



2020 Mid-year Sustainability Highlights

September 2020

Office of Sustainability, County of Santa Clara

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INTRODUCTION

The County of Santa Clara (County) continues to be a leader in its commitment to “building and maintaining a healthy and safe community for current and future generations through preserving natural resources and the environment, fostering a healthy economy, and meeting the basic needs of all residents with respect and cultural awareness”. Guided by the County’s [Environmental Sustainability Goals](#) (ESGs), County departments and agencies work towards developing and promoting sustainability policies and programs. The Office of Sustainability (OOS) has been developing a Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) that directly builds on the ESGs to provide a framework and roadmap with which to guide the County’s present and future sustainability goals and strategies.

The 2020 Mid-Year Sustainability Highlights includes an update on the status of the SMP and highlights notable changes or key successes on ESGs and sustainability and climate action programs across the four Priority Areas as defined in the Draft SMP for the period of January - June 2020.

- Climate Protection and Defense
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Community Health and Well-Being
- Prosperous and Just Economy

Updates and information on projects mentioned in this report were provided by the following County departments and agencies:

NAME	ACRONYM
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency	CEPA
Department of Planning and Development	DPD
Facilities and Fleet Department	FAF
Integrated Pest Management, Office of Sustainability	IPM-OOS
Office of Sustainability	OOS
Office of the County Executive	CEO
Parks and Recreation	Parks
Procurement Department	PRC
Public Health Department	PHD
Roads and Airports Department	RDA

Sustainability Master Plan

Since January 2020, OOS has made significant progress in the development of the SMP. OOS worked together with Raimi + Associates (Raimi) to gather input from different County departments and Board of Supervisors Staff through online webinars and one-on-one engagement with County staff. A Discussion Draft SMP that includes the full breadth of the County's vision, goals and actions to promote and support implementation of the three core elements of sustainability (Economy, Environment and Equity) and the County's sustainable policy¹ was released July 2020.

The Draft SMP has been presented to the two Board of Supervisors (Board) Committees; Finance and Government Operations Committee (FGOC) AND Housing, Land Use Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee in June, the Board in July 2020 and the Planning Commission in August 2020.

The next steps are to build the SMP into a publicly available website to display a dashboard of data and metrics to show the County's progress towards their sustainability goals. Currently, OOS is working with the departments to finalize the targets and key performance indicators to be presented on the dashboard. The [Draft SMP](#) can be viewed on the OOS SMP webpage².

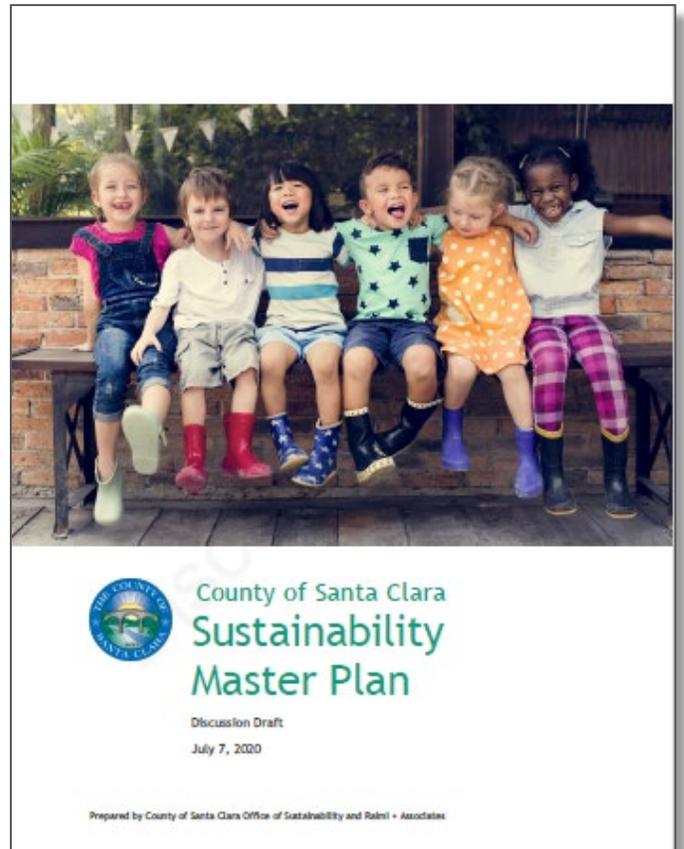


FIGURE 1. DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

¹ Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, 8.0 Policies on Sustainability (Adopted 4-27-10). <sccgov.org/sites/cob/governing-docs/Documents/Policy%20Manual/BOSPolicyCHAP8.pdf>

² <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osp/Pages/smp.aspx>



CLIMATE PROTECTION AND DEFENSE

The County of Santa Clara proactively combats climate change by accelerating local and regional solutions to achieve carbon neutrality and build community resilience. The projects in this section highlight the County's efforts to implement holistic, systems-based approaches to reduce greenhouse gases, increase carbon sequestration, and build resilience to the threats of climate change and natural disasters, while facilitating cross-jurisdictional partnership and collaboration.

Energy Efficiency

Aligns with Environmental Stewardship Goals (ESGs) Nos. 1 and 2³.

County Buildings

To advance the County's goal of increasing energy efficiency, FAF and VMC have been working with three Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) to develop energy efficiency projects at County facilities. Ameresco and Siemens, will implement \$7 million of energy efficiency measures at 1.8 million square feet of County facilities over two years. Ameresco has now completed LED lighting retrofits on 10 facilities covering over 700,000 sq. ft of space and is in the process of retrofitting another 240,000 sq. ft across 11 more facilities. In late August, Siemens will commence LED lighting retrofits on 11 facilities covering just over 900,000 sq. ft. All these efficiency retrofits will result in an estimated electricity usage reduction of 3,309,000 kWh per year.

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)



The BayREN Codes & Standards Program continues to help local governments throughout the nine Bay Area counties improve code compliance and adopt and implement energy policies. In response to COVID-19, BayREN has shifted its operations to offer online trainings for building departments. The very first online Codes and Standards training, coordinated by OOS, was held in early May. Since then, numerous additional trainings have been held for building department staff throughout the Bay Area focusing on topics ranging from energy code changes, reach code implementation, and

heat pump water.

Due to COVID-19 and the inability to hold in-person workshops, OOS has been focusing BayREN's Home+⁴ and BAMBE⁵ outreach on recruiting participating contractors and assessors to help spread the word about electrification measures and incentives offered to decarbonize multifamily and single family homes. OOS has pivoted to hosting online BayREN workshops for Santa Clara County single-family residents and multifamily property owners to learn about energy efficiency and electrification measures as well as available incentives to maximize savings and create a cleaner environment inside the home and outside.

³ ESG 1 - Ensure that 100% of light fixtures owned and operated by the County, in buildings, on streets, and in parks are at the highest energy efficiency standard.

ESG 2 - Reduce per capita energy use by 50%.

⁴ BayREN Single Family Program - <https://bayrenresidential.org/>

⁵ Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements Program - <https://www.bayren.org/multifamily>

Renewable Energy Aggregate Program (REAP)

Aligns with ESG No. 3⁶.

AF also continues to work on the development of the Renewable Energy Aggregate Program (REAP) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which currently contemplates the installation of approximately 11.4 megawatts of solar across 13 County sites, 4.7 megawatts of energy storage capacity across 4 County sites, and the potential for E-V Charging stations at 3 County sites. In addition, FAF is evaluating the possible inclusion of micro-grid enabled technology for the contemplated solar and battery storage systems to facilitate future implementation of micro-grid systems. Onsite generation of renewable energy would result in significant electricity cost savings and allow the County to decrease its level of dependence on Renewable Energy Credits (REC) over the term of the REAP agreement.



FIGURE 2. PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECTS AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE (PHOTO CREDIT: FAF)

Green Buildings

Aligns with ESG No. 4⁷.

The Vietnamese American Service Center in San Jose will be the County's first all-electric facility and is targeting LEED certification. Construction commenced in November 2019, with a targeted completion date of late spring 2021. The integrated design process allowed for inclusion of additional sustainability features such as bio-retention, electric vehicle charging stations, bike parking, and solar. The Animal Services Center in San Martin is also targeting LEED Silver certification. Construction commenced in July 2019, with a targeted completion date of Spring 2021. The integrated design process allowed for inclusion of sustainability features such as sustainable landscaping, solar hot water and solar ready.



FIGURE 4. RENDERING OF VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SERVICE CENTER (IMAGE CREDIT: FAF)



FIGURE 3. RENDERING OF ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER (IMAGE CREDIT: FAF)

⁶ ESG 3 - Receive 100% of our electrical power from clean renewable sources.

⁷ ESG 4 - Ensure that 100% of County buildings are LEED certified and require LEED standards for construction in County land use jurisdictions.

Green Building Policy Update

An ad-hoc Green Building Policy Working Group comprising staff from FAF, DPD, Parks, CEPA, and OOS has been established to discuss updating the County's Green Building Policy for County Facilities and the Green Building Ordinance. The June 3, 2020 meeting was the first meeting between staff to discuss possible updates to strengthen the County's Green Building Policy and Ordinance, which include consideration of CalGreen Tier 1 or 2 requirements, zero-net energy, resiliency and other conservation measures for County owned facilities and private development.

Waste Reduction

Aligns with ESG No. 5⁸

Waste Reduction at County Facilities

The RFP for waste service of County facilities will be released in late 2020. This will allow additional time to consider the impacts and cost implications of Senate Bill 1383⁹ requiring a 75 percent reduction in the level of organic waste disposal by 2025 and to allow haulers additional time to adjust to the impacts of COVID-19 to the waste industry. The RFP will incorporate additional sustainability goals, use of innovative technology and the option to include services of the North and South County facilities which are currently serviced through local jurisdictions franchise agreements.

FAF also initiated efforts to implement the Zero Waste Policy¹⁰ at O'Connor Hospital. Due to the focus on the hospital system's COVID-19 response, the waste program implementation will resume with the new contract in place. In the meantime, staff continues to incorporate zero waste efforts as waste service calls come in from hospitals and all facilities. New bins that conform with Senate Bill 1383 were delivered and old bins were removed at James Ranch in time for the opening of the new construction. The Ranch is now separating and collecting their organic waste for composting.

Waste Reduction in Unincorporated County

For Unincorporated County, CEPA amended the Unincorporated Solid Franchise Agreements to continue to promote diversion from landfill responding to global recycling market impacts. Recycling and Reuse campaigns are also being retooled to reflect COVID impacts.

Waste Reduction through Construction Processes

RDA has implemented Cured-In-Place (CIR) processes for recycling existing asphalt concrete and using the recycled material as base material in the construction of new or replacement roadway segments during pavement rehabilitation projects. This construction method diverts waste material from the landfill and recycles it in place as a base material. This construction method will be used on the upcoming Capitol Expressway Pavement Rehabilitation project.



**FIGURE 5. ASPHALT OVERLAY ABOVE CIR MATERIAL
(PHOTO CREDIT: RDA)**

⁸ ESG 5 - Divert 100% of county waste from landfills and convert waste to energy.

⁹ [Senate Bill No. 1383](#)

¹⁰ [Zero Waste Policy for County Facilities and Operations – Board Policy 8.4](#), adopted 10-8-13



Green Transportation

Aligns with ESG No. 8¹¹

The Greening County Fleet and Operations Study is currently underway, with a target completion date of fall 2020. The study is evaluating the County's fleet management operation and areas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), both directly and indirectly (e.g., reducing non-renewable fuel sources), while improving fuel efficiency in the most practical and cost-effective manner. This study will help chart a course of action that will increase the total number of vehicles in the County fleet that run on low GHG-emitting alternative fuels.

Employee and Client Transportation

Recommendations from the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Guide and the Transportation Needs Assessment (TNA) for County Clients studies were completed in early 2020 and will be presented to the Board in September 2020.

To encourage public transit use, the County, through the VTA SmartPass Program, offers all employees free non-express bus and light rail access. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the County averaged roughly 1,500 unique users per month. Since the pandemic began, SmartPass utilization has dropped to less than 100 unique users per month. The County also continues to incentivize public transit use through pre-tax commuter benefits. Over the last 3 months, the County has averaged less than 50 pre-tax users per month.



FIGURE 6. VTA ACCESS PARATRANSIT SERVICE
(PHOTO CREDIT: VTA)

Resiliency Planning

Flooding and Sea Level Rise Protection

As a resiliency measure, RDA continues to use a construction method that consists of injecting a rigid structural geotechnical polymer into weak foundation soils to create an adequate soil density designed to stabilize and prevent future soil erosion, slides, or general slope instability associated with climate change flooding and sea level rise. This method was recently used for settlement abatement on the intersection approaches at the San Tomas Railroad overcrossing bridge.

Ongoing Consultant Services

FAF is currently evaluating proposals for consultant services for Facility Energy Planning and Resiliency. Tasks for consideration under the future Professional Services Agreement(s) include micro-grid design,

¹¹ ESG 8 - Ensure that 100% of public fleet vehicles are electric, hybrid electric or run on alternative fuels.

all-electric feasibility studies for existing County facilities, a resiliency plan for County facilities, zero-net energy (ZNE) feasibility study, and retro-commissioning program rollout. All tasks will contribute towards the County's sustainability goals, specifically the decarbonization and resiliency efforts. .

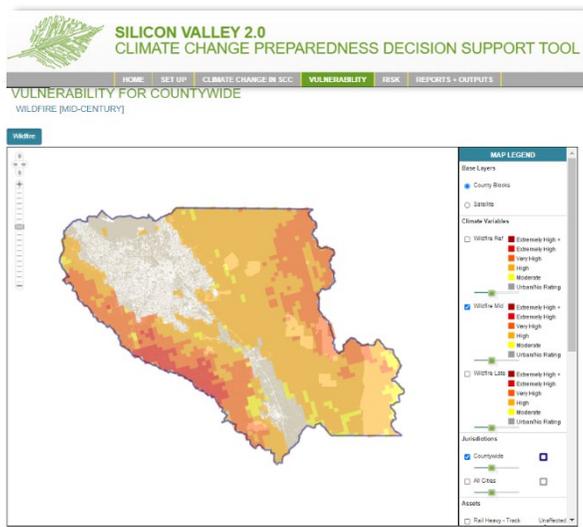


FIGURE 7. SILICON VALLEY 2.0 TOOL
(PHOTO CREDIT: OOS)

Silicon Valley 2.0

OOS kickstarted the project to update the [SV 2.0 Climate Change Preparedness Decision Support Tool](#), together with AECOM and Point Blue. Future improvements to the tool include updated climate risk data, integration with other sustainability efforts, and its usability for County staff, other government agencies, and the public. A social vulnerability index layer will be developed and added to help inform resiliency and adaptation planning in the County. OOS has started re-engaging with cities and other public agencies about coordinating resiliency planning for the region and the improved SV 2.0 tool is being updated to support these efforts.

Wildfire Planning and Preparedness

CalFire is working with RDA and Parks to improve fire protection and response in the County. Parks was awarded \$860,000 to improve forest conditions and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire at Mt. Madonna County Park. The Mt. Madonna Fuel Reduction Project will remove 25 acres of highly flammable invasive eucalyptus trees to allow the fire-resistant native forest to regenerate. In addition, the project will create a 2.5 mile shaded fuel break along Pole Line Road to serve as a fire control line and safer escape route for mountain residents. Further, RDA is coordinating with CalFire on an as-needed basis to share and extend the Roads Department South Yard as a staging area for large South County fire response. RDA will also share airport space with CalFire on an as-needed basis for the same purpose.



Farmland and Open Space Preservation

DPD has been working on updating the Zoning Ordinance to better protect and support the open space and agricultural areas that provide manifold ecosystem services and bolstering regional climate change resilience. DPD is exploring limitations on new development footprints and on the allowed uses in rural areas. In support of the adopted Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan implementation measures, the end goal will be to discourage farmland loss and new uses that are



FIGURE 8. (PHOTO CREDIT: SANTA CLARA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN)

incompatible with agriculture, while encouraging uses that are supportive of the agricultural area's future viability.

Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program: On May 12, 2020, the Board approved DPD's proposed Policies and Procedures Guide for the ARI program, which will disburse \$200,000 in grant funding to working farms and ranches that drawdown atmospheric carbon to be sequestered in soil and perennial vegetation. Each grant will help to cover the costs of implementing carbon farming practices that improve the health of the soil and ecosystem diversity while pulling harmful greenhouse gases out of the air. DPD is in the process of soliciting applications and will disburse these funds in the form of grants in FY 2021 with Board approval.

State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEET) and Healthy Soils Program (HSP): Supported by CEPA, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Small Farm Program (SFP) assisted 12 farmers with applying for the SWEET grant, which provides funding to farmers interested in increasing the water and energy efficiency of their irrigation systems. In addition, UCCE SFP assisted 10 farmers with applying for the HSP grant, which provides funding to growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improve soil health. All 22 growers have successfully received funding and are currently implementing these projects on their farms.

Regional Collaboration

County Climate Coalition

OOS completed its partnership with the Climate Reality Project (CRP) that was first formed to build membership for the County Climate Coalition. As of September 2020, there are 32 member counties in the Coalition. OOS launched a *Coalition Learning Network* on August 6, 2020, with an inaugural webinar about, "The Climate Crisis and a Just and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19".

Supervisor Dave Cortese welcomed the webinar attendees and speakers for the panel discussion included Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer from the County of Los Angeles (CA), Kathy Kuntz, Acting Director, Office of Energy and Climate Change from the County of Dane (WI), and Claire Oleksiak, Executive Director from Sustain Dane (WI).



FIGURE 9. COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION INAUGURAL WEBINAR FOR THE COALITION LEARNING NETWORK (PHOTO CREDIT: OOS)



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The County's environmental policies and programs protect, enhance, and restore natural resources, in collaboration with public and private partners. The projects in this section show the County's efforts to reduce the cumulative impacts of environmental hazards, such as air and water pollution, protect and enhance the diversity and size of ecosystems and habitats across the County, connect a network of regional parks and trails to provide the opportunity for people to commune with nature, and ensure access to clean water while also promoting water efficiency, conservation, and reuse.

Sustainable Landscaping

Aligns with ESG No. 6¹²



FIGURE 10. SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PROJECT AT CHARCOT CAMPUS (PHOTO CREDIT: FAF)

The County's Charcot campus in San Jose (2310 North First Street) was assessed as part of the County's Landscape Inventory and Operational Needs Assessment, and included recommendations for sustainable landscaping at County facilities. FAF obtained funding to complete a landscape upgrade at this facility, which will feature recycled water and sustainable (drought tolerant) landscaping. The project is currently underway and estimated to be completed by early fall 2020. Additionally, seven County FAF landscape maintenance staff attended Recycled Water Site Training and three staff attended Bay Friendly Landscape Maintenance Training to better integrate sustainable landscaping practices into County operations.

Park Trails

Aligns with ESG Nos. 9¹³

The Santa Clara County Parks Department (Parks) has constructed three trails that have contributed to the Countywide Trails Master Plan (CWTMP); the Almaden Trail, the Lisa Killough Trail and the Oak Cove Trail. All three are unpaved, multi-use trails located within Calero County Park. The total length of the three trails is 10.03 miles. Parks has constructed an additional 0.45 miles of unpaved trail contributing to the Saratoga to the Skyline trail, a regional trail listed in the Countywide Trails Master Plan.



FIGURE 11. OAK COVE TRAIL (PHOTO CREDIT: PARKS)

¹² ESG 6 - Reduce our consumption of water by 20% and recycle or beneficially reuse 100% of our waste water.

¹³ ESG 9 - Work with local governments and regional authorities to ensure that all existing County trails are interconnected with local and regional trails.

Urban Forestry

Aligns with ESG No. 10¹⁴



FIGURE 12. TREE PLANTING AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (PHOTO CREDIT: IPM-OOS)

At the Feb 11, 2020 meeting, the Board of Supervisors directed OOS to proceed with establishing a Tree Planting Services and Stewardship Pilot Program for public and private residents of Santa Clara County to plant and maintain 1,000 trees annually over a three-year period through agreements with two non-profit groups: Our City Forest (OCF) and Canopy.

To help combat climate change and better address the issues of urban heat islands, low canopy cover, poor air quality, and stormwater management challenges, the Board also approved a recommended shift of focus from planting mainly in County-owned and managed areas, to planting trees in urban areas of ecological need Countywide.

This program will conduct urban forestry outreach to find locations for trees and raise awareness of the benefits and importance of urban trees. It will also provide planting services and after-planting support. These services are also available on an as-requested basis to County departments to facilitate compliance with mitigation requirements for County tree-removal projects and maximize efforts to expand the urban forest.

Watershed Education and Riparian Stewardship

Aligns with ESG No. 12¹⁵

In June 2020, CEPA continued discussions with SJSU CommUniverCity on partnership opportunities with the County's Clean Water Program to provide expanded watershed education curriculum and pollution prevention outreach to school-aged children in unincorporated South County. This would include distributing watershed activity kits to students, water quality testing exercises, and class presentations. CommUniverCity is currently finalizing curriculum and program scheduling for the upcoming school years.



FIGURE 13 REMOVING CAPE IVY AT PENITENCIA CREEK (PHOTO CREDIT: PARKS)

¹⁴ ESG 10 - Plant 1,000 trees annually within a 15-year time frame in unincorporated urban county pockets and work with local government, agencies, non-profit organizations such as Our City Forest and Palo Alto Canopy to build a comprehensive urban forest.

¹⁵ ESG 12 - Develop educational programs and volunteer service opportunities that promote local stewardship of streams and riparian corridors and develop programs of ecologically compatible recreational use of streams and riparian corridors.

Parks put pollution prevention and riparian stewardship into practice by leading the removal of Cape Ivy at Penitencia Creek. This is an ongoing project that began in April 2020, where a group of six volunteers come out weekly to remove invasive plants, trash, and debris in the riparian corridor. Participants have cleared out enough debris and plants to fill a 20-yard dumpster. Parks is also anticipating a 2021 launch of the updated Parks' Junior Ranger Program, for children ages 9-11, to explore history and nature with park staff.

Demonstration Garden at Hellyer Park

Aligns with ESG Nos. 6 and 12

Since June 2019, County Parks Department staff, along with community volunteers, have been working to install a native plant demonstration garden at Hellyer County Park. The garden when finished will include interpretive signage on the topics of hydrology, wildlife, and native plants; statues of local wildlife; and animal tracks stamped in concrete. Completion is estimated in 2021. The garden is intended to demonstrate the conservative benefits of a drought tolerant, native plant garden, which requires less fertilizer, pesticides, energy, and water to maintain.



FIGURE 14 HELLYER PARK DEMONSTRATION GARDEN (PHOTO CREDIT: IPM-OOS)



FIGURE 15 HELLYER PARK RIPARIAN HABITAT AREA (PHOTO CREDIT: IPM-OOS)

A native riparian habitat area is also included in the demonstration garden. This riparian area is designed to help visitors understand the local watershed, as well as the ecological importance of the riparian habitat and its functions. It demonstrates how waterways connect ecosystems, raising awareness of how debris and pollution in our local streams and creeks can be washed out to the Bay.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The County strives to protect and improve the health of our community so that all people thrive in healthy and safe communities. The projects in this section show the County's efforts as it seeks to ensure residents have access to health care and affordable housing, a social safety net, resilience to future climate threats and pandemics, and opportunities for learning, employment, and culturally responsive engagement, capacity building and leadership.

Healthy Cities Criteria

PHD's Healthy Cities Program aims to guide cities and towns across the County to adopt and implement policies and practices that address growing health inequities, prevent chronic disease, injuries, and violence, and mitigate climate change. PHD provides cities with technical assistance, funding, recognition, and model policies to support a healthier community. PHD also releases annual Dashboards to cities, tracking their progress towards achieving priority policies and strategies. For 2020, PHD released a set of tentative medal criteria and OOS provided input on the criteria to align the Healthy Cities Program goals with the climate protection and community health strategies outlined in the Draft SMP. This is a step forward in aligning County efforts and leveraging different County programs to build a sustainable and healthy community.

Health and Equity in Climate Action Plans

PHD worked with a Stanford Valley Fellow to develop and apply a tool to identify the impacts that jurisdiction's Climate Action Plans (CAPs) have on health and equity. Although CAPs have the positive goal of reducing GHG emissions, the different strategies may have repercussions on the communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The tool will identify positive impacts and areas for improvement, and these will be shared with the different jurisdictions. This project supports PHD's Strategic Plan, Healthy Cities Program and the Chronic Disease Prevention Strategic Plan.



County Active Transportation Plan

RDA is coordinating with PHD to jointly develop a County Active Transportation Plan. This plan will identify walking and bicycling facilities for capital project implementation to advance the County's Public Health and Sustainability goals of reducing pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and injuries and promoting walking, biking and use of public transportation. RDA will release RFP bid in mid-September and officially kick off the project in October. From then RDA is aiming to complete the plan around the end of year 2022.

Linking Vulnerable Latinx Children and Families to County Parks

Through strong collaborative partnerships, PHD implements a highly successful Park Prescription Initiative to engage vulnerable high-risk families primarily from East San Jose in bimonthly interpreter led walks at County Parks. The program helps increase access to nature; understanding of environmental stewardship; social cohesiveness; resilience and health. The Park Prescription Initiative



FIGURE 16. PARK WALK (PHOTO CREDIT: PHD)

is a partnership between Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's Pediatric Healthy Lifestyle Center, County Parks and PHD. The initiative is designed to promote the health benefits of park use to pediatric patients with chronic health concerns and build future stewards of parks and open space as part of a larger climate mitigation strategy.

System-wide Food, Agriculture, and Health Access Initiative

At its June 2, 2020 meeting (Item No. 22), the Board of Supervisors approved directing Administration to report back to the Board with a workplan and timeline to create a comprehensive system-wide Food, Agriculture, and Health Access Initiative, including convening with public, private, and cross-systems partners and inclusive of the Santa Clara County restaurant industry. On July 20, 2020, the Santa Clara County Food System Alliance (SCCFSA) and the San Francisco Bay Area



Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) co-hosted a convening that gathered 80+ food system participant from both system partners and county departments. The convening discussed strategies, policies, ideas, and key partners for moving Santa Clara's food system forward.

CEPA and the Office of the County Executive (CEO) recently started meetings with many county departments to better coordinate efforts around the food system. CEPA and CEO will provide a report back with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 1, 2020.



PROSPEROUS AND JUST ECONOMY

To build a just and prosperous economy, the County cultivates green industries and jobs that produce goods and provide services that benefit the environment or that involve making production processes more environmentally friendly, invests in youth and historically marginalized communities, build pipelines out of poverty, promote leadership among County employee and community members, and foster collaboration among cities and regional agencies. The projects in this section highlight the County's current efforts.

Green Workforce and Job Training

Aligns with ESG No. 11¹⁶

CEPA contracts with SJSU Environmental Studies program to provide paid student internships and academic credit for students providing support to the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division (RWRD) and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Programs. This increases students' exposure and awareness of green jobs and the different environmental programs the County offers.

CEPA also continues to oversee a contract between CalTrans and the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) for litter, debris, and vegetation management in the County right-of way. Through the life of the contract (2017-2022) the County CalTrans program is estimated to provide SJCC with over 225,000 hours of paid job training and education for approximately 200 at-risk youth, ages 18-27 who desire training and completion of their high school diploma or G.E.D.

Parks continues to involve the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and SJCC and Charter School in the construction and maintenance of trails, the restoration of natural resources, and in projects that reduce the risk of wildfire. Recent collaboration include work on the Oak Cove Trail at Calero County Park, the Saratoga to Skyline Trail at Sanborn Park, forest health and tree thinning at Uvas Canyon and removing old fencing and reducing flammable fuels at Coyote Canyon, as demonstrated in this YouTube video about the CCC's work with Parks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOnm1qAAVTc>



FIGURE 17 PARKS WORKING WITH CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS IN COYOTE CANYON PARK

Another County program to foster the green workforce is the Tree Planting and Stewardship Pilot Program which provides funding for Our City Forest to add an additional 30 AmeriCorps positions to work with their team over the next three years and help implement urban forestry efforts throughout the County. AmeriCorps members that work with Our City Forest receive health insurance, a work stipend, and training and practical experience in tree care and urban forestry.



FIGURE 18 OUR CITY FOREST AMERICORP SERVICE MEMBER TEACHING HOW TO PLANT A TREE (PHOTO CREDIT: OUR CITY FOREST)

¹⁶ ESG 11 - Increase the available blue and white collar "clean and green workforce" course/trainings available regionally and in Santa Clara County and help place 20,000 trainees and graduates in the regional labor force by the end of 2013.

Green Procurement

In 2019, an effort was undertaken to guide a new procurement initiative, namely the institutionalizing of a Countywide Sustainable Purchasing Policy. To assist in this effort, the Vendor Outreach team conducted a study consisting of the following: 1) a Countywide sustainability policy gap analysis; 2) a spend analysis of contracts and purchase orders issued by PRC over a five-year period; 3) two applicable vendor surveys; and 4) a sample contract analysis of contracts established and managed by PRC that pertained to sustainability. A new Sustainable Purchasing Policy working group has been recently established by OOS to provide County agencies and departments with sustainability purchasing guidelines and development of a framework to track quantifiable sustainability practices and results. As an advising member, PRC is committed to supporting the implementation and compliance of this Countywide initiative.

For more information, visit the [Office of Sustainability Website](#)

Contact us at sustainability@ceo.sccgov.org