.
Target:	Unincorporated County Areas	Meet or exceed requirements of the County's Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for North and South County by fostering best practices in County operations, promoting increased public awareness of stormwater pollution prevention, and supporting innovative approaches to meet state and federal stormwater regulations.
Strategy 3.4. Streams and Riparian Corridors.		Develop educational programs and volunteer service opportunities that promote the local stewardship of streams and riparian corridors and develop programs for ecologically compatible recreational use of streams and riparian corridors.
Targets:	Countywide	Increase the reach of stormwater outreach and/or conduct more regional outreach campaigns.
		Support environmental stewardship and volunteer opportunities such as the Coastal Cleanup Day and National River Cleanup Day events.
		Increase awareness of the importance of riparian areas and protect them by working with communitybased organizations and other partners to provide interpretive elements and programming.
Strategy 3.5. Hazardous Materials Management.		Reduce the use of hazardous materials and ensure that those used are properly managed and disposed of to minimize harm.
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Meet and exceed pesticide elimination and reduction requirements of the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permits for County-owned and managed lands.
		100% of all County staff involved in pesticide applications to receive pesticide applicator safety training annually.
	Countywide	Increase total household hazardous waste collected annually and disposed of responsibly.
		Increase the number of eligible small quantity businesses participating in the small quantity business disposal program.
		Reduce return to compliance (RTC) time frames for major hazardous materials violations by 5% each year through 2025.

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.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 4.1. Habitat Conservation.		Expand, protect, and enhance the County’s landscapes, habitat, and species.
CEPA, DPD, OOS, Parks		
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Permanently protect and actively steward lands that provide critical ecosystem services and wildlife habitat, including critical indicator species, throughout the County.</p> <p>Plant 1,000 trees annually Countywide in areas to address issues such as urban heat islands, low tree canopy, poor air quality and stormwater management and work with local governments, agencies, and nonprofits to build a comprehensive urban forest.</p>
Strategy 4.2. Working Lands.		Implement a comprehensive regional framework in order to preserve the remaining working lands and support a vibrant agricultural economy while mitigating climate change.
CEPA, DPD, LAFCO, Parks		
Target:	Unincorporated County Areas	Preserve at least 12,000 acres of agricultural lands most vulnerable to development.
Strategy 4.3. Parks and Recreation.		Improve accessibility of parks and public spaces (including County trails) with a focus on residents of all ages, abilities, and incomes, and those living throughout the County.
Parks, PHD		
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Work with local governments and regional authorities to link open space areas via regional trails, and close gaps in the Countywide trails network.</p> <p>Increase the percentage of the population that lives within 0.5 miles of a park or open space.</p>



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.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 5.1. Public Health and Prevention.		Prevent diseases and injuries and reduce the impacts on historically marginalized communities by addressing root causes/social determinants of health and providing health education.
Health System, OOS, PHD		
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Reduce the percentage of adults diagnosed with prediabetes.</p> <p>Increase the number of households who upgrade their homes with energy-efficient and electrification measures through Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) that improve indoor air quality, safety, and the comfort of homes.</p> <p>Achieve 100% adoption of a Vision Zero Action Plan across all jurisdictions to prevent traffic injuries and casualties.</p> <p>Reduce the number of pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities.</p> <p>Improve health outcomes and well-being for the County’s most historically marginalized and vulnerable communities through population health approaches.</p>
Strategy 5.2. Health Systems and Access to Care.		Ensure pandemics and climate hazards are addressed in the provision of health care services, assess regional and local medical systems, refine emergency-response programs for climate change, and train County health professionals to recognize and manage emerging health threats associated with pandemics and climate change.
Health System		
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Increase the number of healthcare workers educated/trained on the public health impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Improve access to infrastructure to support the increased utilization of telehealth (phone or audio-video) services.</p> <p>Increase timely access to healthcare services by meeting or exceeding access standards.</p>

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.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 6.1. Civic Engagement.		Build capacity, especially in communities that experienced historical disparities, to support participation and leadership in efforts to address environmental and social challenges.
Target:	Countywide	Increase the percentage of historically marginalized communities engaging in civic participation (e.g., voting, Census, etc.).
Strategy 6.2. Community Engagement and Leadership.		Continue to be a regional leader in engaging County residents, businesses, and government partners in sustainability-related issues, fostering leadership across the County, increasing awareness, and inspiring individuals to act.
Targets:	Countywide	Develop or expand leadership and capacity-building programs to provide education, training, and leadership opportunities (County or city training, community advocate leadership academy). Increase the participation of individuals from historically marginalized communities in leadership and advisory and/or decision-making roles.
Strategy 6.3. Safe and Affordable Housing.		Ensure that all residents have access to affordable housing that is safe and climate-smart.
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	Maximize the utility of resilient, climate-smart affordable housing on County-owned parcels.
	Unincorporated County Areas	All housing built is to be resilient to extreme weather and better prepared to deal with the consequences of climate change.
	Countywide	Meet Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) targets in all categories in both unincorporated County and geographic County areas.
		Reduce the percentage of individuals and households experiencing homelessness for the first time to 60% or less. By 2025, achieve a 30% reduction in the annual inflow of people experiencing homelessness for the first time. From 2020 to 2025, house 20,000 people through the supportive housing system.
Strategy 6.4. Social Services.		Maintain a local safety net for residents and enhance their quality of life, especially for those residents who will be most affected by hazards and climate change.
Targets:	Countywide	Increase permanent-housing outcomes for all homeless and unstably housed persons participating in safety net services. Ensure that the basic needs of eligible, low-income residents in the County are met through accessible and timely services that increases participation rates in CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and other County-administered benefit programs. 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. Protect children and promote their healthy growth by increasing the percentage of children in foster care that achieve permanency within 12 months. 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.
Strategy 6.5. Education.		Reduce educational inequities and support lifelong learning and engagement.
Targets:	Countywide	Increase library patron access and the participation in lifelong learning opportunities and programs. Increase the number of visits to the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) student portal. Increase the number of e-material downloads including ebooks, audiobooks, music, video streaming and eMagazines.



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.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 7.1. Workforce Development.	Attract and retain a diverse, high-performing workforce both within the County government and the private sector.	ESA, SSA
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Increase the number of small local businesses and minority-owned business enterprises (i.e., business enterprises with 51% or more of ownership held by a person/people who are: a person/people of color, a woman/women, disabled veteran(s), and/or an LGBTQ person/people).</p> <p>Increase the blue and white collar "clean and green workforce" courses/trainings available in Santa Clara County.</p> <p>Enroll at least five new Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) participating contractors who are trained in building science to become energy-efficiency and electrification specialists.</p>
Strategy 7.2. Local Economy and Diverse Job Opportunities.	Support a diversified and sustainable local economy that provides livingwage job opportunities and security.	CEO, OOS
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Increase the number of jobs in predominantly middle-wage industries by 38% by 2040.</p> <p>Work with 20 new businesses per year to become Green Business Certified and recertify all active Green Businesses on a three-year cycle.</p>
Goal #8: Lead by Example. Leverage the County's resources and influence to advance sustainability, strengthen internal operations and responsiveness, and lead by example.		Coordinating Departments
Strategy 8.1. Partnerships and Collaboration.	Enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between County agencies, jurisdictions, nonprofits and public and private sector partners that provide similar services and/or serve the same populations (especially related to strengthening resilience).	CEPA, OOS
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Secure funding for Countywide or multi-jurisdictional collaborative proposals and projects.</p> <p>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 communitywide food security.</p>
Strategy 8.2. Procurement and Investment.	Leverage the County's purchasing power to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.	PRC
Target:	County Operations and Facilities	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.
Strategy 8.3. Governance.	Transform systems, structures, and policies that perpetuate inequities and structural racism and apply a racial equity lens to environmental programs and services.	DESJ
Targets:	Countywide	<p>Prepare a Countywide racial equity strategy by 2025.</p> <p>100% of County agencies, departments, and offices to participate in the Government Alliance for Race and Equity and implement their racial equity action plans by 2025.</p>
Strategy 8.4. Culture of Leadership and Learning.	Support County employees in becoming sustainability practitioners.	ESA, LO, OOS
Targets:	County Operations and Facilities	<p>Develop and implement a training program for County employees to become sustainability practitioners by 2023.</p> <p>Each department/agency that engages in the Sustainability Master Plan is to identify a sustainability coordinator as part of the first phase.</p>