

# **MONTEREY COUNTY**

# **SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM**



# **2021-2022**

*Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021*

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# SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

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In 2020 Monterey County re-initiated the Sustainability Program, after several years of dormancy. The Program is grounded in the three pillars of sustainability and is designed to support a healthy and vibrant economic, social and environmental future for the residents of Monterey County. The County contains two of the most important natural treasures to the nation, the vast and striking open wilderness of Big Sur and the Monterey Bay, and some of the most fertile and prime farmland in the Country. As such, its resources are both highly sought after and in need of protection and conservation. The Sustainability Program seeks to preserve and restore the County's environmental resources in a way that supports the well-being of our residents and uplifts our economic anchors of tourism and agriculture. The Program does that through 3 main activities, **Climate Action Planning** which outlines the plan for reducing and sequestering emissions in County operations and County-wide, a Board of Supervisors chaired Committee known as the **Alternative Energy and Environment Committee** and interacting with and engaging the community to discover **Community Priorities**.

## CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

In 2006, California passed landmark climate action legislation, AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, and subsequently passed SB32 which updated the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 citing local governments as key collaborators in reaching the target through climate action planning. Climate Action Plans outline strategies that local governments can implement to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions. They are created through collaborative process with external stakeholders and the local community. Strategies are typically analyzed for cost-benefit, feasibility, and greenhouse gas reduction prior to being selected for implementation.

Since 2006, climate action planning has evolved substantially. For instance, the plan can include a section on adaptation, offering actions and strategies for reducing the negative impacts of climate change. The Plan can also be CEQA certified, which would allow for streamlining of proposed development within the County under the provisions of Public Resources Code section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5. Moreover, best practices include equitable solutions, which consider the effects of climate change reductions strategies on low income and minority communities.

In the 2010 General Plan Final EIR, preparation of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan was identified as a mitigation measure that would reduce climate change impacts associated with development contemplated in the General Plan. Policy OS-10.11 was added to provide the desired mitigation. Policy OS-10.11 adapted language similar to that accepted by the State Attorney General in litigation against San Bernardino County and was updated in 2020 to reflect the latest state targets and advancements in climate action planning.

The policy now reads as follows:

*By the end of 2022, the County of Monterey shall develop a community climate action plan the Board of Supervisors shall target considering adoption of the plan. Staff shall diligently pursue completion of the plan and regularly update the Board on the progress of plan preparation. This plan shall have a target to reduce emissions by 2030 to a level that is 40% less than 1990 emissions levels. This plan should include environmental justice considerations including the impact of climate change and adaptation strategies on Disadvantaged Communities, as that term is defined in Government Code section 65302(h)(4)(A), low-income and/or under-resourced communities, communities of color, and/or indigenous peoples as necessary.*

*At a minimum, the Plan shall:*

- a. *Establish a current inventory of GHG emissions in the County of Monterey including but not limited to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural emissions;*
- b. *Review progress made between 2010 and 2020 to reduce GHG emissions;*
- c. *Forecast GHG emissions for 2030 for County operations;*
- d. *Forecast GHG emissions for areas within the jurisdictional control of the County for “business as usual” conditions;*
- e. *Identify strategies to reduce and sequester GHG emissions and set performance indicators for each strategy;*
- f. *Quantify the reductions in GHG emissions from the identified strategies and evaluate the social and health impacts that may result from their implementation;*
- g. *Quantify carbon sequestration in agricultural soils and crops*
- h. *Establish requirements for monitoring and reporting of indicators;*
- i. *Establish a schedule of actions for implementation;*
- j. *Identify funding sources for implementation; and*
- k. *Identify a reduction goal for the 2045.*

*During preparation of the community climate action plan, the County shall also evaluate potential options for incorporating changes in County policies within the General Plan including, but not limited to, those regarding health and safety, land use, and circulation, as necessary, , as well as the Hazard Mitigation Plan to further achieve the 2030 and 2045 reduction goals. The County shall also consider measures to promote public awareness of climate change and strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change. The County shall continue planning for adaptation due to climate change.*

As this plan is required to be completed by 2022, its development will be a primary focus of the 2021 Sustainability Program along with an update to the Municipal Climate Action Plan and is expected to be partially funded by a grant from the Department of Conservation’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Planning grant program.

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Board of Supervisors has a two-member Alternative Energy and Environment Committee, staffed by the County Administrative Office – Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division. The Committee meets bi-monthly to review and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding environmental and sustainability related efforts within and affecting Monterey County, and to direct the efforts of the Sustainability Program. On an annual basis, the Alternative Energy and Environment Committee recommends a Sustainability Program Work Plan to the Board of Supervisors.

#### **COMMUNITY PRIORITIES**

Community priorities help to guide the Sustainability Program through a collaborative process to understand the needs of the community with relation to sustainability. Community engagement allows the program to define policies, projects, and partners in its sustainability efforts and ensures there is a constant line of communication between government and community. In early 2020, the Sustainability Program hosted a community engagement process to identify local priorities and re-vision the program priorities. Over 250 stakeholders were engaged and over 90 responses to the survey were received. The process included an online survey and the development of a materiality matrix as well as one-on-one meetings with major community advocacy groups and industry stakeholders. The intention of the survey was to reveal the major Sustainability concerns of the community and set priorities for the program. Although participation in the survey was lacking from major agricultural associations, the agricultural

associations have participated in additional one-on-one sessions and group meetings to provide their input into the overall sustainability program development and program principles and remain integral and active stakeholders. In 2021 deep stakeholder engagement will continue with the Climate Action Plan.

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## Sustainability Program Principles

To focus the efforts of the program and encompass the viewpoint of the community, the County Sustainability program has developed the following principles that define its priorities and actions taking into account the role of the County government, the strategic priorities of the Board of Supervisors, the greenhouse gas emissions profile of the County, the environmental threats identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the results of the Materiality Matrix and the basic tenets of sustainability.

1. **Energy and Emissions:** Meet or exceed state climate goals for emissions reductions with clean, efficient sources of energy and climate action.
2. **Water:** Preserve and enhance water quality and supply through efficient and practical measures.
3. **Air:** Support activities that ensure healthy, clean, fresh air for all County residents.
4. **Waste:** Transform the way we manage our waste streams to a system that replenishes our resources.
5. **Transportation:** Actively support planning for complete streets with low-impact and affordable development that increases clean mobility options and access to services.
6. **Agriculture:** Promote sustainable agricultural practices and support our local food supply.
7. **Partnerships:** Create partnerships with our cities and regions to share in and maximize our sustainability actions.
8. **Adaptation and Mitigation:** Prepare and strengthen our community for and against climate change hazards
9. **Conservation:** Protect and restore the health and balance of our natural habitats.
10. **Equity:** (overarching theme): Ensure that all sustainability activities are inclusive of diverse cultural, socio-economic and ethnic perspectives and provide ways for disadvantaged communities to thrive.

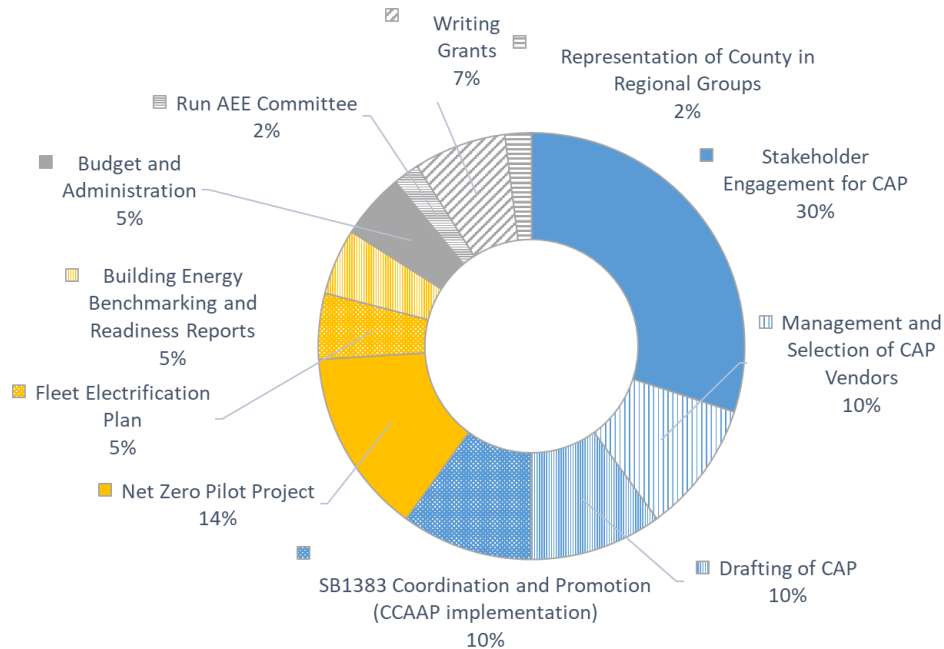
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## ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM 2021

### Overview

The Sustainability Program at the County of Monterey will be entering its second year of active operation in 2021. The focus of the program will be to launch the Community Climate Action Plan and to begin implementation of the strategies within both the Community Climate Action Plan and Municipal Climate Action Plan. Approximately 50% of staff time will be dedicated to the Community Climate Action Plan. The remaining time will be split approximately evenly between implementing and updating the Municipal Climate Action Plan and Programmatic Activity. These activities are described in further detail below. There are several areas where additional staff could be used to further the goals of the program, specifically in the implementation of energy efficiency and clean energy upgrades to County buildings, which would result in significant savings to the County. The Program is reviewing these resource needs as part of the FY21-22 budget process.

## Percentage of Time on Each



### PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITY

Programmatic activity is activity that is necessary for or enhances the functioning of the Program. Some aspects of Programmatic Activity are difficult to account for, such as regular engagement with the public sector, website updates, and other administrative or one-off tasks. Time for such things has not been accounted for formally but can take up to 10% of staff time.

### AEE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to provide guidance to the Sustainability Program of the County on issues affecting the local environment and energy-related emissions. AEE meetings are held bi-monthly and are staffed by the Sustainability Program Manager. Two Supervisors chair the Committee. In 2021, the AEE Committee will oversee the progress of the Climate Action Plan and hear other matters related to Sustainability including updates on the fleet electrification plan, the net zero pilot project and the climate change sections of the hazard mitigation plan.

**Staff time for the running the AEE Committee meetings varies but is approximately 10-12 hours bi-monthly, or approximately 3-4% of staff time.**

### SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS

In 2020, the Sustainability Program initiated the Sustainability Ambassadors program which consists of employees from the various departments at the County and is intended to act as a liaison with the Program and the departments. The Ambassadors assist the Sustainability Program Manager in launching interdepartmental efforts and in understanding the operational details of their department. This allows the program to more easily integrate sustainable practices throughout the County and provides a conduit of information between departments on an informal and friendly level.

The Ambassadors Program also serves as an employee engagement tool that seeks to bring about a cultural change at the County of Monterey and will bring internal awareness and connectedness to the Sustainability Program projects. The goal is to have one member from each department and currently

the program is run voluntarily with employees signing up directly with the Sustainability Program Manager. Department heads are recommended to promote this program with their employees and encourage them to sign up. The program meets over lunch on a quarterly basis and does not require any work-time commitment from the participant at this time.

**The Sustainability Ambassadors Program meets quarterly for 1 hour and requires minimal staff time to run at this point, though the emerging programs will require management.**

#### *MULTI-JURISDICTION COUNCIL*

In 2021 the Sustainability Program will work with the cities within the County to create a Multi-Jurisdiction council. The purpose of this Council will be to deepen the bond between the County and the cities with respect to issues related to sustainability as well as to determine top sustainability priorities in the County that can be tackled through partnerships between jurisdictions. The County recognizes that there are certain issues related to reducing emissions that are better addressed in high density areas and other issues that are more regional in nature, such as transportation. Through this council, the County intends to share its sustainability resources more broadly and to maximize the effectiveness of the program by jointly applying for grants and projects that may need authorization and approval by multiple jurisdictions. Though not a joint powers authority yet, the Council may be the beginnings of such an organization. The Council will invite members from each jurisdiction to its quarterly meetings and will host the first meeting in February in concert with AMBAG to reveal the results of the most recent GHG inventories and to share climate action plan progress and status.

**Staff time for the Multi-Jurisdiction Council is included within the Regional Agency Representation below.**

#### *REGIONAL AGENCY REPRESENTATION AND INTERACTION*

Currently the Sustainability Program represents the County on multiple regional advocacy groups and institutions. Staff ensures that the Sustainability efforts and needs of the County receive the appropriate attention at these meetings and ensures that the County voice is represented. Staff also brings to the attention of the group's any efforts at the County that are related to sustainability, adaptation and climate action so that these groups can promote efforts, attend meetings, and provide input into County processes. Representation at these meetings helps to draw down funding for County activities and communities and ensures collaboration between regional entities to enact mutually reinforcing strategies and streamline work efforts.

**Staff time for Regional Agency Representation is expected to take about 1-2 hours per week or about 2-3% of staff time.**

#### *GRANT WRITING AND INCENTIVES CAPTURE*

Grant writing is an important aspect of the Sustainability Program. In 2020, the program applied for 2 grants totaling \$210,000 and was awarded the larger of the two grants for \$192,500. This grant is a planning grant and is just the tip of the iceberg with respect to funding for sustainability projects. This grant will be used to fund the writing of the Climate Action Plan which will lay out various projects for implementation at the County. The Sustainability Program expects to seek funding in 2021 for Carbon Farm Planning through the Healthy Soils Program as well as for Food Waste Recovery grants from Cal Recycle to assist in the implementation of SB1383. There are other funds available through the California Climate Investments funding site that may be applicable for prescribed burns and conservation efforts as well as mitigation of emissions from transportation and transit-oriented development that the County could secure.



In addition to grant funding, the program may also seek out various incentives for the County in 2021. Those incentives range from funding from 3CE to implement a reach code for greening our building sector to applying for SGIP funding from PG&E for battery storage to obtaining free or subsidized electric vehicle charging stations and other incentives to assist with electrifying our fleet.

**Grant writing is expected to take a minimum of 7% of staff time and is expected to be conducted in concentrated bursts with about 20-30 hours needed per application.**

*BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION*

Staff will participate in the annual budget and planning process each year and will complete any administrative duties required for program management. Staff is working to investigate the potential for an energy savings and sustainability fund which would allow the program to recoup avoided costs and any revenues generated annually from energy savings programs and renewable energy generating projects as well as any carbon related revenues. Staff is also investigating the potential for an electrification rebate program in the County which would require administration.

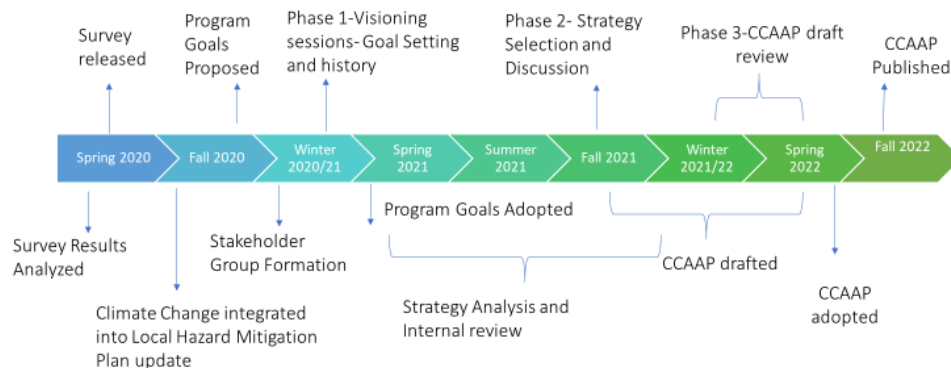
**Budget and administration is expected to take about 5% of staff time though this could be expanded with the development of a fund.**

**COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

*CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND VENDOR SELECTION*

The Sustainability Program has developed and released an RFP for the Climate Action Plan and will be managing that project in 2021. There will likely be multiple vendors selected to work on the various aspects of the Climate Action Plan. The program has developed the following schedule for the Climate Action Plan which will span two years.

## CCAAP and Sustainability Program Development Timeline



The following deliverables are included in the Climate Action Plan RFP and will require management:

1. Inventory & Forecasting for MCAP and CCAAP

5.4.2.1 Current emissions levels for year 2020 at County Operations level only.
5.4.2.2a Business as usual forecast (BAU) and adjusted BAU including a forecast with state-level and federal policies for years 2030 and 2045 for unincorporated area.
5.4.2.2b Business as usual forecast (BAU) and adjusted BAU including a forecast with state-level and federal policies for years 2030 and 2045 for County operations.
5.4.2.3a. Emissions Forecast with near-term and long-term strategies deployed for unincorporated area.
5.4.2.3b. Emissions Forecast with near-term and long-term strategies deployed for County operations.
<u>2. Technical Analyses Evaluation of Measures</u>
5.5.1.1 Initial list of Plan measures and high-level goals including justifications from other plans and programs in the County, State, or Nation for unincorporated Monterey County. This will be provided in advance for County operations.
5.5.1.2a Analysis of Plan measures (GHG reduction (2030/2045), Cost per MT of reduction, feasibility scale, equity tradeoffs or index rating, co-benefits, etc.) for unincorporated Monterey County.
5.5.1.2b Analysis of Plan measures (GHG reduction (2030/2045), Cost per MT of reduction only for Monterey County operations.
5.5.1.3 Final list of Plan measures including applicable key performance indicators for unincorporated Monterey County.
5.5.1.4 Monitoring system and methodology and reporting template for unincorporated Monterey County final measures.
5.5.1.4.b Monitoring system and methodology and reporting template for County operations final measures.
5.5.1.5 Staffing Analysis Report for unincorporated Monterey County and County operations.
<u>3. CEQA Compliance</u>
5.6.1 Necessary CEQA analysis and documents for anticipated IS-ND
5.6.2 Necessary CEQA analysis and documents for a full EIR
<u>4. Drafting and Branding/Design of Action and Adaptation Plan</u>
5.7.2.1 Administrative draft of the CAP (Word document, with no graphic design);
5.7.2.2a Draft CAP for public comment (Word doc, with modest graphic design)

5.7.2.2b Draft MCAP for public comment (Word doc, with modest graphic design)
5.7.2.3 Draft CAP for adoption (with full graphic design)
5.7.2.4 Graphic summary document of CAP (in Spanish and English)
<u>5. Facilitation and Community Action Toolkit</u>
5.8.6.1 Facilitation of Stakeholder Meetings and report-outs
5.8.6.1a Translation for stakeholder meetings in Spanish
5.8.6.2 Community Action Toolkit

**The Climate Action Plan vendor selection and management is expected to take a minimum of 10% of staff time.**

***CLIMATE ACTION PLAN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT***

Stakeholder engagement will be a major aspect of the Climate Action Plan process over the next two years. Details can be found in the draft stakeholder engagement plan, but an overview is presented here.

**Phase 1: Project Initiation & Visioning (Winter-Summer 2021)**

Phase 1 consists of outreach and engagement focused on developing the vision for the plan, providing education to the community, including the science and historical context of climate change issues in our region, high-level goal setting and inspirational engagement.

**Phase 2: Policy & Strategy Development (Summer-Fall 2021)**

Phase 2 will be focused on the development and prioritization of sustainability, resilience/adaptation, and climate action strategies including sharing the results of any technical analyses, such as the greenhouse gas inventories and forecasts, any vulnerability assessments, sustainability indicators and any preliminary assessments of existing activities and GHG reductions and other co-benefits. Phase 2 outreach and engagement will continue to inform and also provide opportunities for the County to consult, involve, and collaborate with stakeholders during the identification and development of strategies.

**Phase 3: Plan Preparation & Environmental Review (Winter 2022)**

Phase 3 will focus on review and refinement of the draft greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation strategies and the implementation plan. Outreach and engagement during Phase 3 will focus on review of the CAP document itself.

**Stakeholder engagement is expected to take about 30% of staff time in 2021 if a vendor manages facilitation of events.**

***DRAFTING OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN***

Staff expects to be deeply involved in the drafting of the Climate Action Plan and its review as this document will eventually be considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. It is expected that the drafting of the Climate Action Plan will begin in 2021 and will continue into 2022. A Civic Spark fellow is expected to assist in the drafting of the plan as well and in contributing to the overall Climate Action Plan process between September 2021 and August of 2022.

**Drafting the Climate Action Plan is expected to take about 10% of staff time in 2021 if a Civic Spark Fellow is available to assist.**

## *SB1383 COORDINATION AND PROMOTION*

SB1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) is the most significant waste reduction mandate to be adopted in California in the last 30 years. It requires the state to reduce organic food waste disposal by 75% by 2025, which is equivalent to approximately 20 million tons of wood waste. The law also requires the state to increase the recovery of edible food waste to 20% by 2025. The County has very specific requirements that it must undertake, and the Board has directed County staff to work through an interdepartmental working group led by the CAO to create and implement an Action plan in 2021 to meet the bills requirements. The Sustainability Program will convene the various departments and assist in both capacity planning as well as development of an ordinance with an enforceable mechanism in the year 2021.

The following is a list of the County's responsible departments and associated efforts:

- Board of Supervisors will need to pass local enforcement ordinances to require all residents and businesses to subscribe to these services.
- Chief Administrative Office will be involved in capacity planning, directing procurement of recycled organic products like compost and renewable natural gas, and establishing edible food recovery programs.
- Finance and Legal staff will be involved in local enforcement ordinances, new collection fees, and ensuring programs are adequately resourced.
- Purchasing staff will be central to procuring recycled organic products, including paper.
- Public Works staff are involved with local waste management processing facilities, and organic waste recycling facilities (like compost and anaerobic digestion facilities). They may also be involved in civil engineering activities where compost may be utilized (as in erosion control along city streets and embankments).
- Public Parks staff may be involved with assessing the need for local compost application to parks and city landscaped areas.
- Environmental Health staff may be tasked with enforcement duties, including inspecting commercial food generators for compliance with SB1383 regulations.
- Public Transportation and Fleet departments will be involved in procuring renewable natural gas for city and county owned vehicles.
- Department of Social Services and Ag Commissioners office will be involved in providing linkages to the food donors, the Food Bank and other food assistance partners.

Additional areas not listed include grant funding research and administration, public education and awareness campaigns, and collaboration with external stakeholders.

The interdepartmental plan would identify the appropriate department to be responsible for each of the areas listed above and lay out roles and responsibilities as well as a timeline for research, meetings, and action plans. Action plans would be created in the following format:

- Identification of SB1383 Requirements, including a summary of what County compliance would look like.
- Analysis of existing County programs, resources, needs, and infrastructure.
- Roadmap for meeting SB1383 requirements, including deadlines, resources required, and implementation strategies.

**This work is expected to take a minimum of 4 hours a week, or 10% of staff time in 2021, but will initially require more dedication to launch the process and likely requires additional staff moving forward. Staff could be located in Environmental Health or CAO.**

#### *CARBON FARM PLANNING*

Carbon Farm Planning is an innovative way to create healthy soils that will sequester carbon and increase productivity on our farms. The Sustainability Program is interested in enhancing the relationship between agriculture and environmental advocacy groups by identifying farmers interested in participating in a carbon farm planning initiative. The Resources Conservation District is interested in providing technical expertise to farmers in this initiative and both groups are interested in finding funding that will allow this project to grow locally.

**Currently there is no staff time budgeted for this effort, although stakeholder engagement with the RCD and the Agricultural sector will cover this topic in the facilitation of the Climate Action Plan.**

#### *CIVIC SPARK FELLOWSHIP*

Staff is planning on bringing on two Civic Spark Fellows, or similar from a different program, in 2021 starting in September or sooner. It is expected that one fellow will assist with implementing the Municipal Climate Action Plan and the other will assist with writing the Community Climate Action Plan. Civic spark fellows are graduate level professionals that have a background in sustainability and climate policy and are available to the County for \$28,500 each for 11 months.

“CivicSpark is a Governor’s Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address community resilience issues such as climate change, water resource management, housing, and mobility. CivicSpark is a program of the Local Government Commission in partnership with the State of California through the Office of Planning and Research, and California Volunteers.”

**Management of the Civic Spark fellows will require at least one hour per week per fellow, and additional efforts will be co-working sessions.**

#### *DECARBONIZATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT*

Monterey County’s existing building stock is responsible for about 175,000 MT of CO2 emissions annually. Investigating opportunities for energy efficiency retrofits and electric conversions as well as determining appropriate policy actions to inspire action and remove barriers to low carbon developments will be required to reduce emissions from this sector. Although the electricity sector is largely decarbonized due to the state RPS and local community choice aggregator, thermal energy for building heating requirements needs to be addressed through innovative programs and approaches in order to reach carbon reduction goals.

**Efforts to decarbonize the building sector are not budgeted for in FY21/22 outside of the development of the Climate Action Plan and stakeholder engagement with the building sector.**

#### **MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The Municipal Climate Action Plan for the County of Monterey is being updated this year alongside the Community Climate Action Plan. The strategies for meeting our 2030 goals for the County have already been selected and in large part need implementation which will evolve according to time and resources spent on each. The following subcategories are related to the emissions at the operations level of the County and need management.

#### *FLEET ELECTRIFICATION PLAN*

The Fleet Electrification Plan is currently underway and is being conducted via a partnership between MBEP and the County Sustainability Program. The plan will evaluate the current County fleet and identify near-term, medium-term and long-term vehicle replacements and feasible electric vehicle replacement opportunities. The plan will consider the current cost of a new ICE vehicle vs. a BEV and determine the total cost of ownership of each factoring in the cost and need for charging stations in an overall analysis that will result in a presentation and plan for each department that owns vehicles and could begin to transition to electric vehicles. This will allow the County to strategically transition away from fossil fuel powered vehicles while taking advantage of early adoption incentives and credits. Another aspect of this plan that needs to be managed is the integration of charging stations to County lots. This needs to be done in coordination with facilities management so that electrical work or trenching can be combined with planned maintenance or upgrades to reduce and consolidate cost and effort.

**Management of the fleet electrification plan currently requires 2 hours per week or about 5% of staff time. The actual plan implementation would require additional staff time up to 15%.**

#### *NET ZERO PILOT PROJECT*

The Net Zero Pilot project kicked off in late October and is still in the audit phase. The results of the audit are expected to be received in Spring of 2021 for two County sites. In addition, there is a program funded by PG&E that can build on this project and provide for Investment Grade Audits County-wide. This work could be conducted as early as 2021 and time is budgeted for that effort under the Building Energy Benchmarking item below. Once audit results are received the County will have the opportunity to select measures to implement and will need to review those measures with the Capital Improvements Committee and Budget Committee. The project management phase of this effort will begin as early as late Spring of 2021 and will involve reviewing plans and designs, providing and coordinating access to facilities, managing finances, including grant funding and incentives, and obtaining permits and inspections for site plans and construction. As this effort is expected to expand County-wide, the potential for growth in this area is high. This project is expected to result in significant savings for the County of approximately \$240,000 annually and helps us to get to zero emissions in our buildings.

**This project is expected to take about 8-12 hours bi-weekly, or 14% of staff time. Implementing further audits will require additional staff such as a Green Project Manager or Planner.**

#### *BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING AND ENERGY AUTHORITY*

Building energy use as of the last comprehensive emissions update in 2011, represents about 40% of County operations emissions. As part of efforts to improve County emissions and efficiency in our buildings, in December 2009, RMA worked with Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) to secure a \$2,527,500 Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the Department of Energy (DOE). The EECBG award was applied towards a Solar Photovoltaic System at the Laurel Yard, an Energy Audit Report on 14 County facilities, completed by Honeywell Building Solutions in 2011, and various energy efficiency measures selected from the Energy Audits (Audits). The energy efficiency measures selected from the Audits included: retrofitting numerous rooftop heating and ventilation (HV) and air condition (AC) units at the Adult Detention Facility, retrofitting rooftop units at the Youth Center, replacing five (5) HV units at the women's wing and seven (7) HV units at the men's wing of Adult Detention, air balancing equipment at Adult Rehabilitation, heating units at receiving wing of the Correction Facility, wireless pneumatic thermostats at the Marina Coast Office and Probation Headquarters, and an exhaust fan at Probation Juvenile Intake.

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved the Energy Efficiency Measure Program (EEM) and allocated \$1M per year to RMA over five (5) years (2015 to 2019) to meet the MCAP goals to reduce GHG emissions from buildings and facilities.

From 2010 to 2019, the EEM allocations and the EECBG grant program invested a total of \$7,027,500 into buildings and facilities for energy efficiency improvements and GHG emissions reductions. It is estimated that energy efficiency measures completed through the AMBAG Energy Watch Program alone have resulted in \$3.8M in savings since 2010 and that the county will continue to save an additional \$500,000 from completed measures each year.

In 2021, the next step will be to audit the 2020 GHG levels of buildings and facilities to ensure target GHG reduction rates are being achieved that are 15% below 2005 levels (28,233 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) and plan for the next state-level target to reduce emissions 40% by 2030. Neighboring counties have set goals to bring their operations to net zero. Monterey County has the opportunity to set the goal of going net zero in county buildings by 2030. By setting such ambitious goals, the County can demonstrate their commitment to the environment and inspire local businesses and employees to do the same. Such deep cuts in emissions will require long-term planning consistent with a facilities master plan and will likely require the use of an Energy Service Company (ESCO) and architectural planning firm. The Sustainability Program is working with PG&E and the Energy Watch Program to benchmark energy use in our buildings and take advantage of any funded investment grade audits that could help the County to identify and implement energy upgrades. The Sustainability Program will also investigate where microgrids may be applicable and where onsite power generation can help to offset the costs of electrifying our buildings and meeting the ambitious net zero goals.

**This work is mainly outsourced to Energy Watch staff but is expected to take a about 4 hours biweekly, or approximately 5% of staff time in 2021. Any comprehensive measurements or efforts to integrate information into a Facilities Master Plan or Energy Action Plan would require additional staff and resources, ideally a Green Project Manager or Planner.**

#### *EMPLOYEE COMMUTE AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING*

Employee Commute represents almost 30% of County emissions. The last time a County-wide employee commute survey was conducted was in 2005. At that time, the County employed 4,329 people, approximately 89% of whom drove alone in a single vehicle for an average of 12 miles each day to reach County offices and facilities, according to an employee commute survey completed in 2009. A copy of this survey is available in the 2013 MCAP. The County can reduce GHG emissions in this sector by providing or encouraging alternative commute modes, encouraging or incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles by employees and reducing commuter trips through alternative work schedules (i.e. Telework). The County will achieve (some) GHG reductions through state-level action affecting employee commute emissions. The personal vehicles of County employees will be affected by the increased fuel economy, reduced carbon content of fuels, and other improvements in vehicle efficiency accomplished through the State measures, even if commute patterns remain the same. The County currently offers three vanpool routes for its employees to use for commuting purposes. The chart below shows the reductions expected in this sector as a result of the 2020 MCAP implementation.

**Table 4-3. GHG Reduction Measures in the Employee Commute Sector**

GHG Emissions		(MT CO <sub>2</sub> e)	
2005 Employee Commute Emissions		1,635	
2020 Employee Commute BAU Emissions		1,760	
GHG Reduction Measures—All Scenarios		Scenario	Reductions
S-2	Pavley I and II	All Scenarios	344
S-3	Low Carbon Fuel Standard	All Scenarios	122
S-4	Other Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Measures	All Scenarios	39
<b>Total GHG Reductions in Employee Commute Sector in 2020</b>			
Scenario 1		505	
Scenario 2		505	
Scenario 3		505	

In 2020, COVID-19 had a great impact on employee commute. It is expected that at least 25% of employees were telecommuting full time during the majority of the year. This would reduce County emissions in this sector greatly, but it is a temporary change. Although the Sustainability Program successfully worked with HR to update the Telecommuting Policy to embrace working from home as a means to achieve sustainability goals, other measures will still need to be conducted in this area to achieve continued progress in 2021 and beyond.

In addition to telecommuting, as employees continue to move towards the purchase of electric vehicles, the County Sustainability Program will evaluate and support their transition with the strategic placement of EV charging stations at County offices. Employees likely benefit most from level 2 charging stations. At this point, the County has 16 charging stations, and they are highly under-utilized. The sustainability program will need to evaluate why and optimize charging opportunities for employees as well as work on educating employees about EVs and what benefits and incentives are available to them.

**Currently there is no staff time budgeted for this effort, although updating the MCAP is included in the Climate Action Plan RFP. A Climate Action Fellow will be requested to work on MCAP implementation in FY2021/22.**

*ZERO WASTE & GREEN PURCHASING INITIATIVE*

In 2020, the Sustainability Ambassadors at the County of Monterey contributed a list of ideas that they felt the County could work towards to change the culture towards one of sustainable action. The list of ideas is below. Many of these ideas are related to reducing waste. The Sustainability Program has begun to plan for reducing waste with a Green Purchasing evaluation in conjunction with Environmental Health and purchasing staff. In 2021, staff will convene purchasing managers and receive reports on the consumables that the County buys to learn about purchasing trends and see what consumables can be reduced or changed in an attempt to better understand the waste streams we have to manage as a County. The zero-waste initiative will also explore the County bins we have onsite, and ensure appropriate bins are located throughout County offices. This initiative will also ensure that janitorial staff is disposing properly of waste and that all our haulers are providing the appropriate service levels for the County. Finally, this initiative will look at our reuse program for more heavy-duty items and will explore opportunities for including battery packs and hazardous waste events.



Idea	Submitter	Status
Automate Double-Sided Printing	A. Paulsworth	ZW initiative
Ensure proper signage and bins in breakrooms to increase recycling and composting	A. Paulsworth	ZW initiative
To encourage and support recycling efforts, provide communication to staff regarding its importance/impact.	J. Willett	ZW initiative
Encourage the use of DocuSign	J. Willett	In Progress
Use Rightfax for digital faxing	E. Nicholl	ZW initiative
Encourage telecommuting for all staff, including allowances for ergo equipment in the home	E. Nicholl	In Progress
Eliminate use of styrofoam plates/cups	E. Nicholl	ZW initiative
Encourage community members to conduct business with county staff by phone/internet to reduce carbon emissions	E. Nicholl	Travel Policy/Go831?
Ensure all county departments have interactive websites and/or are part of Monterey Connect smartphone app	E. Nicholl	
Verify that janitorial staff are handling trash and recycling bins appropriately	D. Ndreu	ZW initiative
Once the pandemic is over, encourage continued use of Zoom/Teams/etc. for meetings outside the County rather than travel	D. Ndreu	
Discourage provision of bottled water at County training and other events	D. Ndreu	ZW initiative

**Currently there is no staff time budgeted for this effort. A Climate Action Fellow will be requested to work on MCAP implementation in 2021 which includes greening County operations.**