

Local Government Climate Action Planning

California has increasingly been setting ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and slow climate change. To help the state meet its goals, local jurisdictions have outlined their own commitments to climate action locally in the form of Climate Action Plans (CAPs). Alameda County was one of the first California counties in which all jurisdictions have developed CAPs.

Since this initial round of plans adopted between 2008 and 2013, the State has set a new goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, which demonstrates the need to go beyond incremental reductions in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

While StopWaste has been supporting member agency climate action planning for over 10 years, the focus since 2020 has been helping jurisdictions update their existing CAPs to more holistically consider how to best address climate change and reach the new goal of carbon neutrality. These plans often include actions beyond simply mitigating emissions, such as adapting to changing conditions like sea level rise, and a greater focus on equity and prioritizing frontline communities.

In addition to technical assistance, carbon sequestration guidance, energy efficiency and electrification, and peer sharing and learning, StopWaste supports jurisdictions to integrate consumption-based emissions inventories (ie., emissions that are created when we consume the goods and services we buy every day) in addition to traditional operational based inventories (emissions resulting from the actions within a jurisdiction – from transportation, buildings, and landfiling) into updated CAPs. Many of the CAPs also reference StopWaste’s programs that are supporting climate action, including educating 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, building energy efficiency and electrification, and more.

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

To learn more, visit: www.StopWaste.org/CAP



Goals of a Climate Action Plan

- Measuring and mitigating traditional GHG emissions from transportation, construction, landfilling, etc.
- Measuring and addressing consumption-based emissions resulting from the goods and services we use daily.
- Providing context on local climate impacts
- Prioritizing equitable actions to mitigate impacts in the community
- Planning for carbon neutrality
- Identifying and implementing adaptations required by changing conditions