

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Annual Sustainability Report 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following departments provided their updates and progress on sustainability goals for 2022.

Office of the County Executive (CEO)
Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA)
Office of the County Executive -
Division of Equity and Social Justice (DESJ)
Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
Facilities and Fleet Department (FAF)
County of Santa Clara Health System (Health System)
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Office of the County Executive -
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging (ODEB)
Office of the County Executive -
Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Office of the County Executive -
Office of Supportive Housing (OSH)
Office of Sustainability (OOS)
Parks and Recreation Department (Parks)
Procurement Department (PRC)
Public Health Department (PHD)
Roads and Airports Department (RDA)
Diversion and Reentry Services (Reentry)
Registrar of Voters (ROV)
Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD)
Social Services Agency (SSA)

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Department of Planning and Development
Diversion and Reentry Services
Office of Communications and Public Affairs
Office of Sustainability
Parks and Recreation Department
Public Health Department
Roads and Airports Department
Santa Clara County Library District

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Executive Summary

In its second year of implementation, efforts are well under way to implement the Sustainability Master Plan by integrating sustainability as a core value and function within County programs and operations, supporting cross-departmental and regional collaboration, and empowering collective action. In 2022, one target under the Prosperous and Just Economy priority area was accomplished. The adoption of the Food Systems Workplan by the Board of Supervisors completed the target to develop a comprehensive work plan to build a robust food system that addresses community-wide food security. With this target achieved, the County is moving forward with adopting a new countywide target that aims to improve local food recovery to meet needs to food insecure people and communities, in alignment with statewide goals under SB 1383.

More details on the SMP Priority Areas, and data for existing and new targets can be viewed on the SMP website and data dashboard at www.sccgov.org/sustainabilityplan.

Executive Summary

CLIMATE PROTECTION AND DEFENSE

DECARBONIZATION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS

- **Renewable energy.** 100% of County's 2022 electricity powered by renewable energy sources.
- **Greening the Fleet.** County fleet is now at 31% alternative fuel.
- **Telework.** 30% of County employees teleworked in 2022 with an average of two days/week per employee.
- **Recycling.** Santa Clara Valley Health saved more than \$205,000 by purchasing recycled and reprocessed single use medical devices, reducing their environmental footprint.

CARBON NEUTRALITY IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Climate Roadmap 2030.** Awarded three \$5,000 mini grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to engage hard to reach audiences yielding responses from 237 community members.
- **SB 1383 Implementation.** County staff provided leadership for the [Santa Clara County Food Recovery Program](#), provided education and monitored 420 residential and commercial containers in unincorporated areas and secured \$121,000 of non-competitive grant funding for Monitoring, Food Recovery and Compost Procurement activities.
- **AB 1276 Implementation.** The Department of Environmental Health was authorized, via a [resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors](#), to enforce the reduction of waste generated by single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments in unincorporated areas.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

- **Energy Resilience.** 500kW energy storage approved to be installed at Saint Louise Regional Hospital to reduce electricity demand and save over \$387,000 over 10 years.
- **Wildfire Protection.** Prescribed burns for wildfire prevention organized at County Park locations, including at Calero, Santa Teresa, and Ed Levin.
- **Emergency Response.** All seven County libraries operated as cooling/warming centers during eight extreme weather events in 2022.
- **Climate Resilience Planning.**
 - An [updated SV 2.0 Tool](#) launched that includes recent climate data, a social vulnerability index, and fact sheets highlighting climate impacts on communities and infrastructure.
 - A [Climate Impact Compendium webpage](#) developed to provide local health and demographic data pertaining to heat and air quality impacts in Santa Clara County.
- **Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative.**
 - 42 organizations participated in the Collaborative and a [Collaborative website/hub](#) was developed that includes a Climate Resilience Tool providing step-by-step guidance for incorporating nature-based approaches into policy and infrastructure for climate resilience.
 - The Heat and Air Quality Resilience Working Group was launched with the goals of aligning priorities, engaging communities, and sharing best practices to advance equitable solutions to the impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality.

Executive Summary

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY

- **County Parks.** Irrigation controllers used at all County parks with turf to reduce water use to 85% and low flow toilets and waterless urinals installed at three County parks.
- **Pesticides.** 48 high risk conventional pesticides phased out of use in County pest management.

WASTE REDUCTION

- **Roadway Cleanup.** Partnership with Caltrans and San Jose Conservation Corps has yielded 759 cubic yards of trash and 7,693 cubic yards of vegetation and debris collected from Caltrans right of way since April 2019.
- **Waterway Cleanup.** A total of nearly 5,000 lbs of trash collected during National River Cleanup Day and California Coastal Cleanup Day.
- **Hazardous Waste.** 17% increase in small business participation for Household Hazardous Waste disposal.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- **Anti-Litter.** 185 school-aged children across four elementary schools in unincorporated Santa Clara County provided with anti-litter education through EcoHero Show presentations.
- **Pest Management.** 388 Integrated Pest Management outreach events held to educate the public about non-chemical pest management methods.

NATURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP

- **Tree Planting.**
 - A total of 1,429 trees planted in 2022 across multiple County Parks, the Animal Services Center, and the County Government Center.
 - In partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, an initiative was launched to plant 1,000 trees at school campuses in high need neighborhoods.
- **Countywide Trails.** County Parks completed a 1,150-foot extension of the Virl O Norton Trail in Almaden Quicksilver County Park, that connects over 35 miles of existing trails in the countywide trails network.

Executive Summary

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

- **Health Access.** Telehealth continues to be actively utilized in County's Health System with an average of 16,000 logins/day to myHealthOnline and offers interpreter services in 35 languages, including American Sign Language.
- **Air Quality**
 - Public Health Department ran the Safer Air Campaign in December 2022, utilizing print and digital ads, webpages, videos, postcards, and in-person outreach, to encourage business owners to make indoor air safer for employees and customers and decrease the spread of COVID and flu.
 - Through BayREN programs, 1,358 single and multifamily homes in the county have received energy efficiency and electrification upgrades to improve air quality, safety, and comfort of homes.

- **Children's Health.** In March 2022, the Board of Supervisor's adopted the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to promote the importance of youth spending time outdoors leading to activities like seed planting at community events.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Voter education.** To support the 2022 General Elections, the Registrar of Voters held 215 voter education outreach events including workshops held in 13 languages.
- **Community support.** The Division of Equity and Social Justice administered \$100,000 in mini grants to 40 community leaders and community organizations to combat community hate and violence.
- **Leadership training.** 56 new facilitators from services providers, CBOs, and County departments were trained over six 40-hr training sessions to provide LGBTQ education.

SAFETY NET SERVICES

- **Social Services.**
 - 60% reduction in children entering foster care due to the Department of Family and Child Services approach of serving children in the home and increasing family engagement.
 - Increased use of support services with 9.5% increase in CalFresh participation and 31% increase in General Assistance enrollment over one year, and 32.5% increase in Medi-Cal cases and 15% increase in CalWORKs participation over two years.
- **Reentry Support.** \$17,401 raised through a 5K run/walk event to raise money for new clothes for clients to help them with their reentry journey.

EDUCATION

- **Virtual Programming.** Virtual programming offered to the community increased and included storytimes, bilingual storytimes, English as a Second Language conversation club, distinguished author series, and film discussion group, among others.
- **Outdoor Fun.** Funded by Libraries Outside Grant, libraries in Morgan Hill and Gilroy created 30 nature dayparks for public use, with supplies that enhance outdoor exploration, discovery, and make a connection to nature.

Executive Summary

PROSPEROUS AND JUST ECONOMY

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

- **Green Business.** 69 Green Businesses were certified in 2022, saving 27,253 lbs of CO₂, which is equivalent to planting 42 acres of urban trees.
- **Workforce Development.** In partnership with BayREN, eight Santa Clara County youth were employed by Rising Sun Center for Opportunity to deploy home water and energy efficiency kits.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Food Systems Workplan. Of the 36 recommendations included in the Workplan across seven goal categories, four have been fully implemented, 17 have been partially implemented, and 15 are still under development.

COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

- **Employee Education.** 300+ employees tuned in to the Lunch and Learn Webinar Series during Earth Month in April, which covered induction cooking, transportation choices, and waste reduction.
- **Sustainable Purchasing Policy.** New Strategic Source Officer was hired within Procurement to accomplish sustainable purchasing through County procurement and contracting activities.
- **Good Food Purchasing Policy.** Public Health Department and Santa Clara County Health Systems (HHS) joined the San Francisco Bay Area Local Food Purchasing Collaborative to help improve food procurement for the County, and a baseline food procurement assessment was launched for the three County hospitals.
- **Sustainability Commission.** The proposed Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission model was presented to Board of Supervisors, which is anticipated to launch summer 2023.

Executive Summary

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next year, the following efforts will be undertaken to further the County's standing as a leader in sustainability and resilience.

- **Carbon Neutrality for County Operations Plan** to align with State of California and other local jurisdictions that are accelerating efforts to reduce carbon emissions to tackle the climate crisis.
 - **Commuter Platform** to improve employee commute through increased utilization of alternative modes of transportation and County Teleworking policy.
 - **Carbon Sequestration Study** to quantify current levels of carbon stock and develop a carbon sequestration implementation plan for County parklands and landscaped areas.
 - **Santa Clara Valley Medical Campus Central Plant Electrification Assessment** to identify systems needs, including sub-metering, load, and configuration requirements to determine feasibility, funding, and implementation plan to electrify the VMC's chilled water plant.
- **Community Climate Action Roadmap** for unincorporated areas of the County and prioritized regional strategies for coordinated action on shared countywide sustainability goals.
- **Energy Resilience Roadmap** for unincorporated county that includes recommendations for advancing building electrification and energy resilience of existing residential and commercial building stock.
- **Continuity of Operations and Resilience Study** for the three County Hospitals that includes system reliability assessment and climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning to enhance utility infrastructure and power systems reliability and provide resiliency to climate hazards.
- **Diesel Free by '33 Study** to explore the feasibility of replacing County diesel-fueled equipment with cleaner, alternative solutions.
- **Updated Safety Element and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** with climate risks and resiliency goals and strategies included.
- **Updated Countywide Trails Master Plan Map** to better reflect current planning and changes to the countywide trail network that have occurred since the original map was adopted in 1995.
- **Food Systems Leadership Collaborative** to strengthen the capacity for food system coordination, a **Resident Food Equity Advisory Council** to build trust and partnership with communities for workplan implementation and funding for food assistance programs.
- **Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative** to elevate the leadership of youth in Santa Clara County on climate change and support youth from underserved communities enhance their college and career preparedness.
- **Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission** to advise on policy, programmatic, and community engagement aspects related to the County Sustainability Master Plan.
- **Climate and Health Training for County Employees** to have a shared understanding of how climate change affects us and the communities we serve and learn how to take action by incorporating sustainable practices at work and at home.
- **Induction Cooktop Loaner Program** for County employees to test the benefits of induction cooking by checking out a portable induction cooktop and cookware at no cost for up to two weeks.
- **SMP Implementation** through Grant development services to capitalize on Federal and State climate funding and a refined data management system to enhance sustainability initiatives tracking and reporting.





Climate Protection and Defense

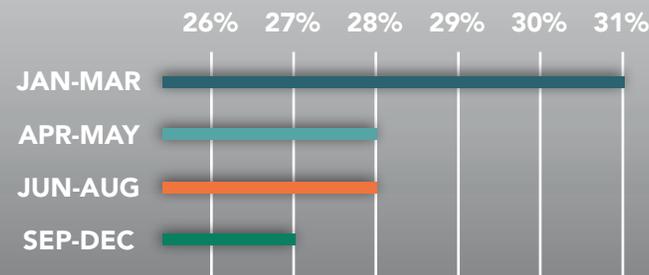
CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR COUNTY OPERATIONS

Journey to Carbon Neutral County Operations

- Electrification Study for Existing County Facilities report is in final review and findings will be presented in Spring 2023.
- 100% of County's 2022 electricity powered by renewable energy sources.
- Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) received Community Resilience Grant to purchase two mobile EV charging stations to support EV vehicles operating in remote park locations.
- County fleet is now at 31% alternative fuel. The County's Facilities and Fleet Department (FAF) was ranked as the 12th leading fleet in the nation by [Government Fleet Magazine](#) at the Government Fleet Expo & Conference in Detroit.
- The success of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) Shuttle pilot has led to an extension through fiscal year 2023.
- [Energy and Water Efficiency Audits](#) at County hospitals were started and a draft report is estimated to be completed by January 2023.
- Registrar of Voters (ROV) reduced the number of paper copies of County Voter Information Guides delivered to voters by more than 52,000.
- Consumer and Environmental Protection's (CEPA) Agriculture and Weights & Measures Division helped reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions due to their implementation of online bill pay.
- RFP for new waste service to County facilities was issued and includes adding organics collection to County facilities, specifically hospitals and South County.

EMPLOYEE TELEWORKING DATA FOR 2022

% COUNTY EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN TELEWORK



AVERAGE TELEWORK DAYS PER WEEK PER EMPLOYEE IN 2022



- Waste audit of five County campuses was completed in February 2022, providing a baseline for how the County manages its waste and other information to support County's 100% waste diversion goal.
- The County continues to implement its Countywide Teleworking Policy which recognizes that flexible work arrangements and reduced commutes may benefit the employee, the department, and County residents by making more efficient use of staff time. In 2022, 30% of county employees teleworked for an average 2.03 days per week per employee.

Single-use Medical Devices Reuse

In line with the County of Santa Clara's Environmental and Sustainability initiatives, Santa Clara Valley Health (SCVH) has executed a medical device reprocessing contract with Stryker Sustainability. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved reprocessing for single-use medical devices and reprocessing works by placing recycling bins in select areas of the hospital (floors, Intensive Care Units, Operating Rooms, and Recovery Units.) Once the single-use medical device is no longer needed, it is placed in the bin and taken to a third-party reprocessing center where it is cleaned and reprocessed according to FDA guidelines. These devices are then sold back to the hospital at discounted prices ranging from 20% to 50%.

As of September 30, 2022, almost 10,000 units have been recycled. SCVH has purchased a total of \$170,680 worth of reprocessed devices and saved an estimate of \$205,999, while reducing the environmental footprint.

CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR UNINCORPORATED COUNTY

County Climate Roadmap 2030

Efforts continue to develop and finalize the Community Climate Action Plan ([Climate Roadmap 2030](#)) which will outline actions to reduce carbon emissions in unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County and joint efforts with partners to reduce countywide emissions.

- Because a large part of unincorporated county is used for agriculture, the scope was expanded and work has started to complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of the agricultural sector.
- Mini grants of \$5,000 each were awarded to 3 community organizations that serve hard to reach audiences, to conduct outreach on the Climate Roadmap and survey their communities.

Climate Roadmap outreach by the numbers:

- 238 survey results received from community organizations that received the mini grants
- 16 public agencies participated in a workshop to develop building electrification and transportation strategies
- 40-70 opinions received per strategy – using a virtual public feedback tool, with a total of 25 strategies to review
- 14 meetings held with internal and external stakeholders to review the strategies.

SB 1383 Implementation

To meet SB 1383 requirements, which became effective January 1, 2022, County staff implemented many key activities including the following highlights:

- \$121,000 of non-competitive grant funding was received by the County for Monitoring, Food Recovery and Compost Procurement activities required by the new law.
- 420 residential and commercial containers in unincorporated areas of the county were monitored as required and provided direct education and feedback about proper sorting and waste container contamination.
- An online application and approval process was developed to allow waivers from mandatory garbage and recycling service for qualifying businesses.
- County staff provided key leadership for the Countywide Food Recovery Program, which allows the unincorporated jurisdiction to meet Food Recovery Program requirements
- County of Santa Clara is a statewide model procurement program for their use of the Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program to help meet compost procurement requirements.

AB 1276 Enforcement

The Board of Supervisors [adopted a resolution](#) in August 2022, authorizing the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) as the enforcement agency for the implementation of AB 1276 relating to the reduction of the waste generated by single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments.

Preparedness and Resilience

Energy Resilience

In addition to the 15 Solar and four Energy Storage Projects approved in 2021, an [Energy Services Agreement](#) was approved to install a 500 kilowatts (kW) capacity energy storage system at the Saint Louise Regional Hospital that would reduce Saint Louise Regional Hospital's peak electrical demand by an estimated 690 kW and provide \$387,672 in net savings to the County over the 10-year contract term.

Wildfire Prevention

Prescribed burns, vital for the reduction of fuel load and lowering risk of intense fire activity, were organized at County Park locations, including at Calero, Santa Teresa, and Ed Levin. Cal Fire engines and Parks equipment are on site during these burn operations, and patrols were conducted by Parks staff to ensure the piles are fully extinguished.

Emergency Response and Planning

All seven County libraries operated as cooling/warming centers during extreme weather events. In 2022, the county experienced:

- Five inclement weather events in late fall to early winter, with frost and freeze warnings issued and overnight temperatures dropping to the 30s and low 40s. During the atmospheric rivers events that brought torrential rain to the region and flooding in South County, the County libraries continued to operate as warming centers,



though the County shifted to coordinating the opening of shelters for displaced and unhoused community members.

- Three extreme heat events in the summer, with temperatures reaching 109F in San Jose.

Climate Impact Compendium. The County's Public Health Department (PHD) developed a [Climate and Health webpage](#) and worked collaboratively with Office of Sustainability (OOS) to launch a [Climate Impact Compendium \(CIC\)](#). The CIC provides local health and demographic data pertaining to heat and air quality impacts in Santa Clara County plus tools and resources for policymakers.

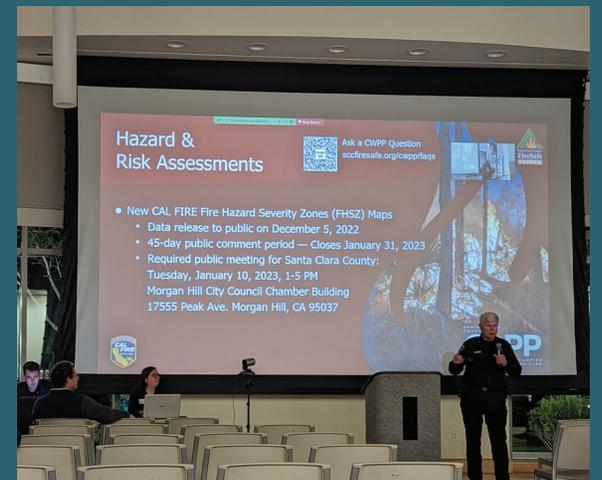
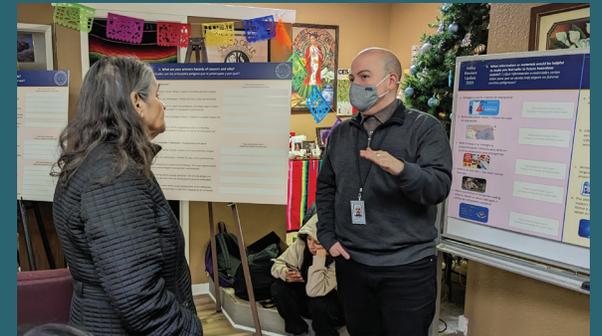
County Safety Element Update. Three outreach events were performed to gather information about the safety concerns of county residents, including a virtual workshop open to the public, a bilingual listening session hosted by community partner, Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Services (CARAS), in Gilroy and a virtual listening session with Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action to hear youth voices.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (FSC) was awarded a grant from CAL FIRE to begin the update of the countywide CWPP. The FSC hosted five in-person outreach meetings in December 2022, one in each Supervisorial District. The CWPP update is now developing as a living, web-based document with input from stakeholders and individual annexes for specific geographies being updated by local community members.

Health/Environmental Justice (EJ) Element and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

Work has started to update the County's Health Element and MJHMP. The Health Element is being revised to include an EJ Element that will include objectives and more robust environmental justice policies to address health inequities and elevated pollution burden experienced by priority communities. The update for the MJHMP will leverage findings and outreach from both the Safety and EJ Element updates to provide a comprehensive document to outline the hazard mitigation priorities of the county.



Silicon Valley 2.0 Climate Change Preparedness Tool (SV 2.0)

An [updated version of the SV 2.0 Tool](#) was launched and includes more recent climate data, a social vulnerability index (SoVI) to highlight disadvantaged communities exposed to climate hazards, and fact sheets that summarize the projected climate impacts on both infrastructure and communities.

SV 2.0 provides climate vulnerability and economic risk assessments from climate hazards like sea level rise, riverine flooding, extreme heat, and wildfire for all jurisdictions in the county, including unincorporated county. In 2022, the cities of [Cupertino](#) and [Milpitas](#) have both used the updated tool to address climate adaptation in their Climate Action Plans.

Regional Collaboration - County Climate Collaborative

Through the County Climate Collaborative, the County continues to build a cross-sector network and community of practice for public agencies, academia, nonprofit and community-based organizations, as well as business and community leaders, to advance regional solutions to climate change.

- A total of 42 organizations have actively participated in the Collaborative (3 universities, 14 cities/towns, 8 local public agencies, 5 regional agencies, 11 non-profit/community based organizations (CBOs), and the County).
- Launched a [Collaborative website/hub](#), and a Resiliency Tool that provides step-by-step guidance to local jurisdictions for incorporating nature-based approaches into policy and physical interventions for climate resilience.

- Three working groups launched to bring together stakeholders to tackle issues related coastal and riverine flooding, heat and air quality and urban forestry.

- **Sea Level Rise and Flooding Priorities:** the working group will identify a list of regional scale projects for implementation, a set of monitoring metrics, and guidelines for implementation of nature-based approaches in capital projects.

- **Santa Clara Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA):** will facilitate collaboration and sharing of tools and re-sources, expanding and preserving urban tree canopy and mitigating detrimental effects on the environment and human health, especially in areas with disadvantaged populations.

- **Heat and Air Quality Resiliency (HAQR):** the workgroup hosted two meetings in June and September, with participants from five County departments and 12-16 organizations, and included presentations from community partners and the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management. Moving forward the group will develop a plan to align priorities, engage communities, and share best practices across organizations and communities to advance equitable solutions to the health impacts of heat and air quality hazards.



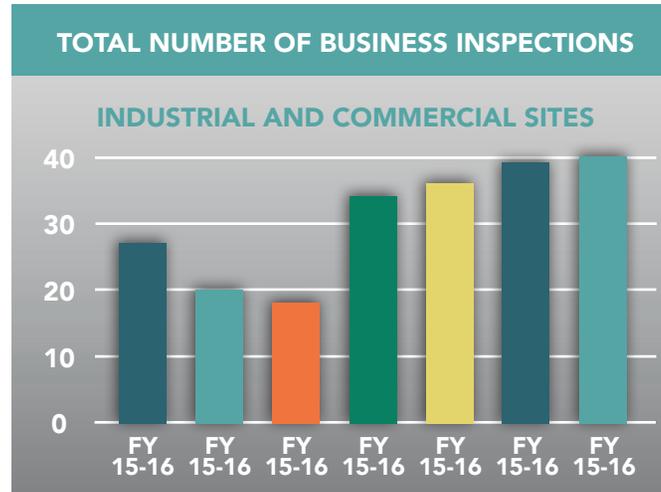


Natural Resources and the Environment

WATER STEWARDSHIP AND DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

Water Quality

- 53 commercial/industrial inspections to prevent discharges of polluted stormwater.



Water Conservation

In response to a Board of Supervisors resolution to reduce water use by 15%, Parks has implemented several measures across County Parks:

- Irrigation controllers were used to reduce water use to 85% at all parks with turf, which include Martial Cottle Park, Vasona Lake County Park, Hellyer County Park, Ed Levin County Park, and Almaden Quick Silver Mining Museum's Casa Grande grounds.
- Irrigation repairs to address leaks were promptly made at numerous parks where leaking breaks were discovered.
- Six toilets were replaced with low flow toilets at Santa Teresa County Park and Mt Madonna County Park, and three regular flushing urinals with waterless urinals at Hellyer Park.

- Park staff are in the process of replacing approximately one acre of regular turf grass at Hellyer Park's Velodrome infield with a hybrid grass that is engineered to be low maintenance and has very low water demands. Prep work will occur this spring, and the new hybrid turf will be planted in fall 2023.

Trash Reduction Efforts

- CEPA's Watershed Protection Division (WPD) developed and began to implement a countywide litter abatement program that aims to remove litter and illegally dumped waste from areas all throughout Santa Clara County. The litter cleanup program is funded by the state and is in partnership with the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) and the 15 cities in the County.
- The [Caltrans/SJCC litter abatement agreement](#) being overseen by CEPA¹ ended in April 2022. From the start of the agreement in April 2019, SJCC collected 759 Cubic Yards of trash and 7,693 cubic yards of vegetation and debris from Caltrans right of way.

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Reduction.
 - 309 appointments leading to 17% increase in small business participation for HHW disposal.
 - 2,839,924 pounds of HHW collected at permanent facilities and temporary events.
- Pesticide Use Reduction.
 - 26 of 28 regional parks managed completely by non-chemical methods for pest removal.
 - 48 high-risk conventional pesticides phased out of use and significantly reduced number of applications of reduced-risk pesticides.

¹ 2020 Mid-year Sustainability Highlights Report

TRASH AND PESTICIDE REDUCTION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- 185 school-aged children across four elementary schools in unincorporated Santa Clara County were provided with anti-litter education through EcoHero Show presentations.
- 2,000-3,000 people reached during the Day on the Bay Multicultural Festival, with 250 brochures distributed.
- 82% service approval rating of excellent or good for solid waste services from a residential survey, which also provided insight into waste management services, such as bulky item collection, and will be used to inform further outreach and education.
- In 2022, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program held 388 outreach events (County intra-departmental meetings and partnership meetings), four IPM Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings, and four staff training events.

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tree Planting

- A total of 2,048 urban trees, with 862 trees in 2022, have been planted with trained tree stewards committed to providing necessary care and watering.
- The County received a donation of 438 trees (435 were officially donated and included an additional three trees), with an estimated value of \$386,375. Of these trees, 181 can be found at Santa Teresa, Martial Cottle, Calero, Uvas Canyon, and Ed Levin County Parks. Parks also collaborated with Our City Forest to add an additional 225 trees at Hellyer Park as part of mitigation programs.



National River Cleanup Day May 21, 2022

- 75 Volunteers
- Parks Served: Calero Reservoir, Ed Levin, Hellyer, Los Gatos Creek, and Uvas Reservoir
- Nearly 700 lbs of trash collected

California Coastal Cleanup Day Sep 17, 2022

- 150 Volunteers
- Parks Served: Calero Reservoir, Hellyer, Vasona Lake, Grant, and Uvas Reservoir
- Nearly 4,000 lbs of trash collected

- An additional 117 trees were planted by volunteers and stewards at Santa Teresa park and FAF led the planting of 44 trees at the Animal Services Center and the County Government Center.

Habitat Protection

- CEPA's Division of Agriculture continues to implement a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) invasive weed grant to increase the value of crop land and rangeland, reduce fire hazard and fire control costs, protect the biodiversity and native ecosystems, increase water supply and flow, maintain recreational and aesthetic value of public areas, and decrease the costs of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance. A total of 15 noxious weed species have been prioritized for targeting as the Division collaborates with Parks, municipalities, land use organizations, and private landowners in a weed management area group.
- In 2021, CEPA was awarded the CDFA Noxious Weed Grant, which was \$64,000 over 18 months, to eradicate the presence of A- and B-rated noxious weeds within

the county. In 2022, CEPA used these funds and discovered four new B-rated sites throughout the county, but also found reduced weed populations in other A- and B-rated project sites already being monitored.

Education and Outreach

- To celebrate Arbor Day, OOS and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) partnered with Our City Forest, to plant trees at the SCCOE's South County Annex educational facility. This was the start of a new initiative to plant 1,000 trees at school campuses and surrounding neighborhoods of high need in the county.
- The County also worked with Our City Forest and City of Gilroy to complete a demonstration tree planting site at Christmas Park. This site features 18 trees, all of different species with the intent of providing residents a way to better see and learn about the various tree species that are approved for planting by the city.



Free programs offered by Canopy to inspire, train, and equip new community tree champions, decision-makers, and practitioners, with tools to protect and maintain trees and to increase tree canopy cover:

- “More Trees Please” Workshop for professionals, decision makers, and influencers.
- “Community Forestry School” course for community members.
- 45 community members participated nine-week “Community Forestry School”.

Parks and Recreation

• In November 2022, new Stevens Creek Trail medallions were installed along the 3.5-mile section of the Stevens Creek/Tony Look Trail that runs through Stevens Creek County Park as part of a collaborative effort between County Parks, the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, and other regional partners. The medallions help unify the existing segments of the Stevens Creek Trail across jurisdictions and promote the eventual completion of a continuous trail along the entire Stevens Creek corridor. The Stevens Creek Trail is an important sub-regional trail identified in the County’s Countywide Trails Master Plan.

• In December 2022, County Parks completed a 1,150-foot extension of the Viri O Norton Trail in Almaden Quicksilver County Park that provides an off-street path for visitors to safely enter and exit the park. The extension bridges a long-standing gap in the Bay Area Ridge Trail and connects over 35 miles of existing trails in the countywide trails network.





Community Health and Well-Being



HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Active Transportation Plan

The project team identified draft recommendations that will be refined through departmental and public input. The public and CBOs will again be engaged in early spring to collect feedback on recommendations. The project team continues to work toward a releasing a public draft plan in fall 2023 and seek adoption by the end of 2023.

Improve Patient Engagement (Telehealth)

Telehealth continues to be a vital tool in providing medical services to patients of the County's Health System. Patient-to-provider engagement via patient portal myHealthOnline (MHO) reduces the need for in-person visits, decreasing trips and vehicle emissions and increasing access to care, especially for older adults, people with disabilities, and parents with young children.

MHO by the Numbers:

- Six million logins, averaging 16,000 logins/day
- More than 21,000 primary care visits were scheduled online
- More than 24,000 video visits were scheduled and completed
- 448,348 medical advice requests were sent to primary care provider teams
- 14,376 prescription refill requests
- Over 1,000 disability applications had supporting documents sent electronically to the Social Services Agency (SSA), making for faster decision times and fewer trips to an SSA office.



- More than 10,000 flu shots and 400 screening mammograms scheduled online

- Interpreter services are available in 35 languages, including American Sign Language

Juntos Initiative

Two components of the Juntos Initiative are currently underway:

- The Promotore Program trains parents to be Promotores (community leaders) to co-lead nature-based park walks, participate in hands on gardening, and promote environmental stewardship to friends and family.
- The Capitanes Del Bosque Program aims to provide youth volunteer and leadership opportunities and its curriculum is currently being developed in partnership with the Parks Department

Both the Promotores and Capitanes del Bosque Programs will be taught in English and Spanish.

Air Quality

- PHD developed a process for disseminating portable air filters to congregate settings and has started outreach to organizations serving populations most vulnerable to wildfire smoke. Through a new Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Home Air Filtration project, Public Health Nursing staff will be distributing air purifiers to clients that reside in East San Jose and meet BAAQMD criteria. In December, PHD ran the Safer Air Campaign to reach business owners to make indoor air safer for employees and customers to decrease the spread of COVID and flu.

- The County continued to administer the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) programs to improve air quality, safety, and comfort of homes by providing local energy efficiency and electrification resources for homeowners, renters, multifamily property owners, businesses, and jurisdictions in the County. For more information, see the [2022 Impact of BayREN Programs in Santa Clara County](#) and [2022 Climate Careers reports](#).

- 1,358 single and multifamily homes upgraded .

- \$2,704,357 in rebates paid to residents and property owners.

- 170 County residents received energy and water efficiency kits.

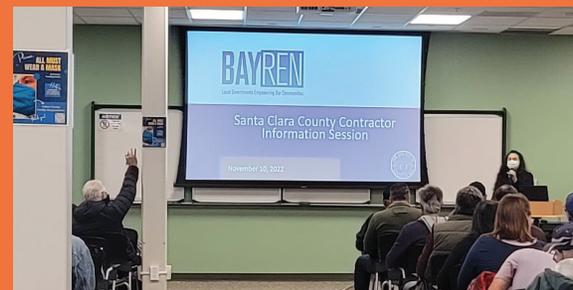
- 10 new Santa Clara County contractors enrolled for single family upgrades.

Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

In March 2022, the Board of Supervisor's adopted the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBOR). Efforts over the last six months have been focused on collaboration with County Departments, community partners, schools, and cities to promote COBOR and the importance of youth spending time outdoors.

Key activities have included:

- Youth commission presentations with the goal of cities in the County adopting the COBOR.
- Facilitating seed planting activities at community events including Black Family Day, WIC events, Juneteenth events and Youth Conferences.
- Working with Valley Transportation Authority and Parks on system level changes to address access to parks and transportation barriers.
- Planning to incorporate COBOR messaging in upcoming reading programs with the City of San Jose and County Libraries.

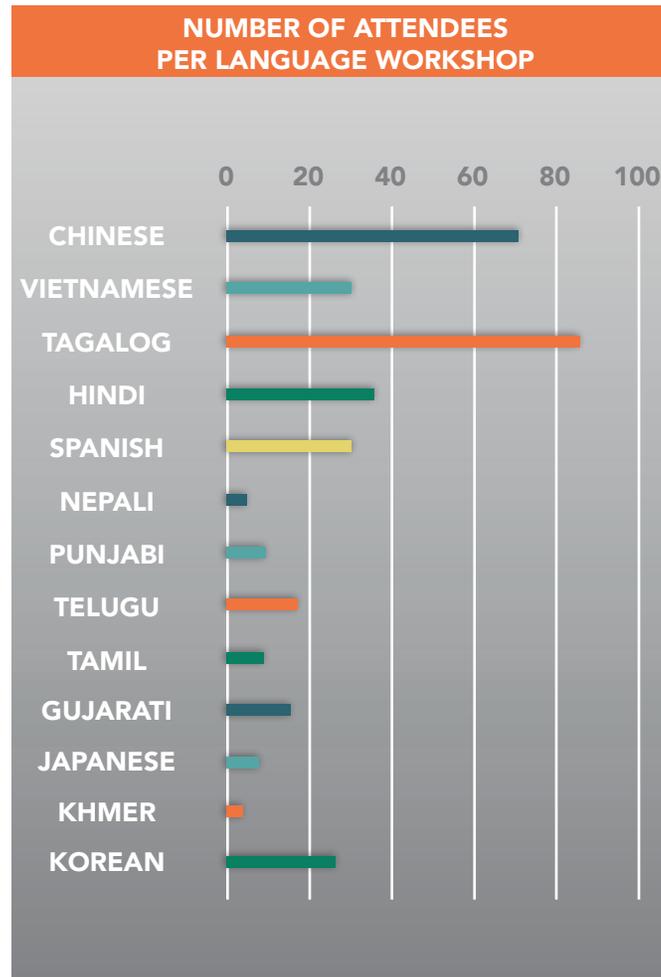


CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Voter Education and Engagement

To support the 2022 General Elections, the ROV held 215 outreach events with targeted outreach toward the following demographics: K-12 (Youth), College, General Public, Religious, Seniors, Corporate, Language/Ethnicity, LGBTQ, Formerly Incarcerated, Women, Unhoused residents

Voter Education Workshops were held in 13 languages.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- The Division of Equity and Social Justice (DESJ) administered a mini-grant program that administered funding for 40 qualifying community leaders and community organizations for a total funding distribution of \$100,000 to combat community hate and violence.
- 189 registered participants to the 2022 LGBTQ Summit with the theme of "Intersectionality".
- 56 new facilitators were trained over six 40-hr training sessions to provide LGBTQ education. Participants ranged from LGBTQ+ services providers, CBOs, and County employees.
- 14 immigrant students/fellows graduated from the New American Fellowship, a 10-week program administered by the Office of Immigrant Relations to support job training for special status immigrants.

SAFETY NET SERVICES

Social Services

- The Department of Family and Child Services (DFCS) is serving more children in the home with expanded prevention services as well as increased family engagement which resulted in a 60% reduction in children coming into foster care.
- 287 participants in the Safe, Secure & Loved Resilient Families program, with 68% of the participants completing the six sessions. The average scores for parents who completed the pre- and post-session test question "I know how to help my child learn", changed from 3.3 (slightly above Slightly Disagree) to 5.4 (in between Slightly Agree and Mostly Agree).
- 31% increase in General Assistance enrollment over one year
- 32.5% increase in Medi-Cal cases over two years

- 262 youth served by the New Hope for Youth program. Thirty-one youth completed the Risk and Resiliency assessment after 6 months and 100% achieved a higher attainment and resiliency and reduction in risk behaviors.
- 9.5% increase in CalFresh participation over one year.
- 15% increase in CalWORKs participation over two years, including over 10,000 children.
- 349 CalWORKs families assisted with housing in 2022.
- 400 youth from the CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Foster Care programs participated in Intern & Earn.

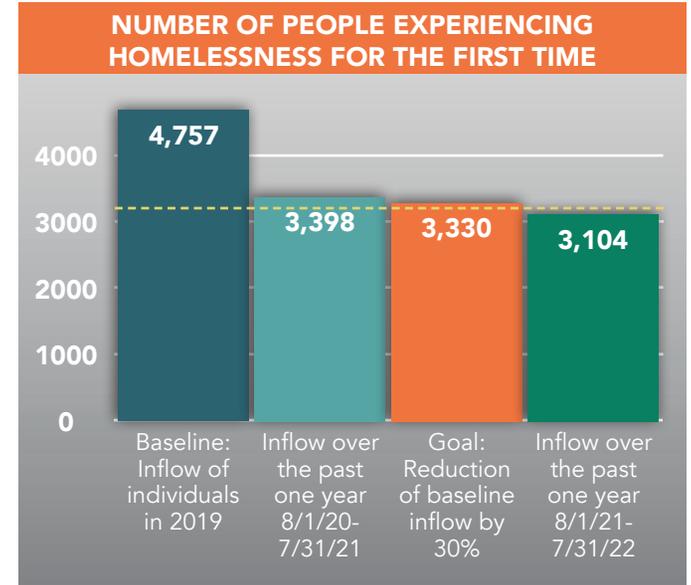
Clothing Drive

During the pandemic, Diversion and Reentry Services' (Reentry) clothing drives were very limited due to covid. The Reentry Resource Center has successfully planned and hosted a 5K run/walk for the past three years to help raise money for new clothes for Reentry clients who often have no clean clothes in which to start their reentry journey. As the pandemic slows down, other options will be explored to procure clothing through future donations of gently used clothing, scheduling clothes drives, and the purchasing of new clothes through events and activities.

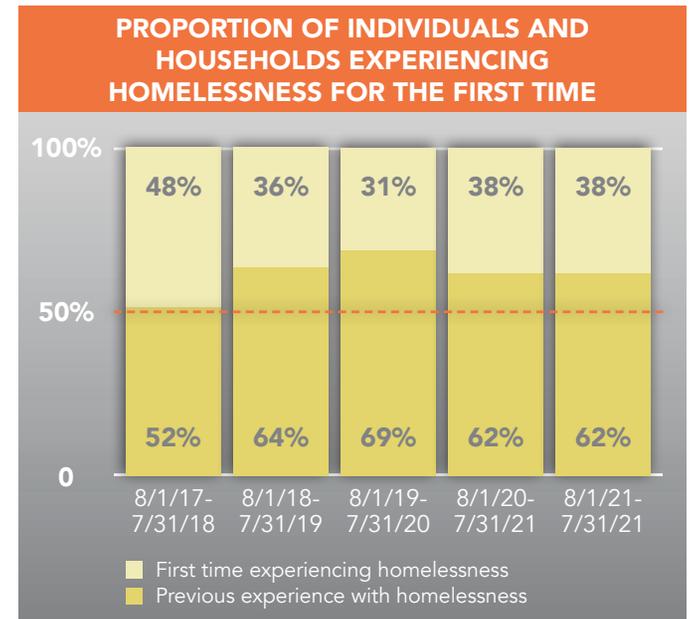
- 219 signed up for 5K run/walk.
- \$17,041 net amount raised.



Supportive Housing



In 2022, the County met its target of achieving a 30% reduction in annual inflow of people experiencing homelessness for the first time.



EDUCATION

BookDash

BookDash expanded service to Gilroy and Morgan Hill with future plans for expanding to Milpitas.

Virtual Programming

Santa Clara County Libraries (SCCLD) increased the number of virtual programming offered to the community and attendance increased as well. Virtual programs include storytimes, bilingual storytimes, English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation club, distinguished author series, film discussion group and more.

E-material Circulation

Due to libraries resuming normal operating hours, there was a 15% decrease in e-material circulation but a 90% increase in book circulation compared to last year.

Collaboration and Engagement

Through funding from the Libraries Outside Grant, libraries in Morgan Hill and Gilroy created [30 nature daypacks](#) for use by all community members with supplies that enhance outdoor exploration, discovery, and make a connection to nature. Backpack supplies included binoculars for kids, compass, magnifier, first aid kit and guidebooks on birds, local tracks and wildflowers. In collaboration with the Santa Clara County Parks, SCCLD offered seven nature programs at the libraries such as [Cloud Identification](#) to promote the use of the daypacks, build outdoor confidence, meet new friends, get exercise, spend quality time outdoors, and have fun.

SCCLD librarians participated in three historical and cultural events such as [Play Like a Miner](#) at the Santa Clara County Parks. SCCLD provided an interactive virtual program with local author, Linda Parker Hamilton, on hiking locations in Northern California. County Park vouchers were also made available at the library for check-out.

Library Program Highlights:

- The nature daypacks have been checked out 178 times.
- The County Park vouchers were checked out 186 times.
- 95 people attended the two kick-off events to promote the nature daypacks and County Park vouchers.
- 55 people attended the virtual author visit about hiking in Northern California.
- 217 people attended the 7 nature programs at the libraries.
- Librarians interacted with hundreds of people at the three County Park events including 70 people dissecting owl pellets.





Prosperous and Just Economy

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Green Business

In 2022, a total of 69 Green Businesses were certified, which included both new businesses and recertifications.

These 69 businesses saved 27,253 lbs of CO2, equivalent to planting 42 acres of urban trees, 1,875,264 gallons of water, or the equivalent of 44,648 bathtubs of fresh drinking water for a year, and 1,042 gallons of hazardous waste (calculated using [California Green Business Network tracker](#)).



Note: Due to COVID-19 and limited staffing, there was a significant decrease in the number of Green Businesses certified in 2020.

Workforce Development

- \$2 million allocated to CEPA through SB 170 is funding efforts by CalRecycle and SJCC to remove trash and debris found throughout Santa Clara County. From November 2022 to January 2023, crews from SJCC removed over 11 tons of waste and debris from hot spots on public right of way roadways and public spaces.
- Eight Santa Clara County youth employed by Rising Sun Center for Opportunity, in partnership with BayREN to deploy home water and energy efficiency kits.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

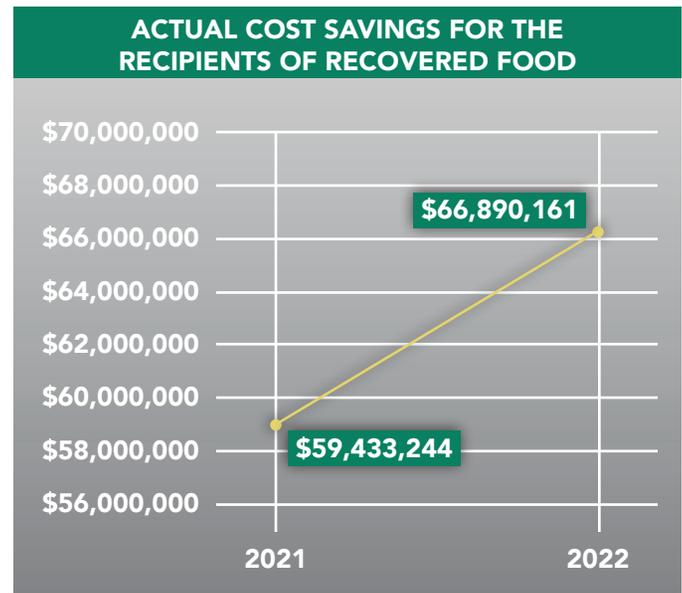
The County continues to implement the recommendations from the Santa Clara County Food Systems Workplan adopted in 2021. Of the 36 recommendations included in the Workplan across seven goal categories, four have been fully implemented; 17 have been partially implemented; and 15 are still under development.

Key accomplishments toward the goals to 'Develop a More Resilient and Equitable Food System and Reduce Food Insecurity', include:

- Hiring an Agricultural Liaison to provide technical leadership and support to the local agricultural community for projects and development of local farms and ranches. Since January 2022, the Liaison has conducted 45+ listening session and site visits and has collaborated with Santa Clara County School District to secure a \$150,000 Farm to Fork grant for Alum Rock School District's lunch program. The Liaison is also working to implement the ARI Grant Program to distribute almost \$1M of funding (\$200K from the county and \$750K from the federal Inflation Reduction Act) to farmers and ranchers using climate-smart management practices. She is also working with several farmers to attain permits for farmworker housing, meeting a critical need for agricultural employees and their families.

- Allocation of \$300,000 annually by the County for the ARI Grant Program to continue awarding farms and ranches to adopt practices supporting carbon sequestration and securing \$70,000 in Local Assistance Grant Funding for implementation of a SB 1383 Procurement pilot program to make ARI projects available for other jurisdictions.
- Launch of a Food Security working group consisting of key leaders from the County, cities, community-based organizations, and food policy stakeholders to strengthen the capacity for food system coordination, refine food insecurity needs by location and demographic characteristics and develop a shared understanding of food insecurity measures.
- Approval and upcoming launch of a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations pilot program along with \$517,226 in funding for program implementation.
- Funding in the amount of \$153,565 provided by PHD to two Farmer's Market Associations to increase access to fruits and vegetables through Market Match promotion at 10 farmers markets and to SPUR to increase access to fresh produce through the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program at five grocery stores.
- Funding from SSA to Second Harvest Silicon Valley for providing a total of 9,300 meals for caregivers to eat alongside their children during Summer Meals programming.
- With funding from CEPA and PHD, Joint Venture Silicon Valley gathered data from food recovery organizations and produced a report on food capacity needs and recommendations; provided support to match food generators and food recovery organizations and is piloting a new program that connects food recovery organizations and low-income housing complexes to distribute surplus food for residents at the complexes.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES REPORTING USE OF PREVENTION MEASURES BY TYPE		
Inventory Optimization	Increasing Inventory Checks	Optimizing Food Storage
185	156	105
Discounted Selling	Extending Product Life (freezing, juicing, converting to prepared foods)	Giving Food to Employees
170	91	77



COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Equity Integration

DESJ Strategic Plan outlining the six pro-equity approaches and strategic goals was presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Employee Education

- 84% of PHD staff have completed a Climate, Health, and Equity training.
- 300 employees tuned in to the Lunch and Learn Webinar Series hosted by OOS in celebration of Earth Month in April. The series covered three topics that focused on steps that every County employee can take to help address climate change at work and home, including induction cooking, transportation choices, and waste reduction.

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

- The appendices for paper and administrative guidelines to comply with SB 1383 requirements were finalized. The first Electronic Annual Report was submitted in October under the new SB1383 guidelines.
- Procurement hired a Strategic Sourcing Officer (SSO) within Procurement's Facilities, Office and Institutions Operations (FOIO) Contracting Unit dedicated to promoting the County's sustainability initiatives through County procurement and contracting activities.

Efforts thus far include:

- Analyzing data on County's spend specifically for paper purchases which as of January 1, 2022, are required to comply with the State of California SB-1383 requirements.

- Incorporating the County's SB 1383 specific requirements in multi-term contract and purchase order awards as well as in competitive solicitations.

- Collaborating with County's primary contractor for paper supplies, Staples, to update its electronic catalog geared towards the promotion of SB 1383 compliant paper products.

Good Food Purchasing Policy

PHD and Santa Clara County Health System (Health System) joined the San Francisco Bay Area Local Food Purchasing Collaborative, led by SPUR. PHD secured \$55,000 in funding to establish a contract with the Center for Good Food Purchasing for data collection related to food procurement at all three County hospitals. Data will be used to develop a baseline assessment of what types of food is currently being procured and from what sources.

Sustainability Commission

The proposed Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission model to was presented at the [Board of Supervisors meeting in December](#). Based on feedback, related actions to establish and launch a Sustainability Commission by summer of 2023 are currently underway.



SMP Management

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the development of the Food Systems Workplan, the County was able to accomplish one **SMP target under Strategy 8.1 – Partnerships and Collaboration in the Prosperous and Just Economy Priority Area**. In partnership with Joint Venture Silicon Valley and CEPA, a new target is being developed that aims to limit food waste and ensure surplus food can benefit underserved people and communities.

ACHIEVED TARGET

Develop a Comprehensive Countywide Work Plan to build a food system that provides for agricultural and food sector viability, improves coordination among food system partners, and promotes community wide food security.

NEW TARGET

Improve the sustainable management of food products in the commercial and institutional sectors and support local food recovery capacity, in order to limit waste in the food system, along with its attendant climate impacts, and to ensure that surplus food can benefit underserved people and communities, in alignment with statewide goals under SB 1383.



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