

County of San Diego

2020 Report on Climate Action Plan Progress



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)**¹ 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](#).

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

Climate Action Highlights from 2020

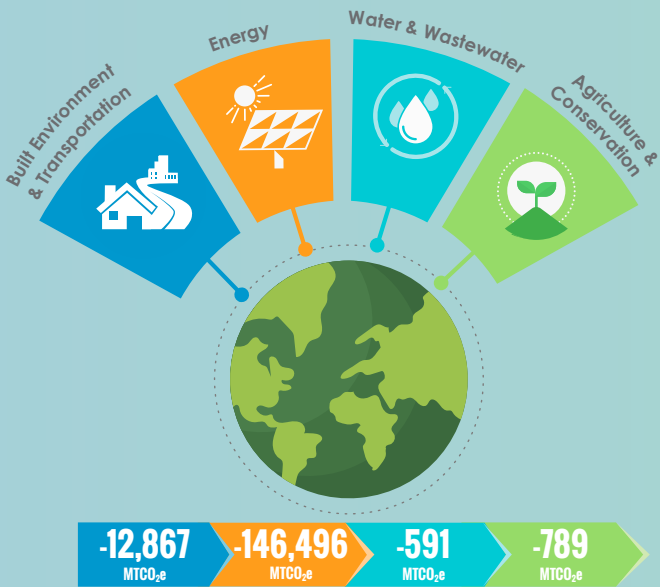
8,315 homes with solar installations permitted through the [County's Online Permits platform](#)

19% reduction in [County fleet emissions](#) below 2014 levels

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

² U.S. EPA, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, 2021

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	ENERGY	SOLID WASTE	WATER & WASTEWATER	AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve roadway segments as multi-modal• Install electric vehicle charging stations• Reduce County employee vehicle miles traveled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase renewable electricity• Reduce energy use at County facilities• Increase energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase solid waste diversion• Promote and encourage waste prevention, recycling, and composting through technical assistance and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase rainwater harvesting• Reduce potable water use at County facilities• Install water efficient landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convert farm equipment to electric• Increase residential and County tree planting

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 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.

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 2035 - 2045



- Emphasize environmental justice and equity
- Be shaped by community input

The County is committed to creating a Climate Action Plan that serves the community and our mission to protect the public's health and safety, sustain the environment, and improve the quality of life for our residents.

Visit our [project website](#) to learn more and get involved in the process!

Project Timeline

2021

GHG Calculations

2022

GHG Reduction Targets and Measure Development

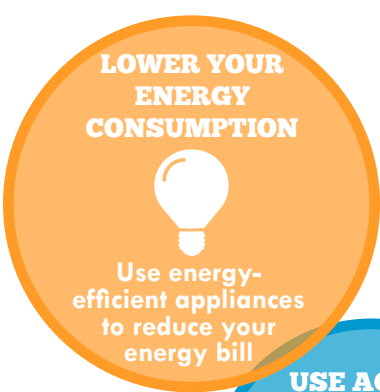
Draft CAP

Public Review

Public Hearings

Community Engagement

2023



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.

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

Stay Connected

For updates and to sign up for our e-newsletter, visit:

sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability



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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Planning & Development Services
Climate Action Plan