The County reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through sustainability actions implemented across several County departments. In 2020, the County reduced 160,743 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) of GHG emissions through the implementation of measures within the built environment & transportation, energy, water & wastewater, and agriculture & conservation emissions sectors. These reductions exceeded the County’s 2020 GHG reduction target, set in accordance with State targets/legislation, by 22%.

Find status updates on all County GHG reduction measures at: sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability/dashboard/ and on our 2020 Report on Climate Action Plan Progress Appendix.

Looking ahead, the County will continue to make climate action progress by reducing GHG emissions and providing co-benefits, such as clean air and water and improved public health, through implementation of programs and policies within five emissions sectors:

- **Built Environment & Transportation**
  - Improve roadway segments as multi-modal
  - Install electric vehicle charging stations
  - Reduce County employee vehicle miles traveled

- **Energy**
  - Increase renewable electricity
  - Reduce energy use at County facilities
  - Increase energy efficiency

- **Solid Waste**
  - Increase solid waste diversion
  - Promote and encourage waste prevention, recycling, and composting through technical assistance and education

- **Water & Wastewater**
  - Increase rainwater harvesting
  - Reduce potable water use at County facilities
  - Install water efficient landscaping

- **Agriculture & Conservation**
  - Convert farm equipment to electric
  - Increase residential and County tree planting

County GHG reductions were equivalent to reducing the emissions from 18,087,431 gallons of gasoline!¹

¹ MTCO₂e is the standard unit of measurement for GHG monitoring and evaluation.

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**Climate Action Highlights from 2020**

- 8,315 homes with solar installations permitted through the County’s Online Permits platform
- 1,033 rain barrels distributed through the County Watershed Protection Program’s discounted rain barrel program
- 4,689 trees planted by the Department of Parks and Recreation
- 662 acres of open space conserved through the Multiple Species Conservation Program
- 2020 = 160,743 MTCO₂e REDUCTION
  - 2020 target = 132,205 MTCO₂e REDUCTION

County GHG reductions were equivalent to reducing the emissions from 18,087,431 gallons of gasoline!²

Climate Action Plan Update

The County is preparing a Climate Action Plan Update (CAP Update). This effort will result in a qualified plan to reduce GHG emissions in the unincorporated area of the county and emissions associated with operating County facilities. Through new policies and programs, the CAP Update will help us make progress toward our commitment to reduce climate change impacts in our community.

The CAP Update project will:

• Update the GHG inventory
• Incorporate new GHG modeling methods
• Set new GHG reduction targets that exceed State targets
• Establish actions to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2033 - 2045
• Emphasize environmental justice and equity
• Be shaped by community input

The CAP reduces emissions for the unincorporated county where the County has land use jurisdiction (in green above) and the approximately 430 County facilities located across 19 jurisdictions.

Project Timeline

2021

GHG Calculations
GHG Reduction Targets and Measure Development
Draft CAP
Public Review
Public Hearings

2022

Community Engagement

2023

Sustainability Programming Achievement Awards

Innovative services and programming that provide parks, libraries, and public safety contribute to a healthy and thriving community. In 2020, the County received 54 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties in recognition of such programs. Here are some of the County’s sustainability-related programs that received Achievement Awards in 2020.

Parks and Recreation
Santa Ysabel Nature Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
• Showcases unique ecology and history of the surrounding environment through a 6,000-square-foot LEED Gold and Zero Net Energy facility

Community and Economic Development
Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Planning & Development Services
• Ensures groundwater resources can be sustainably managed and comprehensively determines groundwater rights

Infrastructure, Energy, & Sustainability
Electric Vehicle Roadmap
Multiple County Departments
• Identifies policies, programs, and actions to increase electric vehicle ownership and charging station installation in the unincorporated county

Green Streets Guidance
Department of Public Works
• Provides design and construction guidance on how to use natural strategies to reduce pollution and stormwater runoff within the road right-of-way

For questions contact:
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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Planning & Development Services
Climate Action Plan

Stay Connected
For updates and to sign up for our e-newsletter, visit:
sandiego.gov/sustainability

2020 Report on Climate Action Plan Progress

Take Climate Action!

Individual actions matter! In addition to calling for sustainable changes at a large scale, you can do your part by making decisions that are less harmful to the environment.

Use energy-efficient appliances to reduce your energy bill
Say no to disposable utensils for takeout orders
Use a water-efficient washing machine to reduce water consumption
Participate in neighborhood cleanups

This information is available on our website for mobile viewing and translated content

CONSERVE WATER AT HOME
REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC USE

Say no to disposable utensils for takeout orders

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