

# GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #2011-02

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The following text that appears on pages CO-91 through 94 of the Conservation and Open Space Element in the Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan shall be amended. New language is shown in underline. Deleted language is shown in ~~strike-through~~.

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### **GOAL CO-8**

**Climate Change. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for adaptation to the future consequences of global climate change.**

#### **Policy CO-8.1**

Assess current greenhouse gas emission levels and adopt strategies based on scientific analysis to reduce global climate change impacts. 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.2**

Use the development review process to achieve measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.3**

~~Prepare appropriate strategies to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts.~~ Implement those strategies as described in the adopted Climate Action Plan to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts. 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.4**

~~Encourage all businesses to take the following actions, where feasible: replace high mileage fleet vehicles with hybrid and/or alternative fuel vehicles; increase the energy efficiency of facilities; transition toward the use of renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources; adopt purchasing practices that promote emissions reductions and reusable materials; and increase recycling.~~ 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.5**

~~Promote GHG emission reductions by supporting carbon efficient farming methods (e.g. methane capture systems, no-till farming, crop rotation, cover cropping); installation of renewable energy technologies; protection of grasslands, open space, oak woodlands, riparian forest and farmlands from conversion to other uses; and development of energy-efficient structures.~~ 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.6 8.4**

Undertake an integrated and comprehensive approach to planning for climate change by collaborating with international, national, State, regional, and local organizations and entities. 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.7 8.5**

Integrate climate change planning and program implementation into County decision making. 🌍

#### **Policy CO-8.8 8.6**

Increase public awareness about climate change and encourage county residents and

businesses to become involved in activities and lifestyle changes that will aid in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 🌍

**Policy CO-8.9 8.7**

Work with local, regional, State, and Federal jurisdictions, as well as private and non-profit organizations, to develop a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and emissions reduction plan. 🌍

**3. Implementation Program**

**Action CO-A117**

~~Develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan and/or Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the County, to control and reduce net GHG emissions, and to address economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change. Development of this plan(s) shall include the following steps:~~

- ~~1) Conduct a baseline analysis (GHG emissions inventory) for 1990 or most appropriate baseline year;~~
- ~~2) Adopt an emissions reduction target;~~
- ~~3) Develop strategies and actions for reducing emissions including direct offsets and fees to purchase offsets;~~
- ~~4) Develop strategies and actions for adaptation to climate change;~~
- ~~5) Implement strategies and actions; and~~
- ~~6) Monitor emissions and verify results a minimum of every five years starting in 2010.~~

~~Utilize the 1982 Energy Plan as a starting point for this effort. Encourage collaboration with the cities to include the incorporated areas in the plan(s). Amend the General Plan to include the plan(s) after adoption. Require County operations and actions, as well as land use approvals to be consistent with this plan(s). This plan must be in place prior to adoption of any specific plan.~~

Pursuant to the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP), the County shall take all feasible measures to reduce its total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions within the unincorporated area (excluding those of other jurisdictions, e.g., UC-Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, DQ University, school districts, special districts, reclamation districts, etc.), from 648,252 metric tons (MT) of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2008 to 613,651 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2020. In addition, the County shall strive to further reduce total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions within the unincorporated area to 447,965 MT by 2030. These reductions shall be achieved through the measures and actions provided for in the adopted CAP, including those measures that address the need to adapt to climate change. (Policy CO-8.1) 🌍

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A118**

~~In the interim until the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan is in effect, the following significance thresholds shall be used for project analysis:~~

- ~~Projects consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt under CEQA— Assumed to be de minimus.~~
- ~~Projects consistent with the General Plan and subject to CEQA — Net zero threshold to be achieved by the applicant as follows:
  - ~~— Apply practical and reasonable design components and operational protocols to reduce project GHGs emissions to the lowest feasible levels;~~~~

- ~~Use verifiable offsets to achieve remaining GHG reductions to the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County. (Policy CO-8.9).~~

Pursuant to and based on the CAP, the following thresholds shall be used for determining the significance of GHG emissions and climate change impacts associated with future projects:

- 1) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is not required.
- 2) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan, fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, consistent with the CAP, and not exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant or mitigated to a less-than-significant level, and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is generally not required.

To be determined consistent with the CAP, a project must demonstrate that it is included in the growth projections upon which the CAP modeling is based, and that it incorporates applicable strategies and measures from the CAP as binding and enforceable components of the project.

- 3) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are not consistent with the General Plan, do not fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, and/or are not consistent with the CAP, and are subject to CEQA review are rebuttably presumed to be significant and further CEQA analysis is required. The applicant must demonstrate to the County's satisfaction how the project will achieve its fair share of the established targets including:

- Use of alternative design components and/or operational protocols to achieve the required GHG reductions;
- Use of real, additional, permanent, verifiable and enforceable offsets to achieve required GHG reductions. To the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County;

The project must also be able to demonstrate that it would not substantially interfere with implementation of CAP strategies, measures, or actions. (Policy CO-8.5) 🌐

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department, ~~Parks and Resources Department~~  
Timeframe: Ongoing

### **Action CO-A119**

Monitor State progress in the development of GHG quantification protocol and guidance for local governments that allows for statewide uniform measurement and estimation of expected jurisdiction-wide GHG emissions to refine the Climate Action Plan and ensure compliance with appropriate state and federal requirements. (Policy CO-8.1) 🌐

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A120**

Require the implementation of cost-effective and innovative GHG emission reduction technologies in County building components and design. (Policy CO-8.2, Policy CO-8.4 8.5) 🌐  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department, General Services Department  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A121**

~~Adopt urban forestry practices that encourage forestation as a means of storing carbon dioxide, with the goal of doubling the tree canopy in unincorporated communities by 2030. Use appropriate protocols to assess owner eligibility to sell carbon credits including increasing the urban tree canopy, expanding riparian corridors, establishing hedge rows, and enlarging the acreage of permanent crops such as vineyards and orchards.~~ (Policy CO-8.1) 🌐  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department, General Services Department (Parks Division)  
Timeframe: 2012/2013

**Action CO-A122**

~~Require new development to incorporate designs and/or programs to reduce travel demand and vehicle emissions.~~ (Policy Co-8.2, Policy CO-8.4)  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A123**

~~Require that new development incorporate alternative modes of transportation, including transit, bicycling and walking, in order to reduce vehicle emissions.~~ (Policy Co-8.2, Policy CO-8.4)  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A124 A122**

Consider the provision of local housing for County employees to reduce commute travel time. (Policy CO-8.2) 🌐  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department  
Timeframe: Ongoing

**Action CO-A125 A123**

~~In conjunction with, or immediately following, preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction/Climate Action Plan(s) for the County, require countywide departmental analysis of~~  
Require each county department to analyze how the predicted effects of climate change will affect its responsibilities and resources of each department. Develop strategies and actions to addresses outcomes. (Policy CO-8.3, Policy CO-8.7 8.5) 🌐  
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office  
Timeframe: 2011/2012

**Action CO-A126 A124**

Encourage Incorporation of the County’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan into a regional climate action plan. The regional plan should strive to achieve its fair-share contribution towards a minimum 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels in regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. (Policy CO-8.9 8.7) 🌐  
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department  
Timeframe: 2011/2012

**Action CO-A125**

GHG emission reductions shall be monitored and reported to the Board of Supervisors biennially. The GHG emissions inventories shall be updated at least every five years beginning in 2010. (Policy 8.5) 🌍

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department

Timeframe: Ongoing