

### Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CAP Update process also includes preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). This is because the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not evaluate the environmental impacts from implementing the measures from the CAP Update themselves. CEQA also requires that the SEIR include and evaluate other alternatives to the CAP Update to reduce any significant impacts that may arise from the project while still meeting most of the objectives of the CAP Update.

### Relationship to County’s Regional Decarbonization Framework

The Regional Decarbonization Framework is a plan being developed in partnership with the University of California, San Diego to decarbonize the region’s economy. Decarbonization is about reducing the gases in the atmosphere that trap heat in order to achieve a balance of the carbon cycle in nature. The regionally focused Regional Decarbonization Framework is different from the County’s CAP Update which addresses GHG emissions from activities in the unincorporated area and operating County facilities that are within the jurisdiction and influence of the County government.

For more information on the Regional Decarbonization Framework, visit:



[qrco.de/bcU4Xu](https://qrco.de/bcU4Xu)

### How to Get Involved

There are multiple ways to be involved in the CAP Update and share your feedback with the County.

- 1. Sign up for project updates: [qrco.de/bcU2qj](https://qrco.de/bcU2qj)
- 2. Attend a virtual or in-person meeting – details will be shared via notices.
- 3. Check out our webpage: [bit.ly/CAP\\_Update](https://bit.ly/CAP_Update)
- 4. Email us: [CAP@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CAP@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- 5. Follow-on social media:



Twitter: [@SDCoSustainable](https://twitter.com/SDCoSustainable)



Facebook: [@SDCountySustainable](https://facebook.com/SDCountySustainable)



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# Climate Action Plan Update

### About the Climate Action Plan Update

The County of San Diego (County) is updating its Climate Action Plan (CAP) to establish a bold vision for responding to climate change. The CAP Update’s purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that result from activities in the unincorporated area and operating County government facilities, including driving cars and trucks, using energy in homes, businesses, and buildings, disposing of waste, using water, farming, and managing open spaces and natural lands. The goal of the CAP Update is to reduce emissions from these activities to the levels set forth in California law and by the County Board of Supervisors.

### Framework for the Future and Focus on Equity

The Board of Supervisors approved the Framework for the Future on January 13, 2021, which created policy recommendations for the CAP Update, which include reducing GHG emissions at or below levels set forth in California law by 2030 and achieving a goal of net zero carbon emission by 2035-2045. The Framework for the Future also directed the CAP Update to be legally enforceable, comprehensive, shaped by community input, and focused on environmental justice and equity.



An example of an electric tractor.

### Climate Change and GHG Emissions

Climate change refers to long-term change in average weather patterns for the Earth’s local, regional, and global climates. There are many effects that result from these changes including increases in the frequency and severity of extreme events like heatwaves and wildfires. Climate change is primarily caused by human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels like oil, natural gas, and coal, but also from industrial processes, agricultural and land management practices, and solid waste disposal. These activities increase the amount of heat-trapping GHGs in the Earth’s atmosphere, which increases Earth’s global average temperate and causes climate change. The main GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and fluorinated gases, which are also known as High Global Warming Potential (GWP) gases.





The County is committed to a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2035-2045.



Electric vehicle charging for County vehicles at County Operations Center.

### Leading by Example to Address Local Impacts from a Global Issue

The CAP Update addresses GHG emissions from activities that are within the County's authority to regulate and influence, including GHG emissions generated in the unincorporated areas of the County and those associated with operating County facilities. The County is developing the CAP Update to achieve aspirational goals and lead by example. However, there are GHG-generating activities in the unincorporated area that the County government does not have the authority to address and the goals cannot be achieved by the County on its own. Success will depend on partnerships, collaboration, and coordination to build on efforts here in San Diego – and throughout the world to reduce GHG emissions.

### Background

On September 30, 2020, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors voted to set aside its approval of the County's 2018 CAP and related actions because the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was found to be out of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In response to this Board action, staff are preparing a CAP Update to revise the 2018 CAP and correct the items identified by the Court within the Final 2018 CAP Supplemental Environmental Impact Report that were not compliant. The CAP Update and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are being prepared in partnership with residents, business, and environmental groups. Pending adoption of the CAP Update, the County will continue to implement the reduction measures and sustainability initiatives/programs identified in the 2018 CAP.



Example of water efficient landscaping.

## Process and Timeline

2021

GHG  
Data  
Collection

2022

GHG  
Reduction  
Targets and  
Measure  
Development

2023

Draft CAP

Public  
Review

Final CAP

2024

Public  
Hearings

Community Engagement

The main phases of the CAP Update process are listed below.

- **Project Initiation:** The CAP Update started with conducting community outreach and engagement to increase awareness and familiarity with the purpose, objectives, and process of the CAP Update. Community engagement will continue throughout the duration of the CAP Update.
- **GHG Data Collection:** The initial phase includes gathering data on GHG emissions to establish a baseline inventory, developing forecasts for future emissions, and establishing targets for reducing GHG emissions in unincorporated areas and for County operations.
- **GHG Reduction Targets and Measure Development:** This phase will identify and evaluate GHG emission reduction measures for inclusion in the CAP Update to demonstrate how their collective implementation will achieve GHG emission reduction targets.
- **Draft CAP Update:** The draft CAP Update will build on previous work and incorporate community engagement to package a comprehensive plan for public review. As part of this, the draft CEQA document will be available for public review.
- **Public Review:** The public review period will allow time for review and comment on the draft CAP Update and draft CEQA document.
- **Final CAP Update:** After public review, revisions will be made to the CAP Update based on comments received during public review. The CAP Update will be brought forward for adoption by the Board of Supervisors along with the CEQA document.
- **Public Hearings:** The final CAP Update will be presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for adoption.

### Equity Focus

Equity is a primary focus of the CAP Update and the community outreach process. The ongoing participation from individuals and groups that are often underrepresented in planning processes is critical. As identified by the California Adaptation Planning Guide, there are three ways to incorporate equity into the planning process: procedural (increasing opportunities for engagement), distributional (fair distribution of resources, benefits, and burdens), and structural (recognize and address the underlying

structural and institutional systems that are at the root of economic, social, and racial inequities). Procedural equity is a focus of the community outreach for the CAP Update. This means creating outreach, engagement, and involvement processes that are transparent, fair, and inclusive. Through the CAP Update process, there will also be opportunities to shape GHG emission reduction measures, priorities, and policies to help ensure they address distributional and structural equity.