

# Energy Conceptual Measures Workshop

## San Diego County Climate Action Plan Update

### 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 conceptual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction measures.



*Tuesday June 28, 2022*  
*6:00 p.m.*  
*Zoom*

On Tuesday June 28, 2022, County staff held a virtual public workshop to discuss conceptual measures in the Energy sector, the first in a series of meetings focused on each emissions reduction sector. 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, 23 participants joined representing environmental, economic, 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.
- Obtain input to help develop the Climate Action Plan Update GHG reduction measures and the vision statement for the Energy sector.
- Explore opportunities and challenges related to greenhouse gas reduction measures that may be considered for the Climate Action Plan Update.
- Provide an overview of the Climate Action Plan Update in a clear and easy to understand way, including the purpose, process, outcomes, timeline, and future opportunities to provide input.

### Format

At the virtual meeting, community members participated in a staff-led presentation and polling questions. The workshop was centered around three topics: Basics of Energy sector emissions; Draft equitable, net-zero vision statement for the sector; Strategies and conceptual measures to reach the draft vision. Throughout the workshop, community members were invited to share their perspectives through the chat, polls, and open discussion. The workshop and prompts were designed so that staff could learn more about community members' perspectives about climate change and potential actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

An interpreter was in attendance for community members whose primary language is Spanish. The meeting materials were also offered 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.

- Electrification across all sectors (transportation, buildings, agriculture, etc.) was a popular solution stakeholders mentioned to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Incentives for electric appliance replacements were noted as a way to decrease energy use.
- Participants noted that increasing renewable energy, both on the regional and personal/residential scale, would help reduce GHGs from energy use.
- Enacting any measures in an equitable manner was stressed as an important component of this sector.
- Discussion of the difference between energy use and energy efficiency came up, with one stakeholder noting that an efficient appliance delivers the same result with less energy.

## Feedback on Conceptual Measures

Six conceptual measures were presented to participants:

1. Prioritize Energy Efficiency of County Facilities and Achieve XX% by 2030.
2. Increase energy efficiency and convert XX amount of Gas Appliances in Existing Buildings in the Unincorporated Area.
3. Achieve Electrification of XX% of New Buildings in the Unincorporated Area by 2030.
4. Increase Renewable Energy Production and Storage at County Facilities by XX% by 2030.
5. Increase Solar Photovoltaics and Energy Storage in the Unincorporated Area by XX% by 2030.
6. Reduce the Reliance on Gas and Diesel Generators in County Operations and in the Unincorporated Area.

Stakeholders expressed interest in all conceptual measures, with a slight preference for the first measure above when asked which one was most exciting to them. Other topics that came up when asked if there were any other strategies, measures, or actions the County should consider were to hire a new County energy czar, include equity in the measures, provide resources to help reduce residential energy use, and regulate producers to ensure the generation of high-quality energy.

## Poll Everywhere Responses

Staff asked 14 questions throughout the workshop, and a total of 18 workshop participants responded.

**Welcome! What brought you here today?**

*Total responses* 7  
*Unique participants* 5

***General Interest or Curiosity:***

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Interest in the CAP update policy goals and its impact on the County staff structure.

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Understanding CAP

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Interest in the CAP's understanding of sustainability

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Want to know what the county has planned and have input

***Energy-Specific:***

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Affordable energy

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Energy

***Targets:***

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Net-zero emission targets

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**I am a...** Total responses 11  
Unique participants 8

<b>Responses:</b>	Count	Percent
resident of the unincorporated county	4	36.36
resident of an incorporated city (e.g., City of San Diego, Poway, Encinitas...)	2	18.18
resident of a Native American reservation	0	0
resident of another area (outside of SD County, on a military base, etc.)	0	0
Energy/utility professional	2	18.18
community-based organization representative	3	27.27
County employee	0	0
other	0	0

**Did we get it right? Does "Renewable, carbon-free energy systems power efficient buildings and result in resiliency, lower emissions, and reduced costs" reflect your prior comments?** Total responses 11  
Unique participants 11

<b>Responses:</b>	Count	Percent
Yes, this Vision Statement reflects my prior comments	1	9.09
Almost There	7	63.64
Not Quite	2	18.18
No, this Vision Statement does not reflect my prior comments	1	9.09

**For those of you who think we're almost or not quite there, what else do you think should be included?** Total responses 10  
Unique participants 9

***It's Electric:***

45 % of the GHG are cars and trucks. There is no other way to get around the County. Why aren't electric cars the major GHG reduction tool?

all-electric language

***General Environment & Equity Considerations:***

There is no mention of climate justice or frontline communities

Total environmental impact needs to be considered.

***Implementation:***

When the board adopts energy policy goals, they also need to identify County staff who will be responsible for ensuring that those goals are achieved. Someone needs to be accountable.

by 2035

***Clarification on Energy:***

Net zero energy

Clean energy

potentially something about "distributed energy resources"

Local energy production and storage

**What actions would you like to see the County take to reduce energy use?**

Total responses 9  
Unique participants 8

<b>Responses:</b>	<i>Upvotes</i>	<i>Downvotes</i>
Replace all fluorescent light fixtures with LED lighting in all County facilities.	2	1
Develop nuclear clean energy	1	2
Commit to electrifying all County-owned buildings by 2035.	2	2
Retrofit air conditioning systems in all county facilities, to prevent rolling brownouts in hot summer days.	2	0
Commit to passing a reach code to ban new methane gas for all new development	3	2
Cool roofs are a great idea!	3	0
Thermal district heating and cooling in the city	2	0
Ban gas hookups in all new construction immediately	3	3
Ban crypto throughout the county	2	1

**What would make it easier for you to use less energy?**

Total responses 18  
Unique participants 10

<b>Responses:</b>
population limitations to reduce use
Solar curtailment is when solar energy produces too much energy than is used then sold for less than fair value
SDCP is a CCA that is developing a community power plan to reinvest profits into communities of concerns and green jobs
CCA's should be regulated to ensure the delivery to quality power.
By constantly allowing SDG&E to raise its rates, the CPUC is encouraging customers to use less energy every day.
The county needs to take a stand on the efforts by the CPUC to make it hard for homeowners to install rooftop solar
There are options to the current energy generation schemes, depending on the goals they can create different environmental effects.
Encourage the new local CCAs to develop new energy efficiency programs to serve the customers they purchase energy for.
What will you do with solar curtailment this causes?
You should distinguish between energy usage and energy services. An efficient appliance delivers the same result with less energy.
Funding, incentives and rebates for efficient, electric appliances and efficiency retrofits.
Passive cooling remodel or upgrades
If SDG&E took control of its energy efficiency programs away from the CPUC Energy Division, and focused them on helping local customers do more.
being able to install affordable all electric appliances in my home
Timers/switches on outlets that turnoff unnecessary appliances from 4-9pm
Live grid updates to know when draw is high
My exact question.
Why do I want to use less energy?

**What are other strategies the County can require or incentivize to increase the use of energy efficient appliances?** Total responses 8  
Unique participants 6

**Programming and Equity:**

Work with the CPUC to ensure that utility and CCA energy efficiency programs are expanded serve more local customers.

Resource & planning aid for upgrading

Replace gas in a per neighborhood basis in undeserved communities.

Commit to establishing strong, equitable retrofit measures for existing buildings, such as developing a comprehensive all-electric retrofit plan that will prioritize environmental justice communities

Incentive to replace all gas appliances in a home

Have a recycling program for old appliances

**Other:**

Promote home ownership. Landlords typically do not invest in energy saving appliances.

It will be almost impossible to convince people to tear out gas furnaces and stoves and replace them with electric ones. Even if the county paid for it.

**How interested are you in seeing more solar installed on buildings and houses in your community?** Total responses 11  
Unique participants 11

<b>Responses:</b>	Count	Percent
Very interested	8	72.73
Somewhat interested	0	0
Neutral	1	9.09
Not really interested	0	0
Not interested at all	2	18.18

**What are other ways we can move away from using gas or diesel generators?** Total responses 10  
Unique participants 7

<b>Responses:</b>	Upvotes	Downvotes
Ammonia can also be used as a clean fuel	0	0
If rooftop solar and batteries were installed on 45% of the roofs and parking lots in the county, all our power could come from the sun.	0	0
Equitable Electrification	2	1
Install rooftop solar and batteries to power those county facilities and homes countywide.	3	1
Renewable drop in fuel for generators- renewable diesel	2	1
on-site solid oxide fuel cells or hydrogen fuel cells are a zero-emission and renewable (green hydrogen, SB 1383 biomethane)	2	1
Hydrogen energy systems, hydrogen generators	3	2
nuclear power (SMRs)	2	1
V2G capable cars and trucks can act as backup power	1	1
Use hydrogen generator	2	2

**Why is reducing energy use important to you?**

Total responses 15  
Unique participants 10

**Environmental Concerns:**

The environment will not survive unless we get our energy use under control, and stop burning fossil fuels. Because energy use creates greenhouse gases which hit communities of concern the hardest. It is an environmental and equity issue.

To maintain a stable climate  
global warmin

**Cost:**

Cost, strategic importance, and reducing GHG  
Saves money  
cost

**Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency:**

Rationing energy no longer works while we are having drastic weather changes. Clean energy is abundance is a necessity  
Energy reduction is not a goal ... energy efficiency is a goal  
reducing energy use improves energy infrastructure resilience  
Everyone can do their part to help make reductions in their own home and businesses  
There should be clean energy abundance  
With reduced level of hydro power, we all need to reduce our consumption.

**Other:**

National security  
it's not

**Of all the measures we shared, which one is most exciting to you?**

Total responses 6  
Unique participants 6

**Responses:**

	Count	Percent
region: other	0	0
region: energy efficiency at County	3	30
region: convert appliances in existing buildings	2	20
region: electrification of new buildings	1	10
region: Renewable energy at County facilities	2	20
region: Solar and storage in unincorporated county	1	10
region: Reduce gas/diesel generator reliance at County and in community	1	10

**Are there any other Energy strategies, measures, or actions the County should consider?**

Total responses 20  
Unique participants 7

**Offshore Wind:**

on shower wind is a good use in SOCAL  
Offshore wind will not work in Southern California- military operations and deep ocean floor as well as migratory whales

Off shore wind is not efficient in SOCAL  
 The Navy has blocked offshore wind off San Diego and Southern California due to its training needs.  
 Offshore wind has not appeared in the list

**Hydrogen:**

Green hydrogen  
 A measure not to consider: Hydrogen as a heating measure mixed into the natural gas lines!

**Implementation:**

Identifying funding sources from state and federal government  
 Don't hire additional staff ... reassign  
 Hire a new County energy czar and give them the power to make sure the County's energy goals are met, working with department chiefs.  
 None of the draft measure currently mention equity  
 consider total environmental impact in the development of energy sources.

**Circular Economy:**

Nuclear energy reprocessing from spent nuclear fuel  
 On-site water reuse  
 Circular economy  
 Waste to energy

**Additional Pathways:**

Further breakdown of sources of residential energy use & education/resources to help reduce use by habit changes / upgrades  
 do not consider a single energy supply as a complete answer.  
 Regulate producers to ensure the generation of high quality energy  
 Stop wasting energy, maximize rooftop solar and battery use.

**Given what we just discussed, which co-benefits are important to you? Select all that apply** Total responses 58  
Unique participants 10

<b>Responses:</b>	Count	Percent
Improve community health	6	10.34
Conserve farmland	4	6.9
Save money on utility bills	7	12.07
Save public tax dollars	4	6.9
Improve air quality	6	10.34
Increase energy security/resilience	6	10.34
Conserve water	4	6.9
Conserve habitat	2	3.45
Create green jobs	8	13.79
Reduce noise	1	1.72
Promote environmental and social justice	5	8.62
Improve access to electric vehicles	0	0
Improve walking, biking, rolling, and transit options	5	8.62

**Given the following list, what other criteria are important to you when evaluating measures? Rank the following: support co-benefits; support equity and environmental justice; reduce GHG emissions quickly; reduce costs to residents and businesses; save taxpayer money**

*Total responses  
Unique participants*

<b>Responses:</b>	<i>Rank</i>
Support co-benefits	2
Support equity and environmental justice	3
Reduce GHG emissions quickly	1
Reduce costs to residents and businesses	4
Save taxpayer money	5