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STRATEGIC PLAN for the County of Sonoma Energy and Sustainability Division

	
	
	

Submitted by:

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Background

The Climate Protection Action Plan² (the Plan) adopted by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in 2006 resolved to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from internal County operations by 20% by the year 2010. The Plan aligned with the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals established in the “Community Climate Action Plan³ of 2005”. The Community Climate Action Plan was developed and subsequently adopted by the County with the distinct goal of reducing green house gas emissions throughout the County to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2015.

The 2010 county Plan authorized and directed staff to develop and implement a Climate Protection Action Plan with focus on optimizing (1) the energy efficiency of buildings, (2) the improving of fuel efficiency of County fleet assets, and (3) a reduction or modification of employee commute levels and patterns. To achieve the Plan goals County staff developed a number of strategies and related initiatives. The most significant and key of these were:

1. Establishment of the Energy and Sustainability Division in General Services
2. The Comprehensive Energy Project, a comprehensive upgrade of the Central Mechanical Plant.
3. The installation of a Fuel Cell at the Central Mechanical Plant: a 1.4 megawatt electrical generating plant that also provides heat to the County heating loop.
4. The installation of a 750 kilowatt Photovoltaic system at the Juvenile Justice Center that will generate more than 1.1 Million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.
5. A comprehensive water conservation project: Water reduction strategies at the Main Adult Detention Facility and North County Detention Facility and for land landscaping.
6. Modifications to Fleet operation to include plug in hybrids and electric vehicles.
7. Implementation of Employee Commute Reduction Strategies: Implementation of some no/low-cost strategies for reducing commute driving.
8. Development of a Measurement and Verification Plan: A how-to plan for measuring and tracking energy and greenhouse gas savings.

With the completion of the internally focused 2010 Plan, the General Services Energy and Sustainability Division has transitioned and expanded its focus to efforts that facilitate the attainment of the Community G.H.G. reduction goals. Climate action planning isn't just about reaching a certain target by a certain date; it is about maintaining the G.H.G. reductions into the future, and developing a strategy to reduce G.H.G.s even further. To this end the focus of the Energy and Sustainability Division will:

1. Continue to facilitate, track and report additional reductions to Sonoma County's internal operations to further exceed the greenhouse gas baseline emissions as a key deliverable of our energy and utility management services.
2. Provide leadership and support to County Departments, regional partners, and the public in the areas of energy, sustainability and adaptation.
3. Manage key service delivery programs such as: Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, Energy Upgrade California Program, and the Sonoma County Energy Watch - Local Government Partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Company

² [The Climate Protection Action Plan, 2006](#) - The County of Sonoma has resolved to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from County operations by 20% by the year 2010. The Climate Protection Action Plan for Sonoma County has been an extraordinary effort to develop a viable plan to attain this goal.

³ [The Community Climate Action Plan, 2005](#) - the Plan presents a package of solutions that, when implemented as a large scale public works project, will meet Sonoma County's bold goal for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions — 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2015. All nine Sonoma cities and the County established this goal in 2005. Meanwhile, Sonoma County's emissions continue to rise.

Mission

Purpose

The Energy and Sustainability Division exists to facilitate and promote energy efficiency and conservation in all buildings in the county.

Core Values

- Community – we respect and value all the people we serve, support local business, and encourage local jobs creation
- Collaboration – we engage in public and private partnerships to address the emerging and evolving needs for sustainability and adaptation in Sonoma County
- Customer Service – we provide outstanding service and support for our customers and partners
- Flexibility and innovation – we bring new and dynamic perspectives to situations and in problem solving
- Uncompromising integrity – we always act with transparent honesty

Audacious Goals

1. ES staff members are recognized and utilized as key resources for leadership, expertise and knowledge in energy efficiency conservation internally, locally and regionally
2. The county utility and energy management system is a high quality and cost effective tool for county leadership decision making and a model of campus monitoring
3. County buildings are “Net Zero Energy”⁴ by the year 2050
4. Existing buildings in the county have achieved a maximum efficiency and renewable generation profile, at best a net zero carbon footprint, by 2050
5. Sonoma County electrical base load is supplied by local renewable generation sources by 2050

Vision

Sonoma is a net zero carbon and net positive environmental impact county.

⁴ [US Department of Energy, retrieved online 2011-09-18](#) a net-zero energy building produces as much energy as it uses over the course of a year

Scope – “The Net”

Strategy / Service Areas	Utility and Energy Management	Energy Efficiency	Renewable Generation	Communication and Education
ES Central	X	X	X	X
SCEW / TEAA		X		X
SCEIP		X	X	X

Customers

	ES Central	SCEW / TEAA	SCEIP
County leadership and all employees	X	X	X
3 rd party county facility operators	X	X	
Residential building owners			X
Commercial building owners			X
Renters			X
Other municipalities	X	X	
Partnering agencies and programs	X	X	
Contractors and building performance professionals			X
People who work in Sonoma County		X	X

Partners

Business and Workforce:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build It Green • Business Environmental Alliance • Chambers of Commerce • Efficiency First • North Bay Labor Council • North Bay Leadership Council • North Coast Builders Exchange • Pacific Gas and Electric Company • Sonoma County Alliance • Trade Unions
Cities / Towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloverdale

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotati • Healdsburg • Petaluma • Rohnert Park • Santa Rosa • Sebastopol • Sonoma • Windsor
Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Rosa Junior College • Sonoma County Office of Education • Sonoma State University
Internal Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax-Collector • Board of Supervisors • Facility Operations • Office of the Architect • Permit and Resource Management
Local Agencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Commission • Cities and Town Governments in Sonoma County • Economic Development Board • Innovation Council • Regional Climate Protection Authority • Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District • Sonoma County Community Development Commission • Sonoma County Transit • Sonoma County Transportation Authority • Sonoma County Waste Management Agency • Sonoma County Water Agency • Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District • Transportation and Public Works • Workforce Investment Board
Non-Profit Organizations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Bay Area Governments • Climate Protection Campaign • Community Action Partnership • Ecology Action • Faith-based Organizations • Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy • Local Government Commission • Occidental Arts and Ecology • Solar Living Institute • Solar Sonoma • Volunteer Center
State and Federal Agencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Counties • California energy Commission • California Public Utilities Commission

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Energy• Housing and Urban Development• Health and Human Services• Department of Labor |
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Core Competencies

- Knowledge of energy efficiency techniques, technologies and processes
- Data analysis and reporting, trend analysis, forecasting of efficiency, conservation, generation, greenhouse gas initiative impacts.
- Skill delivering effective communication, marketing, and educational programs in the areas of energy efficiency, conservation, renewable generation and sustainability.
- Project and program management and delivery in the areas of energy efficiency and conservation initiatives.
- Knowledge of regulations and legislation pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, renewable generation and sustainability and analysis of impact.

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