

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: CITIES' CLIMATE ACTION PLANS (CAP) - Dec. 12, 2017

What is a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

- Describes actions, policies, programs, and cost-effective projects that a city can take to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Allows cities to lower their GHG emissions, reduce energy costs, protect air quality, and improve public health, the economy, and the environment.
- Serves as a visioning document for cities to support policies, regulatory documents, and administrative processes

State Goals

California has set ambitious goals for reducing GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING IN THE SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) has been working with its 15-member cities on climate action planning in the South Bay since 2008. When embarking on this project, the SBCCOG recognized that while many of its member cities wanted to initiate climate action planning, they did not have the resources, budget, or staff to devote to such activities. As a result, the SBCCOG took a sub-regional approach to the management and coordination of developing CAPs.

Sponsored through grants from Southern California Gas, Southern California Edison, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the State's Strategic Growth Council, the SBCCOG worked in collaboration with its member cities to maximize resources, save time, and maintain a consistent approach to the method, process, and resulting product.

Working with the SBCCOG and technical experts, the South Bay cities completed GHG emission inventories using the International Council for Local Environmental Affairs (ICLEI) process and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) methodology.

The cities also set targets and identified strategies to reduce GHG emissions. The South Bay cities are now completing their CAPs and the SBCCOG is planning to work with them on implementation strategies.



Climate Action Plan Chapters



LUT - Strategies to Lower Vehicle Miles Traveled, including: Sustainable South Bay Strategy, pedestrian and neighborhood development, zero emission vehicle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, public transit service, and reductions in single-occupancy vehicle use.



EE - Strategies to Reduce Energy Usage including: energy efficiency retrofits for existing buildings, energy performance requirements for new construction, water efficient landscaping, financing programs that will allow home and business owners to obtain low-interest loans for implementing energy efficiency in their buildings.



SW – Focus on increasing waste diversion and encouraging recycling and composting including strategies for education about opportunities to divert waste, food scrap diversion programs, recycling, and reuse of goods.



UB – Strategies to create “carbon sinks” as they store GHG emissions that are otherwise emitted into the atmosphere as well as support health of the community. Strategies include: creating and maintaining parks and community gardens and planting trees.



EGS – Strategies that demonstrate the commitment to support the implementation of clean, renewable energy while decreasing dependence on traditional, GHG emitting power sources.

For more information visit:
<http://www.southbaycities.org/programs/climate-action-planning>