



Appendix A

List of County Policies and Recent Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Resilience



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List of County Policies and Recent Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Resilience

County Policies and Procedures for Fleet Management and Energy Efficiency

County Policy and Procedure Manual Section 304

The general objectives of the County's Fuel Efficiency Policy include:

- Reduction of air pollution and excessive gasoline and diesel consumption by vehicles that are not fuel-efficient
- Reduction of taxpayer dollars wasted on gasoline and diesel purchases for vehicles that are not fuel-efficient.
- Reduction of taxpayer dollars that County spends on Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and other inefficient vehicles, where other less expensive vehicles are appropriate.

All newly assigned and replacement vehicle purchases shall be fuel efficient, environmentally friendly "green vehicles" unless otherwise approved by the County Administrative Office. Green vehicles include: electric, hybrid electric/gasoline, flex fuel such as gasoline/ethanol and gasoline/Compressed Natural Gas, Compressed Natural Gas, or any other alternatively fueled and powered vehicle designed to normally operate with zero or minimal environmental impacts.

County Policy and Procedure Manual Section 600

General Policy - On April 25, 1978, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 218-78, which is a policy to support energy conservation and to maintain and operate all County facilities at austere energy levels to conserve fuels and to serve as an example to the public.

General Services Department Responsibility

- To monitor and maintain heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment at optimum efficiency levels.
- To reduce building lighting to minimum levels based upon area utilization.
- To monitor and discourage the use of non-essential energy consuming appliances and equipment.

Facility User Responsibilities

- Consider energy consumption ratings as an important factor when ordering all equipment for use by their departments.
- Refrain from using any appliances or equipment not essential to the operation of their department.
- Be conscientious in the use of area lighting and operate only those lights, which are absolutely needed to conduct business.
- Turn off all lights and equipment when not in use.
- Operate energy consuming equipment (i.e. cars, trucks, movers, etc.) in a conservative manner.
- Plan field trips ahead to reduce mileage by taking shortest route and to coincide with other activities in area.

General Services Department

The General Services Department (GSD) is the County department with the largest role in energy efficiency in County government.



- Received grant in the amount of \$746,372 for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to implement a total of ten projects across six facilities, including HVAC upgrades and ozone laundry systems installation.
- Implemented Air Resources Board grant in the amount of \$193,598 for pilot Fleet Management program and expansion of community Zipcar program.
- Applied for California Energy Commission loan in the amount of \$130,427 for exterior lighting improvements at various County facilities.
- Continued programs for integrated pest management which support Department of Public Works sustainable roadside vegetation management grant programs, University of California Cooperative Extension alternative herbicide roadside trials, and early stage project review with the former Redevelopment Agency of sustainable landscape practices.
- Installed charging station for electrical vehicles at 701 Ocean Street in anticipation of new technology.
- Began testing small wind and solar generators to serve remote site power requirements.
- Carried out various energy conservation related activities, including upgrades and replacements at various County buildings and facilities: began documentation of warehouse items to be switched to recycled or green certified products, switched to low volatile organic compound (VOC) new or low VOC recycled paint, coatings, surface treatments, lubricants and solvents, and reduced overall volume of products used, extended food waste pick-up to Probation/Juvenile Hall in Felton, switched to recycled/refined oil for vehicles and generators, and continued to promote use of alternative fuel vehicles and of alternative commute solutions, including vanpools, ride-to-work and employee bicycle pool options.
- Completed indoor lighting retrofits at multiple Sheriff locations, Probation, Emeline campus, Freedom and Crestview campus, Rountree, and Main Jail.
- Modify four elevators at Emeline complex (2004-2005).
- Installation of micro turbine generation (2004-2005) Simpkins, and Main Jail.
- HVAC replacement and modernization (2000-2001) South County facilities.
- Ongoing installation of water conserving plumbing, and replacement of windows and refrigeration at various sites.
- Phase 3 701 Ocean HVAC upgrade, Central building cooling plant replacement, Direct digital control building automation system, Cooling tower replacement, Electrical systems expansion and upgrade and cooling system upgrade, Elevator replacement, New electrical transformer, New domestic hot water system, Upgrade Exit signs from florescent to LED.
- Received a grant through MBUAPCD for new bike lockers.
- Received a grant through MBUAPCD for hybrid vehicles for building inspectors.
- Ongoing upgrade of County fleet with fuel efficient and alternative fuel vehicles.
- Installation of CNG fueling system.
- Recognized as a Clean Ocean business (Fleet Operations) for ten years.

Public Works Department

- Continued various efforts to improve landfill diversion rates (recycling, composting, etc.).
- Continued work on various efforts to improve surface water quality (Stormwater Management Plan, sewer overflow prevention, polluted runoff prevention, education/outreach, etc.).
- Continued Integrated Vegetation Management Program to reduce use of pesticides.



- Continued participation in Green Business Program activities and Green Schools Program.
- Supported local Green Building ordinance and polystyrene and single-use bag bans.
- Managed innovative retail take-back programs to divert hazardous wastes including medical sharps, pharmaceuticals, motor oil and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Continued planning for closure of the Buena Vista Landfill and its replacement by the Zero Waste EcoPark.
- Continued to capture methane gas from the Buena Vista landfill and use it to generate renewable electrical energy.
- Participated in pollution prevention/hazmat disposal education programs.
- Continued maintenance and construction on bicycle lanes and pedestrian facilities.
- Installed lighted crosswalks and flashing beacons powered by solar and conventional energy.
- Received a \$13,000 Air Quality grant for a vanpool van.
- Used Air Quality grant funds to help establish traffic signal coordination on several major corridors to reduce vehicular emissions.
- Upgraded diesel truck fleet to comply with air quality standards.
- Improvements to water and wastewater pumping and system monitoring equipment to increase energy efficiency.
- Planning for and implementation of energy conservation and recycling improvements at various Parks & Recreation facilities.
- Continued design work for Moran Lake Monarch Butterfly Management Plan.
- Water and energy conservation upgrades at Simpkins Swim Center.
- Stormwater Best Management Practices installation at Anna Jean Cummings Park.
- Working with the County Environmental Health Services on two groundwater recharge projects funded by Proposition 50. Projects include intercepting storm drainage runoff and recharging the groundwater supply at Brommer Park and at the Aptos Polo Grounds.
- Partnered with the California Conservation Corps, the City of Watsonville and County Vector Control to remove invasive aquatic plants (*Ludweiga*) from a portion of Pinto Lake.
- Pursuant to Board of Supervisors direction, formed the County Artificial Turf Committee to research and develop criteria for the use of the turf within the County. The upshot of this research may bring about increased playability of fields and water conservation.
- Utilizes solar power for flashing beacons and lighted cross walks.
- Converted traffic signal lighting to LED.
- Initiated the conversion of street lights to LED.

Health Services Agency

- Supports the Community Traffic Safety Coalition program

Environmental Health

- Continued various efforts to improve ground and surface water quality and enhance riparian habitats.



- Continued efforts to promote water conservation and better manage water resources through greywater reuse, irrigation efficiency, groundwater recharge, and integrated regional water management.
- Participated in 2009 Update of State Water Plan and County EHS is now a member of the “Update 2013” Public Advisory Committee.
- Maintained a high level of staff time devoted to overseeing remediation of contaminated sites.
- Preparing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan program investigating impacts of climate change and sea level rise on water resources and developing an adaptation plan.

Planning Department

- Continued participation in a cooperative planning process with other land use and transportation agencies for AMBAG’s Sustainable Community Plan SB 375 planning processes to foster a lower carbon-footprint land use pattern.
- Received a \$250,000 Disaster Recovery Initiative grant to update the General Plan Safety Ordinance, and flood and geo-hazard ordinances.
- Received a grant of \$500,000 for Sustainable Communities Planning from the State Strategic Growth Council, which will fund the Santa Cruz County Sustainable Community and Transit Corridors Plan.
- Received award for outstanding lead agency administration of the State’s Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) from the State Department of Conservation for regulation of operation and post-operation restoration of the County’s sand, gravel, limestone and shale mines.
- Extended and expanded implementation of the Master Permit for Environmental Enhancement Projects program, which provides a streamlined permitting process for small environmentally beneficial projects.
- Continue to administer, with the City of Scotts Valley, a Habitat Conservation Plan for the rare and endangered Sand Hills habitat areas.
- Worked with State Parks on Laguna Creek Estuary habitat restoration efforts.
- Preparing a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- Worked with the Department of Public Works on the County’s Stormwater Runoff Pollution Prevention Ordinance.
- Periodically hold community training on erosion control plans and best practices

Agricultural Commissioner/Agricultural Extension

- Continued replacement of petroleum based mosquitocides with biological pesticides, biocontrol , educational and abatement measures
- Replacement of inefficient surveillance truck with hybrid vehicle
- Plans to heat mosquito fish holding troughs using solar rooftop water heating
- Staff have increased bicycle commuting to and from work
- Agricultural extension office conducts multiple research, education and outreach programs related to water, irrigation, fertilizer and other resource use efficiency in area agriculture and for home gardens.