



2020 – 2030

County Operations Strategic Sustainability Plan

Mission Statement

Continue to be a local and national leader by integrating sustainability into all County Operations focused on Energy, Water, Waste and Transportation.

Introduction and Background

The County of San Diego’s Strategic Plan initiatives include Sustainability, Equity, Empower, Community, and Justice. The strategies defined in this Operations Sustainability Plan have been crafted to closely align with those Strategic Initiatives.

In October 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2015 – 2020 Strategic Energy Plan, which expired at the end of 2020, to lay out high level sustainability initiatives and measures for both internal operations and community-based actions. During the past decade, County departments have crafted more specific long-range implementation plans to address many of these sustainability initiatives. Such plans include: the **2024 Climate Action Plan** which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from sources within the unincorporated county as well as County operations; the **2022 Zero Carbon Portfolio Plan**, which identifies 6 measures to reduce carbon emissions from County owned and leased facilities by 80% by 2030; the **2019 Renewable Energy Plan** which guides efforts to expand renewable energy on County sites to replace grid energy; the **2017 Strategic Plan to Reduce Waste** and the **2019 County Operations Waste Diversion Plan** which aim to divert 75% of internal operational waste away from landfills; the **2023 County Operations Water Conservation Plan**, which identifies opportunities to reduce potable water use; and the **2019 EV Roadmap** and **2023 Green Fleet Action Plan** which identify a path to achieve greater sustainability across Fleet operations.

The intent of this Strategic Sustainability Plan is to connect all these separate sustainability planning efforts (which in themselves contain specific initiatives, goals, and measures) with one common County Operations purpose as noted in the Mission Statement.

Focus Areas



Key focus areas and their related implementation plans are further described below.

Energy

Goals

- Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- Promote clean energy production
- Provide sound facility energy management
- Achieve cost savings

Implementing Documents

2024 Climate Action Plan

- Includes goals to develop policies and programs to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and electrification in County operations

2022 Zero Carbon Portfolio Plan

- Sets 80% carbon emissions reduction target by 2030 from 2016 baseline
- 6 strategies include: Commit to 100% green energy supply; Electrify Existing Buildings: Retrofit Existing Facilities for Energy Efficiency; Proactively Manage Energy Use; Require Zero Net Energy for New Construction; Install Renewables on Existing Sites.

2019 Renewable Energy Plan

- Identifies implementation paths for increasing renewable portion of electricity budget: Power Purchase Agreements for large scale installations; renewables included in all new construction projects to achieve zero net energy; purchase of renewable power from energy service providers through the grid; renewables at existing sites that have achieved energy reduction retrofits.
- Forecasts renewable portion of electricity budget for the remainder of the current decade (2020 to 2030)

Water

Goals

- Reduce potable water use indoors and outdoors
- Promote water reuse systems where feasible

Implementing Documents

2024 Climate Action Plan

- Includes goals to develop policies and programs to increase water efficiency, retention, recycling, and reuse to reduce potable water consumption in County operations

2023 County Operations Water Conservation Plan

- Identifies opportunities to reduce potable water use in County operations by 23% by 2030, with a strategy and path for reaching demand reduction targets of 100,770 hundred cubic feet in savings
- Develops practices to track performance and to adapt to changing circumstances

Waste

Goals

- Increase diversion rate of solid waste from County operations from landfills
- Promote recycling, green purchasing, and source reduction at County facilities

Implementing Documents

2024 Climate Action Plan

- Seeks to achieve zero waste in County operations
- Seeks to improve waste management practices at County-owned solid waste facilities to reduce emissions

2019 County Operations Waste Diversion Plan

- Seeks to achieve 75% diversion for County Operations
- Establishes three phase program that focuses on service level monitoring and adjustment, staff education, and targeted implementation/pilot programs (i.e., onsite composting).

2017 Strategic Plan to Reduce Waste

- Seeks to improve waste diversion in County operations

Transportation

Goals

- Electrify County fleet
- Deploy infrastructure to support an electrified fleet
- Eliminate underutilized vehicles to right-size the fleet
- Maintain operational resiliency

Implementing Documents

2024 Climate Action Plan

- Includes goals to reduce fleet and small equipment emissions in County operations
- Includes goals to reduce emissions from County employee commutes

2023 Green Fleet Action Plan (GFAP)

- Sets a path to achieve a 100% environmentally sustainable fleet, with zero-emissions by 2045
- Identifies objectives for energy resiliency in critical fleet operations
- Prioritizes measures to assure cost-effective operations through right-sizing, lowering operating costs, sequencing electrification, and maintaining a workforce trained for the transition

2019 EV Roadmap

- Amends Board of Supervisors policies to provide DGS with more EV purchasing authority
- Requires fully operational EV infrastructure in all new County facilities

- Sets target to implement Fleet EV conversions for 501 vehicles, and install charging stations to support those vehicles
- Seeks to convert non-sedan vehicles when new technology and vehicles become available on the market
- Advises to evaluate strategies to improve the economic viability of charging installation and vehicle conversions at low-density, Home Assigned, and leased sites