

Yolo County Climate Action Commission Charter

Approved by the Board of Supervisors on _____

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Introduction

On September 29, 2020, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a resolution (Resolution No. 20-114) declaring a climate crisis requiring an urgent and inclusive mobilization of public and private resources to initiate a just transition to an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and resilient local economy while also supporting and advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse the climate, social justice, and economic crises.

The emergency resolution called for the creation of an advisory body charged with engaging the broader Yolo County community to ensure inclusivity in the development and implementation of the Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP). The advisory body would include representation from vulnerable, marginalized, and underrepresented communities, from cities and other appropriate jurisdictions, from community organizations and from experts in the field of climate change.

This document provides the purpose, structure, and protocols for the advisory body, hereafter referred to as the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (Commission).

Purpose

The Commission's charge is set forth in Board of Supervisors (Board) Resolution No. 20-114 as well as the Board May 4th, 2021 [staff report on the Commission](#). As specified in the emergency resolution, the Commission's primary purpose is to make recommendations guided by science, data, best practices, equity, and justice to the Board on the development and implementation of the Yolo County CAP. The CAP will include actionable County strategies to both mitigate climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the County's residents and natural resources from the increasing likelihood of significant climate change impacts. The Commission will research, identify, analyze, prioritize, and promote policies, projects, and programs which advance the goals contained in the September 2020 resolution, which sets a countywide target for obtaining a carbon negative (climate-positive) footprint by 2030. The CAP shall be delivered to the Board by March 1, 2022. Upon adoption, the Commission will advise Yolo County and the cities regarding implementation of the plan.

Membership

The Commission shall have nine to eleven voting members. The Commission has a finite limit on its voting members but does not include a membership limit for non-voting members that will participate in the development of the new CAP. Commission members will serve a minimum two-year term with a three-term limit. Commission officers will be responsible for administering and coordinating the Commission.

The Commission will receive support from County staff and the Board Subcommittee on Climate, who will serve as non-voting liaisons between the Commission and the Board. Additionally, one ex-officio non-voting representative from the University of California, Davis and one representative from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation will serve on the Commission. The Board may add additional ex-officio members at their discretion, including as a result of a Commission recommendation.

Member Selection

The Board appoints seven members, as shown in the table below. The five appointed supervisorial district community members and two Board appointed leads appoint the two at-large community members. The nine Commission members may appoint up to two additional climate scientists/subject matter experts. The Board or the Commission will also fill vacancies consistent with the process outlined in the table.

Category of membership	Number of members	Appointment	Voting status
Supervisorial District Community Members	5	Appointed by Board of Supervisors	Yes
At-large Community Members	2	Appointed by five supervisorial district community members	Yes
Technical Lead (Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert)	1	Appointed by Board of Supervisors with staff recommendation	Yes
Climate Scientists/Subject Matter Experts	2	Appointed by Commission	Yes
Environmental Justice Lead	1	Appointed by Board of Supervisors with staff recommendation	Yes
Total	9 - 11		

Member Duties

Commission members are volunteers who represent Yolo County's diversity and the landscape of community-based organizations working across the County. The Commission seated in 2021 recommended the Charter for approval by the Board and future Commissions may recommend updates to the Charter by a two thirds majority vote at any time. Members shall actively

participate in the work of the Commission, and will be responsible for making recommendations to the Board to update and implement Yolo County's CAP. The specific duties of Commission members include:

- Attend regular or ad-hoc Commission meetings as prescribed;
- Participate in at least one Working Group;
- Facilitate cooperation, communication, and active engagement of County stakeholders and institutional partners;
- Conduct research and develop proposals to inform the Yolo County CAP;
- Advise the County in setting policy and program priorities;
- Inform the development of metrics to measure the effectiveness Yolo County CAP strategies and help assess the impact of plans and projects;
- Inform the development of carbon footprint and ecological impact statements for relevant Yolo County commissions and Board agenda action items;
- Advocate for policies and programs at the state and federal level consistent with the County's goals;
- Elevate the visibility of the CAP through community outreach and engagement;

Member Resignation

Commission members are expected to serve their entire two-year term. Commission members who wish to resign before their term ends shall communicate their intention to resign to County Staff, the Commission Chair, and the Clerk of the Board in writing. When a vacancy occurs, the Chair of the Commission and/or County staff will work to appoint a new Commissioner per the member selection process described above. The Chair of the Commission will send a letter to any Commission member who is absent without reasonable cause from three successive meetings informing the member they have automatically resigned their seat. The Chair of the Commission and/or County staff will work to appoint a new Commissioner per the member selection process described above.

Officers

The Commission officers are the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Officers serve one-year terms. Commission members select a Chair from among the five Board-appointed Supervisorial District Community Members based on a majority vote. The Commission will select a Vice Chair and Secretary from among the members not appointed directly by a supervisorial district Supervisor, by a majority vote. Except for the first Officer appointments, which will take place at the second (Chair appointment) and third (Vice Chair and Secretary) Commission meeting, all future officer appointments shall take place at the last meeting of the calendar year.

The **Chair** shall:

- Facilitate Commission meetings;
- Set Commission agendas in coordination with other officers, County staff, and Board Subcommittee on Climate;

DRAFT for consideration by Commission at November 1, 2021 Commission meeting

- Help guide and mediate Commission actions with respect to Commission and the County's priorities;
- Appoint working group leads in consultation with other Commission members;
- Respond to recommendations and reports submitted to the Commission in coordination with other officers.

The **Vice Chair** shall:

- Co-facilitate Commission meetings with the Chair as needed and perform Chair responsibilities when the Chair is not available;
- Assist in guiding and mediating Commission actions with respect to program priorities and governance concerns;
- Perform any other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

The **Secretary** shall

- Provide full support as needed to Chair and Vice Chair to efficiently fulfill their responsibilities;
- Review meeting minutes on behalf of the Commission;
- Request approval of minutes of each Commission meeting;
- Ensure agenda and meeting materials are posted on the Commission web site;
- Perform any other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Commission Meetings

Meetings of the Commission shall be publicly noticed, open to the public and adhere to all the provisions as set forth in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et. seq.).

Regular Meetings

The Commission will hold regular meetings a minimum of six times per year. The Chair decides, in consultation with the Vice Chair, Secretary, and County staff, more frequent meetings are needed. The Secretary will provide members with at least a 15 day notice (and more commonly 30 days) of upcoming meetings. The public shall be notified of Commission meetings according to applicable law and County procedures. Meetings may be conducted by video or teleconference.

Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Commission may be held at any time upon the call of the Chair, the Vice Chair, or any quorum of the Commission. Notice of special meetings shall be in accordance with applicable law and County procedures.

Quorum

A majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Commission business. The Commission Chair shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum. A quorum must exist for any decisions or votes made or undertaken by the Commission. Should a quorum not exist, the Chair may, in the Chair's discretion, reflect in the meeting minutes any general discussion and any consensus of the Commission members present at the meeting.

Minutes

To reduce the administrative burden for Commission members, County staff are responsible for meeting minutes. Meeting minutes will include a summary of action items and decisions made by the Commission. County staff shall file the minutes of each meeting in a mutually accessible Commission folder in a cloud-based document management system and send an electronic copy to all Commission members within 72 hours after each meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for reviewing the meeting minutes on behalf of the Commission and facilitate the approval of meeting minutes at subsequent Commission meetings.

Recommendations and Decision-making

The Commission is established to enhance the strategic planning and effectiveness of Yolo County's CAP by providing recommendations and action proposals to the Board. The Commission will adhere to a simple majority model of decision-making. The final recommendation will be entered into the formal record of the discussion and formal recommendations on the CAP will be submitted in writing to the Board.

Conduct of Business

The business of the Commission shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

1. **Rosenberg's Rules of Order.** Commission meetings shall be governed by the Rosenberg's Rules of Order to the extent they are consistent with laws, County and Commission charter, and applicable County policies and procedures.
2. **Suspension of Rules.** Rules and procedures may be suspended by two thirds vote of the Commission members present. Only discussion may occur during suspension of rules. Rules must be reinstated prior to the Commission taking a formal action.
3. **Voting, Motions and Recording.** Voting on any matter shall be by voice vote. Upon request of any Commission member, the Secretary shall repeat the motion and name the mover and the seconder immediately preceding a vote by the Commission. There shall be no voting by proxy and each member, and the Chair shall be entitled to only one vote on any issue. Committee members shall personally participate in Commission meetings. Discussion and voting by electronic or other remote means is not permitted outside of Commission meetings.

Public Participation

All Commission meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held in locations that are accessible to the public per the Brown Act. The Chair may, subject to challenge by a majority of the members, permit or close public discussion on any agenda item. Public participation at a Commission meeting relative to specific agenda items should, to the extent possible, present new information not previously made available to the public. A speaker time limit may be enforced at the discretion of the Chair.

Working Groups

The May 2021 Yolo County Board staff report proposed a working group structure to support the work of the Commission. As described in that report, County staff envision the Commission will require its members to further action items between meetings and to report back on any progress at regularly scheduled Commission meetings. Staff intend to use working group meetings to facilitate conversations between the Commission and other agencies involved in matters related to climate change and sustainability, and to report on actions that Yolo County departments have planned or are currently involved in.

The process for creation, structure, and responsibilities of members of Commission working groups is described below.

Working Group Creation

- The Commission may establish ad hoc working groups focused on selected topics to advance the goals set forth by Resolution No. 20-114 at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- The Commission may ask community members with expertise in a particular area to join the working groups, including community members who applied to the Commission.
- One Commission member will serve as the Commission liaison for each working group and will be responsible for selecting members to serve on the working group, with concurrence from County staff and the Commission.
- The Commission liaison for each working group will ensure the appropriate level of expertise for each working group, either through the development of an application, and interview process, or other means of determining appropriate expertise to serve on the working group.

Working Group Members & Structure

- Yolo County staff will coordinate working group meetings, including development of agendas, materials, and meeting summaries. Yolo County staff also will follow up on action items.

- One Commission member must serve as the Commission liaison of each working group and be in attendance for each working group meeting. If they cannot attend, they must designate another Commission member to attend in their absence.
- Each working group will have a Chair responsible for coordinating meetings and agendas with County staff.
- Each working group will consist of no more than six members.
- Working groups will meet as needed.

Working Group Responsibilities

- Working groups will review each sector and recommend strategies and actions to advance and ensure consistency with Resolution No. 20-114 regarding the Climate Commission and updated Climate Action Plan and the existing Yolo County Climate Action Plan and develop realistic timelines for implementation.
- Commission working group liaisons are responsible for submitting findings and recommendations to County staff and the Commission in a written report.
- County staff may recommend revisions to working group strategies and actions to ensure the County can implement the proposals efficiently and effectively.
- Commission liaisons are responsible for reporting back on the progress of their working group at regularly scheduled Commission meetings.

Conflict of Interest

Commission members are expected to devote their best efforts to the interests of Yolo County. Since the Commission does not make fiscal decisions related to the operation of Yolo County, Commission members are not likely to encounter a financial conflict of interest. Yolo County recognizes all Commission members, as is expected and encouraged, work for external organizations. However, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, during Commission meetings, Commission members are expected to disclose any business dealings or personal interests which may create a conflict with the interests of the County.

Charter Amendments

The original Charter and all subsequent amendments must be approved by the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation by the Commission. All amendments to this Charter must be recommended for approval to the Board of Supervisors by a two thirds majority vote of Commission members present at the Commission meeting where approval is sought.

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 22nd, 2021
TO: Yolo County Climate Action Commission
FROM: Taro Echiburu, Director of Community Services
SUBJECT: Appointment of Yolo County Climate Action Commission Officers

Per the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (Commission) charter, the Commission will vote to select a Chair from among the five Supervisorial District Community Members. The appointment of the Chair will take place at the November 1st, 2021 Commission Meeting. The Commission will vote to select a Vice Chair and Secretary from among the members not appointed by Supervisors at the December 2021 Commission meeting. Commission members can nominate themselves or other members for Officer positions consistent with the requirements noted above. Officer votes will be public, and the motion to appoint a Commission officer will pass with a majority vote of Commission members.

Memorandum

DATE: November 1, 2021

TO: Yolo Climate Action Commission

FROM: Taro Echiburu, Department of Community Services

RE: Early Action Recommendations

This memo provides recommendations in support of “early actions” Yolo County (County) can pursue to advance greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and achieve the goals set forth in Resolution 20-114 Declaring a Climate Crisis in Yolo County (2020 Resolution). Early actions are “no-regret” projects that meet the following criteria:

1. The County must be able to work independently or with partners to complete the action by June 30, 2024 (approximately three years);
2. Early actions must advance implementation of the 2020 Resolution to achieve net negative carbon neutrality goal by 2030;
3. Early actions must be grounded in existing policies or listed in adopted plans;
4. Early actions benefit unincorporated areas of the County; and
5. Early actions can be funded and implemented in the near-term.

In addition to proposals being developed by County staff, the County solicited ideas from the Yolo County Climate Action Commission to compile a list of potential early actions, as well as derived strategies and actions from the County’s Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan. The early actions will advance the County’s goals listed in the 2020 Resolution, as well as the priorities set forth in the Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change Recommendations to Achieve Carbon Zero by 2045 in Sacramento and West Sacramento. These proposed early actions fall into four categories critical to advancing GHG reduction and a just transition: (1) transition to 100% renewable energy, (2) increase energy efficiency and electrification of buildings, (3) promote vehicle electrification and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and (4) promote carbon sequestration and energy/water efficiency in the agricultural sector; and 5) data collection.

Background

Yolo County has already engaged in significant efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, most significantly by working with the cities to direct growth to cities and minimize development in the unincorporated area. As a result of this prescient land use planning, 91% of Yolo County’s population (2020 Census) lives in the incorporated cities, reducing vehicle miles traveled and

otherwise contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional standards of growth, which often results in urban sprawl and loss of natural and working lands. In addition, Yolo County has developed less in the last decade in the unincorporated area than anticipated, including removing four out of five of the special planning areas in the County. One of these special planning areas, Dunnigan, would have added an additional 20,000 people in the unincorporated area, approximately doubling the current unincorporated population. The approach Yolo County used to manage growth is the preferred growth model in California as highlighted in the 2018 Strategic Growth Council "[Creating Sustainable Communities and Landscapes](#)" guidance document. Yolo County also is a founding member of the Valley Clean Energy, a community choice energy program which allows all four cities and Yolo County to purchase cleaner electricity for residents than would be possible with Pacific Gas & Electric. These policy decisions, as well as other actions detailed in the 2015 update to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the 2011 CAP, have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated area.

The 2011 CAP proposed five strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: 1) agriculture; 2) transportation and land use; 3) energy; 4) solid waste and wastewater; and 5) adaptation. This memo proposes early actions based on a review of these five strategies and associated actions, the 2015 update on implementation of the 2011 CAP presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, and staff knowledge of additional implementation work since 2015. The proposed early actions also take into consideration the work completed by the Mayor's Commission on Climate Change for the cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (Commission) review this list of proposed early actions at the November 1st Commission meeting. After confirming the proposed list is complete, County staff will ask Commission members to vote on their top five early actions. After Commission members vote on preferred early actions, the County will develop full project descriptions for early actions prioritized by the Commission and present them to the Commission at the December Commission meeting.

Transition to 100% Renewable Energy

- 1. Develop a plan to eliminate natural gas use in Yolo County operations.** Create a process and time schedule for eliminating natural gas use from county operations, including gas furnaces, gas hot water heaters, and gas-powered landscaping equipment. While working with other units of local government (such as cities, school districts, special districts, and UC Davis) is not a requirement of this project, such collaboration may enable Yolo County

to purchase new equipment as part of a consortium to which dealers might offer reduced prices. This concept was explored in a 2008 report, “Yolo County Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with County Operations.” The ideas expressed in that report are included in the recently completed Sustainability Plan, specifically Strategy AQ-1 (Action AQ 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3). The County would implement this measure in coordination with Valley Clean Energy.

- 2. Enroll all Yolo County municipal electric accounts not covered by existing County solar/renewable projects into Ultra Green via Valley Clean Energy.** Yolo County has installed solar to offset County electricity use and was one of two initial founding members of Valley Clean Energy. A report to the Valley Clean Energy Board of Directors from 2019 estimated Yolo County renewable energy projects only covered 2/3 of the electric accounts, however.

Increase Building Energy Efficiency and Electrification

- 3. Pass a mandate to increase electrification of all new buildings in unincorporated Yolo County.** Yolo County should require all new buildings in Yolo County to rely only on electricity, not fossil fuels. To achieve negative emissions in unincorporated Yolo County, the County must eliminate most, if not all, fossil fuel use in buildings.¹ The three basic approaches utilized by local government are: 1) express a preference to developers for all-electric construction (often with increased energy efficiency requirements for non-electric construction); 2) require electrification of buildings; and 3) ban natural gas in new buildings. Some mandates exclude specific uses such as commercial kitchens or labs. The County may facilitate this action by adopting a reach code, which would require new development to meet higher standards for energy efficiency. Reach codes can be prescriptive, requiring one or more specific energy efficiency measures, or performance-based, requiring a building to perform more efficiently based on modeling.² This project was listed in the County’s Sustainability Plan (Action BU-2.2: Phase out natural gas from new developments to require electrification of new homes).
- 4. Create a program to provide electric retrofits and natural gas appliance replacement rebates to existing residential homes within the low-income communities in unincorporated Yolo County.** Energy efficiency and electric retrofits will lower energy

¹ A summary of this subject and the approaches various jurisdictions in California utilize to electrify buildings is found at <https://valleycleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-11-BuildingElectrification-3-11-21.pdf>.

² More information about the process for Reach Code development & adoption is available [here](#).

bills, create local jobs, and improve indoor air quality and health-related issues by eliminating natural gas combustion in homes. The County could identify partners such as Grid Alternatives and Valley Clean Energy to co-develop a project to fund education and incentives for low-income households to replace appliances.. The County may consider partnering with local community-based organizations to conduct outreach and education.³ This project was listed in the County’s Sustainability Plan (Action BU-2.1-2.2), would support Measure E-3 of the 2011 CAP, and is listed as a recommended new measure/action in the 2015 CAP Progress Report.

- 5. Coordinate and host a CALGreen training session to assist with compliance of CALGreen standards.** The California Building Standards Commission provides training materials and ongoing code education opportunities throughout the state. Training can include the application of the California Building Standards Code, the California Green Building Standards Code for nonresidential occupancies, and the administrative public process required to develop and adopt Title 24. Training sessions can be requested via the education and outreach tab on their website. The Department of Community Services could coordinate such a training session to educate the community and contractors about strategies to comply with rapidly changing state requirements. This action was listed in the 2015 CAP Progress Report.
- 6. Mandate home energy labeling.** Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Home Energy Score is a standard, voluntary program that assesses a home’s energy use and provides a score on a one-to-ten scale. Seeing the score motivates homeowners, buyers, and sellers to improve the home’s energy efficiency and increase the score. This action would make Home Energy Score (HES) mandatory for homes when they are sold. The County could provide toolkits, checklists, and recommendations to homeowners to increase their efficiency, including a list of PG&E rebates and incentives. The County could hold webinars for real estate agents to educate them about HES and coordinate with job training programs to train assessors. This measure would be implemented in coordination with Valley Clean Energy.
- 7. Apply for funding to purchase tool upgrades that support an updated permitting system to properly track progress on energy efficiency.** It is difficult to monitor many energy-related measures of the CAP due to the lack of a proper monitoring system, such as a higher end permit system. Upgrading to a newer system to track and monitor

³ An example of an equity centered approach to existing building decarbonization can be found in the City of Berkeley’s recently completed plan:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3 - Energy_and_Sustainable_Development/Draft_Berkeley_Existing_Bldg_Electrification_Strategy_20210415.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Energy_and_Sustainable_Development/Draft_Berkeley_Existing_Bldg_Electrification_Strategy_20210415.pdf).

permits will reduce permit avoidance and help the County properly track progress on energy efficiency. This action was listed in the recommendations for the Energy Sector (pg. 57) of the 2015 CAP Progress Report.

Support Vehicle Electrification and VMT Reduction

- 8. Develop a ZEV master plan** that leverages significant region-wide work already completed on ZEV infrastructure planning to guide the optimal location, type, and equitable access of EV charging stations throughout the unincorporated County. The ZEV Master Plan could also include a specific section on proactive siting of charging infrastructure for the County fleet. Yolo County jointly applied with other local jurisdictions for a \$3 million Sacramento Area Council of Governments grant to install charging stations in key locations around Yolo County. Yolo County is slated to receive approximately \$700,000 to install the charging stations in the unincorporated area by June 2022. By creating a ZEV master plan, the County could develop a strategic network of public charging stations for the unincorporated area and to support the County fleet, including the installation of chargers at workplaces, multifamily housing developments, and community hubs. The ZEV master plan also could promote shared ZEV mobility services to enable residents to use clean-mobility options to meet their travel demands. This action could be supported by extensive community engagement to help people learn about electric vehicles, including partnerships with local organizations (e.g. Cool Davis) or demonstrations at local events (e.g. Yolo County Fair). The County’s Sustainability Plan includes implementation of EV charging stations.(Action AQ-1.1-1.2)
- 9. Identify funding opportunities to support the existing Yolo County procurement policy to require purchase of electric vehicles.** The Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved a procurement policy that requires Departments to replace vehicles at the end of their useful life with electric vehicles, unless the Department can demonstrate no appropriate electric vehicle exists for the designated use. This project was listed in the County’s Sustainability Plan (Action AQ-1.3).
- 10. Secure grants for design/engineering of active transportation improvements in Esparto.** Esparto’s 2019 Small Community Plan contains the goal to “improve active transportation and public transit facilities and routes through town and regionally,” including a complete sidewalk system, a multi-use path around town to connect schools and businesses, and a trail the length of Lamb Valley Slough to provide east to west access for non-motorized traffic. These improvements will encourage the over 3,000 residents of the town, as well as visitors, to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

11. Provide electric bicycles to low-income households in unincorporated Yolo County. In coordination with Valley Clean Energy or other partner, offer electric bikes for free or at a steep discount to low-income households in unincorporated Yolo County. This program could be complementary to the program to provide energy efficiency improvements in low-income households.

Promote Energy/Water Efficiency and Carbon Sequestration in the Agricultural Industry

12. Support submission of grant application(s) to explore carbon sequestration efforts through sustainable farming practices. Measure A-6 in the agriculture strategy of the 2011 CAP (p. 38) is “Sequester carbon in agricultural landscapes.” The actions to implement this measure included development of a program to allow developers to restore riparian forest and oak woodlands consistent with the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Yolo HCP/NCCP) to offset emissions from development, creating a program to allow developers to pay fees to assist the Resource Conservation District with implementation of on-farm conservation practices to offset emissions, and development of a tracking system for new orchards. Given the significant reduction in proposed unincorporated area development and the increase in funding at the state and federal level for carbon sequestration programs, the team recommends instead applying for a planning grant(s) to explore carbon sequestration efforts through sustainable farming practices to inform development of the updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The California Department of Conservation’s Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program provides funding for these types of planning efforts and could be a focus of a potential grant application.

13. Create a Conservation Reserve Program outreach program. This program would focus on outreach to farmers in Yolo County regarding the benefit of the Conservation Reserve Program. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, agricultural producers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program remove environmentally sensitive land from production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Land is enrolled in CRP for 10 to 15 years, with the option of re-enrollment. The U.S. Department of Agriculture updated the Conservation Reserve Program in 2021 to include higher payment rates, new incentives for environmental practices, and a more targeted focus on the program’s role in climate change mitigation.⁴ This included a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP general and continuous signups that aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce

⁴ The CRP continuous enrollment fact sheet is available here:
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/crp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf>

greenhouse gas emissions.⁵ This action is consistent with the Ecological Health element of the Yolo County Sustainability Plan, specifically Action EH-1.4: Develop a Carbon Sequestration Strategy.

- 14. Co-Host an Agricultural Pump Efficiency Workshop for replacing agricultural motors and pumps.** Measure A-3 of the agricultural strategy of the CAP (pg. 35) is “Reduce energy use in agricultural irrigation pumping.” The use of inefficient meters to pump water for agriculture has been identified as a major issue for the County, and old pumps need to be upgraded. There has been some progress on this measure since 2011, when the County hosted their first Agricultural Pump Efficiency Workshop (co-sponsored by PG&E, Yolo Energy Watch, and the Department of Agriculture). In addition, many farmers are investing in more energy efficient agricultural pump engines over time to comply with state mandates. The 2015 CAP Progress Report recommended the County host another workshop to ensure farmers are well-informed of the most recent incentives programs related to pump upgrades and standards.

Data Collection

- 15. Review existing data to address climate vulnerability issues.** This project would result in review of existing datasets, including CalEnviroScreen 4.0, supplemental racial analysis, and other data layers (relating to COVID, extreme heat, wildfire, drought, flooding, etc.). The data, together with a GIS layer showing county-owned property, could be used to identify potential county-owned sites for tree-planting, resilience centers, and other resilience/adaptation investments. The data and analysis could be made available to other governments in Yolo County and to nonprofits interested in doing resilience work.

⁵ Source: USDA October 12, 2021 <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-launches-first-phase-of-soil-carbon-monitoring-efforts-through-conservation-reserve-program-initiative>