

Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan Released for Public Review

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning released the draft OurCounty Climate Action Plan (CAP) for public review and comment in March 2020. The CAP outlines actions that the County plans to take to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in unincorporated areas. The County's existing Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) document was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 as a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035, but it expires in 2020. The CCAP will be replaced by the CAP, which builds upon the County's previous efforts, aligns with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, and aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The CAP includes three strategies with associated targets to reduce GHG emissions from the waste sector. The first strategy is to introduce incentive-based systems to reduce waste. This strategy includes targets to decrease overall per capita waste generation by 25 percent from the 2017 baseline by 2025, 30 percent by the year 2035, and 35 percent by the year 2045. To implement this strategy, the CAP includes two actions. The first action is to identify best practice waste pricing programs to reduce waste generation. The second action is to incentivize the development of local upcycling and recycling markets as well as quality recycled materials.

The second strategy is to generate widespread support for sustainable waste practices. This strategy includes targets to divert 80 percent of waste from landfills by 2025, 90 percent by 2035, and 95 percent by 2045, which are consistent with the landfill diversion targets of the County's Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future. To implement this strategy, the CAP includes four actions, which are to engage and empower stakeholders, increase the diversion requirements in the County's Construction & Demolition debris ordinance, establish guidelines for large-quantity organic waste generators to manage organic waste on-site, and to promote and communicate local organic waste recycling programs including organic waste collection requirements as well as food waste reduction and donation.

The third strategy is to reduce and divert organic waste, which is responsible for the majority of GHG emissions from the waste sector and generates significant methane emissions. This strategy includes targets to reduce organic waste to landfills by 75 percent from the 2014 baseline by 2025, 90 percent by 2035, and 95 percent by the year 2045. This strategy also includes targets to reduce methane emissions by 30 percent from the 2017 baseline by 2025, 45 percent by 2035, and 60 percent by 2045. To implement this strategy, the CAP includes three actions, which are to enhance and expand the County's existing Food Donation Recovery and Outreach Program (Food DROP), develop organics collection and diversion programs in County unincorporated communities, and maximize organics diversion through neighborhood and regional organics recycling facilities.

Public comments on the draft CAP are due to Regional Planning on April 30. After this public review period, the Department of Regional Planning intends to release a public

hearing draft of the CAP along with the appropriate environmental document in Summer 2020.

Caption: Los Angeles County Climate Action Logo

