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**PUBLIC DRAFT**

# Yolo County Sustainability Plan

**PREPARED FOR:**



Yolo County  
Department of  
Community Services

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section		Page
1	INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
2	EXISTING CONDITIONS .....	2-1
3	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT .....	3-1
4	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY .....	4-1
4.1	Ecological Health.....	4-1
4.2	Water .....	4-6
4.3	Air Quality .....	4-8
4.4	Buildings .....	4-10
4.5	Waste.....	4-11
4.6	Local Food.....	4-12
4.7	Agriculture.....	4-14
4.8	Education.....	4-16

## Appendices

A Existing Conditions Report

## Tables

Table 1	Existing Conditions Assessment Matrix.....	2-1
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Yolo County (County) has sought to achieve sustainability through a variety of long-term planning efforts, strategic goal setting, and programs and partnerships. In collaboration with stakeholders and the public, the County developed this Sustainability Plan (Plan) to further its strategic goals to promote thriving residents, safe communities, a sustainable environment, and flourishing agriculture. The Plan is intended to serve as an environmental roadmap for decisionmakers and community members. It describes foundational existing policies and programs that support sustainability and identifies opportunities to make Yolo County more sustainable. While a wide range of sustainability-related themes were evaluated under this Plan, the key elements selected for evaluation and recommendations made do not preclude the County from exploring additional or complimentary elements, strategies, or actions related to sustainability in the future.

The Plan development process relied on a comprehensive assessment of existing countywide environmental plans and initiatives, as well as substantial public outreach and stakeholder engagement to refine priorities and obtain feedback. These steps are discussed in greater detail in Section 2, “Existing Conditions,” and Section 3, “Stakeholder and Public Engagement.”

Several major sustainability-related efforts are currently in progress in the County and inform the development of this Plan, including implementation of the 2020-2024 Yolo County Strategic Plan, 2030 Countywide General Plan, and Climate Action Plan (CAP). The primary purpose of these related plans is not sustainability – for instance, the CAP aims specifically to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the General Plan guides development and land use decisions within the County. However, numerous goals, policies, and programs set forth in these plans also serve to advance sustainability goals. For example, the CAP includes primary and supporting measures that result in sustainability co-benefits such as improved ecosystem health and resilience, water quality, air quality, and a reduction in landfilled waste generated. Thus, the Plan builds upon prior and ongoing countywide sustainability efforts, focusing on targets within eight key Sustainability Elements: ecological health, water, air quality, buildings, waste, local food, agriculture, and education. The Plan defines objectives and establishes recommendations to chart the path towards achieving sustainability within each element. The Plan is intended to serve as a ‘living document’ that will be updated over the course of implementation, as science and technology advances.

This document consists of four main parts:

- ▶ Section 1: Introduction presents the background, overarching goal of the plan, and a summary of how the Plan was developed.
- ▶ Section 2: Existing Conditions identifies the various plans, policies, and programs that were reviewed to develop the Plan and summarizes the findings of the Existing Conditions Report, which is included in Appendix A.
- ▶ Section 3: Stakeholder and Public Engagement describes the stakeholder engagement plan; input gathered from interviews, briefings, and workshops; and explains how stakeholder and public inputs shapes the Plan.
- ▶ Section 4: Implementation Strategy lays out recommendations within each of the eight Sustainability Elements, covering a 7-year implementation timeframe. Each recommendation includes a description, timeframe, and actions that should be initiated within three years from Plan adoption.

## 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Yolo County implements a wide range of sustainability-related plans and programs, from those that promote green building and energy efficiency to those that preserve agricultural land and promote local food. Additionally, there are State and Federal agencies and programs that support sustainability efforts in Yolo. Relevant plans, programs, regulations, and resources were reviewed and organized according to which of the eight Sustainability Elements they relate to, as shown in Table 1, below. For a detailed description of how existing resources relate to each Sustainability Element, refer to Appendix A, Existing Conditions Report.

**Table 1 Existing Conditions Assessment Matrix**

Sustainability Element	Existing County and Regional Plans, Policies, and Programs	State and Federal Agencies and Programs
Ecological Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: Strategic Plan, General Plan, CAP, Organic Agriculture Program, Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan, Cache Creek Resources Management Plan</li> <li>  CAPs in incorporated cities: Woodland, 2017. CAPs for Davis, Winters, West Sacramento are currently in progress.</li> <li>  Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Integrated Regional Water Quality Management Plan</li> <li>  Yolo Habitat Conservancy, HCP/NCCP</li> <li>  Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  EPA: Pesticide programs</li> <li>  U.S Fish and Wildlife Service: Endangered Species Act</li> <li>  California Natural Resources Agency: Biodiversity programs, California EcoRestore, Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation, Forest Stewardship Program</li> <li>  California Department of Fish and Wildlife: California Endangered Species Act</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: Strategic Plan, General Plan, CAP, Design Guidelines, Organic Agriculture Program, Cache Creek Resources Management Plan, Stormwater Management Program</li> <li>  Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency</li> <li>  Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Integrated Regional Water Quality Management Plan</li> <li>  Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  EPA: Clean Water Act</li> <li>  State Water Resources Control Board: Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act</li> <li>  California Department of Water Resources: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: General Plan, CAP, GHG Inventory, Bicycle Transportation Plan, Organic Agriculture Program, Rural Community Investment Program, Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan</li> <li>  Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District</li> <li>  SACOG MTP/SCS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  EPA: Clean Air Act</li> <li>  U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Anything from CalTrans here?</li> <li>  California Air Resources Board: Community Air Protection Program, Ambient Air Quality Standards</li> </ul>
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: General Plan, CAP, GHG Inventory, Yolo Energy Watch, LEED Building Construction, Energy Savings Project, CIP?</li> <li>  Valley Clean Energy Integrated Resource Plan and Implementation Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  California Energy Commission: Title 24, California Building Standards Code</li> <li>  Governor’s Office of Planning and Research: General Plan Guidelines</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: Strategic Plan, General Plan, CAP, GHG Inventory, Integrated Waste Management Plan, Waste Diversion Ordinance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  CalRecycle: Integrated Waste Management Act</li> <li>  Department of Toxic Substances Control: Cortese List</li> <li>  California Department of Pesticide Regulation: Pest management programs</li> </ul>

Sustainability Element	Existing County and Regional Plans, Policies, and Programs	State and Federal Agencies and Programs
Local Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: General Plan, CAP, NEOP, Agriculture Economic Development Fund, Agricultural Marketing Initiative</li> </ul>	See "Agriculture"
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: Strategic Plan, General Plan, CAP, NEOP, Agriculture Economic Development Fund, Agricultural Marketing Initiative, Rural Community Investment Program</li> <li>  Water Resources Association of Yolo County, IRWQMP</li> <li>  Yolo Habitat Conservancy, HCP/NCCP</li> <li>  Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan</li> <li>  SACOG MTP/SCS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  U.S. Department of Agriculture: USDA Organic, Farm Production and Conservation; Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; Agricultural Marketing Service; Rural Development</li> <li>  California Department of Food and Agriculture: Healthy Soils Program, Alternative Manure Management Program</li> <li>  California Department of Conservation: Williamson Act, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program</li> <li>  California Certified Organic Farmers</li> <li>  California Strategic Growth Council: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Yolo County: General Plan, NEOP, Agriculture Economic Development Fund, Agricultural Marketing Initiative, Yolo Energy Watch, Integrated Waste Management Plan, Rural Community Investment Program, Stormwater Management Program YCOE?</li> <li>  Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  Employment Development Department: Workforce Services Branch</li> <li>  Labor and Workforce Development Agency: Agricultural Labor Relations Board, Employment Development Department</li> </ul>

Notes: CalRecycle = Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery; CAP = Climate Action Plan; EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; GHG = greenhouse gas; HCP/NCCP = Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan; IRWQMP = Integrated Regional Water Quality Management Plan; LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; NEOP = Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention; SACOG MTP/SCS = Sacramento Area Council of Governments Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy; YCFWCWD = Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Source: Data compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2020

### 3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement for the Yolo County Sustainability Plan included a series of stakeholder interviews with organizations involved in environmental and resource conservation, an online survey, and two virtual workshops.

In advance of public workshops, County staff along with project consultant Ascent Environmental and public outreach consultant Kearns & West conducted interviews with the following organizations:

- ▶ Yolo Climate Mobilization Coalition on August 4, 2020;
- ▶ Yolo County Resource Conservation District on August 11, 2020; and
- ▶ Yolo County Finance Department on August 25, 2020.

The virtual public workshops were held on September 16, 2020 and December 9, 2020. These meetings were open to all members of the community, with three rounds of public notifications given prior to each meeting through press releases coordinated by the County Public Information Office and County-managed social media pages. Notices for the meeting and materials covered during the meeting were offered in English and Spanish. The County also encouraged stakeholder groups interviewed prior to the workshops to share notifications of upcoming workshops with their networks of potentially interested agencies and individuals.

The September 16, 2020 workshop introduced the Plan development process and invited community feedback and questions. The goals of this initial workshop were to share more about the Plan development process, how the County is currently addressing sustainability, and the County's initial vision for becoming more sustainable in the eight key Sustainability Elements. Over 40 community members attended the workshop. Participants shared their vision for a sustainable Yolo County as well as some of the actions that they did in their day to day that contribute to sustainable outcomes. Participants also shared their support, concerns, and questions regarding specific sustainability objectives in each of the eight Sustainability Elements. Overarching themes and priorities that emerged throughout the workshop included the need to update the County's CAP and establish quantitative target to measure success; achieve carbon neutrality; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); plan for a sustainable water supply in the face of climate change; and to meaningfully collaborate with community-based organizations, indigenous groups, and the most vulnerable populations in the development and implementation of County sustainability efforts.

A second virtual community workshop was held on December 9, 2020. This workshop focused on an overview of the recommended sustainability actions for inclusion into this Plan, which were informed by the previous workshop and stakeholder input. Participants shared their feedback on the recommended sustainability actions for each of the eight elements. Major discussion topics included suggestions to remedy air quality issues such as increasing the accessibility of public transit and phasing out wood-burning stoves; the importance of including food security as a goal of the Plan; improving public health and nutrition; and the need for collaboration between the County and regional entities such as the Yolo Food Bank, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Valley Clean Energy, Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland. Workshop attendees participated in an exercise where they ranked which of the eight sustainability elements they felt was most important. The top four elements chosen were waste, local food, ecological health, and air quality.

The public input received throughout the planning process is reflected in the recommended sustainability strategies and actions, listed in Section 4, "Implementation Strategy."

While this Sustainability Plan development was underway, in February 2020, County staff met with representatives of a local climate advocacy group (Yolo Climate Coalition) who were working on a resolution declaring a climate emergency in Yolo County for the Board of Supervisors to adopt. The purpose of the meeting was to identify where similarities and duplication with the County's upcoming Sustainability Plan existed and to provide some feedback on the resolution itself. At the March 10, 2020, Board of Supervisors meeting, staff did not recommend adopting the

emergency resolution. Instead, staff were directed to collaborate with the Yolo Climate Coalition to further align the emergency climate resolution with the Sustainability Plan.

On September 29, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Emergency Resolution (Resolution No. 20-114) that “declares climate change a crisis requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions needed to achieve a just economic recovery and transition to a countywide carbon negative footprint by 2030.” The emergency climate resolution passed by the Board called for a future advisory group to develop and propose a new Climate Action Plan (Yolo County 2022 Climate Action Plan) designed to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions in Yolo County and achieve a carbon negative footprint by 2030.

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## 4 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

This Implementation Strategy is intended to guide County decisionmakers, stakeholders and members of the community in prioritizing new and existing policies and programs to advance the County’s sustainability goals. Recommendations are organized by the eight Sustainability Elements. Each subsection starts with a description of the goals and objectives of the Sustainability Element and is followed by high-level sustainability strategies. The sustainability strategy framework consists of an overall timeframe; implementing actions; potential responsible party(s), cost, tracking metrics, and prioritization, which are defined below:

- ▶ **Strategy:** High-level plans the County and its partners will implement to achieve sustainability objectives in a Sustainability Element. The Plan includes 19 strategies. The work will be prioritized and considered as part of the Board’s annual strategic plan initiatives, which is factored into the “prioritization” indicator described below.
- ▶ **Timeframe:** The Plan covers a 7-year implementation timeframe. Individual actions may have a shorter implementation timeframe or may even extend beyond the 7-year Plan timeframe. Actions are categorized as short- (1-3 years), mid- (3-5 years), long-term (5 years or more), or ongoing.
- ▶ **Actions:** Actions are programs, policies, or projects the County and its partners will implement that will result in direct and measurable progress towards achieving sustainability goals. The Plan includes 38 actions.
- ▶ **Potential Responsible Party(s):** Identifies the primary group that could be responsible for implementation of the action. This could be a specific County department, stakeholder group, partner agency, or community group.
- ▶ **Cost:** Cost estimates are provided for each action. “\$” indicates a low cost of less than 100 staff hours per year, “\$\$” indicates a medium cost of 100 to 300 staff hours per year, and “\$\$\$” indicates a high cost of over 300 staff hours per year.
- ▶ **Tracking Metrics:** Recommended quantitative and qualitative performance metrics by which performance of the specified action will be measured. This tracking is intended to monitor progress on achieving the specified action. Progress can be monitored by Department of Community Services (DCS) staff and reported annually to the Director.
- ▶ **Prioritization:** Actions will be ranked low, medium, or high priority based on a variety of factors including cost, public interest, alignment with Strategic Plan initiatives, technical barriers, potential for local and or regional collaboration, and implementation speed.

As discussed in Section 2, “Existing Conditions,” these recommendations are informed by the existing conditions assessment. The recommendations consider prior and ongoing countywide programs and policies that further sustainability goals and aim to build on existing initiatives and fill in gaps. As discussed in Section 3, “Stakeholder and Public Engagement,” the recommendations are also informed by stakeholder and community input and perspectives.

### 4.1 ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

Humans derive many benefits from the ecosystem, these benefits and functions are called “ecosystem services” and are roughly grouped into four broad categories: provisioning services, which includes food, water, timber, and any other materials that can be extracted from nature; regulating services such as pollination, decomposition, water purification, and climate regulation; supporting services, such as nutrient cycling and photosynthesis; and cultural services, such as spiritual and recreational benefits. The Ecological Health Sustainability Element focuses on protecting biological diversity and habitat, and enhancing the benefits provided by a healthy ecosystem. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Update the CAP to protect people ecosystems, community assets, and resources from the anticipated effects of climate change in an equitable and inclusive public process that includes indigenous, vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved communities;



- ▶ Protect open space and biological resources through conservation and restoration;
- ▶ Prioritize nature-based solutions; and
- ▶ Increase carbon sequestration.

These goals are also closely related to the goals of the Water, Air Quality, and Agriculture sustainability elements.

## **STRATEGY EH-1: UPDATE THE COUNTY’S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT PEOPLE, ECOSYSTEMS, COMMUNITY ASSETS, AND RESOURCES FROM THE ANTICIPATED EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

One recurring theme that emerged over the course of the outreach process was the need for the County to update its CAP, which was adopted in March 2011. On September 29, 2020, the County adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution that “declares climate change a crisis requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions needed to achieve a just economic recovery and transition to a countywide carbon negative footprint by 2030.” The resolution requires the County to create a working advisory body by March 1, 2021 to develop a new CAP and be charged with engagement of the broader Yolo County community. Because several recommended strategies in the Plan will result in GHG reduction co-benefits, an overall recommendation to enhance the effectiveness of the Plan, streamline implementation, and increase alignment is for the CAP to include and quantify relevant Plan strategies that result in GHG emission reductions.

### **Action EH-1.1: Develop equitable and inclusive outreach plan, in collaboration with the Climate Advisory Working Group, indigenous groups, and vulnerable populations**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: CAP should contain a chapter focused on implementation and monitoring, which would include qualitative and quantitative metrics to track measure implementation and GHG reductions achieved. This outreach could additionally include input on the GHG reduction targets and measures described in EH-1.3
- Prioritization: High priority based on community input and feedback.

### **Action EH-1.2: Perform a technical assessment of GHG reduction measures**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Department of Community Services, Planning Division/Public Works, Sustainability Division, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term, estimated 1 year
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Under the Implementation and Benchmarks chapter of the County’s currently adopted CAP there is a requirement for the County’s Planning and Public Works divisions to evaluate CAP GHG reduction measures every two years beginning in 2013. The findings from this evaluation are then to be included in a report to the Board of Supervisors containing the following information.
  - Estimated annual GHG reductions (compared to 1990, 2008, and subsequent inventory years);
  - Achievement of progress indicators;
  - Participation rates, where applicable;
  - Implementation costs;
  - Community benefits realized;
  - Remaining barriers to implementation; and

- Recommendations for changes to the CAP.

Upon evaluation of CAP progress during preparation for this Sustainability Plan, it was observed that this reporting had not occurred as scheduled in the plan. However, this information may be important for accurately assessing the performance of the CAP to date and guiding future updates to the CAP. It is therefore recommended that the DCS Planning Division, Public Works, and the Sustainability Advisory Group created under the Climate Emergency Resolution prepare a retrospective technical assessment of CAP GHG reduction measure progress that will inform updates to GHG reduction measures described in Action EH-1.2.

- Prioritization: High priority based on community input. Aligns with the 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution and existing CAP.

### **Action EH-1.3: Update GHG reduction targets and measures**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: An updated CAP should include references to and compatibility with State and local policies for GHG emissions reductions that have occurred since the adoption of the County's existing CAP in 2011. Referenced policies should include, but not be limited to, Senate Bill (SB) 32, the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, EO B-55-18, and the County's Climate Emergency Resolution.
- The CAP update should contain a chapter focused on implementation and monitoring, which would include qualitative and quantitative metrics to track measure implementation and GHG reductions achieved.
- Prioritization: High priority based on community input and aligns with the 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution.

### **Action EH-1.4: Develop a Carbon Sequestration Strategy**

An updated CAP should contain a chapter focused on reducing GHG emissions through carbon sequestration from natural and working lands, carbon capture and storage, and other relevant strategies to reduce carbon dioxide levels to support the County with achieving a carbon-negative footprint by 2030 in accordance with the Climate Emergency Resolution.

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, University of California Davis (UCD), Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Sustainability Advisory Body, Agriculture Department
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Inclusion of carbon sequestration measures in project scope for future CAP update. Development of a natural and working lands inventory to compliment the most recent GHG inventory update. Inclusion of a carbon sequestration strategy, measures, and actions in future updates to the CAP.
- Prioritization: High priority based on community input, potential for regional coordination and support from partner agencies and organization, and because there are existing knowledge and programs to support increased research and implementation of carbon sequestration measures.

### **Action EH-1.5: Conduct a comprehensive climate vulnerability assessment to develop adaptation and resilience strategies**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Sustainability Advisory Body, Office of Emergency Services, Fire Protection Sustainability Board Ad Hoc Committee, General Plan Advisory Committees
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: CAP should contain a chapter focused on climate vulnerability, implementation, and monitoring, which would include qualitative and quantitative metrics to track adaptation and resilience measure implementation.
- Prioritization: High priority based on community input, alignment with General Plan Safety Element Action HS-A59 and need for compliance with the requirements of Senate Bill 379.

## **STRATEGY EH-2: PROTECT OPEN SPACE AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES THROUGH CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**

The County as well as regional agencies have developed plans and programs to protect open space and biological resources. This strategy focuses on prioritizing and supporting the existing measures in place to promote the enhancement, conservation, management, and restoration of critical habitat types such as riparian, upland, grassland, shrub/scrub, oak-woodland, and wetlands. The purpose of this strategy is to recognize the critical role of contiguous habitat corridors in increasing biodiversity and improving ecosystem health.

### **Action EH-2.1: Support existing measures to protect sensitive habitat and species from the County’s General Plan, Integrated Regional Water Quality Management Plan, the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District’s Strategic Plan**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, DCS Planning Division, Parks Department, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include acres of habitat restored or preserved, water quality indicators, ongoing monitoring of specific special status species, and total acreage of critical habitat types within the County.
- Prioritization: Medium priority because the County and regional partner agencies have existing plans and programs in place to address ecosystem health.

## **STRATEGY EH-3: PRIORITIZE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

Nature-based solutions are approaches that learn from and use nature to create sustainable solutions to socio-ecological challenges such as GHG reduction, climate change adaptation, ecosystem health, water quality, human health, and sustainability. These tend to be cost-effective and address the issues at hand while providing multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. For example, in certain instances it may be more effective to improve flood risk by expanding flood plains rather than reinforcing old levees that channelize and constrict streamflow. This has the co-benefit of restoring natural habitat, increasing open space, and providing recreational opportunities. When feasible, the County should prioritize nature-based projects that provide these multiple benefits.

### **Action EH-3.1: Promote agricultural methods that minimize air, soil, and water pollution consistent with the County's Organic Agriculture Program**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, University of California, Davis
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could air quality, soil health, and water quality indicators. Other tracking metrics include outreach statistics and number of farms enrolled in organic agriculture programs.
- Prioritization: Medium priority because the County has an existing program in place to address organic agriculture.

### **Action EH-3.2: Implement General Plan Policy PF-2.3 to design new stormwater facilities to enhance recreational, habitat, and/or aesthetic benefits, as well as to integrate with existing parks and open space features**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Parks Department, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include acres of habitat restored or preserved, acres of new recreational space available, structures protected, and water stored.
- Prioritization: High priority due to existing flood risk and the potential for climate change to exacerbate this hazard. Additionally, this strategy may provide multiple benefits that are important to communities, including public health and safety, recreational opportunities, air quality improvements, water quality improvements, and ecosystem health. Lastly, this is an existing General Plan policy that was defined but has not yet been implemented.

## **STRATEGY EH-4: INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION OF NATURAL LANDS**

Increase the ability of County natural lands to sequester carbon to achieve the County's GHG reduction and carbon neutrality goals by prioritizing conservation projects that quantify and include carbon sequestration practices such as carbon farming and wetland restoration. This strategy involves supporting the existing Yolo County Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan and other programs that result in the conservation of natural lands.

### **Action EH-4.1: Consistent with the Yolo County Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan, protect and encourage the growth of oak woodlands**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Parks Department, University of California, Davis, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Acreage of oak woodlands protected and restored. Quantity of carbon sequestered.
- Prioritization: High priority because the County and responsible agencies have an existing plan and measures in place, the action aligns with the County's carbon neutrality goals, and public and stakeholder input has emphasized the importance of GHG reduction and carbon sequestration.

## **Action EH-4.2: Consistent with the Yolo County Resource Conservation District’s Strategic Plan, prioritize conservation projects that quantify and include carbon sequestration practices**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, University of California, Davis, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Yolo Habitat Conservancy
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics include the quantity of carbon sequestered and number of projects implemented.
- Prioritization: High priority because the action aligns with the County’s carbon neutrality goals, can be incorporated into the County’s CAP Update, and public and stakeholder input has emphasized the importance of GHG reduction and carbon sequestration.

## **4.2 WATER**

The Water Sustainability Element is focused on ensuring an abundant, safe, and sustainable water supply to support the needs of existing and future generations. This element includes strategies and actions to conserve water, improve groundwater recharge, reduce runoff and potential for contamination, and ensure the availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all. This element also recognizes the challenge that climate change will present in ensuring a reliable water supply. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Increase resilience of water supply to climate change; and
- ▶ Reduce water consumption.
- ▶ Storage?

### **STRATEGY WA-1: INCREASE RESILIENCE OF WATER SUPPLY TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate change will increase uncertainty and affect the reliability and quality of the County’s water supply. Given that agricultural uses in the County rely heavily on groundwater, this strategy focuses on long-term groundwater planning and improving groundwater recharge through the adoption of low-impact development standards and by incentivizing and encouraging sustainable practices for stormwater management and water storage.

#### **Action WA-1.1: Support implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Successful completion of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 1, 2022 to meet the State’s deadline, tracking progress on implementation of measures within the plan.
- Prioritization: Low priority. The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency is leading implementation of this action so the County’s role is as a supportive agency.

#### **Action WA-1.2: Implement General Plan Action CO-A94 to adopt low-impact development design standards**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, DCS Planning Division
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$

- Tracking Metrics: Successful implementation of low-impact design standards into the County's municipal code and design standards documents.
- Prioritization: High priority because this is an existing General Plan action that was defined but has not yet been implemented.

**Action WA-1.3: Implement General Plan Policy PF-2.4 to encourage sustainable practices for stormwater management that provide for groundwater recharge and/or improve the quality of runoff through biological filtering and environmental restoration**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Parks Department
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Track implementation of projects or practices and water quality indicators.
- Prioritization: High priority because this is an existing General Plan policy that was defined but has not yet been implemented.

**Action WA-1.4: Incentivize the private landowners to install surface water storage to improve groundwater recharge, reduce groundwater extraction, and reduce flood water levels during high rainfall years.**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division, Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of private landowners that enroll in the incentive program, cost-benefit analysis for dollars spent compared to benefits received.
- Prioritization: Medium priority based on community input and limited ability of County to require these types of actions.

**Action WA-1.5: Promote greywater and rainwater collection systems**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division, Public Works Division, Water Resources Association of Yolo County
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of new greywater and rainwater collection systems installed, estimates for volume of potable water conserved.
- Prioritization: Medium priority based on public input and alignment the County's CAP measure AD-2, which directs the County to plan for the impacts of climate change on the availability and quality of water resources.

**STRATEGY WA-2: REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION**

This strategy complements Strategy WA-1 in that reducing water consumption can help the County adapt to lowered or fluctuating availability of water resources over time. The County has several existing measures in place to increase water efficiency in buildings and landscaping. Thus, actions under Strategy WA-2 are intended to fill specific water conservation gaps and introduce more stringent requirements.

### **Action WA-2.1: Require water conservation measures in new and existing buildings**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Successful implementation of water conservation requirements into the County's municipal code or design standards documents.
- Prioritization: Medium priority. Given that the County has existing water conservation measures in place for new and existing development, this action would enhance and supplement those efforts.

### **Action WA-2.2: Reduce agricultural water use through alternative irrigation techniques**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, University of California Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, UCD, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of irrigation systems converted, and quantity of water conserved
- Prioritization: High priority given that agriculture is a major source of water consumption within the County and water conservation gains in this sector could be substantial.

## **4.3 AIR QUALITY**

The Air Quality Sustainability Element is intended to improve air quality in the County, with a focus on low-income communities that tend to bear a disproportionate pollution burden. This element focuses on reducing VMT, encouraging alternative transit options, increasing adoption of electric vehicles, and increasing tree planting to improve localized air quality. The element also builds upon the County CAP adaptation strategies and emphasizes the critical need to address air quality impacts from increased wildfire incidence due to climate change. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Reduce VMT;
- ▶ Increase tree planting to improve air quality and combat urban heat island effect; and
- ▶ Prepare for increased risk of wildfire and impacts on air quality.

### **STRATEGY AQ-1: REDUCE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED**

The County has several major plans and programs in place to reduce VMT, including goals and policies in the General Plan, CAP, and the Bicycle Transportation Plan. This strategy aims to support and place a greater priority on implementation of these existing measures.

#### **Action AQ-1.1: Continue to implement General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Bicycle Transportation measures to increase shift towards alternative transportation methods to reduce vehicle miles traveled**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division, Public Works Division, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Caltrans
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of goals and policies successfully implemented and VMT data.

- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and potential GHG reduction, mobility, and public health benefits gained from implementation of these policies.

### **Action AQ-1.2: Increase adoption of electric vehicles and equipment**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Caltrans, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of new electric vehicles as part of the County’s vehicle fleet. The County can also track the conversion of gas-powered equipment to electric-powered.
- Prioritization: Medium priority.

### **Action AQ-1.3: Increase County Employee Telecommuting**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Adopt a permanent policy post COVID-19 encouraging employee telecommuting. This policy should allow flexible work schedules (e.g. 9/80, 4/10, and flextime)
- Prioritization: Medium priority

## **STRATEGY AQ-2: INCREASE TREE PLANTING TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND COMBAT URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT**

Trees and vegetation can reduce air pollution by direct removal of particulate matter and pollutants from the air and by reducing air temperatures. Leaves intercept and hold particulate matter on their surfaces and absorb gaseous air pollution. This strategy is a nature-based solution that results in multiple benefits in addition to air quality such as increased shading and mitigation of the Urban Heat Island Effect, improved community character, GHG reduction and carbon sequestration, and improved public health. Additionally, by focusing efforts on communities that currently lack tree coverage, this strategy results improve equity.

### **Action AQ-2.1: Promote tree-planting programs, particularly in urban areas, heavily traveled roadways, and in communities lacking tree coverage**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, General Services/Parks Division Public Works Division, Yolo Health and Human Services, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of trees planted. County could also track changes in ambient temperatures in areas before and after tree-planting efforts.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and due to the number of co-benefits of this action.



## **STRATEGY AQ-3: PREPARE FOR INCREASED RISK OF WILDFIRE AND IMPACTS ON AIR QUALITY**

Although the County's CAP identifies the need to adapt to increased wildfire incidences, the County has yet to establish specific policies and actions to protect public health due to increased wildfire risk. This strategy makes the connection between wildfire and the indirect impacts of greater wildfire risk on public health and vulnerable populations that may not have the resources to protect themselves.

### **Action AQ-3.1: Mitigate the impacts of wildfire smoke on public health, with a focus on vulnerable populations**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Health & Human Services Department, Fire Protection Sustainability Board Ad Hoc Committee, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking outreach and education efforts, distribution of masks, and number of community refuges established.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and the severity of potential public health impacts if no action is taken.

## **4.4 BUILDINGS**

The Buildings Sustainability Element promotes green building and increasing the adoption of efficient technologies to improve energy and water conservation. This element includes a key focus on supporting low-income and multi-family households in installing on-site renewable energy and in improving energy efficiency. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Increase availability of affordable on-site renewable energy generation and storage; and
- ▶ Reduce building energy consumption.

## **STRATEGY BU-1: INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE ON-SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION AND STORAGE**

The County's CAP includes measure E-4 to increase on-site renewable energy generation to reduce demand for grid energy. This strategy builds upon measure E-4 by emphasizing the importance of affordable options so that populations that bear disproportionate burdens can access the benefits of renewable energy programs.

### **Action BU-1.1: Facilitate programs to target and provide financial assistance to low-income and multi-family homeowners to install solar photovoltaic systems**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Valley Clean Energy, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking outreach and education efforts, number of solar PV systems installed, and amount of renewable energy generated.
- Prioritization: Medium priority. This element improves equity outcomes and there may be loans and grant programs available to assist with implementation of this action.

## STRATEGY BU-2: ELECTRIFY EXISTING HOMES AND NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The County has several policies and measures in place to target building energy consumption and promote green building standards. The County is also signed on as a member agency with Valley Clean Energy, a community choice aggregation. Thus, this strategy aims to go beyond existing measures and take advantage of the availability of low-carbon electricity in the County to push for full electrification of residential uses.

### Action BU-2.1: Provide incentive programs to encourage electrification of existing homes

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Valley Clean Energy
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Number of existing homes converted to all-electric and GHG reduction quantification.
- Prioritization: Medium priority based on public input.

### Action BU-2.2: Phase out natural gas from new developments to require electrification of new homes

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Successful adoption of a natural gas ban in new residential development and GHG reduction quantification.
- Prioritization: Medium priority based on public input.

## 4.5 WASTE

The Waste Sustainability Element aims to increase waste diversion rates and reduce waste generation. It acknowledges the role of consumer culture in waste production and seeks to educate County residents and provide avenues for reusing, repairing, and upcycling objects to remove them from the waste stream. The recommended strategy is to:

- ▶ Reduce waste generation.

## STRATEGY WS-1: REDUCE WASTE GENERATION

Although many waste sector sustainability efforts focus on recycling and composting, there are other actions that should be prioritized first on the waste management hierarchy that can result in a multitude of benefits such as GHG reduction, greater food security, energy and cost savings, and conservation of resources. This strategy focuses on developing and supporting upstream actions to reduce waste generation, including reuse, repair, and food recovery efforts.

### Action WS-1.1: Provide avenues for reusing, repairing, and upcycling objects to remove them from the waste stream

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS/Integrated Waste Management Division, Waste Advisory Committee, Yolo County Library, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Long-term

- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Waste audits could be conducted. Metrics could include tracking tonnage of waste and amount of waste avoided through reuse/repair/upcycling programs.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and ranking of waste as a top concern.

#### **Action WS-1.2: Increase food recovery**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Yolo Food Bank, Health & Human Services Department, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics include tracking amount of organic waste disposed, food recovered, and qualitative metrics around improved food security.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and support. This would support the objectives of California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which goes into effect on January 1, 2022 and requires the State by 2025 to recover 20 percent of food that would otherwise be sent to landfills, through local government action. The Yolo Food Bank is a community partner that is well-equipped and ready to partner on implementation of this action. Lastly, this action results in many co-benefits such as increased equity, improved public health and food security, and reduced methane emissions.

#### **Action WS-1.3: Expand for capacity for processing organic waste for renewable energy generation.**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, DCS Planning Division, Integrated Waste Management Division
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$\$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Invest in facilities to process organic waste through anaerobic digestion to create biogas that can be used as an alternative transportation fuel, or for generating electricity eligible for credit under California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Prioritization: The organic waste feedstock used in this process could be obtained from waste streams that were previously deposited into the Yolo County Central Landfill. This would support the objectives of SB 1383, which goes into effect on January 1, 2022 and aims for the state to reduce organic waste landfill deposits by 75 percent from 2014 levels by 2025 through local government action.

## **4.6 LOCAL FOOD**

The Local Food Sustainability Element focuses on ways to promote locally grown products and connect farmers to County residents through school programs, tourism, and farm-to-table restaurants. The exporting and importing of food results in increased VMT, and thus, increased GHG and air pollutant emissions. Increasing consumption of local food within the County could result in air quality and GHG reduction co-benefits. This element also includes the objective of addressing food scarcity issues and achieving food security in the County.

The recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Support production of local foods and products; and
- ▶ Increase food sovereignty and food security.

## STRATEGY LF-1: SUPPORT PRODUCTION OF LOCAL FOODS AND PRODUCTS

Agriculture is one of the County's defining characteristics. The county exports agricultural products all over the world, but also has a thriving local food economy through Community Supported Agriculture programs, farmer's markets, wine tasting rooms, and other agrotourism ventures. This strategy focuses on promoting the production and consumption of locally grown products to reduce "food miles," the distance food travels from farm to consumer, and to support farmers and farmworkers. Actions under this strategy are intended to build upon and supplement existing County efforts such as the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program, Agricultural Economic Development Fund, and Agricultural Marketing Initiative.

### Action LF-1.1: Provide educational, tourism, and recreational opportunities related to local food

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Yolo County Office of Education, Yolo Farm to Fork, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking outreach and education efforts, tourism statistics, and revenue generated.
- Prioritization: Medium priority.

### Action LF-1.2: Increase consumption of local food products within the County to reduce the exporting or importing of foods

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Yolo Farm to Fork, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking sales of local food products within the County and VMT.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input which highlighted two major concerns: VMT and local food.

## STRATEGY LF-2: INCREASE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND FOOD SECURITY

Food sovereignty is defined as "the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations." A food sovereign Yolo County is one where farmers and farm workers are valued, can make decisions on food issues, and where everyone has access to sufficient, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. The county exports large quantities of food and food waste is an issue, yet there are still many people in the County that go hungry. This strategy focuses on ensuring food security for all and moving towards a food sovereign Yolo County.

### Action LF-2.1: Center the voices of farmers, farmworkers, and indigenous communities in decision-making regarding agriculture and food systems

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Yolo Health and Human Services, Yolo Food Bank, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$

- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking representation of marginalized voices on County committees or in leadership roles for agricultural programs. Qualitative metrics include assessments of shifts in control from agroindustry to local farmers and farmworkers.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and support. Additionally, this action results in important equity outcomes, greater public engagement and decision-making power, and improves public health.

### **Action LF-2.2: Support and partner with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations that provide food assistance and nutrition education**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Health & Human Services Department, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Assistance and Nutrition programs, California Food Assistance Program, Yolo Food Bank, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include the number of people served through food assistance programs, reduction in food scarcity within the County, tracking outreach and education efforts.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and support. Additionally, the Yolo Food Bank is a local community partner that is well-equipped and ready to partner on implementation of this action.

## **4.7 AGRICULTURE**

The preservation of Yolo County’s rich agricultural history and sector are front and center in the County’s plans, policies, and programs. The Agriculture Sustainability Element supports existing goals to preserve agriculture and bolster the agricultural economy, but also seeks to increase carbon sequestration through cutting-edge agricultural practices and look ahead to how climate change may impact the agricultural sector. Collaborating with agricultural stakeholders, investing in and protecting farmworkers, and partnering with research institutions like the University of California Davis are important actions in this element. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Preserve Yolo’s agricultural land and ensure a strong local agricultural economy;
- ▶ Increase carbon sequestration; and
- ▶ Increase resilience of agricultural sector to climate change.

### **STRATEGY AG-1: PRESERVE YOLO’S AGRICULTURAL LAND AND ENSURE A STRONG LOCAL AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY**

The County has many plans and programs in place to preserve agriculture, including the Strategic Plan, General Plan, CAP, and programs such as the Williamson Act, Agricultural Economic Development Fund and Agricultural Marketing Initiative. Thus, this strategy is intended to build upon existing efforts while targeting gaps to ensure a strong local agricultural economy: investing in agricultural workforce development and creating an agricultural mitigation bank.

#### **Action AG-1.1: Invest in agricultural workforce development**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, University of California Davis, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Sustainability Advisory Body, Yolo Health and Human Services
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking outreach and education efforts, employment statistics, wages and income, and worker satisfaction.

- Prioritization: Low priority given that the County is currently working on several programs and policies that align with this goal.

### **Action AG-1.2: Create an agricultural mitigation bank**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Yolo Habitat Conservancy
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Successful launch of an agricultural mitigation bank, participation metrics, wetlands restored/created/enhanced.
- Prioritization: Low priority given the long implementation timeline and because this was not a high priority for the public or stakeholders.

## **STRATEGY AG-2: INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION OF FARMLANDS**

Increase the ability of County farmlands to sequester carbon to achieve the County’s GHG reduction and carbon neutrality goals. This strategy involves supporting working with the University of California Davis to explore carbon farming methods and to coordinate with the Yolo County Resource Conservation District to increase the use of composting as a technique to improve soil health and store carbon.

### **Action AG-2.1: Work with University of California Davis to research and test carbon farming methods**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, University of California Davis
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Assess number of feasible carbon farming methods that are suitable for the county and local farmers and track estimated carbon sequestration rates for each method.
- Prioritization: High priority because the action aligns with the County’s carbon neutrality goals, can be incorporated into the County’s CAP Update, and public and stakeholder input has emphasized the importance of GHG reduction and carbon sequestration.

### **Action AG-2.2: Consistent with the Yolo County Resource Conservation District’s Strategic Plan, promote the use of compost to improve soil health and store carbon**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Sacramento Valley Regional Carbon Farming Hub, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Mid-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics include the quantity of carbon sequestered and number of projects implemented. The County can also publish information on the benefits of compost as an alternative to synthetic fertilizer on the County’s website.
- Prioritization: High priority because the action aligns with the County’s carbon neutrality goals, can be incorporated into the County’s CAP Update, and public and stakeholder input has emphasized the importance of GHG reduction and carbon sequestration.

## **STRATEGY AG-3: INCREASE RESILIENCE OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

As described in the Adaptation chapter of the County's CAP, the agricultural sector will be impacted by a changing climate. Crop types will be vulnerable to changes in the ranges of certain pests, more frequent heat waves, change in temperatures, and change in water supply. However, the CAP does not address the vulnerabilities of people in the agricultural sector to climate change impacts such as wildfire and extreme heat. This strategy aims to address that gap by protecting farmworkers who may be outdoors in increasingly hazardous conditions.

### **Action AG-3.1: Protect farmworkers from climate-exacerbated hazards such as poor air quality, increased risk of wildfire, and extreme heat**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, Agriculture & Cooperative Extension Department, Yolo Health and Human Services, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Short-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking outreach and education efforts, and health outcomes and avoided hospitalizations.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and emphasis on equity and protection of vulnerable populations.

## **4.8 EDUCATION**

Achieving sustainable outcomes requires supportive policies and systems, adequate infrastructure, and community buy-in. The Education Sustainability Element intersects with each of the other seven elements in that success in those areas in part rely on behavior change and adoption by County residents. For example, the County may improve bicycle infrastructure and connectivity and transit lines, but if residents do not choose to switch to alternate methods of transportation, little progress is made. Thus, this element focuses on outreach, awareness, and education in sustainability topics. Recommended strategies are to:

- ▶ Raise public awareness of sustainability topics and the public's role in furthering the County's sustainability goals; and
- ▶ Incorporate sustainability topics into educational curriculum.

## **STRATEGY ED-1: RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS AND THE PUBLIC'S ROLE IN FURTHERING THE COUNTY'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS**

This strategy bolsters the County's existing sustainability outreach and education efforts and brings a new focus on equitable and comprehensive community engagement around sustainability topics.

### **Action ED-1.1: Support existing County outreach and awareness programs around stormwater quality, energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator's Office, DCS Planning Division, Public Works Division, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Tracking outreach and education efforts as well as public participation in County sustainability programs. Additional metrics include tracking the adoption of sustainability practices regarding stormwater, energy use, water use, and waste.

- Prioritization: Medium priority.

### **Action ED-1.2: Work with indigenous groups, vulnerable populations, and community-based organizations in creating sustainability outreach and education programs**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition, Empower Yolo, Yolo Climate Mobilization Coalition, other community-based organizations, Sustainability Advisory Body
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include tracking representation of marginalized voices on County committees or in leadership roles for sustainability programs. Additional metrics include engagement statistics as compared to the County’s demographics.
- Prioritization: High priority based on public input and emphasis on equity and centering the voices of marginalized and/or vulnerable populations.

## **STRATEGY ED-2: INCORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS INTO EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Education is a critical component for achieving countywide sustainability goals because it provides the foundation for understanding the purpose, need, and benefits of sustainable systems. Sustainability education provides several benefits for students: curriculum is often hands-on and project-based, it results in greater support for the County’s sustainability efforts, and it introduces students to green careers. This strategy focuses on establishing strong partnerships with local schools and educational institutions to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum and proactively develop a green workforce pipeline.

### **Action ED-2.1: Work with school districts, community colleges, and career technical education providers to incorporate sustainability topics into curriculum**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Yolo County Office of Education, University of California Davis, Woodland Community College
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$\$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include the number of schools and institutions that adopt sustainability curriculum and the number of students served.
- Prioritization: Medium priority.

### **Action ED-2.2: Work with school districts, community colleges, and career technical education providers to develop a green workforce pipeline**

- Potential Responsible Party(s): County Administrator’s Office, Yolo County Office of Education, University of California Davis, Woodland Community College, YoloWorks, Yolo Health and Human Services, Yolo Empowerment Services
- Timeframe: Long-term
- Cost: \$
- Tracking Metrics: Metrics could include the number of schools, institutions and organizations partnered with, as well as the number of professionals that engage with sustainability career education programs.
- Prioritization: Medium priority.



# Appendix A

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## Existing Conditions Assessment