



Public Meeting: Climate Action Plan Implementation

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Zoom (Virtual)

Introduction

As part of the public involvement process for the Climate Action Plan (CAP), the County of San Diego (County) continues to engage stakeholders to share CAP implementation progress and gather community feedback. On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, the County held a virtual public meeting to discuss CAP implementation and the development of updates to the Green Building Incentive Program (GBIP). This meeting built on feedback from the initial public meeting held on July 22, 2025. The County is updating the GBIP alongside the Triennial County Building Code to further promote voluntary energy efficiency, water conservation, and building electrification efforts in the unincorporated areas. A total of 32 participants attended, including members of the general public, as well as representatives from local governments, non-profit organizations, and the energy sector.

Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide an overview of CAP implementation;
- Present details about the GBIP Update and Triennial County Building Code Update; and
- Gather input and feedback from attendees.

Meeting Format

The virtual meeting included a staff-led presentation with multiple opportunities throughout the meeting for participants to provide feedback. Engagement tools included Zoom polls, chat, Q&A, and an open discussion session. To support accessibility, meeting information was available in the County's seven threshold languages on the CAP website. Simultaneous interpretation was offered upon request, and all meeting materials were provided in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Summary of Input

Attendees represented a range of sectors, with most affiliated with the general public, and the remainder representing local governments, non-profit organizations, and the energy sector. Meeting poll results showed that about two-thirds of participants were familiar with the GBIP, and most have not previously filed a building permit with the County. Discussion focused on opportunities to strengthen GBIP incentives, promote all-electric construction, and ensure County programs align with State and regional clean energy goals. Attendees were interested in how the updated GBIP will apply CALGreen standards, the value of current incentives, and options for expanding eligibility to include additional measures, such as EV charging. Participants also highlighted the importance of integrating community priorities, such as dark-sky lighting and innovative building practices. Overall, feedback emphasized the need for clear communication, flexible program design, and continued stakeholder engagement as the County advances CAP implementation. Additional details from the Zoom polls and open discussion can be found in the tables below.



Table 1: CAP Public Meeting – Zoom Poll Questions & Responses

Question 1: “Which industry or sector are you most closely associated with? (Select one)?”

- **50%** – Other (*e.g., general public*)
 - **38%** – Local government and non-profit (*e.g., planner, CAP implementer*)
 - **12%** – Energy (*e.g., utilities, renewables, energy efficiency*)
 - **0%** – Building industry and development (*e.g., construction, design, permitting*)
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Question 2: “Have you filed a building permit with the County of San Diego? (Select one)?”

- **79%** – Yes, I have
 - **21%** – No, I haven’t
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Question 3: “Have you heard about the County’s Green Building Incentive Program? (Select one)?”

- **67%** – Yes, I have
 - **33%** – No, I haven’t
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Table 2: CAP Public Meeting – Open Discussion & Responses

Peter Anderson (Advisory Board Member, San Diego Community Power): Does the County require its municipal buildings to subscribe to Power100 to ensure they use 100% renewable energy?

CAP Team Response: All County-owned buildings follow the Zero Carbon Portfolio Plan, which commits the County to purchasing increasingly renewable-sourced electricity through Community Choice Aggregation and Direct Access agreements, with a goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity for County operations by 2030. County facilities served by San Diego Community Power are opted up to the Power100 tier, ensuring their energy supply comes entirely from renewable sources.

Peter Anderson (Advisory Board Member, San Diego Community Power): Why does the County still allow new buildings to have natural gas hookups?

CAP Team Response: The County cannot fully prohibit natural gas connections due to federal preemption and State building code requirements. However, the County is evaluating options for a local reach code at a future date that would go beyond the State model code to encourage all-electric new construction where feasible. In parallel, the County is developing incentive programs to encourage builders, residents, and businesses to voluntarily pursue all-electric design and reduce reliance on fossil fuels in new and existing developments.

Kelly Lyndon (Building Electrification Advocate): Are the existing Green Building Incentive Program terms such as “new and remodeled,” “residential and commercial,” and “expedited processing” still applicable?

CAP Team Response: Yes. These terms remain part of the Green Building Incentive Program. The current update focuses primarily on expanding the energy efficiency criteria and improving program clarity, not changing eligibility definitions.

Kelly Lyndon (Building Electrification Advocate): Does the County apply all CALGreen Tier 1 and 2 voluntary measures, or only those related to energy efficiency?

CAP Team Response: The existing Green Building Incentive Program currently only applies to the energy efficiency components of CALGreen Tiers 1 and 2. The County is reviewing potential opportunities to expand the incentive to include additional measures, such as EV charging infrastructure, water efficiency, or sustainable materials, based on stakeholder feedback.

Kelly Lyndon (Building Electrification Advocate): How much is a 7.5% fee reduction worth for typical projects, and will the County consider increasing the discount?

CAP Team Response: Building permit fees are based on project size. The fee reduction typically results in savings ranging from a few hundred dollars for single-family homes to several thousand for larger commercial or multifamily developments. The County designed the incentive to complement other local and State programs rather than serve as a standalone rebate. Opportunities to enhance the incentive structure will continue to be evaluated as the program evolves.



Table 2: CAP Public Meeting – Open Discussion & Responses

Kelly Lyndon (Building Electrification Advocate): If a project qualifies under multiple eligibility options (such as both Natural Resource and Water Conservation and CALGreen Tier 1) can the fee reductions be stacked for a combined discount (e.g., 7.5% + 7.5%)?

CAP Team Response: The fee reductions are not stackable. Projects may qualify under multiple eligibility options; however, they will receive a single 7.5% or 15% reduction based on meeting any one of the qualifying criteria. The program is structured as an “either/or” approach to maintain consistency and simplicity across project types.

Kelly Lyndon (Building Electrification Advocate): Could the incentive explicitly include all-electric buildings as a qualifying option?

CAP Team Response: All-electric design is encouraged under the existing State Model Code and could be used as a starting point for a project design to achieve the proposed CALGreen energy benchmark options for energy. The option to modernize GBIP was selected for projects to go beyond the State Model Code.

Eddie Lain (Dark Sky International/Valley Center Community Planning Group): Is there a relationship between the Green Building Incentive Program and the County’s Dark Sky Initiative?

CAP Team Response: There is currently no formal link between the Green Building Incentive Program and the Dark Sky Initiative. However, several community planning areas have adopted local dark-sky design guidelines that promote energy-efficient, environmentally sensitive lighting.

Eddie Lain (Dark Sky International/Valley Center Community Planning Group): Could the County provide incentives or education related to Dark Sky-compliant lighting?

CAP Team Response: The County is committed to creating opportunities for efficient lighting as part of broader energy and climate initiatives. Feedback on potential education or incentive efforts that have similar objectives as Dark Sky International (e.g. efficient outdoor lighting, reduced light pollution) will be shared with the County’s community planning team for consideration in future updates.

Joe Houde (Resident): Can residents schedule follow-up meetings to provide additional CAP-related feedback?

CAP Team Response: Yes. The County welcomes continued public engagement. Residents are encouraged to email the CAP Team at cap@sdcounty.ca.gov to arrange one-on-one discussions to share detailed comments or questions.

Joe Houde (Resident): Could Passive House design qualify for incentives under the Green Building Incentive Program?

CAP Team Response: Passive House construction, which emphasizes airtight envelopes and high insulation to minimize heating and cooling demand, can qualify under the existing “recycled content” or proposed “emerging technologies” criteria of the Green Building Incentive Program if it meets or exceeds State energy performance standards. The County’s program is designed to remain flexible so it can incorporate innovative, high-performance building approaches such as Passive House design in future updates.



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