



**DATE:** September 8, 2022

**TO:** Programs and Administration Committee  
Planning Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Emily Alvarez, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Member Agency Climate Action Plan Support Update

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## **SUMMARY**

The jurisdictions in Alameda County have adopted Climate Action Plans (CAPs) that outline strategies and priorities to mitigate climate change. Several jurisdictions recently updated their CAPs with goals and strategies for deeper emissions reductions or carbon neutrality to align with new target years and State goals. This presentation will provide an overview of the support that StopWaste provides to member agencies to develop and implement these plans, including technical assistance, peer sharing, and programs and policies that advance the priorities in the CAPs.

## **DISCUSSION**

The State of California has set increasingly ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and slow climate change since Assembly Bill (AB) 32 was passed in 2006. Whereas AB 32 required incremental actions to bring emissions back to 1990 levels, the State's new goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 acknowledges the intensifying climate emergency and the need for a fundamental rethinking of the systems that significantly contribute to carbon emissions.

The CAPs serve as a blueprint for jurisdictions to reduce their contributions to climate change. StopWaste provided technical assistance for the initial round of CAPs adopted in the county between 2008-2013, most with goals for emissions reductions by 2020. Given the new state goals and growing concern about climate change, several jurisdictions have been updating their CAPs to include new targets and strategies and technologies needed to reach deep decarbonization. They also reflect an evolving understanding of climate action. They address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on frontline communities, consider health and resilience co-benefits to reducing emissions, acknowledge the upstream climate impacts of consumption, and seek opportunities for carbon sequestration. As of August 2022, eight Alameda County jurisdictions have adopted updated CAPs and four are in the process of developing an updated plan. Two jurisdictions with recently updated CAPs – Dublin and Oakland – will present a summary of their plans at the September 8 P&A Committee and Recycling Board meetings.

StopWaste staff has supported CAPs in the county through one-on-one technical assistance, plan review, template development, and hosting peer exchange and learning. This has included content relevant to energy (electrification of buildings and vehicles) and materials (carbon sequestration, SB 1383 implementation, consumption-based emissions inventories (i.e., emissions that are created when we consume the goods and services we buy every day), circular economy, reusable foodware, and embodied carbon of building materials).

StopWaste's programs also advance jurisdictions' CAP implementation. Many of the CAPs reference StopWaste programs, including working with schools to educate students and families on proper sorting, campaigns to reduce single-use packaging and foodware, SB 1383-related implementation related to food recovery and compost application, and specifying low-embodied carbon materials. They reference the Bay Area Regional Energy Network's (BayREN) rebate and educational programs for advancing existing building energy efficiency and electrification and the reduction of natural gas in buildings.

Support on CAPs touches upon many of StopWaste's long-term Aims. It assists member agencies to address regional and state-level regulations, including SB 1383 and AB 32, and respond to climate change. It also provides the Agency an opportunity to continue deepening partnerships with member jurisdictions, center equity, and build capacity. StopWaste's engagement has afforded staff insight into the emerging trends and potential ways to continue improving the CAP process. This includes exploring the interconnection of climate with other city functions and more effective ways of communicating climate action progress.

StopWaste will continue to assist jurisdictions in the process of updating their CAPs and identify opportunities for CAP implementation and evaluation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.