

## 1. Contact Information

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## \* 2. Project Title or Category (*i.e. Affordable Housing, Child Care, etc.*)

Yolo County Climate Resilience Fund

## \* 3. Please provide a brief description of the funding proposal.

The Yolo County Climate Resilience Fund (“Climate Fund”) would utilize American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act resources allocated to Yolo County to meet the Act’s intended goal of providing a “substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a strong, more equitable economy” in Yolo County, consistent with Yolo County’s climate resiliency goals. Passed in September 2020, Yolo County’s Resolution No. 20-144 declared a climate crisis and acknowledged the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated social and economic disparities in communities throughout the County. The resolution creates the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (“Climate Commission”) to advise the County on the development and implementation of the Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. This proposal assumes the Climate Commission would advise the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on Climate Fund expenditures and Yolo County would coordinate with Valley Clean Energy to implement programs to the extent feasible.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Treasury’s *Interim Final Rule* and the *Compliance and Reporting Guidance* for use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, the County seeks to utilize the Climate Fund to assist households, businesses, and nonprofits in unincorporated communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to reduce ongoing costs through implementation of climate resiliency improvements and increase the energy efficiency of water and sewer infrastructure in unincorporated communities in the County. According to the *Interim Final Rule*, low-income communities, people of color, and Tribal low-income communities faced higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as higher rates of unemployment and lack of basic necessities like food and housing.<sup>1</sup> The Climate Fund therefore focuses on these communities in the unincorporated area within Yolo County and simultaneously advances the County’s climate resilience goals.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury Interim Final Rule on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Page 26787.

Yolo County staff propose to develop a grant strategy to maximize investments from the Climate Fund through December 31, 2024, the date by which Yolo County must obligate ARP funds per the *Interim Rule*. Specifically, County staff will strive to maximize ARP funds by raising up to \$20 million from state and federal grants for projects consistent with the Climate Fund between September 2021 and June 2023, using ARP funds in the Climate Fund as a match for these applications if feasible. Some federal grants do not allow the use of ARP funds as a match, so these grants may require other funding sources.

Climate Fund projects may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Provide owners of low-income multi-family and residential housing in Knights Landing, Dunnigan, Madison, and other unincorporated communities with funding for energy efficiency retrofits.** The Climate Fund could provide owners of low-income multi-family and residential housing with funds to improve the energy efficiency of affordable multi-family housing and residential homes in unincorporated communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore reducing the cost to low-income residents of heating and cooling and simultaneously reducing the demand for electricity and associated greenhouse gas emissions. To the extent feasible, County staff will coordinate this effort with Valley Clean Energy's low-income household energy retrofit program, which is countywide but could use an investment from the Climate Fund to specifically target residential buildings in the County's unincorporated area. This work will lower energy bills and create local jobs.
- 2. Fund "green" job training programs to help people in the unincorporated area of the County impacted by COVID-19.** According to the *Interim Rule*, "the effects of the pandemic-related recession may continue to impact households, including a risk of longer-term effects on earnings and economic potential...unemployed workers, especially those who have experienced longer periods of unemployment, earn lower wages over the long term once rehired." The Climate Fund could support work at the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency, educational institutions, or nonprofits to develop and implement job training programs in renewable energy or other fields for individuals living in the unincorporated community impacted by the COVID-19 recession. These job training programs could further help ensure businesses and industries working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have the labor force needed to achieve long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. To the extent feasible, County staff will work to support existing programs such as All Leaders Must Serve, AmeriCorps, CivicSpark, and AmeriCorps Climate Action Corps to expand job development and apprenticeship programs to mentor, train, and uplift disadvantaged and underrepresented youth in a variety of green career pathways in Yolo County.
- 3. Fund energy-efficiency improvements for small businesses associated with the hospitality industry impacted by COVID-19 in the unincorporated area of the County.** According to the *Interim Rule*, the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced, "an

approximately 24 percent decline in revenue and approximately 17 percent decline in employment nationwide.” The *Interim Rule* further states that “aid to tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted industries that responds to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency” is an eligible expense of ARP funds.<sup>2</sup> In coordination with Valley Clean Energy, the Climate Fund could provide resources for energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy use and electric vehicle charging stations, which would both decrease future operating costs for small businesses associated with the hospitality industry impacted by COVID-19 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**4. Provide aid to businesses associated with the agricultural industry impacted by COVID-19 by investing in carbon sequestration and energy/water efficiency activities.**

According to the *Interim Rule*, recipients may provide aid to “impacted industries.” In providing this aid, recipients should “consider the extent of the economic impact as compared to the tourism, travel, and hospitality...recipients should also consider whether impacts were due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as opposed to longer-term economic or industrial trends unrelated to the pandemic.”<sup>3</sup> Many farmers in agricultural communities of the County were significantly impacted by COVID-19. According to the California Employment Development Department, Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, and El Dorado Metropolitan Service Area saw a decrease of 20% in farm employment between April 2019 and April 2020. With the agricultural sector representing a significant electricity demand in the County, an investment in irrigation efficiency could provide significant greenhouse gas reductions, lower costs, support employment of essential workers, and jumpstart the recovery of the agricultural industry. Consistent with the Valley Clean Energy ARP proposal, the Climate Fund could support the Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program by providing matching funds to farmers to apply to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, as well as funding to support other projects. County staff also will ensure this aid effort is coordinated with the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District. The Climate Fund could also support investments in carbon sequestration activities on agricultural land, which also could result in cost savings for impacted farmers.

**5. Invest in energy and water-efficient water and sewer infrastructure.** The *Interim Rule* allows Yolo County broad latitude to fund water and sewer infrastructure with ARP funds. Yolo County has already identified a number of urgent water and sewer infrastructure projects in unincorporated communities for which the County will seek state and federal grant funding. To the extent the *Compliance and Reporting Guidance* allows the use of ARP funds as a match for state and federal grants, the Climate Fund could provide funding to ensure these projects incorporate the most energy and water-efficient technology available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Fund could also directly fund energy and water-efficiency improvements not funded by grants.

**6. Invest in other proposals to increase energy and water efficiency in the unincorporated area of the County which benefit individuals or industries impacted**

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 26822

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 26795

by COVID-19 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Fund description provided in this proposal does not include all potential climate resilient proposals eligible for ARP funding. The *Interim Rule* states, for example, the “Treasury encourages recipients to consider green infrastructure investments and projects to improve resilience to the effects of climate change.”<sup>4</sup> Yolo County staff may solicit proposals from the community for additional work to meet the twin goals of addressing economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and making investments in climate resiliency to advance the goals in the Yolo County Board of Supervisors 2020 resolution.

**4. What is the approximate cost of this funding proposal?**

\$5 million (includes \$500K in discretionary funds allocated to Yolo County as a result of lost revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic to provide resources for non-ARP eligible work, such as design/engineering or grant writing)

**5. Is this cost one-time or ongoing?**

One-time

**6. If ongoing, how will the program or activity be funded once the American Rescue Plan funds run out or expire?**

County staff will implement a Climate Fund grant strategy for the next four years that matches investments from the Climate Fund with state and federal grants to raise a total of \$20 million in outside funding. If this grant strategy is successful, County staff may request an additional investment in matching funds to continue the program past December 31, 2024, the date the County must obligate ARP funds.

**7. Which jurisdiction(s) would this proposal primarily serve?**

Unincorporated communities and rural areas in Yolo County.

**\* 8. Who would be responsible for implementing the funding proposal?**

Yolo County, in partnership with other funded entities

**\* 9. Does this proposal prevent or mitigate COVID-19?**

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, page 26803.

No. This proposal focuses on the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and water/sewer infrastructure improvements in the unincorporated area which simultaneously help achieve Yolo County climate resiliency goals.

**\* 10. Does this proposal address an economic harm caused or exacerbated by COVID-19?**

Yes. As described in this proposal, the establishment of the Climate Fund will directly address economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic to households, low-income communities, and small businesses. Potential Climate Fund projects will help small businesses create and improve access to green jobs and provide financial relief to low-income households and communities.

**\* 11. Does this proposal improve health or economic outcomes for communities or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes. As described in the proposal, the Climate Fund focuses on the unincorporated communities in Yolo County that are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**12. If you answered "Yes" to Question 11, please describe which disproportionately impacted communities or populations this proposal would serve.**

Yolo County staff will work with the Health and Human Services Agency to identify which unincorporated communities and populations in Yolo County are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but assumes these communities include Dunnigan, Knights Landing, Madison, Yolo, and other unincorporated communities.

**\* 13. Does this proposal provide for water, sewer or broadband infrastructure?**

Yes. As presented to the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021 during a discussion on drought impacts, Yolo County is actively pursuing grant funds for water and sewer infrastructure in unincorporated communities. The Climate Fund will ensure these projects include technology to maximize energy and water efficiency and therefore greenhouse gas emission reduction.

## Attachment B

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>First choice</b>	<b>Second choice</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>
<b>Anna Constantino</b>	3	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Woodland
<b>Bernadette Austin</b>	1	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	West Sacramento
<b>Debapriya Chakrabort</b>	4	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Gerald Braun</b>	4	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Greg Price</b>	1	At-large Community Member	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	West Sacramento
<b>John Berg</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Ken Britten</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Winters
<b>Mariah Padilla</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Marina Franceschi</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	Supervisory District Community Member (District 2)	Davis
<b>Pelayo Alvarez</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Trisha Ramadoss</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Alan Pryor</b>	4	At-large Community Member	Subject Matter Expert	Davis
<b>Alexandra Larman</b>	4	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Angela Thompson</b>	3	At-large Community Member	Subject Matter Expert	Woodland
<b>Denise Sagara</b>	5	At-large Community Member		Woodland
<b>Grace Kaufman</b>	1	At-large Community Member		West Sacramento
<b>Katie Oran</b>	4	Supervisory District Community Member (District 4)	At-large Community Member	Davis
<b>Logan Legg</b>	2	At-large Community Member		Winters
<b>Lupita Torres</b>	4	Applicant is unsure		Davis
<b>Reginald White</b>	4	At-large Community Member		Davis
<b>Sarah McCullough</b>	2	Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert	At-large Community Member	Winters
<b>Scott Steward</b>	4	At-large Community Member		Davis
<b>Thomas Cronin</b>	2	At-large Community Member		Davis
<b>Zoe Kanavas</b>	4	At-large Community Member		Davis
<b>Jeanna Wirka</b>	2	At-large Community Member	Subject Matter Expert	Davis
<b>Cliff Feldheim</b>	1	At-large Community Member	Subject Matter Expert	West Sacramento

## DRAFT CHARTER OF THE YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION (YCCAC)

*Yolo County Climate Action Commission Charter***Table of Contents:**

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## Introduction

On September 29, 2020, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a resolution declaring a climate crisis requiring an urgent and inclusive mobilization of countywide 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 and to advise Yolo County and its partners on 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 purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Board on the development and implementation of the Yolo County CAP. The Commission will focus on developing proposals that advance the goals contained in the September 2020 Resolution, which sets a countywide target for obtaining a carbon negative (climate-positive) footprint by 2030.

## 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 process to update the CAP. Commission members will serve a minimum two-year term with an unlimited number of terms. Commission officers will be responsible for administering and coordinating the Commission.

The Commission will receive administrative support from County staff and be supported by the Board Subcommittee on Climate, who would serve as non-voting liaisons between the commission and the remaining County Board of Supervisors. Additionally, one Ex-Officio non-voting member representative from the University of California, Davis would serve on the Commission. Upon implementation, there may be additional Ex-Officio members designated by the Board of Supervisors upon request by staff or the YCCAC.



## Member Selection

The Board appointed seven members, which include five supervisorial community members, one environmental justice lead, and one technical lead. The five appointed supervisorial district community members will appoint the two at-large community members. After the appointment of the two at-large community members, the nine Commission members will decide if they want to appoint up to two climate scientists/subject matter experts.

New Commission member candidates can be nominated by the same process as stipulated by the Board of Supervisors Subcommittee on Climate for the creation of the Commission, as outlined in the table below:

<b>Category of membership</b>	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Voting status</b>
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 Scientists/Subject Matter Experts)	1	Appointed by Board of Supervisors with staff recommendation	Yes
Climate Scientists/Subject Matter Experts	2	Appointed by YCCAC	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 nine members are responsible for formally adopting the charter. Members shall actively participate in the work of the Commission, and will be responsible for making recommendations to the Board to carry out 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;

## DRAFT CHARTER OF THE YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION (YCCAC)

- Facilitate cooperation, communication, and active engagement of County stakeholders and institutional partners;
- Offer recommendations for the improvement of the Yolo County CAP;
- Assist the County in setting policy and program priorities;
- Inform evaluative functions of the Yolo County CAP and help assess the impact of plans and projects;
- Support and advocate for the Yolo County CAP by helping to elevate the visibility of the CAP through community outreach and engagement;

### Officer Duties

All Commission officers below shall be selected from among the voting members of the Commission by a simple majority vote at the first meeting of the new membership year.

The **Chair** shall:

- Facilitate Commission meetings;
- Set Commission agendas in coordination with other officers, County staff, and Board of Supervisors Subcommittee on Climate;
- Help guide and mediate Commission actions with respect to Commission and the County's priorities;
- Appoint committee chairpersons, 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.
- Take and request approval of minutes of each Commission meeting;
- Prioritizes minutes to support follow up activities and items of significance;
- Facilitate the review of meeting minutes at subsequent Commission meetings and ensure that minutes are approved by the Commission.

## Member Resignation

Commission members are expected to fill the duration of their two-year term. Commission members who wish to resign before their term ends shall communicate their intentions to resign to both the Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Board in writing. When a vacancy occurs, the Clerk shall immediately notify the Board of Supervisors, which, in a timely manner, will appoint a new Committee member to fill the vacated position for the unexpired term.

Commission members who are absent without reasonable cause from three successive meetings will be deemed to have resigned their seat. The Commission will move to select a new member at the following Commission meeting to fill the seat of any resigning member.

## 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 six times per year, unless the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary indicate a need to have more frequent Commission meetings. The Secretary will provide members with at least 15 days 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 virtual.

### Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Committee may be held at any time upon the call of the Chair, the Vice Chair, or any quorum of the Committee. 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, report any general discussions and any consensus of the Committee members present at the meeting.

## Minutes

Meeting minutes of each Commission meeting will be kept by the Secretary. Meeting minutes will include a summary of action items and decisions made by the Commission. The Secretary 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 and County staff within 72 hours after each meeting.

## 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 simple majority vote of the Commission members present
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.

## Public Participation

All Commission meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held in locations that are accessible to the public. 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 Commission Chair may appoint or dissolve working groups of the Commission, subject to the Commission approval. Working groups must have a minimum of two Commission members. Working groups may establish their own process protocols for decision making and will keep written records of decisions. Working groups will report out on their progress at regular Commission meetings. The Commission will develop proposals from working groups to make recommendations to the Board for action items needed to implement Yolo County's CAP.

Topics for subcommittees will be determined by the Commission with input from the community may include, but are not limited to:

1. Greenhouse gas reduction in the areas of:
  - a. Energy
  - b. Solid Waste
  - c. Land use and development
  - d. Transportation
2. Carbon storage
  - a. Forestry
  - b. Agriculture
3. Community resilience
4. Equity and environmental justice
5. Community outreach and education

## Charter Amendments

All changes to this charter must be approved by a majority vote of Commission members present at the Commission meeting where approval is sought, and must receive consent from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

**DRAFT**

Proposed Yolo County Climate Action Commission Working Group Structure  
September 1, 2021

**BACKGROUND**

The May 2021 Yolo County Board of Supervisors staff report on the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (Commission) related to a proposed working group structure:

“The Yolo County Climate Action Commission would be able to create project specific working groups to advance the goals set forth by the emergency resolution declaring a climate crisis, which outlined specific need for representation from and engagement to vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved communities, and the need to create a new Climate Action Plan to achieve a carbon negative footprint by 2030. The working groups would not require technical experience in the sense of needing to be formally educated on a topic to be considered a subject matter expert. While not an exhaustive list, staff contemplates that the working groups could include such topics as Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, Mobility, Agriculture, Energy, and Metrics. Once the YCCAC is fully empaneled, the group would be able to create working groups as the need arises and projects are identified.

As described, staff envision the YCCAC as a working group that will require its members to participate on action items in between meetings and to report back on any progress at regularly scheduled advisory body meetings. Staff intend to use the group’s meetings to facilitate conversations between the group 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, so that engagement is embedded into the group’s processes.”

**PROPOSAL**

**Working Group Creation**

- The Yolo County Climate Action Commission would establish ad hoc working groups focused on selected topics to advance the goals set forth by the emergency resolution at a regularly scheduled meeting. Working group topics may include, but are not limited to, Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, Mobility, Agriculture, Energy, and Metrics.
- 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.
- A Commission member will serve as the lead for each working group and will be responsible for selecting members to serve on the working group, with input from County staff and the Commission.
- The Commission will request background information for all potential working group members to ensure the appropriate level of expertise for each working group.

### **Working Group Responsibilities**

- Working groups will review each sector and recommend strategies and actions to advance and ensure consistency with the Emergency Climate Resolution and the existing Yolo County Climate Action Plan and develop realistic timelines for implementation. All working groups are responsible for submitting a set of findings and recommendations to County staff and 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 working group leads are responsible for reporting back on the progress of their working group at regularly scheduled Commission meetings

### **Working Group Members & Structure**

- Yolo County staff or consultants will coordinate working group meetings, including development of agenda, materials, and meeting summaries. Yolo County staff also will follow up on action items.
- One Commission member must serve as the lead of a working group and be in attendance for each working group meeting. If they cannot attend, they must assign another Commission member to attend in their absence.
- Working groups will be composed of no more than six volunteer members
- Working groups will meet as needed, but least five times throughout the development of the Climate Action Plan