

Introduction

Recognizing the need for a regional approach to addressing climate change, on January 27th, 2021, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to create a Regional Decarbonization Framework. This framework is intended to inform policy making in regional, county and city governments towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the San Diego region. It is separate from but complements ongoing climate action planning efforts by local governments, as well as regional planning in energy, transportation and land-use.

This study is the first step in positioning the region as a global leader in climate planning. It is authored by a team led by the University of California San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy, working in collaboration with the Energy Policy Initiatives Center at the University of San Diego School of Law and other consultants with technical expertise in energy, transportation and building systems. The analysis employs energy systems modeling to guide sector-specific analyses in the geospatial aspects of electricity infrastructure, potential for natural climate solutions, gaps in transportation sector strategic plans, opportunities and challenges in the building sectors, and an analysis of impact of jobs during the transition to decarbonization. A local climate policy database is used to identify gaps in the policy landscape to put all the region's jurisdictions on a path to zero carbon emissions.

The Regional Decarbonization Framework is intended to anchor the San Diego region in emerging best practices from across the nation and globally. It seeks to chart science-based pathways towards deep decarbonization that can be implemented in a feasible and expeditious timeline. It proposes a paradigm shift in our local economy. The scale and pace of this effort will require partnerships between public and private sectors, particularly, business, labor and environmental communities. We will therefore continue to seek input and involvement from all stakeholders as we begin the process of implementing the goals outlined in this framework.

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