



SONOMA COUNTY
FIVE-YEAR
STRATEGIC PLAN
2021–2026



Climate Action & Resiliency

Downloadable status update of all CAR objectives

1/26/23

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COUNTY OF
SONOMA

Climate Action & Resiliency

Report Created On: Jan 26, 2023

Pillar 1

Climate Action and Resiliency

Goal 1.1

Continue to invest in wildfire preparedness and resiliency strategies

Objective 1.1.1

CAR1-1 - Provide educational resources to the community that promote and facilitate carbon neutral and fire hardening construction for new and existing homes.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Phase one of the educational outreach plan included creation of the Home Resilience Guide, a comprehensive digest to educate homeowners on improvements that can be made for a more energy efficient, safe, comfortable, and resilient home. The guide includes information on energy efficient technologies, water saving features, and ways to protect homes from wildfires and earthquakes. The digital guidebook is available in both English and Spanish. A printed guidebook featuring both languages is in production. The content of the guidebook has been broken out into individual campaigns based on technologies or concepts. These campaigns will begin rollout in December 2022 with a ramp up in January 2023 as to not compete with holidays.

Homeowner workshop series are conducted quarterly basis. Each series features six workshops with a variety of topics related to energy efficiency, electrification, solar energy and storage, and structural hardening. Attendance for these workshops has been robust with over 1,000 registered attendees since January 1, 2022. All workshops have been conducted virtually. In January 2023, the series will expand to include two in-person workshops with one presented in English and the second in Spanish.

An Induction Cooking Expo was held on September 24, 2022 and had nearly 250 attendees. The educational event highlighted the concept of switching from gas to electric cooking.

Key Milestone Update

Develop and create multi-channel outreach effort which includes the update of the Climate Action and Resiliency Website to feature educational materials. This effort includes the creation of the Home Resilience Guide which outlines improvements that can be made and will dictate the informational rollout of the campaigns.

Educational workshops featuring information on structural resiliency and energy efficiency are conducted on a quarterly basis.

Coordination and Partnership Update

Efforts continue on coordination on unified messaging with external partners including; BayREN, Sonoma Clean Power, RCPA.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

In addition to the outreach efforts listed above, a special consideration is taken when developing our outreach plan to the Latino community. We have contracted with a third party consultant that is very closely aligned with the community to advise on most effective methods of outreach. Outreach efforts have included event participation, radio and social media interviews, long with materials developed in Spanish.

In regards to meeting climate objectives, the educational materials provided focus on electrification at home as a tool in overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding Narrative

Current funding for this effort is sufficient for this phase of implementation and is supplemented by existing contracts with BayREN Single Family program to provide staffing time.

Objective 1.1.2

CAR1-2 - Expand outreach and education on vegetation management and provide additional resources to land owners to help mitigate fire risk.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Expanding outreach and education on vegetation management and providing additional resources to land owners to help mitigate fire risk is in process and on going. Many of the key milestones are completed or in process as anticipated in the implementation plan. Collectively, we have provided more than 30 public training and capacity building events and the PG&E Settlement funded Vegetation Management Grant Program has provided 46 community grants, totaling \$8.3 million. The various agencies and organizations are now working collaboratively on vegetation management efforts throughout the county. We have a collective awareness of efforts throughout the county and have prepared recommendations for the Board to consider regarding outreach and education and additional resources for landowners into the future.

Key Milestone Update

- Convene all agencies and departments with vegetation management efforts planned or in process by end of 2021 - COMPLETE
- Create a vegetation management technical advisory committee by the end of 2021 - COMPLETED and meeting on a regular basis
- Host PG&E settlement funding vegetation management grant workshops end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 - COMPLETE
- Document and describe all vegetation management efforts by early 2022 - COMPLETED
- Develop a strategy to communicate vegetation management efforts with the community by early 2022 - IN PROCESS to be completed in 2023
- Provide a multi-agency/department comprehensive vegetation management update to the board by May 2022 - COMPLETE
- Create vegetation management outreach materials, including a website by end of 2022 - IN PROCESS, web portal to be developed in 2023
- Work with partners and the technical advisory committee to identify the best approach to using the remainder of the PG&E settlement funds to create a long-term vegetation management program by end of 2022 - COMPLETE, recommendations will be presented to the Board in January 2023
- Work with partners and the technical advisory committee to identify best management practices for vegetation management that is focused on healthy ecological function and fire resilience to share with the community – ONGOING
- Update communications strategy, website, and outreach materials as needed – ONGOING

PRMD's Updates:

- Permit Sonoma is developing and implementing outreach, education, and funding programs outlined in Wildfire Adapted Sonoma County and Hazardous Fuels Management for Sonoma County, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants and the Wildfire Resilient Sonoma County (BRIC) FEMA grant.
- These grants will fund multiple term positions including a full-time media specialist position, a GIS specialist to produce story maps, several project managers, and other subject matter specialists.
- As of November 2022, PRMD has hired a grant administrator, senior environmental specialist, marketing specialist and GIS specialist
- PRMD provides environmental review support to the vegetation management grant program by providing CEQA/NEPA/ Permitting and project scoping services, including preparation of CalFire Vegetation Treatment Program documentation.

Coordination and Partnership Update

The Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee, which includes Ag + Open Space, Permit Sonoma, Regional Parks, Climate Action and Resilience Division, UCCE, fire agencies, Sonoma and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation Districts, Sonoma Ecology Center, Pepperwood Foundation, Fire Forward, and Fire Safe Sonoma, meets regularly to advance coordinated vegetation management efforts.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

The purpose of this objective is to enhance our ability to communicate with the public about local vegetation management efforts. Therefore, the actions that have been conducted to date seek to engage all members of our community, we strive to incorporate approaches that reach all members of our diverse community. For example, workshops have been offered to all members of the community with Spanish translation services. Our vegetation management outreach and education efforts have helped to better inform the community about vegetation management practices that are beneficial to climate resilience as well as natural systems and fire resilience .

Funding Narrative

Current funding needs are met by the PG&E settlement funds, FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants, and BRIC grant. We are recommending formation of a technical advisory committee to address future, on-going funding needs. Additionally, UC Cooperative Extension received \$300,000 from the Climate Resiliency Fund in October 2022 for promoting managed grazing to lower wildfire risks and to increase climate benefits.

Objective 1.1.3

CAR1-3 - Leverage grant funding to support a sustainable vegetation management program.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Previously identified federal and state grants have been formally obtained (totaling over \$67 million). Further leveraging of these grants and PG&E Settlement funds to support sustainable vegetation management will greatly increase in 2023. Staff and partners have been focussed on ensuring all vegetation management efforts are coordinated and that there is greater awareness of these efforts throughout the community. Members of the vegetation management technical advisory committee will present recommendations for on-going vegetation management efforts to the Board in January. Among these recommendations is the creation of a technical advisory committee focused on on-going funding needs. As funding gaps are identified, we will greatly increase our efforts to leverage grant funding to support a sustainable vegetation management program.

Key Milestone Update

- FEMA Grants obtained (approximate total project budget for all grants = \$66mil)
 - Planning grant for multijurisdiction hazard mitigation plan (project completed in Aug 2022)
 - Planning grant for community wildfire protection plan (will be completed Apr 2023)
 - Wildfire adapted Sonoma County Pts 1 and 2 (Phase 1 will be completed by Aug 2023)
 - Sonoma County Hazardous Fuels project (Phase 1 will be completed by Nov 2023)
 - Wildfire Resilient Sonoma County (BRIC) (award expected by Dec 2022; 18 month Phase 1 project period)

In addition to significant existing grant funds as outlined above, the technical advisory committees will identify specific funding needs to meet vegetation management goals. Staff will use this information to identify gaps in funding and develop fund raising strategies and goal amounts. Beginning in 2023, we will begin to track our success in filling in the gaps in funding and will identify a recommendation for a long-term funding approach.

Coordination and Partnership Update

The vegetation management technical advisory committee, which includes Ag + Open Space, Permit Sonoma, Regional Parks, Climate Action and Resilience Division, UCCE, fire agencies, Sonoma and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation Districts, Sonoma Ecology Center, Pepperwood Foundation, Fire Forward, and Fire Safe Sonoma, meets regularly to advance coordinated vegetation management efforts.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

All future leverage efforts will be pursued to further equitable community needs that help us be more resilient to climate change and fire.

Funding Narrative

Current funding needs are met by the PG&E settlement funds, FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants, and BRIC grant. We are recommending formation of a technical advisory committee to address future, on-going funding needs.

Goal 1.2

Invest in the community to enhance resiliency and become carbon neutral by 2030

Objective 1.2.1

CAR2-1 - Support carbon-eliminating microgrid technology in communities and energy grid resilience to reduce the impact of power loss during power shutdowns and natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes) through education and legislative advocacy, prioritizing critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Our approach to implementation will help achieve the pillar goal by increasing community resiliency against disasters and public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events. As a matter of supporting the community in this effort, there may be legislative efforts to support or sponsor legislation and/or comments in regulatory rulemaking or hearings. This would entail identifying legislative asks, drafting legislative language to present to our legislators, and monitoring the legislative process.

Key Milestone Update

Two working groups

1. Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC), which provides input to the rulemaking process regarding microgrids. Energy and sustainability participated in the LGSEC group and virtually attended four meetings.
2. Staff participated in portions of the PG&E working group that was created to offer a Community MG Program that offers incentives/rebates. PG&E's Community Microgrid Enablement Program (CMEP) was launched. They offer technical support and cost offsets for certain distribution system upgrades, CMEP can assist communities who meet qualification criteria.
3. Some measurement options for the legislative piece might be: successful passage of legislation, or State and Federal funding to support local MG.
4. Data important to collect from a logistical standpoint: A clear understanding of where microgrids can be placed through utility maps, distribution and transmission lines.

Coordination and Partnership Update

Through partnership with the County's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) utility, Sonoma Clean Power, the County continues to support efforts to increase local resilience with Public Safety Power Shutoffs through backup power, microgrids, and Community Choice programs.

The County supports this effort in their Legislative Platform document. Under State items, S48: Community Choice Aggregation, the County lists several actions, including continued support of community microgrids.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Given that regulations and legislation will be needed to ease restrictions for installing these types of systems throughout communities, it is uncertain how feasible they will be to implement. We will engage the public as needed and provide support for the community through legislative and regulatory efforts.

The criteria considered will prioritize community microgrids in vulnerable, low-income, hard-to-reach communities that are likely to be affected by factors disrupting the electric grid in their area. An influencing factor will be the electric grid structure, placement of lines, distribution points, etc.

Funding Narrative

Funding is available for staff efforts related to legislative or rulemaking support. The County will consider any grant opportunities arise that require local government support or partnership related to community microgrids, however, funding may be needed for staff time to take on the effort of submitting grant opportunities. Energy and Sustainability may have access to funding for researching or writing grant opportunities through the Climate Action and Resiliency Division.

Objective 1.2.2

CAR2-2 - Provide \$20 million in financing by 2026 that incentivizes property managers and renters to retrofit existing multi-family housing towards achieving carbon-neutral buildings.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) will offer \$20M in financing to allow property owners to retrofit existing multi-family properties using SCEIP property tax assessment financing. We will work with partners and County resources to identify viable multi-family housing owners and property manager. Outreach will be conducted via email/direct mail to multi-family owners and property managers to provide resources related to achieving carbon neutral buildings. Disadvantaged communities will be identified to reach tenants. Through partner relationships, we will develop ideas on how we can better support tenants in making improvements or supporting their conversations with their landlord.

We will offer workshops to tenants to learn about concern and address potential united consequences related to social justice and equity. Engagement will be available in both English and Spanish.

Key Milestone Update

- December 2021 – identify viable multi-family housing owners and property managers. Status – Complete
- January – March 2022 – perform outreach via email and direct mail to multi-family housing owners and property managers to provide resources related to achieving carbon neutral buildings. Status – sent direct mailer to 700 MF property owners, July 2022 with 11 respondents. New mailer scheduled for January 2023 to refined list. November 2022: Finalized Multi-channel 6-month campaign launching January 2023. This includes radio, digital, social media, print and dedicated webpage for MF. This includes efforts in both Spanish and English. Held a contractor breakfast in September 2022 to educate them on financing for MF.
- March-May 2022 – facilitate forum to connect renters and landlords for a listening session to understand barriers. Initial funding availability and guidance is expected to be available through BayREN Multi-family.

Coordination and Partnership Update

Coordinated with BayREN for the direct mail campaign to property owners. Additionally we partnered with BayREN held two MF workshops, including a regional forum "Decarbonizing Rental Housing While Protecting Tenants". Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) agreed to provide up to \$29k in funding towards a MF intern that will support our efforts and meet their grant requirements. Contracted with Soluna Outreach Solutions for Latinx outreach. Joined several business chambers and attend events regularly. Several community partners submitted support letters for the Federal Appropriation request.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Continued partnership with Soluna Outreach Solutions for Latinx outreach to build trust within the Hispanic community to gather information regarding tenants concerns and needs. Future workshops to be designed based on feedback. Division submitted a Federal Appropriation request for MF resiliency and energy improvements, including a workforce development aspect, specifically for low-income MF housing. The request was accepted but later did not move forward.

Funding Narrative

Provide marketing, education and outreach dollars to the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program to promote resources and drive retrofits in the multi-family sector. Through education, incentives and financing for multi-family property owners and managers to retrofit existing multi-family housing with the goal of achieving resilient, carbon neutral buildings. In addition, we look to bridge the gap between owners and tenants and leverage any existing programs with the financing option. The incentives are available through Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) multi-family program. In addition, Sonoma Clean Power is currently developing additional incentives that can be coupled with BayREN incentives. The SCEIP financing will be able to make up the difference for what the incentives will not cover, either in the types of improvements or to cover the additional costs above what the incentive pays out. The intent is to leverage all these resources and partners to maximize the types and numbers of improvements necessary to achieve carbon neutrality. Education is necessary about the importance of going all-electric as a choice now and taking incentives while available instead of waiting until it's mandated and potential incentives are eliminated once a mandate is in place.

Objective 1.2.3

CAR2-3 - Partner with educational institutions, trade associations, businesses and non-profit organizations to establish workforce development programs that focus on carbon neutral and resilient building technologies by 2023.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) staff have been scanning and applying for grants to fund the development of a workforce development program focused on electrification. Having applied for and been declined funding from the federal Good Jobs Challenge, WIB staff, in partnership with Economic Development Board (EDB) and Energy and Sustainability Division (ESD) staff, are honing in on areas within electrification that are in the highest demand for workforce training. To that end, staff are focusing on gathering input from Builders and Contractors (survey) and through discussions at various other meetings/forums. While the customer demand for climate resilient building technologies is growing, existing local contractor businesses do not seem to be clamoring for training. In fact most of the electrification training is being provided through the Energy and Sustainability Division as part of its operational mission. Training on climate resilient technologies is being handled by Sonoma Clean Power and they report no wait lists or other issues signaling unmet needs.

In consultation with the ESD, WIB staff are narrowing to two options for training, neither of which current exist in Sonoma County. The first, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP), provides certification to Electricians in installing Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (e.g. charging stations). The other, Home Energy Rating System (HERS) certifies Raters to perform field verification and diagnostic testing on features of a home to ensure they meet the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code). These programs are currently available in areas 2+ hours away.

WIB staff are gathering data on the possibility and feasibility of bringing one or both training programs to Sonoma County. They are further researching the "uptake" by Contractors if such programs were offered in Sonoma County.

Key Milestone Update

Research about supply and demand to be completed by December 31, 2022.

Feasibility analysis of bringing EVITP and/or HERS trainings to Sonoma County to be completed by March 31, 2023.

Outreach and enrollment in at least one training program to be completed by June 30, 2023.

Coordination and Partnership Update

WIB staff have worked hand in hand with the Economic Development Board, the Energy and Sustainability Division, Sonoma Clean Power, North Coast Builders' Exchange and various union trade organizations. All of these entities have been part of the conversation seeking to understand where there is unmet needs in workforce training related to climate resiliency. A group of stakeholders toured the Sonoma Clean Power Advanced Energy Center. Meetings of all entities continue to regularly occur. SRJC has not been part of the conversation because the demand for training has not been sufficient to warrant the development of a new course or certification program.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Should these training programs be implemented in Sonoma County, the local community will be the primary beneficiary, including those for whom 2+ hours of travel to receive such training wouldn't be possible.

Funding Narrative

Applied for and was denied grant funding through the federal ETA's Good Jobs Challenge. Once the training program and construct have been identified, funding will be pursued; ideally, Job Link (the WIB's storefront job center) will be able to use its existing funding to support implementing this training.

Goal 1.3

Make all County facilities carbon-free, zero waste and resilient

Objective 1.3.1

CAR3-1 - Design or retrofit County facilities to be carbon neutral, zero waste and incorporate resilient construction techniques and materials.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

NEW COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

The existing 1950's designed, sprawling County Administration Campus located in Santa Rosa, California, no longer serves the needs of our community, nor does not it represent the highest and best use of valuable property assets. Replacement of some of the existing buildings has been a reaffirmed Board priority over the past several years. In March 2022, the Board opted not to move forward with securing the selected property (former Sears site), and approve a commensurate financing plan, and instead directed staff to re-visit the feasibility and finances financial feasibility of replacing/rebuilding on the existing campus site with phasing approach without the need to allocate temporary workspace during construction.

Based on this direction, Public Infrastructure staff have renewed investigation of this scenario using existing baseline assumptions from The Comprehensive County Facilities Plan (CCFP) prepared by Gensler Architects and approved by the Board in 2013. The assumptions for departmental program, defining spatial square footage and adjacency needs were revalidated by County departments in December 2021. County Administrator's Office (CAO) Financial staff have developed cost/financing scenarios as directed, with the assistance of KNN Public Finance based on the new options and fiscal parameters identified by the County Administrator.

The baseline for the design of new facilities will be the California Green Building Standards Code. The California Green Building Standards Code—Part 11, Title 24, California Code of Regulations—known as CALGreen, is the first-in-the-nation mandatory green building standards code. In 2007, CBSC developed green building standards in an effort to meet the goals of California's landmark initiative AB 32, which established a comprehensive program of cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 1990 levels by 2020. The Board may consider the adoption of the US Green Building Committee's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) formal accreditation program to monitor performance towards sustainability goals to exceed CALGreen requirements within budget constraints.

Staff have engaged Integrated Waste Operations and Sonoma County Waste Management Agency/Zero Waste as a stakeholder in design, construction waste management and for operations during occupancy .

EXISTING BUILDINGS

As County Government Center is pending further direction from the Board, projects in existing buildings are progressing to address deferred maintenance issues or operational needs. The Board has approved the County's participation in PG&E's Sustainable Solutions Turnkey (SST) program. In this program the County will obtain "investment grade" audits of the energy and water use in our existing buildings and will create an Energy Master Plan (EMP). PG&E's consultant, Willdan Energy is in the process of evaluating energy demands of various systems on the county properties and opportunities for energy reduction projects including changing light fixtures, water heaters, insulation and sealants. Various project have been funded through Capital Improvements including:

- EOC Cooling System Repairs
- Replace County Center HVAC Controls
- County Center Microgrid feasibility
- Replace High Efficiency Boilers a the Central Mechanical Plant
- MADF Boiler replacement
- MADF Tempered Water System replacement

The Climate and Resilience Division is conducting a greenhouse gas inventory, which will provide the County with baseline greenhouse gas emissions from all County operations, a necessary prerequisite to achieving carbon neutrality.

Key Milestone Update

On January 5, 2021, staff requested selection of a preferred site after several alternatives had been presented and financing plan. The Board directed further studies for a downtown Santa Rosa location with additional financial studies. The site was identified to be the the former location of the Sears department store in downtown Santa Rosa. The site was found to be eligible for low cost federal loans under the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (TIFIA) due to it's proximity to the SMART rail system. Financial studies were based on the execution strategy referred to as a Public-Private-Partnership (P3). The scope of the P3 would have included design, construction, financing, operations and maintenance.

On March 1, 2022, the Board deferred vote on the Sears site and requested staff to investigate opportunities That would not require site acquisition, maintain current operations during construction and not require rental of temporary offices.

Staff will be returning to the Board with analysis of a potential project located at the County Administration Center on January 24, 2023. The analysis will include bond financing analysis based on a location at the County Administration Center and procured through more typical means including design-build or construction manager at risk, rather than P3. County Government Center is delayed one year.

Coordination and Partnership Update

This objective has direct impacts on several other objectives including:

- RI 1.2 Standards for Office improvements: The new CGC will establish standards that can be applied to existing offices;
 - Development of criteria for the new facilities include establishment of a Space Utilization Standard. This standard will provide a consistent means to allocate space based on the number of staff in a department.
 - The standards will endeavor will reduce carbon impacts through reduction of the building area , but will also provide opportunities to enhance collaboration in workplace design.
- RI 2.3 Design and build a new, resilient Emergency Operations Center (EOC):. The new EOC will be part of the procurement for the new CGC;
 - The EOC will be referred to as the "Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)"
 - The ECC will include conference facilities which may be used in non-emergency days. Operations of the ECC are projected to expand to accommodate staff supporting ECC sections during emergencies but are anticipated to be available for other uses in other times.
- CAR 2.3 Design or retrofit County facilities to be carbon neutral, zero waste and incorporate resilient construction techniques and materials: design standards for the CGC will be carbon neutral;
 - The baseline for the design of new facilities will be the California Green Building Standards Code. The California Green Building Standards Code—Part 11, Title 24, California Code of Regulations—known as CALGreen, is the first-in-the-nation mandatory green building standards code. In 2007, CBSC developed green building standards in an effort to meet the goals of California’s landmark initiative AB 32, which established a comprehensive program of cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 1990 levels by 2020. The Board may consider the adoption of the US Green Building Committee's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) formal accreditation program to monitor performance towards sustainability goals to exceed CALGreen requirements within budget constraints.
- CAR 3.3 Carbon Eliminating Microgrid: As part of CGC’ s Triple net-zero goal energy independence and self-generation concepts will be utilized.
 - The County is partnering with Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) Sustainable Solution Turnkey program where Investment Grade Audits (IGA) will be performed to to identify strategies for incorporation of a microgrid (solar panels and battery storage). The IGA's may also identify financing opportunities in which to fund construction.
 - Currently, the IGA is performing a load analysis of long term electricity requirements of County buildings .

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Environmental studies, which include opportunities for formal public outreach and public comment, in addition to community and stakeholder engagement processes are planned for the new County Government Center project.

- Following Board direction in January 2023, staff will be prepared to scope and direct consultants to begin environmental studies.

The new County Government Center project will support partnerships with cities and community stakeholders by ensuring fully accessible in-person facilities and remote access systems. Its proximity to other County services will support increased direct access by residents and build social capital through delivery of services.

Staff will work with leads in the Racial Justice and Social Equity Pillar to address the social equity considerations that could be part of the facility needs assessment and design.

-Recent negotiations with labor on Project Labor Agreements (to maximize union participation during construction) indicate common goals to advance social justice and racial equity goals during construction.

Funding Narrative

Funds have been received for procurement, legal consultation through outside counsel, environmental studies and staff support for the County Government Center

Climate Action funds have been received to support energy improvements at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building in addition to installation of a microgrid. Energy improvements were funded for \$901,230 and the microgrid funded for \$870,000

A financing plan will be presented to the Board in early 2023 to seek direction on cost limitations and location. No funds for construction are identified.

Additionally, the Climate and Resilience Division is working on a Waste Audit request for proposal. Funding from the Climate Resilience Fund is supporting an effort by Zero Waste Sonoma and the Public Infrastructure department to initiate a project that would help to lower waste from construction and demolition.

Objective 1.3.2

CAR3-2 - Design or retrofit County facilities that promote and maximize telework to decrease greenhouse gas emissions generated by employee commutes.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Although progress of the New County Government Center is delayed as a location is selected by the Board, the principles and practices of workplace design that facilitate telework are likely to be used are considered industry best practices in the management of existing space. The pandemic has shown the importance of technology tools to facilitate collaboration while working remotely and the importance of facilities to maximize inclusivity. The design of new work places include accommodation of technology and spaces to accommodate remote working team members.

The new County Government Center is endeavoring to incorporate an efficient space utilization standard which allocates space based on a department's staff numbers. Though efficiency is in mind, opportunities to encourage collaboration would be included in the space standard. As we have observed during the pandemic, the ability to collaborate on line has been put to the test and constant improvements made. As the pandemic is winding down, the benefit of carbon reduction is apparent and shifting to a hybrid workforce.

As stated in the Resilient Infrastructure Objective 1-3, telework and the needs of a dynamic hybrid workforce has introduced several technical challenges, particularly in respect to utilizing a shared workspace model and incorporating a seamless meeting experience between local and remote staff. In order to address these challenges, ISD has completed a hot desk prototype as well as an updated conference room configuration to address the needs of a hybrid workforce. This prototype will be ready to demo in January 2023. Following initial feedback on the prototype, ISD will develop a solution that will allow County departments to select the appropriate hot desk and conference room configuration that will best suit their needs. ISD will be providing a dedicated staff resource to attend to what is anticipated to be a growing need for County departments.

Current aspirations for the new County Government Center's space utilization includes provisions for accommodating teleworking staff when required to be at the office. Many other organizations, including the federal government provide space for telework staff though at a reduced area. Teleworking staff do not require full size work stations since their main work environment would be at home or a location where portable files are sufficient. Teleworking staff typically require a work surface to place their laptop and log-in to be productive and can collaborate with colleagues in shared spaces such as conference rooms. Teleworking has lead to a greater need for cloud based services and applications to support this hybrid work. ISD is in the process of rolling out applications such as Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams to enhanced hybrid work. Furthermore, funds from Deferred Maintenance have been made available for the scanning and cloud storage of vital documents so that they may be accessed by staff electronically rather than physical retrieval and to the avoid the expense of constructing or leasing storage facilities in which to store them. The County Government Center project will include the procurement and space planning for work station furniture that will incorporate the criteria defined in the hot desk concept as well as in areas to promote collaboration.

Specific design and opportunities for feedback will be provided in the design process. Work place engagement will be a critical part of the design process, once authorized.

Key Milestone Update

County Government Center - awaiting Board direction on location, January 24, 2023

Microsoft Office 365 Deployment (from RI 1-3)

Phase 1 - Migration of County E-mail to Microsoft Office 365 - Completed June 8, 2022

Phase 2 - Implementation of Microsoft Office 365 Services - In Progress

Coordination and Partnership Update

Infrastructure requirements for technology is in coordination with RI 1-3

This objective has direct impacts on the following other objectives:

- RI 1.2 Standards for Office improvements: The new CGC will establish standards that can be applied to existing offices
 - Awaiting Board direction on location and cost for CGC

- RI 2.3 Design and build a new, resilient Emergency Operations Center (EOC).: The EOC will be part of the procurement for the new CGC
 - Awaiting Board direction on location and cost for CGC
- CAR 2.3 Design or retrofit County facilities to be carbon neutral, zero waste and incorporate resilient construction techniques and materials.: design standard for the CGC will be carbon neutral
 - Awaiting Board direction on location and cost for CGC
 - Coordination with Sonoma Waste Management in progress to identify strategies for incorporating zero waste in design
- CAR 3.3 Carbon Eliminating Microgrid: As part of CGC' s Triple net-zero goal energy independence and self-generation concepts will be utilized.
 - The County is partnering with Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) Sustainable Solution Turnkey program where Investment Grade Audits (IGA) will be performed to to identify strategies for incorporation of a microgrid (solar panels and battery storage). The IGA's may also identify financing opportunities in which to fund construction.
 - The IGA includes historic energy use and current rate structures.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Equity in the workplace is envisioned to be a primary factor in the design of the new facility. As such the new County Government Center project is awaiting direction on location and cost from the Board. Several design principles are being developed with smaller scale space reconfigurations.

Funding Narrative

County Government Center is funded for consultant, legal, environmental and some staff but not for design or construction.

Objective 1.3.3

CAR3-3 - Invest in County-owned facilities, establishing carbon eliminating microgrid technology and improving energy grid resilience to reduce the impact of power loss during power shutdowns and natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes), prioritizing critical infrastructures such as command and communications facilities.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

As County Government Center is pending further direction from the Board, projects in existing buildings including criteria development for a solar panel with battery microgrid are progressing to address deferred maintenance issues or operational needs. The Board has approved the County's participation in PG&E's Sustainable Solutions Turnkey (SST) program. In this program the County will obtain "investment grade" audits (IGA) of the energy and water use in our existing buildings and will create an Energy Master Plan (EMP). To assess the required size the microgrid, PG&E's consultant, Willdan Energy is evaluating energy demands of various systems on the county properties and opportunities for energy reduction projects including changing light fixtures, HVAC system changes, water heaters, insulation and sealants. The Microgrid scope will be a potential option for Board consideration. The IGA's will identify existing conditions and historical utility use with recommended upgrades for Board consideration.

Concurrently, the solar panels at the Los Guilicos campus are under study to consolidate and refurbish County owned panels with panels under power purchase agreement o County property. This investment grade audit is investigating the feasibility of adding a battery arrays to serve not only to shave peak hour energy usage but to provide a resilient and sustainable power source to serve the campus, which includes the Juvenile Justice Center, Valley of the Moon Children's Home, Crestwood Mental Health Facility and Los Guilicos Village

A third microgrid is being planned for the Santa Rosa Veteran's Building. This building was extensively used as a shelter during emergency declarations and as cooling center during Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The importance of this asset was made apparent during the five wildfires and multiple PSPS events that occurred in recent years. Although the building was recently provided with an emergency generator, emissions from the diesel powered generator is against the County's goals towards carbon reduction but will remain as a reliable backup should an emergency be protracted and offer the opportunity for the microgrid to recharge.

Key Milestone Update

Climate Resilience Fund funding received February 2022

Investment Grade Audits are expected in Spring 2023

Coordination and Partnership Update

The Santa Rosa Veteran's Hall acts as both a community hub and a designated mass care and shelter site. It is a resource center that is used during power shutdown events and has the potential to be utilized a cooling center.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Public Engagement with the Community for the County Government Center will be coordinated with environmental studies required under CEQA projected to start summer 2023 with Board approval of a site and cost parameters.

Investment Grade Audits for the microgrid projects are projected to be complete in spring 2023 with Board approval requested summer 2023.

Funding Narrative

\$870,000 from the Climate Resilience Fund was approved by the Board on 2/1/22 for upgrading the Santa Rosa Veteran's Building by adding solar and battery storage.

Financing opportunities for other projects will be identified by PG&E with the Investment Grade Audit.

Goal 1.4

Maximize sustainability and emissions reductions in all County Fleet vehicles

Objective 1.4.1

CAR4-1 - Where feasible, phase out County (owned or leased) gasoline-powered light-duty cars, vans, and pickups to achieve a 30% zero-emission vehicle light-duty fleet by 2026.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

The current electric vehicle transition progress has been slow due to two main challenges; the limited number of vehicle makes/models that fit a department's specific usage case and supply chain constraints that have caused significant delays and cancellations. Departments specifically requiring larger capacity (7 or more passengers) vehicles such as large SUVs and vans currently have no options. Departments able to utilize available make/model EVs are subject to long wait times that have exceeded a year. Coupled with wait times, cancellations have occurred abruptly, forcing Fleet to reorder the same vehicle at an increased cost. The delays and cancellations are not specific to EVs, and nearly all vehicles have faced similar circumstances – Fleet has been waiting on vehicle orders as old as FY20-21.

Delays and cancellations are expected to improve in 2023. With advancing battery technology and the commitment from automakers to build more green vehicles, new vehicle makes/models are anticipated to debut soon that may support the usage cases of more County Departments. The transition to EVs is predicted to ramp up in the next few years with the availability of more vehicle options and the ease in supply constraints to, ultimately, achieve the Strategic Plan objective of 30% zero-emissions light-duty fleet by 2026.

FY 2021-2022 (Baseline):

- Total Light Duty Fleet: 811 Vehicles
 - ICE Vehicles: 775
 - Electric Vehicles: 36
 - Progress Towards Goal: 4%
 - Annual CO2 Emissions in Metric Tons: 3916.8

FY 2022-2023 (Current):

- Total Light Duty Fleet: 811 Vehicles
 - ICE Vehicles: 761
 - Electric Vehicles: 50
 - Progress Toward Goal: 6%
 - Annual CO2 Emissions in Metric Tons: 1402.7

Key Milestone Update

- Conduct first phase of fleet electrification assessment with Green Light Labs to inform Fleet Electrification Report
 - Completed April 2021
- Hire a Program Manager and Senior Office Assistant to provide bandwidth for refueling and charging infrastructure
 - Department choosing to postpone additional positions
- Conduct second phase of fleet electrification study with Green Light Labs to inform Fleet Transition Plan
 - Green Light Labs has exited from the fleet consulting space, forcing the original consultant to take a position at EV Re-Fleet (EVRF). As such, Fleet is now using EVRF, to conduct the second phase of the fleet electrification study, due to the consultant's familiarity with the original report and analysis. Fleet is currently in the data collection process of the study and is anticipated to have a completed report by the end of the fiscal year.

- Implement workplace EV Awareness/Education campaign
 - Electric Vehicle Training for Fleet employees, Department Fleet Coordinators, and County employees interested in EVs is scheduled for December 8, 2022. Training is a web-based course and is an hour long (45 mins + 15 mins of Q&A). Training is intended to provide a basic understanding of electric vehicles. A second day of training will be scheduled the week after the first class that will dive deeper in student requested topics.
- Create new vehicle request forms to offer opportunities for departments to choose EVs
 - Vehicle request forms capturing EV options have been in use since FY 2021-2022 vehicle replacement period.
- As usage cases allow, create vehicle bid specifications that capture EVs
 - This is a continuous process. As vehicle usage cases allow, EVs are highly considered in the creation of bid specifications.

Coordination and Partnership Update

Fleet has engaged all County Departments with the strong desire to convert the County’s fleet to zero-emission vehicles during each annual vehicle replacement period. County Departments must provide justification why an electric vehicle or other zero-emission vehicle will not meet their usage case for each vehicle being replaced.

Notable coordination and partnerships include:

- Regional Parks – Fleet, in partnership with Regional Parks, has received funding for EV charging infrastructure expansion. Most notable, the project “ARC in Parks”, funded through the Climate Action and Resiliency Fund, will place twelve (12) EV ARCs in multiple parks around the County. This expansion will help Regional Parks further convert their carbon emitting vehicles with electric vehicles, which they are already actively executing.
- Sheriff’s Office – Fleet, in partnership with the Sheriff’s Office, has received funding for EV charging infrastructure expansion. The project “Electrifying Patrol”, funded through the Climate Action and Resiliency Fund, will place multiple Level 2 and 3 chargers at the Sheriff’s Office main location. This will support administrative law enforcement vehicles immediately and newer Patrol vehicles expected to become available soon. The significance of this project will allow the pilot of two (2) police pursuit rated EVs, the very first in their fleet.
- Human Services – Fleet, in partnership with Human Services, has committed to expanding some of their existing EV charging sites and prospecting new locations. They have also committed to incorporating new EVs each replacement cycle.
- ISD – Fleet, in partnership with ISD, has committed to installing new EV charging infrastructure at two of their locations. They have also committed to purchase of EV cargo vans to replace their aging gas cargo vans as they become due.
- Climate Action Division – Fleet and the Climate Action Division, frequently coordinate on new opportunities and ideas.
- Energy and Sustainability Division – Fleet and the Energy and Sustainability Division, frequently coordinate on new opportunities and ideas.
- Regional Climate Protection Agency (RCPA) – Fleet and the RCPA, meet on a quarterly basis with other local governments to discuss EV related items, including EV charging infrastructure expansion, vehicle adoption, funding opportunities, general progress, and challenges.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Fleet anticipates a press release with the Sheriff's Office when the operation of two (2) police pursuit rated EVs goes live. The vehicles hope to highlight the greener side of the County's law enforcement fleet and would be showcased in practical application and at events.

Funding Narrative

Replacement vehicles are funded through monthly lease contributions made into the Fleet Accumulated Capital Outlay fund. When a departments vehicle reaches its replacement date, these funds are utilized to replace the vehicle with a zero-emission vehicle, where feasible and where usage cases will allow. The Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (CVRP) will be leveraged to offset the costs of EVs. Select PHEVs offers \$1000 credit, while select BEVs offer \$2000 credit.

Objective 1.4.2

CAR4-2 - Invest in the County's employee Clean Commute program to promote the use of alternate modes of transportation, including bike and carpool incentives, and last mile solutions connecting bus and train stations to County worksites.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

The goal of CAR 4.2 is to promote the use of alternative forms of transportation for County employees, increase participation in the Clean Commute Program, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The objective set out to do this in three ways, 1) launch a monthly Clean Commute Incentive Program, 2) improve bus connections to County worksites, and 3) improve last mile connections between SMART stations and County worksites. Last year, we were awarded \$150,000 from the Board's first round of Strategic Plan funding to launch a Clean Commute Monthly Incentive Program. During the pilot period, permanent employees will be eligible for up to \$40 per month if they ride the train, bus, carpool, bike or walk to work a certain number of days in a given period.

Prior to launching the pilot Monthly Incentive Program, we needed to launch a new Online Trip Tracker. The Online Trip Tracker allows employees to log their telework and alternative commute days. These logs will be used by the County to confirm eligibility for the pilot Monthly Incentive Program. The Trip Tracker was launched in April 2022 and we are anticipating to launch the Monthly Incentive Program in January 2023. We will continue to use Clean Commute program participation and greenhouse gas emission reductions as the key metrics.

Key Milestone Update

1. Pilot Clean Commute Monthly Incentive Program [Prior: Spring 2022 / Current: January 2023]
 1. My Commuter Check Purchases
 1. The County will match all purchases made through the County's pre-tax commuter benefit platform, called My Commuter Check, up to \$40 per month. This includes purchases of SMART passes, eCash, and other Clipper products. This is considered a pre-tax subsidy, as long as the total My Commuter Check purchase is below \$230 per month.
 2. Bus, Carpool, Bike and Walking
 1. The County will provide a taxable, lump sum payment of \$240 if an employee has taken the bus, carpooled, biked, or walked to work at least 48 days within a 6-month reporting period.
2. Improve last mile connections between SMART stations and other transit centers and County worksites [Prior: Spring 2022 / Current: Spring 2023]
 1. Create a last-mile connection for County employees between the SMART Santa Rosa North Station on Guerneville Road to the County Campus using County electric fleet vehicles. The goal of the Pilot Program would be to determine best practices and create user guidelines, and then eventually expand the program to the Airport area.
 2. Consider bike share and other non-single driver opportunities to connect rail stations to County worksites.
3. Improve bus service to County worksites [Prior: Late 2022 - Early 2023 / Current: TBD]
 1. The intention of this milestone was to coordinate with Sonoma County Transit and Santa Rosa City Bus to identify opportunities for increased bus service to County worksites. More discussions are needed to determine timeline and would likely result in a funding request.

Coordination and Partnership Update

This is an internal program for County employees, so there will not be any coordination with the community or cities. However, the launch of all employee-related programs requires significant coordination between various County departments, including the County Administrator's Office, Human Resources, ACTTC, ISD, and Public Infrastructure.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

As mentioned above, this is an internal program for County employees. In terms of equity, by including various modes of transportation into the subsidy program, we are making the program as accessible as possible. There will always be geographic equity issues with public transportation systems, but that is not within the scope of this objective. The implementation of this objective will reduce employee commute greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding Narrative

We received \$150,000 from the Board's first round of Strategic Plan funding awards. This funding will be used support the pilot Monthly Incentive Program. It is expected that the funding will last 12-18 months, depending on program participation levels. Should the program be deemed successful, another request will be submitted to the Board for ongoing funding.

We have submitted a request for an additional \$35,000 from the second round of Strategic Plan funding for administrative support to help carry out the significant amount of work associated with the launch and management of the Online Trip Tracker and new Monthly Incentive Program.

Objective 1.4.3

CAR4-3 - Upgrade the existing County-owned Electric Vehicle charging station infrastructure by 2023.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Fleet is currently working with a consultant from Electric Vehicle Re-Fleet (EVRF) to complete the second phase of the fleet electrification study and is in the process of data collection for the study. The report is anticipated to be complete by the end of fiscal year 2023. As the study is being performed, Fleet is still moving forward with replacing existing EV charging stations that are out of order and continuing to expand EV charging stations requested by County Departments. The current challenge to upgrades and expansion have been delayed shipments due to extended lead times for EV charging hardware.

FY 2021-2022 (Baseline):

- Total EV Charging Stations / Ports: 44 / 84
 - Active (Functional): 35 / 66
 - Out of Service (Non-Functional): 9 / 18

FY 2022-2023 (Current):

- Total EV Charging Stations / Ports: 47 / 90
 - Active (Functional): 38 / 72
 - Out of Service (Non-Functional): 9 / 18
 - Progress: 9% / 9%
 - Pending Installations: 12 / 23

Key Milestone Update

- Conduct first phase of fleet electrification assessment with Green Light Labs to inform Fleet Electrification Report
 - Completed April 2021
- Hire a Program Manager and Senior Office Assistant to provide bandwidth for refueling and charging infrastructure
 - Department choosing to postpone additional positions
- Conduct second phase of fleet electrification study with Green Light Labs to inform Fleet Transition Plan
 - Green Light Labs has exited from the fleet consulting space, forcing the original consultant to take a position at EV Re-Fleet (EVRF). As such, Fleet is now using EVRF, to conduct the second phase of the fleet electrification study, due to the consultant's familiarity with the original report and analysis. Fleet is currently in the data collection process of the study and is anticipated to have a completed report by the end of the fiscal year.
- Implement EV charging infrastructure informed by Green Light Labs reports
 - Fleet is currently using EVRF as a substitution for Green Light Labs. Once the report is received, it will be reviewed to help inform the implementation of additional EV charging infrastructure.
- Maintain refueling and charging infrastructure. This includes servicing and repairing existing infrastructure and informing the implementation of new infrastructure.

- Shipments delays due to extended lead times for EV charging hardware has been a challenge for Fleet. There are currently nine (9) out of service (non-functional) stations, hosting eighteen (18) ports that are all unrepairable, and will be replaced as soon as hardware is received.
- Fleet has continued to help County Departments with EV charging infrastructure expansion and implementation by providing the hardware, ongoing maintenance and management, and general guidance.
- Seek and apply for new funding sources and opportunities
 - Fleet has assisted Departments with funding opportunities to support larger EV charging infrastructure projects. Notable projects include, “ARCs for Parks” and “Electrifying Patrol”.

Coordination and Partnership Update

Fleet is committed to assisting all County Departments in expanding and upgrading EV charging infrastructure. Fleet, at no cost, will supply County Departments desiring to add charging infrastructure and willing to pay for the costs of installation with the EV charging hardware, assistance in maintaining the infrastructure, oversee the operations, and paying for the ongoing network service subscriptions.

Notable coordination and partnerships include:

- Regional Parks – Fleet, in partnership with Regional Parks, has received funding for EV charging infrastructure expansion. Most notable, the project “ARC in Parks”, funded through the Climate Action and Resiliency Fund, will place twelve (12) EV ARCs in multiple parks around the County.
- Sheriff’s Office – Fleet, in partnership with the Sheriff’s Office, has received funding for EV charging infrastructure expansion. The project “Electrifying Patrol”, funded through the Climate Action and Resiliency Fund, will place multiple Level 2 and 3 chargers at the Sheriff’s Office main location. This will support administrative law enforcement vehicles immediately and newer Patrol vehicles expected to become available soon.
- Human Services – Fleet, in partnership with Human Services, has committed to expanding of their existing EV charging sites and prospecting new locations.
- ISD – Fleet, in partnership with ISD, has committed to installing new EV charging infrastructure at two of their locations.
- Sonoma Clean Power – Fleet in coordination and partnership with Sonoma Clean Power has committed to sponsoring a number of Regional Park sites by offsetting the cost for EV charging equipment for the “ARCs in Parks” project.
- Real Estate Division – Fleet has coordinated with the Real Estate Division to help progress EV charging infrastructure expansion by opening discussions with landlords and property managers related to the matter during their lease renewals and creations.
- Climate Action Division – Fleet and the Climate Action Division, frequently coordinate on new opportunities and ideas.
- Energy and Sustainability Division – Fleet and the Energy and Sustainability Division, frequently coordinate on new opportunities and ideas.
- Regional Climate Protection Agency (RCPA) – Fleet and the RCPA, meet on a quarterly basis with other local governments to discuss EV related items, including EV charging infrastructure expansion, vehicle adoption, funding opportunities, general progress, and challenges.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

- Fleet and Regional Parks anticipates a Public Service Announcement to highlight the availability of new EV chargers for public use once “ARCs in Parks” is complete. Upon successful demonstration, Fleet and Regional Parks hopes to engage the public in future placement of additional ARCs and/or EV charging infrastructure.

Funding Narrative

Fleet continues to actively seek potential funding opportunities inside and outside of the County to help build and maintain EV infrastructure.

Outside funding has been a challenge due to the minimum qualifications on grants that the County cannot meet where EV charging infrastructure is needed. Currently, Fleet has a letter of interest in funding through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, exploring the PG&E EV Fleet Program, and investigating the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Charge! Program grant. Additional funding opportunities are to be made available soon, but applicability will be subject to the County meeting those qualifications. Partnerships with other agencies have been key to help encourage outside funding.

Outside funding received:

- Sonoma Clean Power
 - Approximately \$150,000 in hardware will be provided to the “ARCs in Parks” project.

Outside funding anticipated:

- To be Determined Public-Private Partnership
 - Estimated \$2.5M in hardware and construction is expected to be saved, upon successful RFP of the “EV Park and Charge” project.

Internal funding received:

- Year 1 Strategic Plan Implementation Fund –
 - \$200,000 approved. Funds allocated to support three areas: EV consulting costs, repair/maintenance of existing charging stations, and purchase of new charging stations.
- Climate Action and Resiliency Fund –
 - \$941,760 approved. Funds will be utilized for the “ARCs in Parks” project. This is 80% of the \$1,027,200 funding requested. The gap will need to be covered by another source, preferably from outside.
 - \$685,000 approved. Funds will be utilized for the “Electrifying Patrol” project.
 - \$100,000 approved. Funds will be utilized for the “EV Park and Charge” project.

Internal funding requested:

- Year 2 Strategic Plan Implementation Fund –
 - \$432,000 requested. Funds allocated to support three areas: EV consulting costs, repair/maintenance of existing charging stations, and purchase of new charging stations.

Goal 1.5

Maximize opportunities for mitigation of climate change and adaptation through land conservation work and land use policies

Objective 1.5.1

CAR5-1 - By 2025, update the County General Plan and other county/special district planning documents to incorporate policy language and identify areas within the County that have the potential to maximize carbon sequestration and provide opportunities for climate change adaptation. The focus of these actions will be to increase overall landscape and species resiliency, reduce the risk of fire and floods, and address sea level rise and biodiversity loss.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

For this objective, the Climate Action and Resiliency Division received funding through the Strategic Plan Fund in February 2022 to complete a carbon sequestration study. This effort is expected to include both a quantitative estimate of the existing ecosystem carbon stored in Sonoma County's land base, as well as projections and estimates of the carbon sequestration potential of the County based on carbon impacts from vegetation change, wild and prescribed fires, agricultural processes, and other land use activities. It will also provide insight into impacts on carbon storage from recent wildfires. The Climate Action and Resiliency Division, in partnership with Ag + Open Space, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma Water, and the Regional Climate Protection Authority, plans to release the RFP for the study in early January of 2023.

Key Milestone Update

The completion of the milestones identified for this objective is dependent on the data and results of the carbon sequestration study. There are no updates to report on progress towards milestones at this time.

Coordination and Partnership Update

A monthly workgroup between project partners has been created to work through the draft RFP and coordinate key planning elements for this objective.

Upon completion of the carbon sequestration study and interpretation of data, Ag + Open Space, Sonoma Water and Permit Sonoma will work collaboratively towards milestone identified in the Implementation Plan. They plan to identify priority efforts and synergistic overlaps in existing projects and programs that are currently being developed to achieve some early implementation results.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

As aforementioned, the completion of the milestones identified for this objective is dependent on the data and results of the carbon sequestration study. Public engagement would occur as an integral part of planning for specific projects or programs. This work has not yet started

Funding Narrative

The Climate Action and Resiliency Division received \$500,000 from the Strategic Plan fund to complete the carbon sequestration study as well as an ongoing GHG inventory. The GHG inventory is budgeted to cost \$142,330, leaving \$357,670 for the carbon sequestration study. Once again, the Climate Action and Resiliency Division is planning to release the RFP for the study in early January.

Objective 1.5.2

CAR5-2 - Develop policies to maximize carbon sequestration and minimize the loss of natural carbon sinks including old-growth forests, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and rangelands. Encourage agricultural and open space land management to maximize sequestration. Develop a framework and policies to incentivize collaboration with private and public land owners.

Summary of Objective Implementation Status

Sonoma County's Climate Resilient Lands Strategy, adopted September 13, 2022, provides a framework and policies to incentivize collaboration with private and public land owners to maximize carbon sequestration and to minimize loss of natural carbon sinks, including old growth forests, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and rangelands. Enhanced land conservation and management efforts are on-going. The Vital Lands Initiative and the Sonoma County Climate Resilient Lands Strategy provide policies and framework needed for conservation and management of natural and agricultural lands that support adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The General Plan update is now underway and will also include land use policies that support climate resilience. Ag + Open Space has identified high priority areas for climate resilience and biodiversity and will initiate outreach efforts in 2023. Ag + Open Space has created a Community Resources Program to provide community support and engagement through outreach and communication, outings and education, government relations, grant funding, and technical expertise to increase resilience of natural and human communities.

The County's Climate Action and Resiliency Division (CARD) was awarded \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service grant program in September 2022. CARD is the lead entity on the grant, which is a partnership with local resource conservation districts, non-profits, and Marin and Sonoma county agencies. Work funded by this grant will increase carbon sequestration through enhanced agricultural practices.

Key Milestone Update

- Develop a climate adaptation plan with a focus on natural systems by end of 2022 - COMPLETE
- Develop an agricultural climate adaptation plan, "Elevating and Valuing Agriculture's Role in Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Planning" by mid 2023 - INCORPORATED INTO SONOMA COUNTY CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDS STRATEGY
- Identifying specific, measurable targets for land conservation to ensure climate resiliency by mid 2022 and modify as needed after completion of climate adaption plans - IN PROCESS, WILL BE COMPLETED BY MID 2023
- Outreach to landowners within high priority regions to encourage permanent land protection and enhanced management by end of 2022 - WILL BEGIN IN 2023
- Acquire conservation easements over a diversity of lands that sequester carbon and support adaption to climate change – ON-GOING, AG + OPEN SPACE HAS 33 ACQUISITION PROJECTS AND 25 MATCHING GRANT PROJECTS IN PROCESS
- Provide landowners with incentives to implement land management practices that increase carbon sequestration and the health of natural systems – ON-GOING, INCREASED EFFORTS IN 2023
- Adopt land use policies that encourage and direct city centered growth and conservation of natural and working lands through the General Plan update - IN PROCESS

Coordination and Partnership Update

Ag + Open Space is currently working with county agencies such as Sonoma Water, Permit Sonoma, Public Infrastructure, and Regional Parks and non-profit partners such as Sonoma Land Trust, Save the Redwoods League, The Conservation Fund, and the Wildlands Conservancy on land conservation projects throughout the county. Ag + Open Space is also working on Urban Open Space or Matching Grant projects with local cities including Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor. In the coming year, we will also partner with agricultural organizations, county agencies, Resource Conservation Districts, and science based organizations to encourage enhanced land management and agricultural production practices.

Community, Equity, and Climate Update

Ag + Open Space has incorporated equity criteria into our project evaluation processes and has created a Farmland for All program with the intention of increasing equitable access to agricultural lands. Ag + Open Space is partnering with a variety of recreation providers to ensure protected lands are accessible to all members of our community. We are working with Regional Parks on a gap analysis for parks and open space that will be completed in 2023.

Funding Narrative

Ag + Open Space sales tax funding provides a significant opportunity to fund land conservation efforts. These funds are consistently leveraged with public and private funding sources at the federal, state and local level. Ag + Open Space currently has over \$5 million in approved grants not including funds being provided by our numerous partners. Ag + Open Space is working with the County (CAO and Regional Parks) to develop recommendations for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria mitigation funding for Parks and Open Space that include enhancing land management and agricultural production and will request a formal consultative process with Graton.

The County's Climate Action and Resiliency Division (CARD) was awarded \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service grant program in September 2022.