



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan Vision

Rapidly enact local climate solutions that support and enhance a thriving and equitable community with robust active and public transportation; plentiful housing that is affordable, sustainable, and resilient; and healthy regenerative landscapes.

The community values that guided the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2030 are:

1. Equity in all policies
2. Accessible people-centric transportation infrastructure
3. Efficient and low carbon energy and water
4. Protect and enhance natural resources and urban parks
5. Eliminate food waste and support local food sources

Community Driven

The Santa Cruz community lies at the center of this CAP and each interested party played an essential role in the development of the CAP policies. Community groups including the Mayor’s Appointed Climate Action Task Force (CATF), equity advisors, and others shaped the measures and actions in this CAP by participating in meetings and providing comments, sending emails and letters, responding to surveys, participating in focus groups and listening sessions, and providing input at pop up events and in online forums. Input was also specifically solicited and gathered from frontline groups through regular in-person listening sessions and events along with the guidance of our equity advisors. This included 3 visioning workshops that the City held with key frontline groups, including unsheltered groups, youth groups, and communities residing in Beach Flats, as well as a discussion on Plan implementation with the Beach Flats community towards the end of the engagement process. In its entirety, the CAP engagement consisted of 29 community events with 2,884 points of contact. Overall, engagement efforts were meant to uplift equity– meaning that CAP efforts also sought to achieve co-benefits around community health, wealth and well-being for all groups, particularly frontline groups, and ensuring that no group is disproportionately impacted by the CAP’s actions.



FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Community Outreach by the Numbers

3

Visioning Workshops

29

Community Events

2,884

Points of Contact with the Community

Frontline communities are those that experience continuing injustice—including people of color, immigrants, people with lower incomes, people experiencing homelessness or houselessness, differently-abled persons, seniors, and indigenous people—face a legacy of systemic, largely racialized, inequity that influences their living and working places, the quality of their air and water, and their economic opportunities.

Community input covered a wide range of topics, from suggestions for GHG emissions reduction and climate adaptation to concerns regarding urgent environmental issues that the CAP should prioritize. The CATF also helped design engagement. This process intentionally and iteratively attempted to mitigate adverse costs and impacts to frontline groups. Themes that emerged from the outreach included the need to create a seamless and safe active transportation network; create a robust, decarbonized reliable public transportation system; establish more affordable, denser housing; promote food recovery and composting; and

enhance regenerative landscapes while prioritizing measures with co-benefits. Therefore, the ambitious **goals or targets, measures, and actions** within this CAP that advance equitable climate mitigation, climate restoration, and a climate economy were inspired, influenced, and informed by a diverse set of community voices. Additionally, climate economy measures were created in alignment with the City's COVID-19 pandemic Interim Recovery Plan, and measures aiming to promote equity in the community were formed in alignment with the City's Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach.



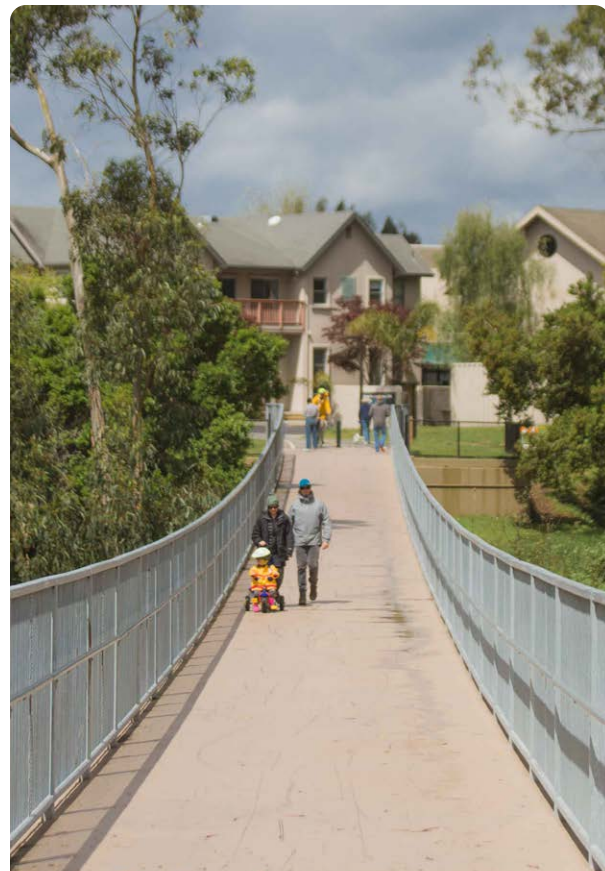
Excited Community Members

Qualified Climate Action Plan

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the statute that requires public agencies, such as the City of Santa Cruz, to consider the environmental consequences of their actions through environmental review. CEQA requires the City to determine and disclose if those consequences, or impacts, are significant, and if so, to avoid or minimize those impacts, as feasible. The CAP 2030 serves as a Qualified Climate Action Plan for which the City can streamline the environmental review process of future development projects, which can save time and money during the environmental review process while serving as one of the biggest drivers for emissions reduction. In order to receive the benefits of streamlining, the Climate Action Plan must:

- Quantify GHG emissions within a defined area
- Establish a GHG emissions reduction target
- Identify emissions from planned activities
- Determine measures to achieve the specified level of emissions
- Monitor progress and amend if necessary
- Be adopted in a public process following environmental review

The Development Compliance Checklist serves to promote relevant CAP actions and clearly details compliance with the CAP through a streamlined review process for proposed new development projects that are subject to environmental review under CEQA. Refer to Appendix A Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan 2030 Initial Study – Negative Declaration for additional detail on the environmental impacts of implementing the CAP 2030.



Arana Gulch Pedestrian Walkway

Climate Milestones

The City has positioned itself as a leader in environmental sustainability and cherishes its beautiful natural environment and livable community. However, climate change and its considerable range of impacts are threatening the environment and the community. The State of California considers GHG emissions and the impacts of climate change to be a serious danger to public health, the environment, economic well-being, and natural resources of the state, and has taken an aggressive stance



Fun in Laurel Park

to mitigate the impact on climate change at the state-level through the adoption of legislation and policies. Two major state climate-related goals are established by Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill (SB) 32 which establish California's long-term approach to addressing climate change and reducing state GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, respectively. Additionally, a long-term goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045 was instituted for the state, but not codified, through Executive Order (EO) B-55-18. While it is not required for jurisdictions to meet this, many are meeting or exceeding this target to show alignment with the increasingly aggressive decarbonization goals of the state.

The 2020 CAP adopted by the City in 2012 included a 2005 GHG emissions inventory and identified targets to reduce GHG emissions 30 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. Progress towards these targets was tracked at least every five years using GHG inventories. Overall community and municipal GHG emissions have declined steadily since 2005, however, the City did not meet its 2020 target (30 percent below 1990 emissions), largely due to population growth and growth in employment. During the CAP 2030 (referred to as Resilient Together) development process, the city and community worked in tandem to determine the most equitable pathway to carbon neutrality and set targets exceeding the state's goals set out by SB 32 and EO B-55-18.



36.3%

Energy Reduction in Municipal Buildings (2008–2020)

3,567

Solar Powered Residences (2008–2020)

116

Businesses went Solar (2008 – 2020)

37%

of Municipal Buildings Energy Use is Renewable Energy

12%

Achieved Active Transportation Mode Share (Walking + Biking) in 2018

2%

Increase of the City's Urban Tree Canopy

City Leadership and Achievements

As a leader in sustainability, the City committed to reducing GHG emissions and increasing overall sustainability more than a decade ago, and has made substantial progress over time. Since the adoption of the 2020 CAP, the community successfully achieved the following key milestones:

- Reduced energy use in municipal buildings by 36.3 percent between 2008 to 2020.
- Expanded energy efficiency programs to 7.5 percent of homes and businesses.
- Increased solar to 3,567 residents between 2008 and 2019.
- Increased solar for commercial businesses to 116 businesses.
- Generated renewable energy to cover 37 percent of municipal building consumption.
- Decreased the number of people who commuted alone 10 percent from 2008 to 2020.
- Achieved active transportation (walking and biking) mode share of 12 percent in 2018.
- Increased the City's urban tree canopy by 2 percent.
- Partnered with the University of California Santa Cruz on 32 sustainability and alternative energy research projects, exceeding the City's target of completing 25 projects.

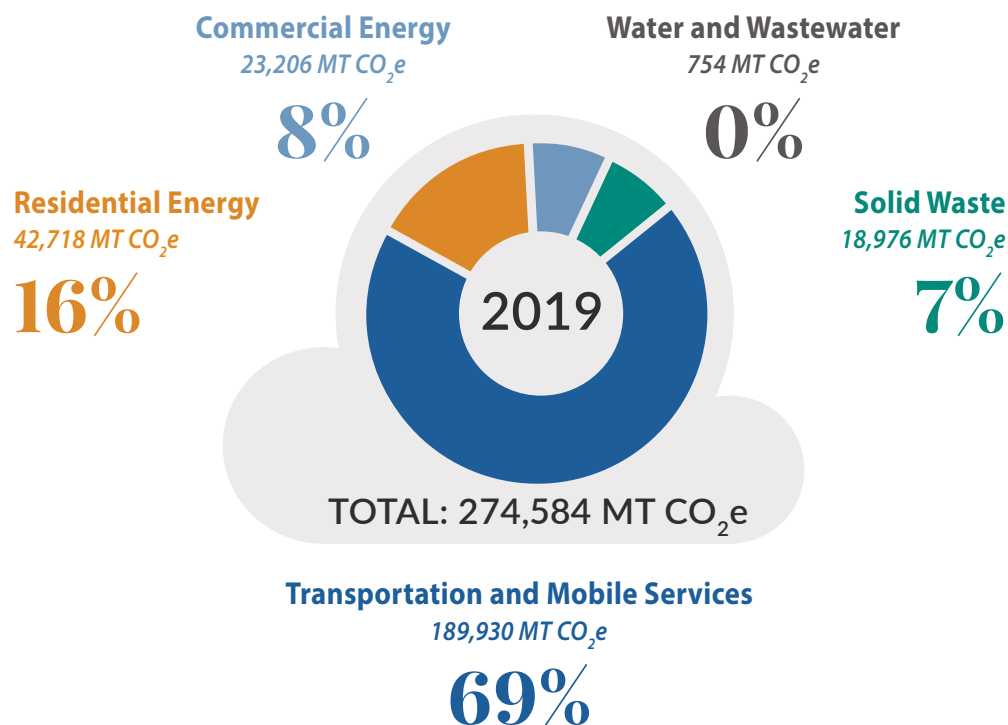
Drivers of progress include state rebates, advantageous utility rates, and the federal Investment Tax Credit, which was available throughout the majority of the CAP 2020 implementation period. Progress on the reduction in single occupancy vehicles was driven by an approach of “meeting people where they are with many commute options,” and launching the Rail Trail segments, Go Santa Cruz, and My511 commute platform to facilitate mode shift.

2019 Baseline Inventory Summary

The City's 2019 baseline GHG emissions inventory estimates local community emissions from sectors contained in the State's Scoping Plan including transportation, residential and commercial energy use, waste, and water and wastewater. The 2019 GHG Inventory was prepared using the most recent available and accurate community data and, emissions factors from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report 5 (IPCC AR5). Calculations were based on the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and

Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions version 1.2, an activity-based emissions inventory methodology consistent with the state inventory, and state guidance. In 2019, the community emitted approximately 274,584 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e) or 4.22 MT CO₂e per resident. Figure ES-1 shows 2019 emissions and percent contribution from each sector. Refer to Appendix B and Appendix E for additional GHG inventory information.

FIGURE ES-1. 2019 City of Santa Cruz GHG Emissions



MT CO₂e: Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent is the standard units to measure GHG emissions. Emissions have been rounded and therefore sums may not match.

Source: Emissions were calculated following ICLEI U.S. Community Protocol Version 1.2 and using data provided and approved by the City.

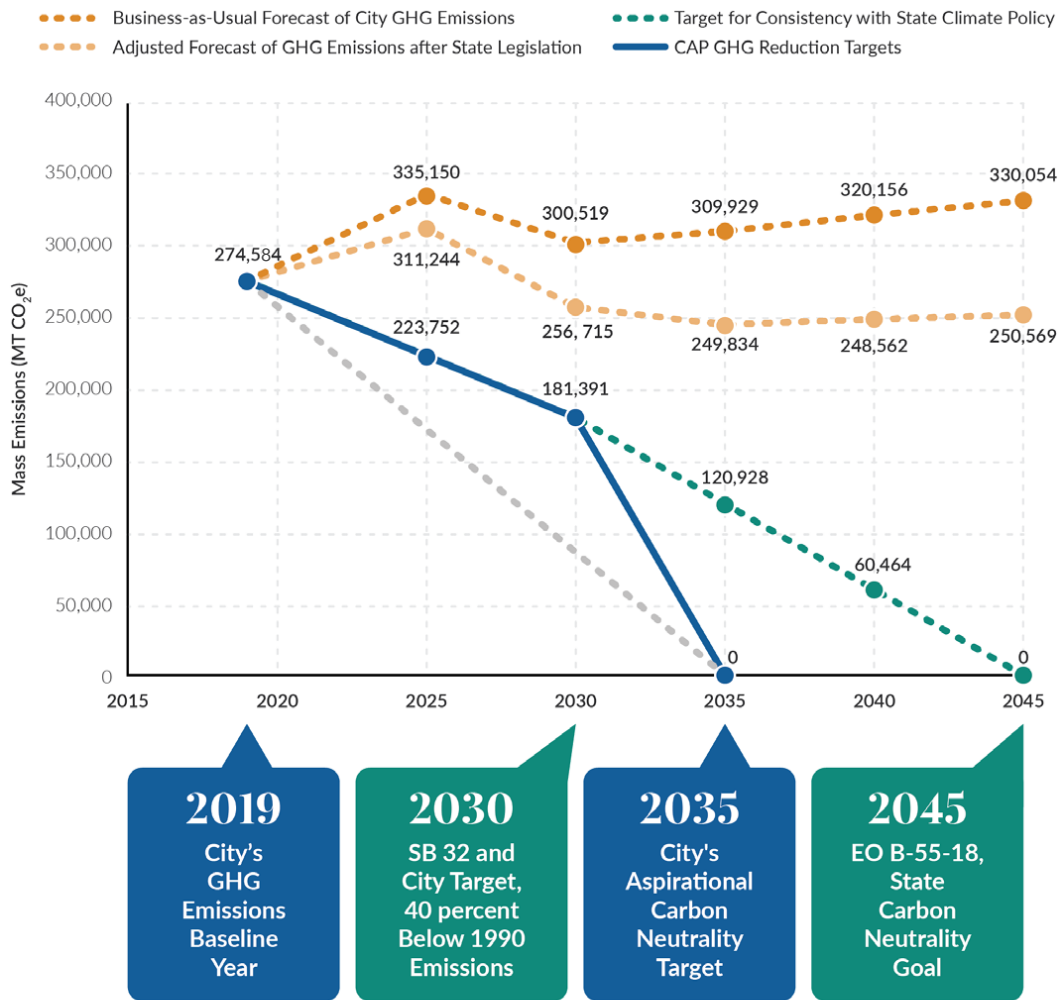
2030 and 2035 Target Summary

This CAP is the Santa Cruz community’s roadmap to achieving the City’s 2030 GHG emissions reduction target and state mandated goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The CAP also demonstrates progress towards achieving the City’s ambitious, aspirational target of carbon neutrality in 2035 and beyond.

Figure ES-2 below details the City’s community-wide (mass) GHG emissions targets compared to the projected Business-as-Usual

(BAU) Forecast and Adjusted Forecast. The BAU Forecast projects GHG emissions levels that scale with population, employment and transportation growth consistent with regional projections. The Adjusted Forecast accounts for GHG reductions expected to occur from adopted State legislation, for example, 2019 Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, Senate Bill 100- California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, and more.

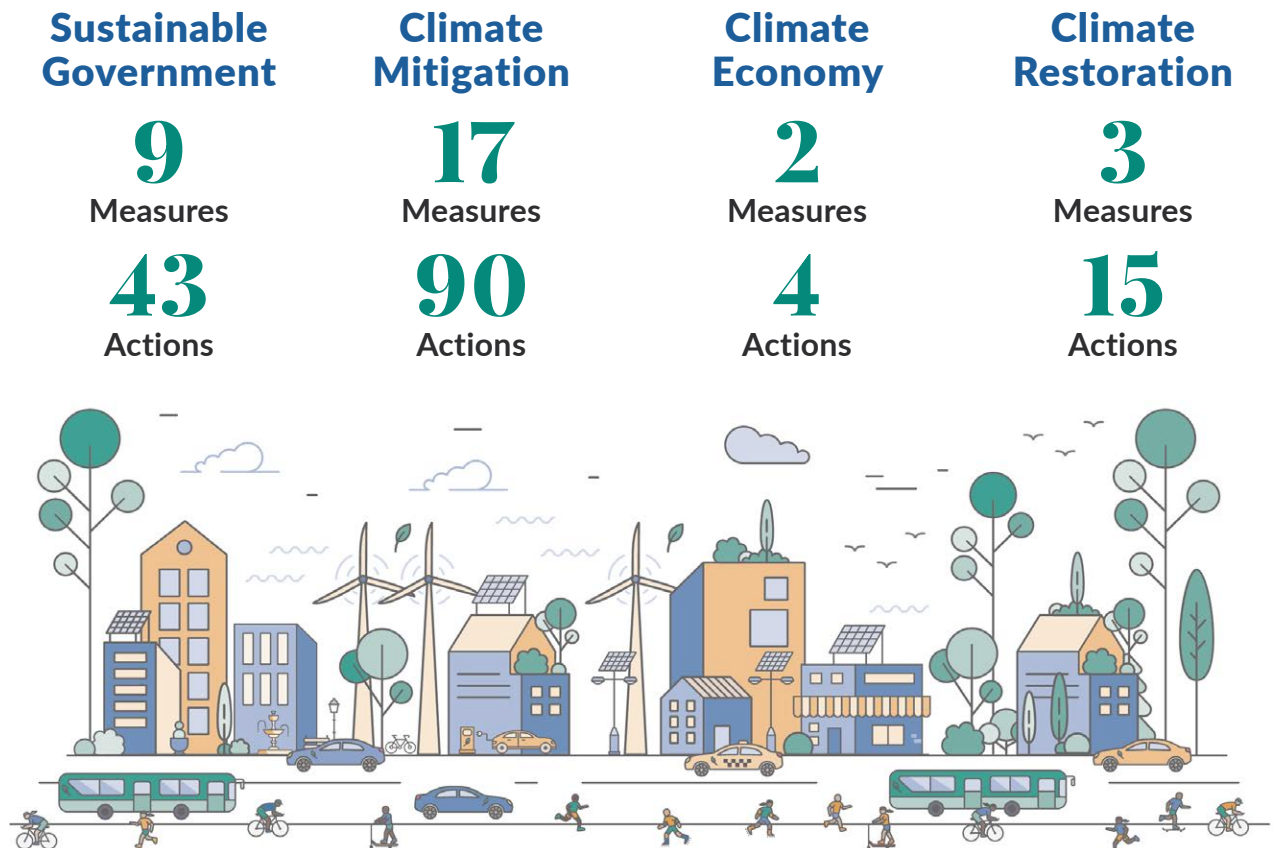
FIGURE ES-2. City of Santa Cruz GHG Emissions Forecast (MT CO₂e)



The grey dotted line represents an aspirational goal, which will be quantified based on ongoing monitoring, however, for CEQA streamlining purpose, the blue line, which was quantified based on substantial evidence, meets the requirements of CEQA Section 15183.5(b).

Strategy Summary

Table ES-1, and the following graphic, provide a summary of the CAP measures that will reduce GHG emissions to meet the City’s vision and targets in alignment with the community values.



The CAP 2030 actions support 91% of the City’s **Community Well-being Outcome Indicator metrics** adopted in 2021 through the City’s HiAP initiative.

See Chapter 4 for the 152 actions – programs, policies, and projects -- defined to achieve each measure and its emissions reduction potential. Emissions reductions are quantified for those measures where a legally justifiable methodology to determine emissions reductions exists. Measures that are listed as “supportive,” when implemented, contribute to the success of achieving the quantifiable emissions reduction measures. Those measures that are “supportive” may or may not have a means to estimate emissions reduction potential, but for CEQA purposes, the legal defensibility of those methods is not strong and thus not included in the quantification.

TABLE ES-1. Summary of CAP Measures

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
CLIMATE MITIGATION MEASURES							
Building Energy Measures							
BE-1	Enforce the City’s new construction natural gas prohibition ordinance (SCMC 6.100) and inform the community regarding the available technology and benefits of electrification.	0.085	0.100	0.126	6,107	7,533	10,028
BE-2	Electrify 31% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 53% by 2035.	0.180	0.298	0.383	13,016	22,433	30,444
BE-3	Electrify 26% of existing commercial buildings by 2030 and 45% by 2035.	0.079	0.133	0.173	5,730	9,980	13,770
BE-4	Maintain Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE) opt-out rates at or below 4% for commercial and 2% for residential.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
BE-5	Increase resiliency through equitable energy efficiency and local solar programs.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
BE-6	Provide inclusive engagement, equitable process and regional coordination to maximize building electrification carbon reduction outcomes and other co-benefits.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
Transportation Measures							
T-1	Implement programs for active transportation (walking and biking) that achieve 23% of bicycle mode share by 2030 and 30% by 2035.	0.051	0.069	0.067	3,661	5,188	5,323
T-2	Implement programs for public transportation that achieve 8% of public transportation mode share by 2030 and 12% by 2035.	0.002	0.032	0.089	174	2,412	7,076
T-3	Implement programs and policies to discourage driving single-occupancy passenger vehicles.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
T-4	Increase passenger electric vehicle (EV) adoption to 35% by 2030 and 40% by 2035.	0.441	0.449	0.663	31,706	3,756	52,770

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
T-5	Increase commercial EV adoption to 25% by 2030 and 35% by 2035.	0.077	0.050	0.034	5,539	3,769	2,687
T-6	Electrify or otherwise decarbonize 50% of off-road equipment by 2030 and 75% by 2035.	0.076	0.116	0.124	5,495	8,736	9,840
T-7	Advocate for remote work policy and infrastructure.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
Water, Waste, and Wastewater							
W-1	Maintain gallons per capita water use for the residential sector at a level that is at least 10% below the state goal of 55 gallons per person per day.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
W-2	Reduce organic waste by 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2035; and reduce inorganic waste by 35% by 2030 and 40% by 2035.	0.065	0.078	0.078	4,724	5,876	6,216
W-3	Establish a long-term target to reduce waste generation growth.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
W-4	Reduce or capture GHG emissions from wastewater treatment.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

CLIMATE RESTORATION MEASURES

CR-1	Develop an Urban Forest Master Plan and plant 3,000 new trees by 2030.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
CR-2	Explore new carbon sequestration and carbon capture opportunities.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
CR-3	Increase carbon sequestration by applying compost throughout the community.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

**This measure (W-2) includes actions aimed at reducing to consumption-based emissions sources that are outside of the State scoping plan sectors, such as diet, travel, and shopping local.*

CLIMATE ECONOMY MEASURES

CE-1	Prioritize opportunities for greatest climate benefit and economic inclusion especially for minority, veteran and women owned businesses in climate related sectors.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
------	--	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
CE-2	Support equitable access to high-quality training and workforce development programs in climate related sectors.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT MEASURES

M-1	Decarbonize municipally owned buildings by 2030 and remaining municipal facilities by 2045.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-2	Procure carbon free or 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations by 2030.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-3	Increase municipally-owned renewable energy.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-4	Develop and implement a Municipal Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan by the end of 2023.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-5	Electrify or otherwise decarbonize the municipal fleet by 2035.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive

Measure Number	Measure	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e per capita)	2030 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2035 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)	2045 Reduction (MT CO ₂ e total)
M-6	Electrify or otherwise decarbonize all municipal off-road equipment (landscaping equipment, construction equipment, marine diesel engines) by 2040.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-7	Increase municipal procurement of recovered organics waste products.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-8	Promote efficient municipal water consumption.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
M-9	Support climate action planning.	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive
A. Total Anticipated Reductions		1.06	1.33	1.74	76,152	99,683	138,154
B. Adjusted Emissions		3.55	3.32	3.15	256,715	249,834	250,569
C. Emissions with Measures Implemented (B-A)		2.49	1.99	1.41	180,563	150,151	112,415
D. City's Emissions Reduction Targets		2.74	0.0	0.0	181,391	0	0
Target Met		Yes	No*	No*	Yes	No*	No*

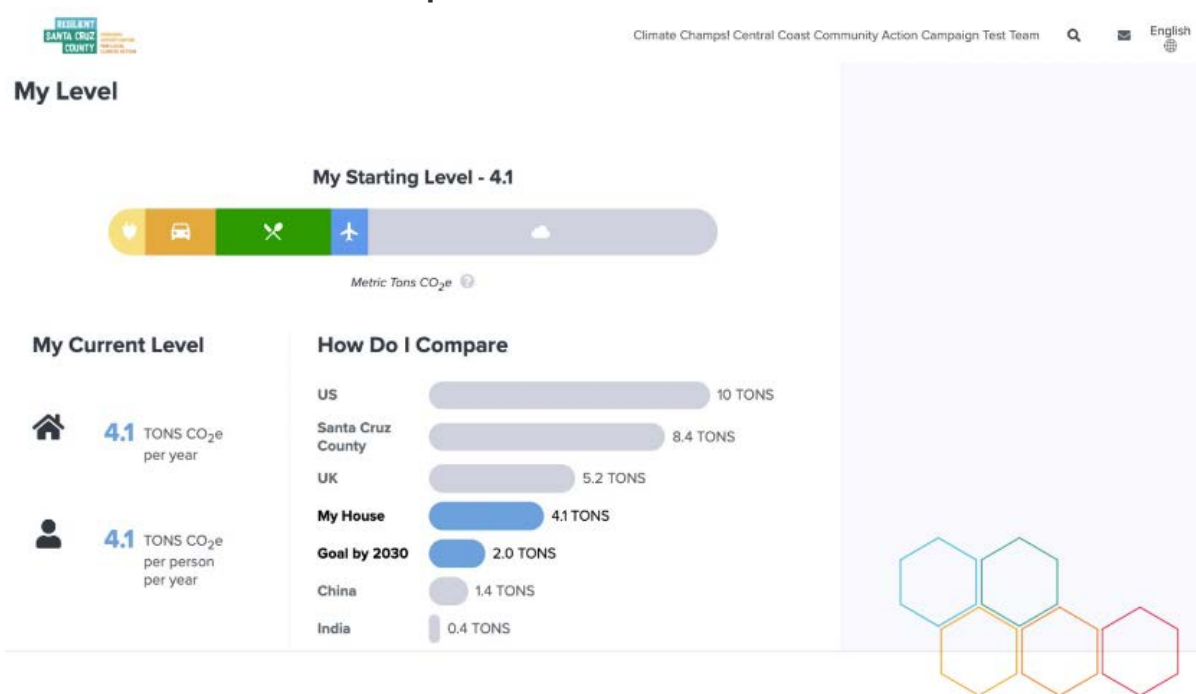
* - Meeting this target will require more aggressive action across all measures, and carbon sequestration, capture, and/or storage measures to achieve carbon neutrality since 100% of emissions will not be eliminated.

Call To Action

While the City as a municipality can lead on many of the measures required to achieve the 2030 targets, the community must rally together through partnerships and act as individuals to collectively meet the 2030 target and accelerate progress toward carbon neutrality in 2035. Although the City has not quantified the emissions reduction potential of emissions sources outside the state scoping plan sectors via a consumption-based

emissions inventory, substantial progress must be made on emissions sources outside of the state scoping plan sectors. To advise partners and residents to take actions to make maximum impact in reducing emissions, the CAP identifies the most impactful actions residents can take and encourages residents to commit to actions in the Resilient Santa Cruz community activation platform.

FIGURE ES-3. My Starting Level in the Resilient Santa Cruz platform Household Impact



Use of the Resilient Santa Cruz community activation platform will enable residents to discover their individual or household impact, join a team if desired, commit to emissions reduction actions, and get regular feedback on how those actions, when implemented,

help reach emissions reduction goals. It provides links to rebates, credits, programs and useful information to help residents on their deep decarbonization journey. It even provides climate resilience and emergency preparedness information. There is something

for everyone on the Resilient Santa Cruz platform, categorizing actions into those that are easy or youth- or renter-friendly or focus in on specific emission sources like energy, transportation and water use. The High Impact Actions are those most impactful

for emissions reductions, but residents should tailor their action choices to the areas their emissions impact summary indicates (see Figure ES-3). My Starting Level in the Resilient Santa Cruz platform.

The High Impact Actions

- Choose Renewable Electricity from Central Coast Community Energy
- Reduce Air Travel
- Eat more Plant-based Meals
- Take Public Transportation
- Buy or lease an Electric Vehicle
- Electrify: Install Electric Heat Pump Water Heater or Space Heating
- Use Active Transportation: bike, walk, skateboard, or scooter
- Install Solar Panels



And finally, share the solutions and your commitment to actions with others...

Studies show that the majority of Americans are concerned about climate change, but don't know what to do. It can seem like such a huge and overwhelming problem when you don't know about the solutions. Most people are glad to find out there are solutions and even happier when they see that the solutions don't need to turn our lives upside down.

Talking about climate change is something many people avoid. They are worried that maybe their neighbors are not as concerned as they are or that they might need to be an

expert to talk about it. However, since most Santa Cruzans are concerned about climate change the likelihood is that your neighbor has the same concerns that you do. Talking about solutions with neighbors, family, and friends is a positive conversation and is an easy way to inspire someone else to take action. People are usually happy to learn there is something they can do to help! The best part is you don't need to be an expert and it's easy to do.

*Learn more about the set of actions you can take in Chapter 8, the **Call to Action**.*