



Co-Benefits Workshop

San Diego County Climate Action Plan Update

Tuesday March 21, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Zoom

Introduction

As part of the public involvement process for the **Climate Action Plan Update** (CAP Update), the County of San Diego (County) is conducting intentional engagement centered on climate co-benefits.

On Tuesday March 21, 2023, County staff held a virtual public workshop to discuss co-benefits associated with the County's CAP Update efforts. In advance of the meeting, staff promoted the event through e-blasts, social media posts, and direct emails to relevant and interested stakeholders. During the event, 34 participants joined representing environmental, economic, equity, and community organizations as well as individuals. This summary documents meeting objectives and format, how input was solicited, and what was learned from the participants.

Objectives

The meeting was organized and conducted to accomplish the following objectives:

- Create a comfortable, engaging environment where all participants have an opportunity to provide meaningful input and share concerns.
- Explain how the CAP Update intersects with and engages with other County efforts and departments such as the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice.
- Obtain input to help develop the CAP Update definition for co-benefits.
- Share information about how input on co-benefits will be showcased in the CAP Update and be provided to decision makers for their consideration.

Format

At the virtual meeting, community members participated in a staff-led presentation and polling questions along with staff facilitated breakout rooms. Throughout the workshop, participants were invited to share their perspectives through the chat, polls, Q&A feature, and an open discussion.

Simultaneous interpretation was available for attendees whose primary language is Spanish. Registrants could also request the presentation be interpreted in the other 7 threshold languages prior to the workshop. The meeting materials were also offered in Spanish and a breakout room for Spanish speakers was also made available and facilitated by a staff person who is fluent in Spanish.

Major Themes

Major themes common to all the input received from participants are listed below. The ordering does not reflect importance or frequency.

- Ensuring the unique interests of the different unincorporated communities are reflected in the feedback and the CAP Update document.

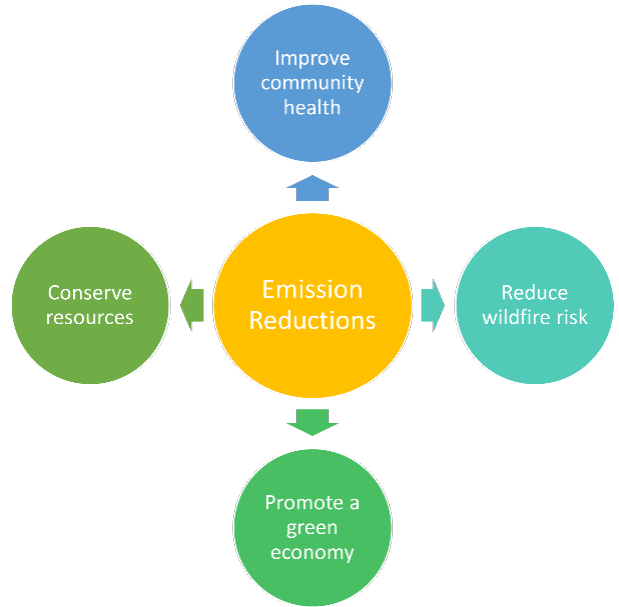


- Continuing to coordinate across different County initiatives such as the CAP Update and the integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework.
- Offering additional opportunities to provide input on the topics discussed at the workshop.

Co-Benefits Definition

Participants were divided into five breakout rooms, with staff as facilitators, and prompted to develop a short definition of co-benefits for each breakout room. Prompts to help the discussion included, “If you were having coffee with your neighbor, how would you explain co-benefits to them?” and “When was the last time you walked down the road and saw something that resonated as a co-benefit for you?”

Definitions from each breakout room are reflected below, with main and/or overlapping themes underlined.



<p>Breakout Room #1: Climate actions result in important and new <u>community, public health, and other benefits</u> that go above and beyond greenhouse gas emissions reductions.</p>	<p>Breakout Room #2: <u>Holistic approach</u> to climate action that result not only in greenhouse gas reduction, but the creation of <u>careers</u> and the <u>protection and conservation</u> of the unincorporated San Diego County's beautiful open spaces.</p>
<p>Breakout Room #3: <u>Positive holistic effects</u> from climate action that align with other County efforts/initiatives.</p>	<p>Breakout Room #4: <u>Benefits</u> our region and people through the CAP measures that will help to <u>create green jobs, sustainability and equity, agriculture, cost savings and resilience.</u></p>
<p>Breakout Room #5: Interdependence of additional <u>positive outcomes</u> from meeting objectives that are <u>equitably accessed, received, and provided.</u></p>	

While the rest of the workshop progressed, staff drafted a working definition based on the findings from the breakout room, which was shared later in the workshop and is as follows:

Holistic benefits for our region and people that create healthy, resilient, and equitable communities and economies through climate action.

Co-Benefits Tool

Staff also shared information about a tool that is being developed to analyze stakeholder feedback to determine which co-benefits are most valued across the community. The tool will offer a way to present community interest in the actions included in the CAP Update and will be presented to decision makers



For the second question, staff asked, from a list of four definitions, which one was closest to the participants definition of co-benefits.

Which of these definitions are closest to your definition of co-benefits?	<i>Total responses</i>	<i>25</i>
	<i>Unique participants</i>	<i>25</i>
Responses:		Count
“Positive outcomes from action that are not directly tied to climate change.”		2
“Benefits that accrue as a side effect of a targeted policy.”		5
“All of the positive outcomes associated with multiple, simultaneous emission reductions.”		4
“The added benefits we get when we act to control climate change, above and beyond the direct benefits of a more stable climate.”		14

For the third, and final question, staff asked which co-benefits were most important to participants.

Of the co-benefits listed, which ones matter to you most? Select all that apply.	<i>Total responses</i>	<i>171</i>
	<i>Unique participants</i>	<i>22</i>
Responses:	Count	Percent
Conserving land	9	41%
Reducing wildfire risk	10	45%
Conserving water	7	32%
Promoting a green economy	14	64%
Reducing GHG emissions quickly	15	68%
Reducing waste	11	50%
Increasing energy reliability	5	23%
Improving walking, biking, rolling, and transit options	12	55%
Improving community health e.g., reducing noise, increasing trees	8	36%
Saving taxpayer money	5	23%
Supporting community-driven projects	5	23%
Improving air quality	14	64%
Avoiding extra costs to the public	3	14%
Using fewer fossil fuels	10	45%
Saving money on utility bills	8	36%
Expanding green workforce training	10	45%
Prioritizing community most at-risk to climate change	13	59%
Improving access to clean technology e.g., EVs	12	55%