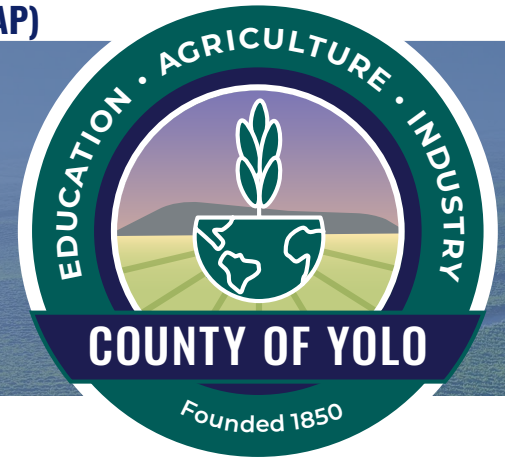


# WORKSHOP SERIES #1 SUMMARY



## OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOPS

On June 20, 21, and 22, 2023, the Yolo County Sustainability Division, the Yolo County Climate Action Commission, and the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Committee hosted the first round of public workshops for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Approximately 40 community members participated in the series, providing input on how Yolo County communities are experiencing climate impacts, what actions community members feel the County should take to address climate change, and what actions individuals are willing to take to reduce their own emissions. This document provides a high-level summary of the key takeaways from the first round of workshops.

To learn more about the CAAP and to stay involved, visit [www.YoloCAAP.org](http://www.YoloCAAP.org).

## Participant Concerns

- ▲ **DISPROPORTIONATE COMMUNITY IMPACTS:** Participants identified that climate changes impact the social fabric, cultural practices, and economic stability of communities in Yolo County. Participants identified that marginalized communities often bear a disproportionate burden of these frequent climate impacts. Participants requested that the climate resilience measures of the CAAP be built in collaboration with community partners, recorded and reported transparently, driven by an inclusive decision-making process that integrates the diverse voices of Yolo County, and tailored to the needs of marginalized communities.
- ▲ **EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:** Storms and extreme heat are the climate impacts of greatest concern. Participants cited concerns regarding the following:
  - Flooding and infrastructure damage due to storms
  - Power outages and droughts due to extreme heat
  - Wildfires

- ▲ **ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION AND LOSS:** Participants shared that they have seen noticeable habitat loss, biodiversity decline, and decreased wildlife sightings in Yolo County.
- ▲ **INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITATIONS:** Participants shared concerns around limited broadband reliability in the unincorporated area, limited/unequal access to public transportation and electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and unsafe bike routes throughout the County. These infrastructure and community resource limitations impact community resilience, wellbeing, and participation in public processes.

## Coping Mechanisms and Community Engagement

- ▲ **INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS:** Many participants shared that they are already/willing to electrify homes, utilize public transportation, bike, recycle, and switch to sustainable products.
  - Participants expressed frustration with the emphasis on individual actions that can't be completed without infrastructural support (example: utilizing public transit, making home electrification easier to access). See **Climate Resiliency Requests** below.
- ▲ **COMMUNITY SUPPORT REQUESTS:** There was a strong emphasis on respecting the unique needs and perspectives of unincorporated and disadvantaged/marginalized communities. Participants requested support and resources tailored to their specific circumstances.
  - **Community Collaboration:** Respondents emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership between the County and various interested parties, including community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions, to implement effective climate change policies and projects.
    - The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation faces challenges from extreme heat, drought, and flooding, impacting agriculture, economic stability, and air quality for farmworkers. The tribe seeks inclusion in the CAAP to address community needs.

- **Data Transparency:** Participants expressed a lack of clear understanding of the County’s jurisdictional power, which limits the ability of community members to support climate action planning.
- **Sector-Specific Requests**

### **SCHOOLS:**

- Request that schools be more walkable.
- Request that school climate goals align with the County’s.

### **AGRICULTURE:**

- Request for hazard pay (ex: 1.5x) when weather conditions are dangerous, like when air quality is poor due to wildfires.
- Request that mass transit be incentivized.
- Overarching request for better engagement with farmers to incentivize behavioral changes and sustainable agricultural practices.

## **Climate Resiliency Requests**

### **▲ INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

- **Electrify Yolo:** Many participants expressed a willingness to transition to home electrification but don’t have access (some folks shared barriers to electrifying, particularly in the unincorporated areas).
  - Request that electrification be more accessible by providing additional technical assistance, outreach, and support in the unincorporated areas.
  - Request that electricity come from local clean energy to help buffer the power outages during extreme weather events.
  - Request for more electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Support Public Transit:** Many participants shared that they are willing to bike or utilize public transportation or mass transit to work/school.
  - Request that bike lanes be expanded.

- Request that mass transit be incentivized to improve traffic management on I-80.
- Voiced concern that schools are not accessible by current modes of public transportation.
- Request for **flood control and stormwater management infrastructure**.
- **Building Upgrades:** Participants requested that building codes be revised to promote energy efficiency and solar generation.
  - Recommend that building standards be “Zero Code.”
  - Request that the increased cost of upgrades doesn’t disenfranchise low-income families.

## ▲ ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

- **Habitat Conservation:** Participants were concerned about decreased wildlife sightings and habitat loss.
  - Request for wildlife corridors and protection of natural habitats.
  - Request to plant native oaks along county roads as a carbon sink opportunity.

## ▲ COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

- Request for resilience hubs, cooling centers, and backup generators/alternative energy sources.
- Request for targeted outreach and educational campaigns to raise awareness about actions that can make a difference, resources for sustainable living, and proactive behavioral changes.
- Identified barriers around lack of funding, technical expertise, and fear of change.
  - Request for internet infrastructure and digital literacy support. Identified lack of computers or internet access as a barrier to participate in the CAAP.
  - Participants cited that the CAAP workshops may be more accessible online than in person, and that word-of-mouth on the workshop has the greatest access.
    - Request for ASL accessibility at workshops.



- Identified inequity in participation in CAAP due to lack of awareness regarding institutions/resources, basic needs not being met, transient nature of Yolo County, lack of community resources to participate, intimidation factor, and disconnect between scientific facts and daily life.

## ▲ SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Request for increased landfill access for frequent toxic waste disposal.
- Request for support to local clean energy initiatives.
- Request for enhanced water conservation practices.