

Summary

Yolo County Sustainability Plan Community Workshop

September 16, 2020, 6:00 pm

This meeting summary provides an overview of the September 16, 2020 community workshop hosted by Yolo County (and held virtually via Zoom) and focuses primarily on capturing the comments and questions posed by members of the public. This document is not intended to serve as a transcript of the presentations or discussion. A recording of the meeting is available on the Yolo County Sustainability website: <https://www.yolocounty.org/general-government/general-government-departments/county-administrator/yolo-county-sustainability>.

Introductions

Ben Gettleman, facilitator, introduced Yolo County Supervisor Gary Sandy and invited him to provide opening remarks.

Supervisor Sandy shared that one of the five primary goals in Yolo County's 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan is a "Sustainable Environment," defined as "Efficiently utilizing natural resources to provide recreational opportunities and ensure availability for generations to come, protect and improve water quality and quantity, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and maximize the use of renewable energy."

Supervisor Sandy addressed the challenges of staying committed to the Strategic Plan amidst COVID-19, deadly fires, violence, and unrest. Despite these challenges, the need to plan and pursue a sustainable future has never been greater. The urgency for a sustainable future is accelerating, and despite the current challenges, there is an opportunity to pursue changes and to rebuild our culture and communities. Lastly, Sandy emphasized that Yolo County is committed to the Sustainability Plan and urged participants to provide feedback through this process.

The panelists and supporting staff of the workshop introduced themselves:

- Connie Robledo, Analyst, Yolo County
- Dan Krekelberg, Sustainability Planner, Ascent Environmental
- Angie Xiong, Sustainability Planner, Ascent Environmental
- Ben Gettleman, Facilitator & Outreach Support, Kearns & West
- Terra Alpaugh, Outreach Support, Kearns & West

Ben shared the workshop goals as follows: learn more about the Sustainability Plan development process, how the County is currently addressing sustainability, and the County's vision for becoming more sustainable. He shared webinar instructions and urged participants to reach out to the project team for additional information or provide feedback at sustainability@yolocounty.org. Ben also invited participants to submit questions in the Q&A box and committed to following up with them via email after the webinar.

Ben asked participants, "When we say "A Sustainable Yolo County," what comes to mind? Responses included:

- Recycle
- Ability to breathe clean air
- Protecting our farmland
- Renewables
- Affordable renewable energy
- Sustainable agriculture; innovation; equity
- Reducing waste, sustaining, or improving infrastructure to encourage biking/walking, sustainable ag
- Water, food, energy, health
- Active transportation throughout the region
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing water waste, sustainable agriculture
- A way to enable the County to administer a complex multilevel policy
- A city with bike lanes and trails, low GHG emissions
- A community with public transit and electrified homes
- Paths out of poverty
- Zero carbon
- How best adapt to climate change
- Access to clean water, protection of wetlands
- Decolonization and reconnecting to and stewarding the natural world
- Rapid decarbonization
- A visionary plan that connects health and environment. Toxicity is the other great crisis of our age and connected, of course, to petrochemicals. We have epidemic cancer rates.
- Keeping the CO2 emissions low to avoid climate chaos
- Sustainable agricultural practices are encouraged, surface + GW water resource sustainable themes encouraged.
- Protected bike lanes
- Eliminate toxic chemicals
- An environmental, social, and economic system that benefits all residents and can be maintained over time.

Ben asked participants “What actions or activities do you do regularly that contribute to sustainability?”
Responses included:

- Recycling
- Buy organic and local, reduce plastic use/waste.
- Vote; engage with my peers, reduce my waste, learn more and take action on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Drive an electric car
- Recycle, reuse, member of a food coop
- Biking, Youth Education
- Avoid driving
- Bike, use an induction cooktop, conserve electricity during peak hours.
- Low energy use
- Support regulations limiting/eliminating fossil fuel
- Using solar panels in the house

- Waste management/ reduction/ recycling/ composting/ drive an EV/ biking
- Recycling and composting, commuting by bike bought into renewables through VCE, EV, voting, and shopping for local food.
- Walk, bike, ride the bus, own an electric car, recycle, conserve energy, conserve water, re-use, fix things
- Riding bike, composting food waste
- Community organizing for non-toxic schools, climate work at the city level, building networks interested in sharing ideas about greener lifestyle.
- Solar PV electric car line clothes driving
- Reduce, recycle, solar panels, selection of green products, drive electric car
- I have significant solar on my home, drive an electric car and support sustainable issues and organizations.
- Food sovereignty
- Provide my own energy through conservation and use of solar.
- Growing my own fruit and veggies.
- Composting/reuse everything at least one more time (paper coffee cup etc.)

Part 1: What is a Sustainability Plan and why does Yolo County need one?

Connie Robledo provided an overview of the Sustainability Plan and how it relates to the Climate Action Plan that Yolo County already has in place. A Sustainability Plan is a document that acts as a roadmap to a sustainable environment, recommending actions for the County to take in critical areas. These actions can include expanding existing programs and activities or implementing new ideas in the long and short term. In contrast, a Climate Action Plan focuses on reducing greenhouse gases. Public input in the Sustainability Plan development process is an essential focus the plan.

Connie described the three parts of the Sustainability Plan:

- Existing Conditions Assessment (What has the county accomplished so far?).
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement (What aspects of sustainability are important to you?): this workshop is part of this phase.
- Sustainability Plan Preparation (How will we implement our shared sustainability goal?)

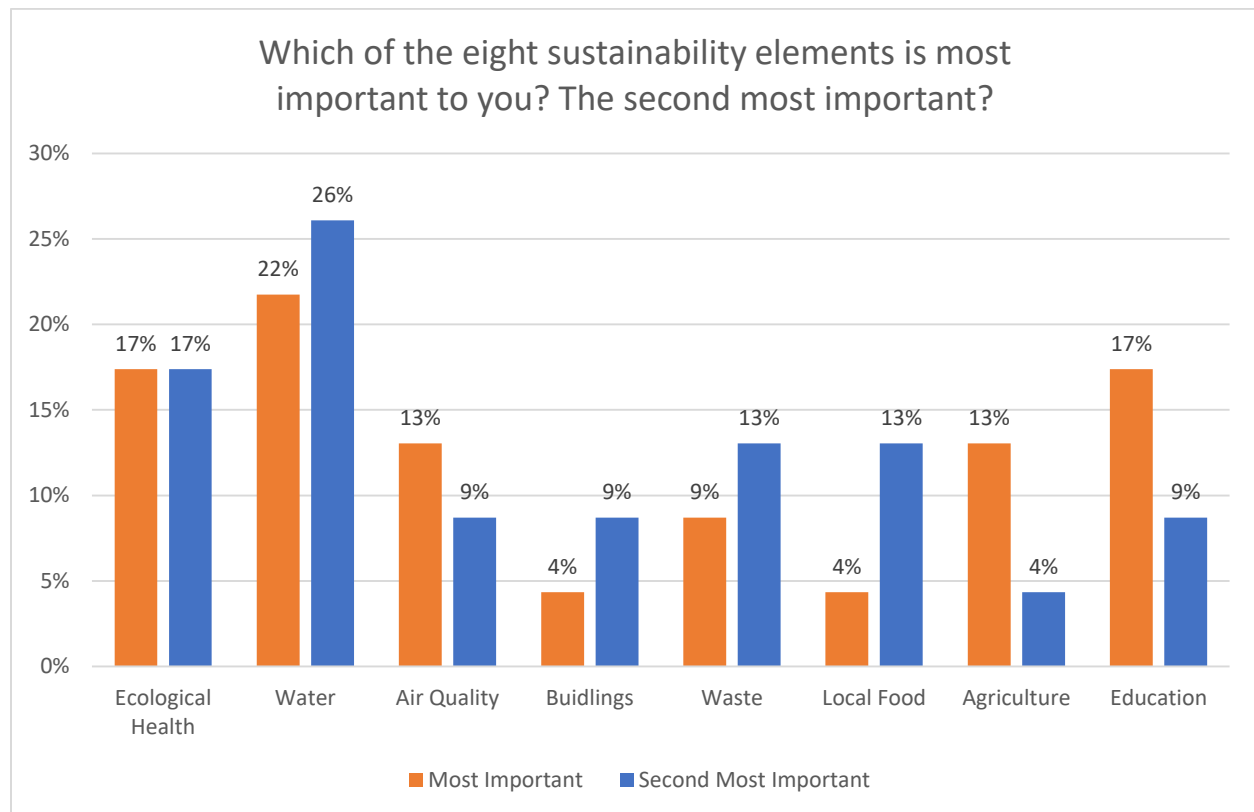


Part 2: What has Yolo County accomplished so far in terms of sustainability?

Dan Krekelberg described the work the team has done so far in studying “Existing Conditions,” researching what Yolo County is doing to support sustainability now via the development and implementation of existing plans. The research focused on eight sustainability elements -- ecological

health, water, air quality, buildings, waste, local food, agriculture, and education, and is intended to create baseline on which to build the Sustainability Plan and to highlight gaps in existing plans where the new plan should focus its recommendations.

Twenty-three webinar participants answered a question regarding which of the sustainability elements was most important and next most important to them.



Dan shared a high-level overview of the eight sustainability elements and identified opportunity areas where the Sustainability Plan could build on existing work for each of the elements.

1. Ecological Health: *Promote and sustain the benefits provided by a healthy ecosystem*

Local Plans

- Organic Agriculture Program
- Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan
- Cache Creek Resources Management Plan

Opportunity Areas

- Protect open space and biological resources through conservation and restoration, consistent with the County General Plan
- Sustain habitats for native plants and animals in relevant State management areas (e.g. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area)

2. Water: *Ensure an abundant, safe, and sustainable water supply to support the needs of existing and future generations.*

Local Plans

- Yolo County: Design Guidelines, Organic Agriculture Program, Cache Creek
- Resources Management Plan, Stormwater Management Program
- Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency and Sustainability Plan
- Water Resources Association of Yolo County, IRWQMP
- Yolo Habitat Conservancy, HCP/NCCP
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan

Opportunity Areas

- Support implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Reduce water consumption in new and existing buildings
- Reduce agricultural water use through alternative irrigation techniques
- Promote greywater and rainwater collection systems

3. Air Quality: *Improve air quality in the County, with a focus on low income communities that bear a disproportionate pollution burden.*

Local Plans

- Yolo County: General Plan, CAP, GHG Inventory, Bicycle Transportation Plan, Organic Agriculture Program, Rural Community Investment Program, Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan
- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
- SACOGMTP/SCS

Opportunity Areas

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Encourage alternative transit option
- Increase adoption of electric vehicles

4. Buildings: *Reduce energy consumption and promote resilience within buildings.*

Local Plans

- GHG Inventory
- Yolo Energy Watch
- LEED Building Construction
- Energy Savings Project
- Valley Clean Energy Integrated Resource Plan and Implementation Plan

Opportunity Areas

- Increase energy efficiency
- Increase on-site renewable energy generation
- Reduce consumption of fossil fuels
- Retrofit buildings

5. Waste: *Reduce waste generation, increase waste diversion rates, and increase the capacity of composting services*

Local Plans:

- GHG Inventory
- Waste Diversion Ordinance

Opportunity Areas

- Provide avenues for reusing, repairing, and upcycling objects to remove them from the waste stream

6. Local Food: *Promote locally grown products and connect farmers to County residents through school programs, tourism, and farm-to-table restaurants.*

Local Plans:

- Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention
- Agriculture Economic Development Fund
- Agricultural Marketing Initiative

Opportunity Areas

- Expand the County's agricultural base by promoting a healthy and competitive farm economy
- Support production of local foods and products
- Provide tourism and recreational opportunities related to local food

7. Agriculture: *Facilitate a vibrant and resilient agricultural industry that preserves sufficient farmland to maintain local, state, and national food security in perpetuity. Provide increased stability and support for agricultural workers and employers.*

Local Plans:

- Yolo County: Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention, Agriculture Economic Development Fund, Agricultural Marketing Initiative, Rural Community Investment Program
- California Department of Food and Agriculture: Healthy Soils Program, Alternative Manure Management Program
- California Department of Conservation: Williamson California Certified Organic Farmers
- California Strategic Growth Council: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Act, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

Opportunity Areas:

- Create an agricultural mitigation bank
- Facilitate farm-to-market connectivity
- Invest in agricultural workforce development
- Increase food recovery

8. Education: *Increase outreach, awareness, and education in sustainability topics.*

Local Plans:

- Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program
- Agriculture Economic Development Fund
- Agricultural Marketing Initiative
- Yolo Energy Watch
- Integrated Waste Management Plan
- Rural Community Investment Program
- Stormwater Management Program
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan

Opportunity Areas:

- Raise awareness about stormwater quality, energy efficiency, and waste
- Incorporate sustainability topics into school curriculum
- Post Public Service Announcements and social media content supporting education on sustainability

Part 3: What are the next steps in Sustainability Plan Development?

Connie described the next steps on the Sustainability Plan development, noting that the team will continue to collect public input to better understand the current sustainability activities and Yolo County residents' vision for a sustainable future. Thus far, this has included interviews with County Department staff, the Climate Working Group, the Climate Mobilization Coalition, and Yolo RCD; now, public feedback from this workshop will be compiled, and by the end of the month, feedback from the public opinion survey currently underway online will be added.

Connie invited webinar participants to share their input in the online survey at <http://bit.ly/YCsustainabilitysurvey> in English or at <http://bit.ly/YCsustentabilidad> in Spanish. She encouraged them to share the link with friends, families, and coworkers.

The plan development team will use stakeholder input to guide the recommendations drafted into the Sustainability Plan. The community will have another opportunity to weigh in during a public in November 2020 when the draft recommendations will be shared.

Ben shared that all information from this workshop will be available on the project website: <http://bit.ly/YCsustainability>.

Discussion Questions & Comments

Participants submitted written questions and comments via the webinar Q&A box throughout the presentation. Some were answered in writing and posted for all participants to view, while others were held and read aloud over the course of the workshop. The questions/answers below are organized by whether the answer was provided in writing or is a summary of a verbal answer. For questions that were not answered during the workshop, an additional section has been added below with written responses.

Questions answered in writing via the Q&A box

- Question (Q): What is the County's definition of sustainability?
 - Response (R): Yolo County's 2020-2040 Strategic Plan defines "Sustainable Environment" as "efficiently utilizing natural resources to provide recreational opportunities and ensure availability for generations to come, protect and improve water quality and quantity, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and maximize the use of renewable energy."
- Q: When will the drafts that have already been prepared for the Sustainability Plan be available for public review?
 - R: We will go over the project timeline near the end of the workshop. The draft plan has not been developed yet. We will be continuing to engage community throughout Sept - Nov and prepare the plan Oct - Dec.
- Q: Lots of people have mentioned biking and public transit access but where is transportation in this list of eight areas?
 - R: Transportation is included under the "Air Quality" element. Additionally, the County already has several plans that address transportation specifically, including the General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Bicycle Transportation Plan.
- Q: Is Yolo's groundwater basin subject to SGMA? If so, how will or how is the County work(ing) with our local GSAs to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?
 - R: Yes! The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is managing SGMA implementation. Supervisor Sandy is a member of the YSGA, so the County is involved in developing the Yolo Subbasin Sustainability Plan
- Q: I am curious about the definition of "sustainable environment" – is this used as a basis for the approach to this plan? I am confused why the definition would be focused on "recreational" use? Sustainable environment should be so much more. Can we re-define this concept?
 - R: This is the definition from the Strategic Plan. The Sustainability Plan is an opportunity to redefine our vision for "sustainability". The "ecological health" element gets at some of the other reasons why sustainable environment is important. Does that address your concerns? Please let us know if you have suggestions for how the County should be defining "sustainability".
- Q: I see this is being recorded, are we going to have access to this and the slides after the presentation?
 - R: Yes, the recording and slides will be posted on the Yolo County website sustainability page.
- Q: Is this presentation available elsewhere so that we could refer to points already presented - while here, in the moment? (I am sure it will be available later.)
 - R: Unfortunately, it has not been posted yet. We will try to make sure we get the presentation for the next workshop posted in advance! And it will be posted on the website soon.
- Q: Are there specific targets to increase renewables? Increase building efficiency? Reduce vehicle miles traveled? If so, what is the baseline?
 - R: Yes, the state has set targets for renewable energy supply which apply to utilities, green building codes, and recent legislation that new development must analyze its

impacts on increasing VMT. We have not set specific targets as part of the sustainability plan yet.

- Q: Will the county be including the incorporation of Health and Human Services? Will the consultants incorporate crisis training or disaster relief planning? Considering the climate CRISIS and emergency we are all currently facing, why isn't the inclusion of diverse ethnic communities prioritized? Why hasn't there been any outreach to frontline communities?? Why is this presentation so basic?
 - R: Your concerns regarding the inclusion of frontline and diverse communities are noted. Public health, crisis training, and disaster relief have not been considered thus far. We have heard several comments about public health as a component of sustainability. One thing we are trying to balance is that the Sustainability Plan is not intended to be an all-encompassing plan. Part of this effort is acknowledging what the County has already done in these various related topic areas, to build on those efforts, and to home in on the key elements of sustainability. Please let us know if there are specific elements that you would like to see included. This presentation is meant to provide background information to the public at a broad level. Some participants may be familiar with the plan process already, but some may be new to the process, so we hope that by providing a basic overview, everyone can participate at the same level.
- Q: Since major communities (W&D) are using surface water mixed with groundwater, where are the plans for long-term drought planning? Where will the water come from to support smaller communities not on surface water?
 - R: I have noted your concerns about water supply and drought. It is not within the scope of the Sustainability Plan to develop a long-term water supply plan. I would look to the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency and Water Resources Association of Yolo County for their long-term water supply planning efforts.
- Q: Over 70% of the GHG profile for communities in Yolo County is related to transportation. We need a comprehensive plan for reducing this GHG for our county. It should fit but is not driven by SACOG. Is possible for a County wide TDM that requires business participation? Today our bad air moved to the foothills. What is our responsibility in Yolo to reduce our air inputs that affect others in the region?
 - R: I would refer to the County's Climate Action Plan, which is the primary plan that targets GHG reduction in all sectors, including transportation.
- Q: I am very confused about the purpose of this meeting. Is the consulting firm you represent ultimately calling the shots? Where is the public accountability?
 - R: The purpose of the meeting is to share some of our initial research and thoughts, to receive feedback, and to understand your views on the sustainability topics based on your lived experience. This is Yolo County's plan - our role is not to call the shots but to listen and incorporate what stakeholders and the public see as most important.
- Q: You all seem like nice people, but who do you ultimately report to? If we have concerns about the plan, who do we contact? Your private business? The supervisors? I am just not understanding how you are considering public participation, indigenous leadership, and many of the civic concerns about process that have raised here tonight.

- R: This is the County's Sustainability Plan. As consultants, we ultimately report to the County. The County serves the people. If you have concerns, please contact the project team at sustainability@yolocounty.org.
- Q: Will the sustainability plan incorporate working with first responders in response to wildfire and flooding mitigation? There are a lot of resources at UC Davis and Diana Almendariz teaches prescribed burns to students and there is a potential to teach first responders traditional indigenous practices like prescribed controlled burns that have been used by tribal communities in California for thousands of years. Has this been researched??
 - R: Thank you for sharing these resources. Most often, emergency response to wildfire and flooding is addressed in hazard mitigation planning (see 2018 Yolo County Hazard Mitigation Plan). Climate-exacerbated hazards are generally addressed in a Climate Adaptation Plan.
- Q: I apologize for all the questions; I am using this opportunity to ask all the questions that I feel are deeply important on this topic. Is there a way that we can give a presentation about frontline communities to the consultants? I would volunteer to present and talk about this vital and key element that needs to be centered in respect to ecological restoration and water use.
 - R: No need to apologize. I've noted your request and will be sure the project team reviews and responds, thank you!
- Q: Can the Sustainability Plan Survey also be translated into Spanish please? I plan on flyer-ing the migrant community centers in Yolo and providing the link for this survey so if it is in Spanish like how it is provided in the slides, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much!!!
 - R: Yes! Will make sure the survey is accessible for non-English speakers. I believe we have your email address. We will reach out directly to let you know when it has been translated.
- Q: In the County Plan, will there be a sustainability awareness curriculum for the elementary through high school students that illustrate what we do in Yolo Co?
 - R: I have noted your suggestion for the "Education" element.

Questions answered verbally with summarized responses:

- Question (Q): Is SB 1383, including the food waste recovery components, included in the baseline conditions?
 - R: Yes, it is included in the baseline conditions. To provide some context, SB 1383 is a State law implemented through Cal Recycle to reduce the disposal of organic waste into landfills. The main benefit of doing this is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from organic waste decomposition in landfills. There are other benefits as well; one of those is food waste recovery. One of the significant organic waste sources that go into landfills is unconsumed food from grocery stores or restaurants. There is a component of SB 1383 that says that a percentage of that unconsumed food needs to be sent to either food kitchens or other organizations that help feed the hungry. Overall, we included SB 1383 in the baseline conditions, but we are also focusing on it as an opportunity area because there is still very much a local component to its implementation.
- Q: Lots of people have mentioned biking and public transit access but where is transportation in this list of eight areas?

- Transportation is a significant component of air quality; some of the measures we are looking into as an opportunity area promote alternative transport methods. Zero-emissions vehicles, bike, and pedestrian transportation are critical components of improving air quality.
- Q: Regarding the clean transportation plans, what are the key ideas and implementation plans to increase clean transportation options and ACCESSABILITY for low-income and disadvantaged communities in the County?
 - R: Some jurisdictions provide low carbon transit options to get people from point A to point B via an app, such as providing bicycles or other low carbon transportation options for specific neighborhoods. Some mobility plans look at the needs from a geographic standpoint and focus on specific census tracts with low-income and disadvantaged communities; they examine existing infrastructure in those communities for transportation options and determine their specific needs. There is also transportation modeling that can look at transportation patterns within those census tracts; some of this work has been done as part of the SACOG MTP/SCS. These are ways of addressing transportation needs at the county-wide level but also being able to narrow in on specific neighborhoods as well. This may be something that will be recommended as part of the Sustainability Plan.
- Q: How does the County foresee bringing in indigenous peoples who have traditional ecological knowledge on this land and empower them to re-instate those practices?
 - R: We are open to suggestions and interested in reaching out to those communities and learning more about their practices and evaluating how those can be incorporated into the plan
- Q: Is there any funding being allocated to increase outreach and awareness campaigns?
 - R: At the moment, there is not funding through this project for those types of campaigns. Many of the elements discussed in the presentation are intertwined with outreach work already being done by people throughout the county. For example, in the landfill, they do many campaigns and outreach regarding the services they offer and why they are important. A couple of different departments are working on this in different ways, but for this Sustainability Plan specifically, this webinar is our public outreach portion.
- Q: There has been reluctance to develop surface water systems because of the “incentive” for developers to identify those water stores as rationale for insisting on more housing/development - what do we do?
 - R: That discrepancy did not come up in our background research. We will look into it more and see if there are an examples of specific project where this applies. It would be good to have more information/context in that situation.
 - C: To the person who did send that question, feel free to email the team, and we can try to get a little more information from you and get more info to you.
- Q: Will the draft plan be released as a whole document or will the various work products, such as the existing Conditions Assessment be released to the public as they are completed?
 - R: The final Sustainability Plan will have a few different components to it. It will have the background research that has been done, which is the existing Conditions Assessment, and then the recommendations as part of the plan. It will include some context to those

recommendations and where they came from the gap analysis. The entire Plan will be released at the same time.

- Q: To what extent will the development and execution of the County's Sustainability Plan result in an equitable, sustainable, local food system that provides universal access for all residents to nutritious food?
 - Local food is one of the elements that we have included in the Sustainability Plan. To the extent possible, we can bring out some opportunities to make this an equitable food system. We are open to suggestions on how to make sure we achieve that. We are starting to do that just by including it in the plan but open to suggestions on making that better.
- Q: How will you encourage local business to get on-site renewable energy? Is there an incentive of some kind?
 - Yes, there are incentives at the statewide level for renewable energy generation. One of the keys is having businesses understand the value proposition of installing on-site renewable energy, which is a big part of reducing energy costs. For instance, businesses can work with solar providers to install a solar panel on a rooftop as part of a lease where there is a little upfront cost to the business owner but they still get benefits out of it in the long term. Also, with clean energy, there is a concept of hard to reach customers. Small and midsize businesses do not have departments investigating sustainability planning exclusively as part of their business operation. It is essential to provide resources and raise awareness of the available options for clean energy with businesses interested in installing those types of systems.
- Q: Davis already has Reach Code approval for incentivizing electricity over natural gas in buildings, could the County adopt that as well?
 - R: I have seen the reach codes that Davis has in place for a while and which have been updated to be more stringent. There is a process to go through cost-effectiveness feasibility. We could explore reach codes as part of Yolo County's addressing of buildings in the Sustainability Plan.
- Q: What will be the schedule of revising the Sustainability Plan after this one is developed?
 - R: We are trying to put in some long-term and short-term goals – both more ambitious long term items and some things that we can do more immediately. If it becomes apparent over time that the Sustainability Plan is not meeting the needs that the community wants, we can go back and update this. There is not a specific timeline for updates to the plan, but it is something that can happen.
- Q: What can we do to plant more trees (good for every topic area)? Especially fruit trees in terms of food justice....
 - R: I would say outreach and teach people in school about the importance of trees and sustainability and why we grow them and the different benefits.
 - R: I agree; this overlaps with the education component and making people aware of the benefits of planting fruit trees, which has the local food connection. Again, this highlights the interaction between these different vital elements.
- Q: Grey water seems to be discouraged for homeowners to use their own home grey water. Is that a misconception?

- R: I will be interested in learning more about this if we can find an example of it being discouraged. In the Sacramento area, I have seen some larger plan subdivisions intentionally use gray water for irrigation and planting. These systems have a centralized gray water system for that, which will need to be investigated. This is not gray water, specifically, but it has to do with rainwater harvesting and collection. Additionally, there may be regulatory barriers that need to be investigated if it is done on a large scale. This has to do with the amount of water that is harvested and the concern about groundwater recharge and wanting to make sure that that occurs. There needs to be more research done there, and it is an opportunity area that will require some additional planning.
- Q: What is the state of our groundwater tables and consumption levels in the county? Has this been assessed?
 - R: It has not been assessed as part of this plan. It is likely that has been investigated as part of Groundwater Planning in Yolo County. You would have to refer to some of the technical analysis to know the specific water tables.
- Q: That is nice to say “education” but *how* will the county coordinate with the school districts on this?
 - R: This workshop aims to get feedback from the public and have a later workshop where we get a little bit more input on some of the implementation measures that we have identified. Also, in terms of working with school districts the exact manner of doing that has not been determined yet, but the County has a good relationship with the school district, so there is an opportunity to identify some solutions or programs that we could support.
- Q: More than 90% of local agricultural products are shipped out of area. More than 90% of the food consumed here is imported from out of area. Meanwhile, struggling families are excluded entirely from the local, sustainable food system. How will the Sustainability Plan change this highly unsustainable dynamic?
 - R: This is something the Sustainability Plan should investigate. I think it can be addressed as part of encouraging local food consumption and connecting local food production with the community. Also, part of the food recovery goals, along with SB 1383, could assist with that. Regarding the statistics, whoever sent this question, please follow up with the sources of the statistics. I would like to know a little more about the distribution of food, where it is going in Yolo County, and maybe how the plan could help alleviate that situation.
- Q: One opportunity area is carbon capture in agricultural lands which will relate to the Climate Action Plan. Would you be looking at that?
 - R: One of the resource areas mentioned earlier was open space and the potential for land conservation and habitat restoration to support natural and working lands. All this is the umbrella term covering initiatives that can be done to encourage carbon sequestration on land. That can be investigated, in that it is not covered in great depth in the County's current Climate Action Plan, which came out in 2011 before much of the current research had been done on carbon sequestration. The state's pathway towards 2030 and carbon neutrality goals will require some innovative and scaled carbon

sequestration investments, which is something that we want to investigate as part of this plan.

- Q: How will the Sustainability Plan inform the Climate Action Plan?
 - R: The Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been established and adopted by the County. It has been in the process of being implemented for the last few years; there are no plans at this time for an update to the CAP. The recommendations that are made in this Sustainability Plan will be in place as we advance and will have a different focus, rather than focusing exclusively on greenhouse gas emissions. If the County ever decides to update or change the existing CAP, the Sustainability Plan could certainly provide a reference and have alignment with any future updates to a CAP.
- Q: How does the County intend to work with local organizations (e.g., Cool Davis) and city committees (e.g., Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee) to support developing and implementing this plan?
 - R: Along with the cities and many people within those jurisdictions, the County is working on climate action or sustainability and has met relatively frequently through existing meetings and the old climate compact. At these meetings, each jurisdiction shares what they are working on and areas for collaboration or overlap. Hence, the importance of these regular meetings to update the County on work in progress.

Comments provided in the Q&A Box

- Comment (C): Also - great job providing translated slides!
- C: I suggested interviewing frontline communities such as Latinx/farmworker/undocumented/Spanish speaker communities, Native families and anyone working in the field of ecology doing restorative work that incorporates indigenous ecological knowledge (Cache Creek Nature Preserve)
- I can't really see how these can be separated – the reason we are where we are is because of the false notion that you can be incremental and partitioned in your response to sustainability.
- C: This is a very important meeting; it would have been great to have had more time to recruit very important folks to attend this meeting. Hopefully, you can have one more meeting like this and give us more time ahead of time to bring in vital stakeholders...thank you.
- C: The polling might need to correct for “order of presentation” bias.
- C: I am a community organizer and a climate advisor to Woodland, but I'm commenting here with my hat as a disabled member of the county. I have severe multiple chemical sensitivity that keeps me housebound and makes most public places in the county inaccessible to me. While I have more serious reactions than most, about 30% of the population has an aversion to fragrances (suffering headaches, asthma, and more). Many folks are concerned about PM 2.5. The fires obviously have clearly worsened the skies. You might think that the next common source of PM 2.5 is auto emissions! Wrong! It turns out from a much discussed study led by a NOAA team that was published in Science that 1/2 of LA's famous smog comes from emissions from everyday consumer items: pesticides, laundry emissions, people's own fragrance and perfumes, carpets, and more....I get that we are not Berkeley (which has tried to outlaw synthetically-scented fabric softeners and dryer sheets with dozens of undisclosed ingredients). But we can do more to warn the public that many ingredients in synthetic fragrances react with

ambient air to form formaldehyde. It is like folks are walking around with their own embalming clouds

- C: I have concerns about ground water monitoring (volume not necessarily quality).
- C: I have been advocating for the consultants to interview frontline communities since August, maybe even July.
- C: Sustainability must also have a component that includes a health of the people. This health includes many aspects of transportation beyond air quality. Also, active transportation is not "alternative" transportation, it is just transportation.
- C: You guys are doing great, this is important work, and as a citizen I appreciate your dedication to these very important matters in our community(ies).
- C: Households, businesses, and people themselves are important emitters of pollution (laundry emissions, etc.) beyond cars.
- C: We have shown the toxicity of carpet in the WJUSD, which now has one of the most progressive floor policies in the country that could be a model for the county. UC Davis is examining the policy as a model as well. Many public buildings (libraries for example, but also all the city halls and meeting spaces) have carpets that contain PFOAs, PBDEs, lead, mercury, arsenic, styrene-butadiene, PVC, and more (a sum total of 43 hazardous substances.) There is nothing in carpet that does not come from coal or oil. So beyond human health, there is a connection with climate change. NOTE: The LEED metrics count more for installing a bike rack than for all indices of indoor air quality combined. It means that you can have "green" buildings that are actually "sick buildings." The culprit is typically carpet.
- C: I agree with Michelle Byars - we need a much better, more comprehensive definition of sustainability. Clearly, we as society have reached unsustainable levels of carbon consumption - we are on the frontlines of a climate emergency. We have also reached unsustainable levels of racial disparity and inequality in this region.
- C: I am concerned that it seems drilling deeper (by the deeper pockets) is the answer to ground water issues.
- C: Air quality- in fall when air quality is poor seems to be when we have the most plowing of fields. We used to have no burn days maybe no plow days or at least discourage no plow days.
- C: Ecological health is not just use of resources but restoring resources and ecosystems to sustain biodiversity, soil health, and water quality.
- C: All four topics would benefit from having the Education component address how residents and businesses can contribute to sustainability through their own actions, behaviors, and operations.
- C: Element 7 Under investing in agricultural workforce I strongly feel a need to support the people that DO the work (not the owners of the ag)
- C: The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be completed by January 1, 2022. The team may want to contact the staff and get the latest: <https://www.yologroundwater.org/>
- C: This might have been reviewed - but would not the wholesale adoption of distributed renewable "over the fence" local power generation/electricity storage capacity that can be shared across property lines. Agricultural properties, schools, municipal buildings could all be utilized as energy nodes for sourcing electricity demands (residential and small businesses)
- C: From Valley Vision studies

- C: Thank you, Terra! Greatly appreciated!!! I strongly suggest adding demographic questions in the survey, related to race, ethnicity, and income (at least 4 brackets) I will email Connie what I suggest as well. Thank you!!!
- C: Good work on how your doing - Can we get a “section” of the Sustainability Plan that addresses reach goals - such as implementing liberal policies that would allow different property owners to share the same very local source of power production and energy storage.
- C: Will there be a list serve on the Yolo County Sustainability page on the website? Will this presentation and the draft elements (outreach plan, existing conditions assessment, implementation plan) be available on this webpage for review before the draft SP is made available. It seems the opportunity to educate the public as you go is being missed by not making the incremental products available for information, review, and input. Any solutions suggested would be better informed, for example, if the public had access to the existing conditions assessment rather than receiving a verbal briefing in real time and being asked to respond on the spot.
- C: And just a general thank you to Connie, Ben, Terra, Angie, and all for the work tonight.
- C: Very good job, thank you.
- C: Thank you, Angie, for your attention to my questions.

Questions with pending responses:

There was not time to respond to all the questions during the Workshop; those that were not answered at that time are compiled below.

- Q: Why does this ignore the estimated 50% of PM2.5 that comes from personal consumer products? <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6377/760>
- Q: Are zero and low emission transportation options really optional?
- Considering the dynamic situation of climate change/impact - what will be the schedule of revision to the Sustainability Plan? Every 6 months –
- Q: Ecological health - have the Yoche Dehe Wintun nation and other indigenous first nation people been consulted and what has been there response to this sustainability planning?
- Q: Regarding water, when a large development proposal is submitted to the county, do we require an analysis and implementation plan for groundwater recharge to be submitted by the developer?
- Q: I cannot put this in one of your boxes - maybe air quality? - but what has been learned from the county’s ongoing COVID emergency response in terms of addressing public health priorities and collective wellbeing?
- Q: What are the target and critical indicators for the sustainability plan? How will you be able to conduct data and analysis of these key factors to ensure these targets are met?
- Q: I’m in the one third to one half of families in Yolo County who earn less than it costs to live and work here. How will the Sustainability Plan bring around real change for the better in my life, my spouse’s life and the lives of my children?
- Q: I apologize for all the questions; I am using this opportunity to ask all the questions that I feel are deeply important on this topic. Is there a way that we can give a presentation about frontline communities to the consultants? I would volunteer to present and talk about this vital and key element that needs to be centered in respect to ecological restoration and water use.

- Q: How will the Sustainability Plan ensure that the basic needs of our most marginalized residents are met?
- Q: Why are you translating “sustainable” with “sustainable?” it that theoretical combination of “sostenible” and “sustainable”? or a misspelling?
- Q: How will the survey help you identify needs of the various communities in Yolo County? There are no demographics asked so that preferences and needs can be related to various communities or vulnerable groups.