

Preface

How to Use This Plan

Given the wide audience and diverse interests in the community, Climate Action 2020 (CA2020) is designed to be accessible and useful to a wide range of users. Readers will quickly notice that actions in CA2020 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to a changing climate are complex and touch on many aspects of everyday life in Sonoma County. Although most actions will be the responsibility of local governments and countywide agencies, Sonoma County's residents, businesses, and community groups must remain engaged in order to achieve the goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions. This engagement may be action-oriented and contribute directly to accomplishing the actions envisioned in CA2020, or may be focused on ensuring that local representatives are accountable for specific commitments under CA2020.

A Readers' Guide

CA2020 is designed to allow users to dig in to a depth that best suits their interests and needs. References and technical appendices are provided for those who need the most detailed information. CA2020's overall structure provides users an opportunity to directly access the information that they need.

- Chapter 1 provides the overall context for CA2020, including the basics of climate change science and the essential Call to Action that is needed for community-wide action. Chapter 1 also describes the unique regional (countywide) approach that Sonoma County will use to reduce GHG emissions as well as an overview of plan implementation. Chapter 1 is the best place to start for most readers and provides important context for the rest of CA2020.
- Chapter 2 provides an inventory of GHG emissions in Sonoma County by sector (e.g., energy, land use and transportation) and by each city and the County. The inventory is not only the key benchmark for future GHG reductions, but it helps focus attention on the greatest opportunities for emission reductions.
- Chapter 3 lays out the overall strategy for reducing GHG emissions in each sector to meet CA2020's target of reducing emissions to 25% of 1990 levels by 2020 and provides the foundation for long-term success in reducing GHG emissions. These reduction measures are the basis for the specific actions identified in Chapter 5.
- Chapter 4 describes how CA2020 will be implemented, including coordination by the Regional Climate Protection Authority and a management and monitoring structure at each partner agency. Chapter 4 also includes a schedule for implementing the GHG reduction measures and describes ongoing monitoring, adaptive management, and community involvement.

- Chapter 5 contains the near-term action plans for each city and the unincorporated County. These are the specific GHG reduction measures that will be adopted and implemented by each community. This chapter also contains a GHG profile for each community and population, housing, and employment projections throughout the CA2020 planning period (i.e., to 2050).
- Chapter 6 describes Sonoma County’s “climate readiness,” highlighting each community’s vulnerability to the hazards of climate change (e.g., warmer temperatures, increased flooding risk, increased wildfire risk). Chapter 6 also describes goals to improve the resilience of Sonoma County communities to climate-related hazards.

A Community-Wide Plan

As a community-wide plan, CA2020 will have many different audiences, each with their own interests and needs. This section is intended to focus specific audiences on the aspects of CA2020 that will be of greatest interest and usefulness.

Local Governments

Cities and the County will want to be familiar with the overall CA2020 implementation structure described in Chapter 4. In addition, city and County decision makers and staff will also be interested in the sections in Chapter 5 that pertain to their respective jurisdictions. These sections provide detail on specific GHG reduction measures that each jurisdiction has identified for local implementation.

Regional Agencies

Regional (countywide) agencies (the Regional Climate Protection Authority, Sonoma County Transit, Sonoma Clean Power, etc.) have a critical role in reaching the 2020 GHG reduction target by providing countywide services and programs that would be difficult for local governments to provide on their own. Each agency will want to understand its responsibilities under CA2020, which are summarized in Chapter 3 and Appendix C. Agencies will also want to be familiar with the implementation framework in Chapter 4.

Community Groups

The interests of Sonoma County community organizations are extremely varied. Many groups will get the information they need from Chapter 1 and the list of GHG reduction measures in Chapter 3 and Appendix C. Groups with a specific focus will want to review the GHG reduction strategy for their sector of interest. For example, a community organization with a focus on renewable energy will want to carefully review the GHG reduction strategy for the Building Energy sector in Chapter 3 and the energy-related measures in Appendix C.

Residents and Businesses

The interests of individual Sonoma County residents and businesses are almost infinitely varied. As with community groups, many people will find more than enough information about CA2020 in Chapter 1 and can use that as a jumping-off place for more in-depth review of CA2020. Chapter 1 also describes the outreach and engagement associated with CA2020. Individuals interested in climate change actions of a specific city or the County will want to read that jurisdiction's section in Chapter 5. Those with a more countywide interest may want to focus on the bigger-picture GHG reduction strategies in Chapter 3. Lastly, all residents and businesses are encouraged to read the "How Can Sonoma County Residents Help?" section in Chapter 1 and the climate change adaptation goals in Chapter 6.