

# Climate Action Plan

## Background

The City of Santa Cruz' Climate Action Program was established in 2008. In 2012, the City Council adopted by resolution the City's first Community-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP) with a 2020 time horizon (CAP 2020). Since the CAP 2020 was adopted in 2012, the threat of climate change and the need to drastically decarbonize has become even more urgent.



With the CAP 2020 sunset, in 2021 the City allocated funding to begin work on its second Community-wide Climate Action Plan with a 2030 time horizon (CAP 2030). The mayor's appointed community Climate Action Task Force and a dozen local equity advisors were requested to serve as an advisory body to the CAP 2030 development process entitled "Resilient Together."

## Vision and Values

Adopted on September 13, 2022, the City of Santa Cruz CAP 2030 builds on the strong foundation of climate action in the City and provides a framework for updated policies, programs, and incentives for the community to work toward climate mitigation, climate restoration, and building a climate economy. The emissions reduction targets are to (1) reduce GHG emissions 40% by 2030 from 1990 levels and (2) carbon neutral by 2035.

### 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.

### Values

The community values that have guided the development of the CAP and will continue to guide its implementation are:

- Ensure equity in all policies
- Build people-centric transportation infrastructure
- Promote efficient and low carbon/ no carbon energy and water
- Protect and enhance natural resources and urban parks
- Eliminate food waste and support local food sources

The City also adopted a 3-year implementation workplan and each department developed 1-year workplans to ensure implementation occurs on schedule. The workplans include mechanisms to institutionalize climate action into City processes, policies, and procedures.

# Climate Adaptation Plan



Climate adaptation is how we respond to the impacts of climate change caused by global warming induced by the combustion of fossil fuels. While simultaneously drastic decarbonizing our City, climate adaptation also requires ongoing actions by individuals, businesses, and government. The Climate Adaptation Plan adopted in 2018 contains an update of all climate hazards, a specific sea level rise vulnerability assessment, and a social vulnerability to climate change assessment. It identifies 41 Climate Adaptation strategies originally developed in 2011 that were further refined in 2017-2018 to adapt our community infrastructure, businesses and neighborhoods to potential climate change impacts, and to prepare for changes to natural resources that impact our community. The City's overall strategy is a mix of hard infrastructure, green-grey infrastructure, and policies tailored to prepare residents to plan for and mitigate impact severity.

## Vision

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 Safety Element provides the direction and resources to help reduce death, injuries, property and environmental damage, as well as direction and resources to reduce the economic and social dislocation resulting from natural hazards – including impacts of climate change. The General Plan informs the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted in 2018), the Climate Action Plan 2030 (adopted in 2022), the Local Coastal Plan Update (currently underway), and the Climate Adaptation Plan (2018). These Plans are intended to work in unison to support the broader vision and values of the community as reflected in the vision statement for the General Plan. The Climate Adaptation Plan will be updated in FY24.

## Goals

General Plan Natural Resources and Conservation (NRC) Goal 4: Effective leadership and action in reducing and responding to global warming

NRC 4.3 Support initiatives, legislation and actions for reducing and responding to climate change.

NRC 4.4 Encourage community involvement and public-private partnerships to reduce and respond to global warming.

NRC 4.5 Minimize impacts of future sea level rise.

NRC 4.6 Take early action on significant and probable global warming, land use and development issues, including those that arise after 2025.

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Capital Investment Projects (CIP) that implement the Climate Action and Adaptation Plans are identified in the CIP section of this document. More information about the CAP 2030 can be found on the city's website at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/climateactionplan](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/climateactionplan). More information on the Climate Adaptation Plan can be found at [bit.ly/SCAdapts](http://bit.ly/SCAdapts).