

Yolo County 2022-2025 **CLIMATE EARLY ACTION GRANT STRATEGY**

JUNE 2022

PREPARED BY:

CONSEROSOLUTIONS



**Farallon
Strategies**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Taro Echiburu, Director of Community Services and Public Works, Yolo County
Kristen Wraithwall, Sustainability Manager, Yolo County

FROM: Petrea Marchand, President, Consero Solutions
Jenn McKenzie, Senior Consultant, Consero Solutions

RE: 2022-2025 Grant Strategy

DATE: June 10, 2022

The Yolo County 2022–2025 Climate Early Action Grant Strategy (“Grant Strategy”) matches grant opportunities to five early action projects approved by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and supported by the Yolo County Climate Action Commission to help achieve the goal of Resolution 20-114, a 2020 resolution which commits Yolo County to achieve a just economic recovery and transition to a countywide carbon negative footprint by 2030:

- Carbon Farming Partnership
- Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach Program
- Home Energy Labeling
- Inventory and Feasibility Study to Remove Fossil Fuels from Yolo County Operations
- Zero Emission Vehicle Master Plan

These five projects are part of a suite of seven early actions focused on sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in unincorporated Yolo County. Yolo County is pursuing funding for these early actions, termed “early” because implementation will start while Yolo County is working on updating the Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, to ensure Yolo County makes expeditious progress to address the climate crisis and secures funding available from state, federal, and regional sources to leverage Yolo County’s existing investment of staff time and resources.

The grant opportunities presented in the Grant Strategy represent funding opportunities the County is considering. The County will decide to apply within six months of the application due date based on criteria such as whether institutional capacity exists (either in Yolo County or with partners) to manage the grant and project, as well as write the grant. The Grant Strategy does not include the Yolo Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Program and the 100% Renewable Electricity Accounts because no grant funding has been identified for these early actions. Yolo County instead is working with the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District to expand the existing Funding Agriculture Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural equipment, trucks, and engines with American Rescue Plan funds. Yolo County also is working to identify an internal (i.e. General Fund) contribution to implement the 100% Renewable Energy Accounts early action.

The Grant Strategy is dynamic. As such, Yolo County will update this Grant Strategy as necessary to reflect new grant opportunities and changing priorities and will report on implementation progress to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Climate Action Commission.

OVERVIEW

CARBON FARMING PARTNERSHIP



Description

The Center for Land-Based Learning is partnering with the Yolo Resource Conservation District, the Yolo Land Trust, and the Carbon Cycle Institute to rapidly increase the scale of carbon farm planning in Yolo County, including completing three model carbon farm plans and educating growers about the climate and soil health benefits of proven conservation practices. This early action is a two-year effort which will provide Yolo County growers with tools, training, and technical assistance to develop and implement carbon farm plans and other practices to reduce carbon emissions and sequester carbon.

Strategy

Yolo County allocated \$149,845 in American Rescue Plan funds to this early action and has asked the Center for Land-Based Learning to apply for grants to extend the planning process to a third year, to continue outreach to growers and additional carbon farm plan development. Yolo County has also asked the Yolo County Resource Conservation District to apply for grants to support implementation of conservation practices. The California Department of Food and Agriculture offers grants directly to growers for implementation of such practices, but the Yolo County Resource Conservation District and Yolo County may need to assist growers with applying for these funds. The grant strategy focuses on applying for a planning grant in the first year and helping growers apply for implementation grants in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

POTENTIAL GRANTS

CARBON FARMING PARTNERSHIP

FY 2022-2023

- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program**
 - Supports development of agriculture conservation plans that promote climate smart agriculture practices, mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, adapt to climate change impacts and promote environmental and agriculture sustainability.
 - Anticipated due date: Final guidelines released in July/August
 - Maximum funding request: \$250,000

FY 2023-2024

- **Zero Foodprint - Restore California Grant Program**
 - Provides funding to support farmers at all scales to transition to regenerative farming, diversify their marketing to decentralize supply chains, and practice fair labor practices.
 - Anticipated due date: June 7 to August 8, 2022
 - Maximum funding request: \$25,000
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - Healthy Soils Incentives Program**
 - Provides financial incentives to growers to implement agriculture management practices to sequester carbon, reduce emissions, and improve soil health.
 - Anticipated due date: Rolling, November 2023 to February 2024
 - Maximum funding request: \$100,000
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - Healthy Soils Demonstration Projects**
 - Provides funding for implementation of projects which implement conservation management practices, measure greenhouse gas emissions, and conduct analysis on cost/benefits for adoption of proposed practices and anticipated barriers.
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: \$250,000

POTENTIAL GRANTS

CARBON FARMING PARTNERSHIP

FY 2023-2024

- **United States Department of Agriculture - Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
 - Provides funding for producers who improve and sustain a natural resource on their farming operation by implementing structural, and vegetative management practices.
 - Anticipated due date: Applications are accepted continuously, but must be submitted by April to be considered for funding August
 - Maximum funding request: Applicant cannot receive more than \$450,000 over a six-year period
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - State Water and Energy Efficiency Program**
 - Provides funding to growers to incentivize activities that reduce on-farm water use and reduce emissions from irrigation and water pumping systems.
 - Anticipated due date: Rolling, October 2023 to January 2024
 - Maximum funding request: \$200,000

FY 2024-2025

- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - Healthy Soils Program**
 - Anticipated due date: Rolling, November 2024 to February 2025
 - Maximum funding request: \$100,000
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - Healthy Soils Demonstration Projects**
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: \$250,000
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture - State Water and Energy Efficiency Program**
 - Anticipated due date: Rolling, October 2024 to January 2025
 - Maximum funding request: \$200,000

OVERVIEW

ELECTRIFICATION RETROFIT REBATE OUTREACH PROGRAM



Description

This early action will create a two-year program in partnership with Valley Clean Energy to inform and provide technical assistance to low-income households in unincorporated Yolo County so they may access a new \$1 billion state rebate program proposed in the 2022-23 state budget, as well as other related electrification retrofit rebates for existing residential homes. This program will also provide outreach and education to contractors about these rebates. Energy efficiency and electric retrofits will lower energy bills, create local jobs, and improve indoor air quality and health-related issues by eliminating natural gas combustion in homes.

Strategy

Yolo County estimates this two-year outreach effort will cost \$350,000 to \$450,000, including \$50,000 to develop an outreach strategy and \$150,000 to \$200,000/year to implement the strategy. There is limited grant funding available for outreach efforts, but the state is funding work to increase the capacity of community-based organizations to help "under-resourced communities" adapt to climate change. Yolo County will both work with Valley Clean Energy to apply for grants to fund this program and work through regional collaboratives to develop the capacity of community organizations to assist with outreach, using \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan funds for both initial start-up costs and matching funds.

POTENTIAL GRANTS

ELECTRIFICATION RETROFIT REBATE OUTREACH PROGRAM

FY 2022-2023

- **California Strategic Growth Council - Regional Collaboratives Program Round 1**
 - Provides funding to build capacity of under-resourced communities to secure funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Proposed projects must develop actionable plans and projects, build social infrastructure, center community engagement and decision making and develop equity-centered processes.
 - Yolo County may submit this early action as a potential activity for inclusion in a proposal led by community-based organizations, in partnership with regional agencies, to ensure competitiveness; if there is insufficient time in 2022-23 to apply, Yolo County will work with partners to apply in 2023-24
 - Due date: Pre-proposal due July 2022; full application due October 2022
 - Maximum funding request: \$1,750,000
- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Adaptation Planning Grant**
 - New program; no information available yet.
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines not yet released, anticipated July 2022 release
 - Maximum funding request: TBD
- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Community Resilience and Heat Grant Program**
 - New program; no information available yet.
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines not yet released, anticipated July 2022 release
 - Maximum funding request: TBD

POTENTIAL GRANTS

ELECTRIFICATION RETROFIT REBATE OUTREACH PROGRAM

FY 2023-2024

- **California Strategic Growth Council - Regional Collaboratives Program Round 2**
 - Yolo County will work with partners to apply for this program in 2023-24 if there is insufficient time in 2022-23.
 - Anticipated due date: Summer 2023
 - Maximum funding request: \$1,750,000
- **Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant**
 - Provides funding to help local governments reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. Eligible uses include development and implementation of an energy efficiency strategy and development of rebates for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure.
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines released in fall 2022
 - Maximum funding request: TBD; \$550 million total available

FY 2024-2025

- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Adaptation Planning Grant**
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: TBD
- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Community Resilience and Heat Grant Program**
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: TBD

OVERVIEW

HOME ENERGY LABELING



Description

This early action will create a mandatory home energy labeling program for homes listed for sale in the unincorporated area based on the federal Home Energy Score Program. Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Home Energy Score assesses a home's energy use and provides a score on a one-to-ten scale. The score motivates homeowners, buyers, and sellers to improve the home's energy efficiency and increase the score. The County will apply for funding to provide toolkits, checklists, and recommendations to homeowners to increase their efficiency, including a list of Pacific Gas & Electric Company rebates and incentives. The action will also evaluate options to subsidize the cost of home energy assessments for low-income households.

Strategy

Given the significant number of funding opportunities for other early actions, limited staff resources, and the need to conduct research and outreach to scope the program design and implementation, Yolo County will wait to apply for grants to implement this program until 2023-24. Pacific Gas & Electric Company has also indicated they may fund this program statewide, so Yolo County should also wait a year in case Pacific Gas & Electric company decides to fund the program. Yolo County will then apply for funding to develop the materials needed to help homeowners access funding for electrification retrofits and implement other options to improve Home Energy Scores.

OVERVIEW

HOME ENERGY LABELING

FY 2022-2023

- Yolo County will not apply for grants to implement this program in 2022-23.

FY 2023-2024

- **California Strategic Growth Council - Regional Collaboratives Program Round 2**
 - Provides funding to build the capacity of under-resourced communities to secure funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Proposed projects must develop actionable plans and projects, build social infrastructure, center community engagement and decisions making and develop equity-centered processes.
 - Yolo County will work with partners and community-based organizations to include assistance to low-income households to improve home energy scores as part of any regional collaborative.
 - Anticipated due date: Summer 2023
 - Maximum funding request: \$1,750,000

FY 2024-2025

- TBD

OVERVIEW

INVENTORY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY TO REMOVE FOSSIL FUELS FROM YOLO COUNTY OPERATIONS



Description

Yolo County will develop an inventory of all fossil fuel uses in County operations and assess the feasibility of removing these fossil fuels from use, as well as the existing electrical system service capacity in County buildings. The feasibility study will include an evaluation of building readiness to electrify based on current electrical capacity and total energy requirements, priorities for electrification, cost estimates, and a proposed process for measuring greenhouse gas emission reduction, potential funding sources, and a proposed timeline.

Strategy

Yolo County estimates the cost of developing the inventory and feasibility study is at least \$250,000. Yolo County will apply for grants in 2022-23 and implement the inventory and feasibility study as soon as the grant contract is executed. If Yolo County is not successful with grant applications in 2022-23, Yolo County will apply again in 2023-24. Yolo County will apply for funds to implement feasible actions once the inventory and study are complete.

POTENTIAL GRANTS

INVENTORY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY TO REMOVE FOSSIL FUELS FROM YOLO COUNTY OPERATIONS

FY 2022-2023

- **California Energy Commission – Energy Partnership Program**
 - This grant provides funding for local agencies to conduct feasibility studies, prepare energy audits, assist with contractor selection, review existing proposals, and designs and review plans.
 - Anticipate due date: Rolling
 - Maximum funding request: \$20,000
- **Federal Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant**
 - Provides funding to help local governments reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. Eligible uses include development and implementation of an energy efficiency strategy and development of rebates for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure.
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines released in fall 2022
 - Maximum funding request: TBD; \$550 million total available
- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Adaptation Planning Grant**
 - New program; no information available
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines not yet released, anticipated July 2022 release
 - Maximum funding request: TBD
- **Office of Planning and Research – Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program - Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program**
 - New program; no information available
 - Anticipated due date: Guidelines not yet released, anticipated July 2022 release
 - Maximum funding request: TBD

POTENTIAL GRANTS

INVENTORY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY TO REMOVE FOSSIL FUELS FROM YOLO COUNTY OPERATIONS

FY 2023-2024

- **Federal Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant**
 - Yolo County will apply for implementation of feasible actions identified because of the inventory and the study.
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: TBD; \$550 million available in total

FY 2024-2025

- **Federal Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant**
 - Yolo County will apply for implementation of feasible actions identified because of the inventory and the study.
 - Anticipated due date: TBD
 - Maximum funding request: TBD; \$550 million available in total

OVERVIEW

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE MASTER PLAN



Description

The Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Master Plan will include the following components: 1) an analysis of existing conditions of the charging/fueling network and , recommendations for siting additional charging stations; 2) an inventory of the existing Yolo County fleet ZEV needs and a timeline for transitioning the fleet to ZEV; 3) a community outreach strategy developed in partnership with community-based organizations, and 4) recommendations for establishing ZEV mobility services (including electric bikes) for residents and businesses in the unincorporated area to enable residents, particularly farmworkers and rural residents, to use clean-mobility options to meet their travel demands.

Strategy

Yolo County will apply for a state grant to develop a ZEV Master Plan, estimated to cost approximately \$250,000. The CalTrans Sustainable Communities Grant Program is a strong match for this early action, and other jurisdictions (e.g., San Joaquin County) have received funding from this program for a similar effort in the past.

POTENTIAL GRANTS

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE MASTER PLAN

FY 2022-2023

- **CalTrans - Sustainable Communities Grant Program**
 - Provides funding for local and regional land use planning projects that contribute to greenhouse gas emission reduction, including studies or plans that advance a community's efforts to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Anticipate due date: October 2022
 - Maximum funding request: \$700,000

FY 2023-2024

- **Caltrans - Sustainable Communities Grant Program**
 - Yolo County will apply again for the Sustainable Communities Grant Program if not successful in 2022-23.
 - Anticipated due date: October 2024
 - Maximum funding request: \$700,000

FY 2024-2025

- **None**

