



County of San Diego

2022

Climate Action Progress ANNUAL REPORT



County of San Diego Climate Action Progress Annual Report

The County reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through sustainability actions implemented across several County departments. In 2022, the County reduced **228,213 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e)**¹ of GHG emissions through the implementation of measures within the built environment & transportation, energy, solid waste, water & wastewater, and agriculture & conservation emissions sectors. Find status updates on all County GHG reduction measures at: sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability/dashboard/ and on our [2022 Report on Climate Action Progress Appendix](#).

In addition to these GHG emission reductions, the County continued to make progress on other sustainability-related efforts such as **implementation of the Electric Vehicle Roadmap** and **updates to the Climate Action Plan (CAP)**. The County is currently working on developing the Regional Decarbonization Framework that will plan for a zero carbon future for San Diego. To learn more about these efforts and other ways the County is working to ensure a sustainable and just future for our community, find this report online at sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability/annualmonitoringreport.

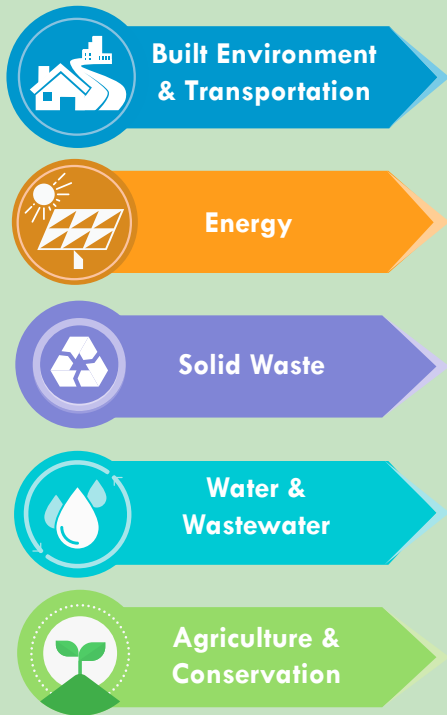
¹ MTCO₂e is the standard unit of measurement for GHG monitoring and evaluation.



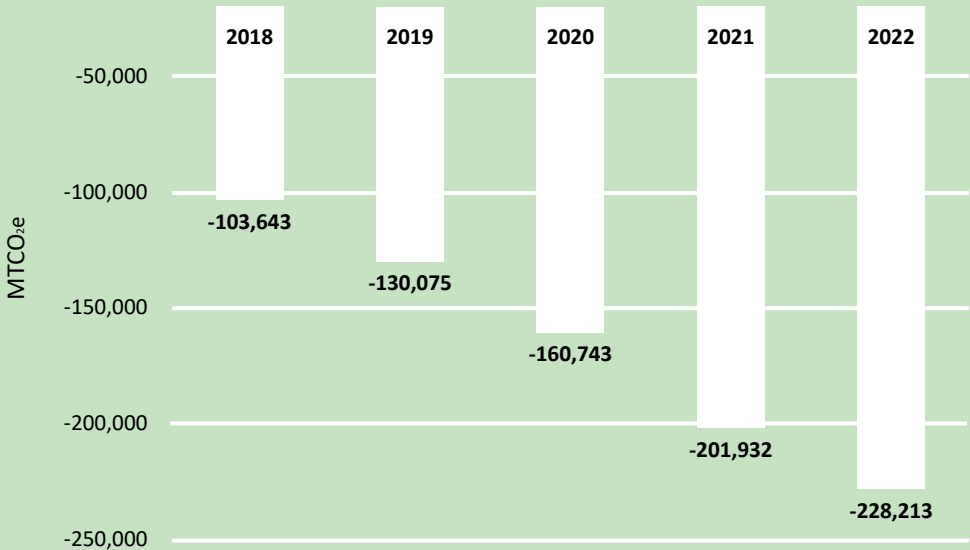
2022 County GHG reductions were equivalent to reducing the emissions from 25,679,419 gallons of gasoline!²

² U.S. EPA, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, 2023

The County has continued to **make climate action progress and provide co-benefits** such as clean air and water, green jobs, and improved public health through implementation of programs and policies within five emissions sectors. As of 2022, the County achieved approximately 25% of the 2030 reduction target of 897,145 MTCO₂e.



County of San Diego Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions



Climate Action Highlights from 2022

Permitted residential solar power equivalent to **12,531** homes, over 90% permitted through the [County's Online Permits platform](#)

10% reduction in [County fleet emissions](#) below 2014 levels

1,232 rain barrels distributed through the County Watershed Protection Program's [discounted rain barrel program](#)

3,913 [trees planted](#) by the Department of Parks and Recreation

1,022 acres of open space conserved through the [Multiple Species Conservation Program](#)



> Main cover photos, clockwise: Anza-Borrego sunrise, Electric Vehicle at Lakeside Library, Street Art in Ramona, Spring Valley Day.

Electric Vehicle Roadmap

In October 2019, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the **Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap** and took significant steps to increase electric vehicle ownership and use, and install charging stations in the county's unincorporated area and at County facilities.

The EV Roadmap includes six goals that increase and accelerate electrification of our transportation network in order to **reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality in the unincorporated area**. Implementation of the EV Roadmap supports the County's 2018 CAP efforts to meet GHG reduction targets and sets the County on a path to meet anticipated future demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



Action + Progress

Since Board adoption, several initiatives to advance EV Roadmap goals have been completed or progressed. Implementation efforts are regularly updated on the **EV Roadmap website**, and key highlights through 2022 have included:

- Installed over **200 EV charging stations** at County facilities for fleet vehicles
- Increased the number of in-use EVs in the **County's fleet to 92 vehicles**
- Installed over **50 publicly accessible** EV chargers at County facilities
- Implemented a **Renewable Energy Fee Waiver Pilot Program** and are currently evaluating program effectiveness to reduce costs of installing EV charging stations in private development
- Completed a **Community Transportation Needs Assessment** in La Presa and Spring Valley
- Increased **teleworking by County employees** and reduced more than 10,000 MTCO₂e from County employee commutes with teleworking
- Developed a **Regional EV Gap Analysis** as part of the **Accelerate to Zero Emissions Regional Collaboration**



Did you know?

State and federal **rebates and incentives** can save you as much as \$13,000 in up-front costs and tax benefits for purchasing an EV.

Ongoing Electric Vehicle Efforts

The County has multiple ongoing efforts to increase electric vehicle use and access to EV charging infrastructure. These efforts range from increasing the number of EVs used in County operations to regional collaboration to ensure all San Diego county residents have access to electric vehicles in the future. Some ongoing efforts include:

> ELECTRIC VEHICLES MEETING EVERYONE'S NEEDS

Many County departments require larger vehicles to carry heavy or large amounts of equipment, or larger engines to power auxiliary equipment in areas where EV chargers may not be nearby. **The County received its first delivery of Ford F-150 Lightnings** – all electric pick-up trucks. Since delivery, these vehicles have been successfully used and tested to meet a range of departmental needs, and have increased the viability of such vehicles for use across County departments. Departments like Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) have used the new trucks to carry inspection equipment throughout the county including in rural areas, traveling over 10,000 miles in these EVs in just six months.



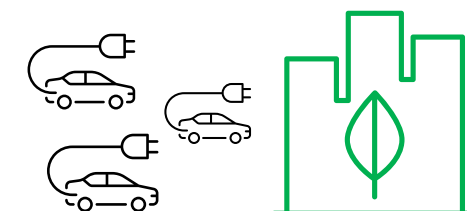
> ALTERNATIVE FUEL CORRIDORS CHARGING STATIONS

Planning & Development Services submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation to support expansion of **Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC)** designations in the county. As a result of the letter, new State Routes and Interstates in the unincorporated area, such as I-8 and SR 94, were given AFC designations for EVs, connecting east-west corridors and rural areas to future EV infrastructure investment. With these designations, the State will fund and support development of EV charging stations along these routes for a minimum of **56 new fast charging ports in the unincorporated area**.



> EMPLOYEE COMMUTES GO ELECTRIC

In May 2022, all County employees received a survey to understand how they travel to work, their barriers to EV ownership, and the incentives that would help them transition to alternative commute modes. Results showed that, while just under 5 percent of County employees currently drive an EV, **nearly 80 percent of employees are interested in purchasing an EV in the next five years**.



> COUNTY LEADERSHIP REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The County has been **recognized as a leader in transitioning vehicles in our region to zero emissions**. In May 2022, the National Association of Counties recognized the County's **EV Consumer Guide website** with a County Resiliency Achievement Award for optimizing new technologies and innovations to advance energy goals and environmental stewardship. Additionally, as founding member of the **Accelerate to Zero Collaboration**, the County helped publish the **Regional EV Gap Analysis**, which received awards for innovation, environmental planning, and resiliency from American Planning Association (APA) California, APA San Diego Chapter, and the National Association of Counties.

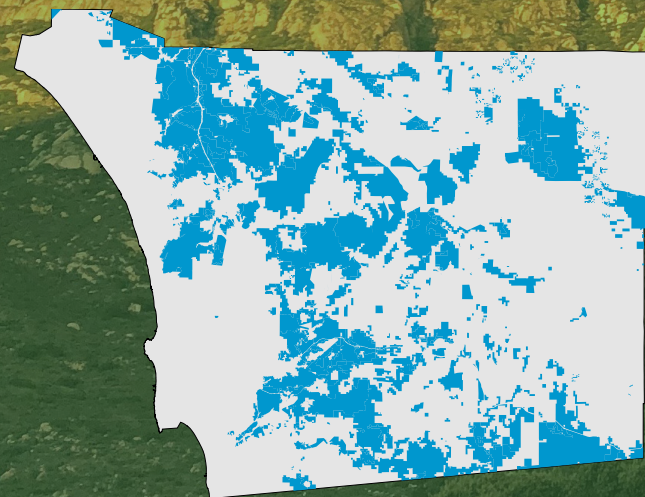
Climate Action Plan Update

> In 2022, the County continued efforts to **establish a bold vision for responding to climate change**. This effort will result in a qualified plan that mitigates beyond state GHG reduction targets to net zero emissions and below by 2035-2045 in the unincorporated area of the county and at County facilities. Through new policies and programs, the CAP Update will help us reduce climate change impacts in our community.



Framework for the Future

> The CAP Update is using updated data and modeling to show where the County can reduce emissions to net zero with an equity focus. This work will be shaped by robust community engagement, **centering environmental justice and equity** in order to recognize and address climate change impacts experienced by our most vulnerable unincorporated communities.



> The CAP reduces emissions for the **772,239 acres** and **over 500,000 residents** where the County has land use jurisdiction (in blue above) and the approximately **430 County facilities** located across 19 jurisdictions.

Project Timeline



Get Involved with the CAP Update!

The County is committed to creating a **Climate Action Plan that serves the community** and protects the public's health and safety, sustains the environment, and improves the quality of life for our residents.



In 2022, staff sought input and stakeholder feedback through a total of **eight public workshops** that included a total of 146 participants, 21 in-person events that reached **over 6,500 people**, and regular engagement on online platforms (e.g., website updates, e-newsletters) and social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and NextDoor). Through these efforts, staff received **thousands of comments** and are working to incorporate this feedback into the CAP Update.

Visit our [project website](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to learn more and get involved in the process!

Sustainability Initiatives at the County of San Diego

In 2022, the County continued to make bold action towards addressing the climate emergency through a variety of sustainable, equitable policy directives.

> Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF)

Collaborating to reach zero carbon

- RDF is the County's science-based, holistic approach to guide the region's decarbonization efforts
- The effort will identify local policy opportunities to support decarbonization in transportation, electricity, buildings, and land use

> Sustainable Land Use Framework

Principles for sustainable development

- Identifies principles of sustainable development that could inform future land use decisions
- Will look to address the issues of vehicle miles traveled, housing and climate, economic development, promotion of agriculture and tourism, and others

> San Diego County Native Plant Landscape Program

Increasing use of native plants in landscaping

- Offers training, resources, and incentives to increase the use of native plants in landscaped areas
- Supports regional biodiversity and expands natural wildlife habitat across the region

> Office of Sustainability & Environmental Justice (OSEJ)

Dedicated climate equity resources

- A regional voice for the community and tribes on sustainability and environmental justice issues
- Leading a regional effort to reduce community exposures to health hazards while addressing equity and environmental and climate justice in communities disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens

> Department Sustainability Plans

Sustainability in our operations

- Implements and advances departmental sustainability practices through actions, programs, and policies to contribute to County CAP goals and RDF pathways
- Creates a comprehensive strategy to achieve sustainability in internal and external operations

> This information is available on our [website](#) for mobile viewing and translated content



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Planning & Development Services
Climate Action Plan
sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability

For questions and media inquiries, contact:
cap@sdcounty.ca.gov

Interested in making an impact?
We want to hear from you
and get you involved!

cap@sdcounty.ca.gov



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