

This document provides a summary of polling question responses and comments from participants captured at the Climate Action Plan Update (CAP Update) workshop held on July 28, 2021. This workshop was dedicated to measure development for the emissions reductions sectors of Energy, Water & Wastewater, and Solid Waste. All poll responses and written comments are available on the CAP Update [website](#).

Energy



Measure Development Considerations

What should be considered for the energy sector to achieve a net-zero emissions future?

Built Environment

Equitable access to Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure in homes (rural, multi-family) and public spaces

Building electrification & efficiency: retrofits, embodied carbon targets

Supply water from local sources

Better public transportation

Ban synthetic turf, crumb rubber infill, pour in place playground mats

Recognize the GHG generation and VMT associated with General Services ground operations at all eight County of San Diego operated AIRPORTS.

Energy Sources

Equitable solar & renewables capacity – photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage

Community Choice Energy (CCE)

Phase out natural gas and fossil fuels

Renewable energy subsidies

Policies and Enforcement

Carbon tax on industries

Telecommuting policies

All electric reach codes

Solid Waste

Reduce product packaging

Compost to reduce landfill waste and emissions

What should NOT be considered for the energy sector?

Gas

Extending existing gas infrastructure

New natural gas infrastructure

Hydrogen or “renewable natural gas,” biogas, “green hydrogen”

Built Environment & Transportation

Private vehicle roads

Gas in the transportation sector

Urban sprawl

Renewable Energy Strategy

Depending on solar/wind energy in someone else's backyard

Roofs that are not optimized for solar panels

Carbon offsets

Is there anything else that should be considered for the energy sector?

Renewable Energy

Join a CCE

Consider the lack of solar PV recycling programs

Subsidize solar PV and electric cars, and conversion from propane / natural gas

Built Environment & Transportation

High density communities with work and recreation opportunities

Increased tree canopy to help reduce energy use, mitigate heat island effect, improve air quality

Chemicals of concern in electrification

Timeline

2050 is too late

What happens after 2050? Plan to at least 2100. Carbon sequestration should last at least 100 yrs

Vision for a climate positive future

Other

Consider energy used in agriculture

Protect open space as a carbon offset; manage natural resources

Outlaw offshore drilling

Energy & Equity

How can equity be considered for the energy sector, while still achieving net-zero emissions?

Equitable Services & Green Jobs

Create clean energy / green jobs in rural and low-income areas

Implement green jobs training programs

Ensure transmission infrastructure planning does not exacerbate environmental justice (EJ) communities

Subsidize or provide grants for rooftop solar PV for low-income communities

Prioritize retrofits in disadvantaged and high pollution areas

Increase public transportation, especially in rural and low-income areas

Do not depend on rural or low-income areas to shoulder the bulk of wind and solar development –
“Solar Yimbyism”

Rate assistance

Community Energy

CCE is a key equity program; San Diego Community Power is leading on this regionally

Community micro-grids

Access to Clean Resources

Access to clean air and clean energy

Separate clean water, wastewater, and stormwater by fixing leaks

Protect open space; create parks in communities of concern

Not just net zero, but improving communities

Outreach

Work and partner with communities of concern, community-based organizations (CBOs), and community leaders to see what they want and need

Water & Wastewater



Measure Development Considerations

What should be considered for the water & wastewater sector to achieve a net-zero emissions future?

Water Reuse & Recycling

Allow greywater for flushing toilets

Allow onsite greywater and blackwater treatment and reuse

Recycle wastewater

Facilitate rainwater capture and storage

Normalize toilet to tap

Water Pollution Reduction

Existing BMPs do not capture microplastics or the toxins and carcinogens they contain

Use storm drain systems that capture trash before it reaches water bodies

Do not allow permeable pavers or rubberized concrete because toxins, carcinogens, and high heat contribute to climate change

Prioritize fixing leaks so runoff is not contaminated with sewage or contaminate drinking water

Educate the public on BMPs for preventing pollution from rain and runoff

Water Use Reduction

Promote the Green Building Incentive program

Increase shade / tree cover to prevent drying

Explore opportunities to reduce water in the agricultural sector

Ban water intensive crops like almonds

Public outreach to use less water

Ban lawns

Lawns / unusable landscape should be banned

Aquifers

Remediate polluted aquifers to increase storage capacity

Increase permeability to refill aquifers; permeable pavement

Water Source

Providing exemptions to water restrictions

Source water locally

Consult with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board on energy use associated with water conveyance, capture and storage BMPs

Move away from water conveyance

What should NOT be considered for the water & wastewater sector to achieve a net-zero emissions future?

Water Source

Desalination

Importing water

Water Quality Considerations

Bioswales are only effective for certain chemical contaminants and are very costly

Using saline recycled water for landscaping because salts build up in hot weather

Dumping partially treated water into the ocean

Water Uses

Ever free drinking water for everyone

Lawns

Water intensive uses like golf courses, parks with lawns, greenways in development

Providing exemptions to water restrictions

Is there anything else that should be considered for the water & wastewater sector?

Water Conservation

Climate resilience – anticipate both extreme dry and wet conditions

Lawn tax

Keep innovating

Teach water conservation in all years, not just droughts

Treating water at different levels, i.e., greywater, blackwater.

Sinks for handwashing attached to toilet tanks so water is used for flushing

Equitable Water Access

Treat clean water access like a basic human right

Test water independently in all communities

Enforcement & Education

Enforce on water polluters

Help residents understand what the upper limits of water supply from county water districts are

Water, Wastewater, & Equity

How can equity be considered for the energy sector, while still achieving net-zero emissions?

Education & Outreach

Conduct school tours of waste and water reclamation facilities

Educate students and public to reduce water use

Do not expect people working 3 jobs to also be able to advocate for themselves

Work, listen, and empower rather than “educate”

Incentivize participation in community outreach

Consider access when planning information dissemination, sessions, classes – not everyone has internet at home or can attend at a certain time

Equitable Services

Provide increased County maintenance and infrastructure management in low-income and under-represented communities

Retrofit old buildings and homes in low-income areas to be water efficient

Replace lead pipes

Ensure that water quality in each area doesn't correlate with income level and other indicators

Work with people in low-income communities that are prone to flooding

Subsidize water leak repair

Reward those who use less water / don't have lawns, tax those who use more than their fair share, e.g., golf courses

Solid Waste



Measure Development Considerations

What should be considered for the solid waste sector to achieve a net-zero emissions future?

Waste Stream Management – At Home

Access to public waste bins that allow properly separated waste

Free at-home compost bins and program

Penalties for organic waste in the trash

Waste Stream Management – Commercial

Every company should have compost recycling

More stringent laws for construction waste management

Encourage/incentivize recycling companies, waste management in general

Innovate on plastic recycling

Have a zero-waste plan

Streamline permitting of recycling infrastructure

Landfills

Landfill gas capture grids always break down as garbage decomposes. Start planning for the next generation of landfill gas capture systems now.

Keep mining methane like in the Miramar landfill.

Education

Educate on zero waste and reduce, reuse, recycle

Educate the public about what landfills emit. That gas is more than just methane, and burning it produces more than CO₂

Producers & Materials

Top synthetic turf as it creates tons of waste

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation, product ban

Ban single-use plastics and Styrofoam

Reduce packaging

What should NOT be considered for the solid waste sector to achieve a net-zero emissions future?

Public Health and Safety; Compliance

Careless universal composting should not be considered because many pests and pathogens can pass through compost

Synthetic turf contains toxins and should be considered hazardous waste

Ensure proper waste disposal and recycling streams by residents

Overly punitive measures discourage cooperation

Producers & Materials

Materials that do not biodegrade quickly

Synthetic turf is plastic, not recyclable, and can off gas methane and ethylene

“Closure turf” on landfills

Eliminate full commingled recycling

Impose stringent laws on red list materials or chemicals of concern in materials as they are harder to recycle and pose hazards throughout life cycle

Landfills

Landfill expansion

Permitting of new landfills when there is sufficient disposal capacity

Education

Provide County-wide metrics on solid waste

Educate on lifecycle management of products

Is there anything else that should be considered for the solid waste sector?

Organic Materials & Food

Incentivize community composting sites at community gardens

Prioritize food recovery

Producers & Materials

Extended Producer Responsibility

Product bans

Promote sharing economy instead of consumerism and disposal

Natural & Built Environments

Increase incentives for adaptive reuse of existing buildings to avoid unnecessary construction waste

Recycle concrete

Native plants on landfill landscaping – a specialized field, learn from counties that currently do this

Increase incentives for recycling and material harvesting from building and construction waste

Other

Education, education, education!

Establish a needs assessment requirement before addition of landfill disposal capacity and/or consideration of new landfills

Solid Waste & Equity

How can equity be considered for the solid waste sector, while still achieving net-zero emissions?

Curbside & At Home

Provide segregated recycling bins in all communities

Provide free composting bins

While curbside composting is now available in some cities in the county, the information and education piece needs to continue

Community Wide

Stop dumping trash and pollution in low-income communities

Preclude siting of new landfills in already environmentally burdened communities

Incentivize community composting sites at community gardens

Require waste haulers to provide all services in rural areas

Safely close existing waste sites

Stop building sprawl developments near landfills, like Santee, Otay

Compost giveaways and other ways to give back to the community for their efforts

Better education on proper recycling

Provide native plant seed free of charge

Economic Factors

Jobs, jobs, jobs!

Start sanitation engineering degree and certificate programs at local universities
