



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

2021 Annual Report



OurCounty

The Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) recognizes and acknowledges the first people of this ancestral and unceded territory. With respect to their elders, past and present, we recognize the Tongva, Tataviam, Chumash, and Kizh who are still here and are committed to lifting up their stories and culture.

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INTRODUCTION

On August 6, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted *OurCounty Sustainability Plan (OurCounty)*, the first ever regional sustainability plan for the County of Los Angeles (County) and the most ambitious county sustainability plan in the nation. Grounded in the coequal values of environment, equity, and economy, *OurCounty* puts the focus on people. It envisions streets and parks that are accessible, safe, and welcoming to everyone; air, water, and soil that are clean and healthy; affordable housing that enables all residents to thrive in place; and a just economy that runs on renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

We are now two years into implementing the *OurCounty* plan, and we've made important progress. Departments are tracking the implementation of over 60 priority actions, compared to just over 20 last year. Some actions have been completed, some are just getting started, and others are being implemented on an ongoing basis. While *OurCounty* implementation is still in its early stages, we are proud to share the progress the County has already made and the work we are doing every day to create a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all residents of the County.

IMPLEMENTATION

OurCounty outlines a bold, inclusive vision for present and future generations of Los Angeles. Each year, the CSO and County departments work with partners and stakeholders to turn our collective vision into a reality. Implementation of *OurCounty* is a long-term commitment, with some of our goals and targets reaching 30 years into the future. To ensure short-term progress and accountability, the Board directed the CSO and County departments to follow a yearly prioritization and reporting schedule. In the past, the CSO has released an Annual Priorities Report each February and an Annual Progress Report in August. However, beginning this year, the CSO is moving to a new reporting structure. Each year in October, the CSO will release an Annual Report, which will combine the progress report and the priorities list into a single document. Based on feedback we have heard from stakeholders over the past two reporting years, a combined Annual Report will provide a more streamlined feedback process and a more conveniently timed public comment period. The combined Annual Report is also intended to better align *OurCounty* implementation with the County's fiscal year budget planning process. Per the Board's direction, the CSO will still engage stakeholders in the prioritization process and the reporting process for the Annual Report each year, and we welcome feedback from our stakeholders at any time.

This Annual Report contains progress updates on all of the ongoing actions identified by County departments and stakeholders as priority actions from the 2020 Priorities List. It also contains a draft 2021 Priorities List for the coming year. Each year, the list of priority actions builds off of previous year's list, with some actions being completed, some actions being temporarily deprioritized, and new actions being added based on Department and stakeholder feedback. Once finalized, the priority list in each Annual Report will guide implementation for the coming year, and the CSO will then report progress on those priorities in the following year's Annual Report. For example, public feedback on the priorities

list in this 2021 Annual Report will inform the final list of priorities for the coming year, and CSO will report progress on those priorities in the 2022 Annual Report. We welcome feedback on both the progress updates and the draft priorities list in this 2021 Annual Report.

Anchor Community-Based Organization Spotlights

During the creation of the *OurCounty* plan, the CSO worked with an “anchor” community-based organization (CBO) in each of the five Supervisorial Districts to support the *OurCounty* stakeholder engagement process. The CBO anchors played an important role in facilitating workshops, uplifting equity in the planning process, and ensuring that policy discussions were inclusive of the perspectives of historically impacted and under-represented communities. Throughout this report, look out for updates from the CBO anchors in the Anchor CBO spotlights. In these spotlights, the CBO anchors describe work that they are doing to advance sustainability in the County.

A Discussion Draft of this Annual Report was posted for public review and comment from August 2 through August 31, 2021. The CSO also held virtual office hours on August 17, 2021 and August 26, 2021. The CSO received eight comment letters, held nine virtual office hour sessions, and recorded valuable feedback including implementation recommendations, requests for clarification, prioritization suggestions, and offers of partnership and support. Stakeholders emphasized the urgent need for action on many near-term priorities; for example, the CSO received

a comment letter from a broad coalition of 16 community organizations unified in calling for action on low-cost, high-impact strategies for local climate action. The consensus developed and put forward by such a large and diverse group of advocates helps provides clear direction to the CSO about stakeholder sustainability priorities for the coming year.

Engagement with *OurCounty* Actions

Stakeholder engagement is crucial to the Annual Report, but engagement with *OurCounty* is not limited to the Annual Report public comment period. The County is committed to engaging stakeholders in the implementation of each action, as described in the action summaries below. While all of the actions highlighted in this report are considered near-term priorities, each action is at a different stage in its planning and implementation process. This report describes completed stakeholder engagement activities, as well as planned stakeholder engagement activities when such plans are already available, for each priority action. We welcome questions, comments, and feedback about stakeholder engagement for actions during the public comment period.



Let's Feed LA

As part of the County's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CSO stepped up to lead the "Let's Feed LA County" branch of the County's Emergency Operations Center, addressing food insecurity related to the pandemic. The branch coordinated food assistance efforts across County departments and external agencies; provided over 10 million pounds of food to families in need at over 100 drive-through food distribution; distributed nearly \$22 million in grocery gift cards to 30,000 families; delivered over 5 million meals to older adults; provided 1 million bagged lunches to people experiencing homelessness; and distributed \$20 million in grants to 47 community-based organizations to support their food assistance efforts.

The economic impacts of the pandemic, which drove the spike in food insecurity, were especially devastating to those who are already burdened by lack of access to resources and opportunities, including low income people and people of color. Although inequities, such as food insecurity, have always been present in the County, the pandemic has brought them into stark relief -- highlighting a unique opportunity, and responsibility, to address their root causes and make profound and long-lasting changes. While coordinating the County's emergency food response efforts, the CSO also partnered with the California Community Foundation (CCF), the Weingart Foundation, and the Annenberg Foundation to develop a long-term approach for addressing inequities that had plagued the food system since before the pandemic. As directed by the Board, the CSO and our philanthropic partners are advancing recommendations to establish a cross-sector Food Equity Roundtable (Roundtable). The Roundtable will convene regularly and, over the course of a two-year pilot period, develop and implement a workplan to improve equity, resilience, and sustainability within the food system in alignment with the goals proposed in a January 20, 2021 Report to the Board.

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

OurCounty envisions a future where all residents throughout the region benefit from flourishing, pollution-free natural and built environments, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, income, or other social differences. Los Angeles has a well-documented history of exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and other unjust policies that burden low-income communities and communities of color with conditions such as polluted stormwater runoff, dirty air, and lack of access to parks and open space. Rectifying these inequities is essential to a sustainable future.

Equity is an end state in which all groups have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to improve the quality of their lives. *OurCounty* uses the following framework.

Procedural Equity: Inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement, and representation in processes to develop or implement sustainability programs and policies.

Example: *OurCounty* is actualizing procedural equity through its work with community-based organizations to engage stakeholders in the development and implementation of *OurCounty's* goals, strategies, and actions.

Distributional Equity: Sustainability programs and policies resulting in fair distribution of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community,

prioritizing benefits to those communities with highest need.

Example: Departments will advance distributional equity by assessing the distribution of resources and opportunities, and prioritizing investments and services in communities where there is poor access to resources and opportunities.

Structural Equity: Sustainability decision-makers institutionalize accountability; decisions are made with a recognition of the historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that have routinely benefited privileged groups and resulted in chronic, cumulative disadvantage for subordinated groups.

Example: Structural equity is embedded into *OurCounty* through its commitment to regularly report on implementation efforts and promote transparent, inclusive decision-making.

Transgenerational Equity: Sustainability decisions consider generational impacts and don't result in unfair burdens on future generations.

Example: *OurCounty* actions will provide near- and long-term social, environmental, and economic benefits.

These principles help guide *OurCounty* sustainability efforts toward equitable impacts, but we must also deal with the inequities that already exist. In acknowledgment that structural racism has harmed people of color across all categories of social and physical well-being, *OurCounty* is aimed at achieving an end state in which race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, such as educational attainment, employment, or health status. Strategies and actions throughout this document have been and continue to be developed with racial equity as a central consideration.





Goal 1

Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place

Action 1



Limit siting of new sensitive uses, such as playgrounds, daycare centers, schools, residences, or medical facilities, at least 500 feet from freeways.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Freeways are a major source of air pollution in the County. Evidence shows that the health impacts associated with air pollution from freeways, including asthma, impaired lung function, and cardiovascular disease, are most significant within 500 feet of the freeway. This action intends to prevent the siting of sensitive uses - such as residential units, childcare centers, and school facilities - near freeways to reduce exposure of sensitive populations to poor air quality. Since there is a need to develop affordable new housing and associated facilities in the County, planning to undertake that development in a way that protects a healthy living environment for all County residents is critical.

What progress has been made?

The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) takes an active role in preventing the siting of sensitive uses 500 feet from freeways through the land use counseling of potential and future development in ongoing “One-Stop” meetings, over-the-counter counseling, and the project review of discretionary land use permits. Land Use Plans and Specific Plans, such as Transit Oriented District Special Plans, are also drafted with this impact in mind.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Through policies, strategic siting counseling, and mitigation of impacts, DRP implements this action on an on-going basis.



Action 2



Expand the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Throughout the County, residents who live in close proximity to oil and gas operations bear the brunt of their impacts, including the impacts on health and wellbeing due to factors such as environmental pollution, stress, and noise. These communities, which are disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color, have been forced to reckon with these negative impacts for decades. Expanding the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses, such as homes and schools, will reduce the burden of environmental impacts from oil and gas facilities on these communities and begin to address this long-standing disparity.

What progress has been made?

DRP conducted new research using GIS data to analyze various setback distances and their potential impacts. As a result of that research, DRP revised an ordinance with additional regulations and additional zones where oil wells will eventually be prohibited. The revised draft is undergoing internal County review to be finalized for public release.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

On September 15, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion directing DRP to initiate a process to prohibit all new oil and gas extraction wells in all zones and to designate all existing oil and gas extraction activities as nonconforming uses in all zones. DRP will be reporting to the Board in 2022 in response to the motion.

Action 4



Require oil and gas facility operators to prepare and make available to the public a comprehensive Community Safety Plan, in coordination with County departments, including Fire, Public Works, and Law Enforcement.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

There are currently 68 active oil fields in the Los Angeles Basin, with facilities operating under a wide range of operational and environmental conditions. In some neighborhoods, such as South Los Angeles, residences are located only several feet away from the boundary of a drilling site and as close as 60 feet from an active oil well. Oil and gas operations are commonly located in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and nearby residents may have little information about operations occurring on oil fields within feet of their homes. The Community Safety Plan will provide information on operations occurring at the site, what the potential health and safety hazards are for community members, what mitigations are being employed to reduce risk for community members, and whom to contact with questions or to report problems. The Community Safety Plan will empower communities by giving them tools to hold polluters accountable, raise awareness of the mitigations and protections of community health and safety that operators are responsible for, allow for quicker identification of environmental problems caused by oil and gas operations, and provide avenues for communications between oil and gas operators, community members, and public agencies to improve environmental conditions for those living, working and playing near these industrial operations.

What progress has been made?

A template Community Safety Plan and a stakeholder engagement plan are under development, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) is coordinating with the DRP to discuss ordinance language and review and enforcement provisions. Additionally, the DRP is developing revisions to the oil and gas-related land use code in Title 22 to require all operators to submit and regularly update their plan. While implementation will not officially begin until the revised Title 22 code is approved and a grace period has elapsed, in the interim, the DRP has required Community Safety Plans for two development projects and piloted the plans with several developers. The development and use of these pilot plans will inform the implementation that results from the revised Title 22 requirements.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPH will continue to revise the Community Safety Plan template, including revisions based on the results of the piloted Community Safety Plans. Stakeholder engagement and outreach plans are under development so gathering community input on the template plan in the next reporting year will be important.



Action 5



Expand the role for DPH in the initial siting process and the ongoing enforcement of regulations for industrial facilities.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

In Los Angeles County (County), some communities are more exposed to environmental risks than others. These include places with a high density of industrial facilities that contribute to air, soil, and water contamination near homes, schools, and daycares. DPH will work to further environmental justice goals by informing land use decisions to reduce the placement of environmental hazards in close proximity to sensitive populations and land use types.

What progress has been made?

DPH formed a workgroup with members from its Environmental Health Programs that have a key role in the land use review process. The workgroup reviewed existing internal policies, relevant permit functions, ordinance authority, and related materials. The workgroup identified gaps and challenges and outlined major processes. Based on the findings of the workgroup, DPH completed an internal report with recommendations for reform and improvements to land use processes, and DPH is currently developing a Standardized Operating Procedure for discretionary land use review assignments in all unincorporated County areas. DPH also conducted a fee study to estimate cost recovery for document review and consultation.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Over the next year, extensive collaboration across County departments and programs, as well as ongoing community engagement to support implementation will take place. A training module of land use regulations, including CEQA, will be developed for DPH. Cost recovery will be established to allow for reviewing reports, understanding the impacts in the context of environmental justice, and promoting alternatives or mitigation measures to minimize significant effects on public health. DPH will work to establish metrics to track and evaluate implementation progress.

Action 7



Utilize fenceline and community air monitoring data to improve emissions regulations on refineries and other industrial facilities, and expand enforcement resources for these regulations.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Refineries and other industrial facilities, such as hazardous materials operations, are commonly located in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and nearby residents may have little information about operations occurring within feet from their homes. Emissions from these facilities have many potential sources, including undetected leaks, which are called fugitive emissions. Fenceline and community air monitoring can be used to detect and monitor emissions, including providing information about the possible sources of the emissions, the types of pollutants, and the air quality implications for nearby communities. Community air monitoring and emissions reduction plans will provide information on operations occurring at the site, clarify the potential health and safety hazards for community members, show what mitigations are being employed to reduce risk for community members, and explain whom to contact for regulatory enforcement.

What progress has been made?

This action is tied to Assembly Bill 617 (2017, Garcia), which provides a new community-focused framework to improve air quality and reduce exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities most impacted by air pollution. Communities selected for the deployment of community air monitoring systems and/or community

emission reduction programs in the County include East Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, Wilmington/Harbor area, and South Los Angeles. In some of these neighborhoods, such as South Los Angeles, residences are located only several feet away from industrial sites. DPH sits on the Steering Committees for the programs in East Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Wilmington/Harbor area. In this role, DPH coordinates with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to discuss Community Emission Reduction Plans and enforcement provisions. This role also provides DPH with the opportunity to coordinate community level efforts and provide near-term benefits for highly burdened communities. These opportunities include complementary community-focused monitoring programs, support for community capacity building, and targeted enforcement.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

While the implementation of this action has been delayed due to the impacts of the pandemic, DPH will continue the development of an action plan to implement a robust model aimed at improving environmental health conditions in communities disproportionately exposed to pollutants and toxins. The action plan model consists of four key activities: Community Engagement, Regulator Engagement, Monitoring Activities, and Development of Health Protective Policies. DPH will also continue researching and gathering information to pursue grant funding for projects related to this effort that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community, including building collaborative partnerships, empowering communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks, and addressing exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.



Action 8



Plan and implement a new lead-based paint hazard remediation program.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health, District Attorney

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

More than 3,000 children are diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels each year in the County. Lead is a toxin that causes irreversible brain damage, and children are especially susceptible because they are still developing. Lead poisoning is completely preventable, and elimination of lead-based paint hazards will help generations of Angelenos thrive. The County will receive approximately \$134 million over a period of seven years starting in 2019, as part of a landmark 19-year litigation against three major paint companies, with a total of \$305 million for 10 participating jurisdictions across California. Funds are earmarked for lead-based paint hazard remediation services throughout the County.

What progress has been made?

Lead Free Homes LA (LFHLA) provides free residential lead-based paint hazard remediation for families at high risk of childhood lead exposure, whether they are tenants or homeowners. Stakeholder and key informant interviews directly shaped LFHLA outreach strategies, application process, and even program name. LFHLA's goal is to remediate 4,000 to 5,000 homes over the seven-year program. LFHLA completed remediation services for three properties in the Exide-affected community prior to the pandemic, but the pandemic then caused the program to halt field work. LFHLA resumed remediation services in April 2021. LFHLA is partnering with municipal agencies and

community-based organizations to lead local outreach and enrollment in each of the Supervisorial Districts, beginning in summer 2021 for the Countywide program expansion. The program also launched a Countywide childhood lead poisoning campaign in Fall 2020, in partnership with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), through digital, print, and radio media, and through medical offices. LFHLA established a direct referral process with CLPPP for families of children with elevated blood lead levels to access free lead-based paint hazard remediation services.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The LFHLA program is anticipated to expand Countywide in July 2021 into targeted geographies within each of the five supervisorial districts. Initial program activities will be in Boyle Heights or Huntington Park/Vernon (including the Exide-affected area), Willowbrook/Compton, the City of San Fernando, the City of Long Beach, and the City of Pasadena. The LFHLA program has grouped high-risk zip codes for targeted, phased outreach and enrollment. Program staff will work with the local lead Outreach and Enrollment agency to adapt program marketing materials and strategies to best appeal to the community. The LFHLA program will host a press event once activities are ready to begin in each high-need area in collaboration with local community partners and businesses. Staff will continue to participate in community events to provide information about preventing childhood lead poisoning, and to promote the remediation services of LFHLA. The LFHLA program will continue its authentic stakeholder engagement, including continuous process evaluation and transparency about the process and program metrics, such as the number of homes enrolled, number of homes completed, and increase of blood lead level testing.



Action 11



Develop a public engagement, enforcement, and compliance plan for illegal dumping.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Illegal dumping is a growing problem throughout the County. A lack of funding for enforcement and competing priorities within County departments contribute to the challenge of addressing illegal dumping. Communication and education about waste resources, along with funding and planning for enforcement, are critical to ensuring compliance.

What progress has been made?

To combat illegal dumping, the Department of Public Works (PW) provides multiple ways for residents to report illegal dumping, including through the 888-8DUMPING hotline, dumping@pw.lacounty.gov email, The Works app, and its website. PW also uses media campaigns, including a campaign with the Los Angeles Clippers, encouraging residents to schedule bulky item pickup services and report illegal dumping. PW also created the Solid Waste Incident Tracking database to assist in tracking illegal dumping cases, generate reports, and analyze illegal dumping hot spots. Due to increased outreach and improved tracking, PW is seeing a significant increase in the number of reported illegal dumping cases. This increase is not necessarily an indication that there is more illegal dumping, but rather due to outreach efforts helping community members know whom to call to clean up illegal dumping.

PW includes requirements in trash collection contracts for the contract waste haulers to remove illegally dumped materials from all public rights of way within unincorporated

areas of the County. More illegal dumping is also cleaned up due to revised contract language that requires more attention at locations that get frequent dumping, or what are referred to as illegal dumping hot zones, which get daily monitoring and clean up and new incentives for the waste haulers by getting paid based on the amount of illegal dumping collected. However, the unincorporated communities of the Antelope Valley do not have mandatory weekly trash collection and illegal dumping removal services. Residential trash collection services in the Antelope Valley are currently under an open market system, and cleanups are conducted by PW's Road Maintenance Division. To help address this disparity, PW is in the process of creating new Garbage Disposal Districts (GDDs) to provide a permanent and sustainable solid waste collection system for unincorporated areas. These GDDs will provide funding to address illegal dumping in County rights-of-way through trash collection contracts between the County and the waste hauler.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The creation of the GDDs in the Antelope Valley is pending compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Proposition 218. PW expects to award four GDD contracts for the Antelope Valley in March 2022, with service beginning in July 2023, which will include mandatory weekly trash collection and illegal dumping removal service. While existing efforts have been focused on cleanups, PW will seek to expand education, including a planned media campaign with the Los Angeles Dodgers to encourage residents to schedule bulky item pickup services and report illegal dumping. Additionally, enforcement efforts by the District Attorney and Sheriff they also increase enforcement efforts by the District Attorney and Sheriff in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22.



Action 12



Complete development and start implementation of the Green Zones Program.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The Green Zones Program seeks to improve environmental justice by reducing instances of existing land use incompatibility, such as industrial and residential land uses in close proximity, in vulnerable unincorporated area communities. The Green Zones program has four major components. First, it includes changes in land use policies and zoning to regulate the siting of industrial uses near vulnerable areas. Second, it involves a rigorous community engagement process to raise awareness, identify community needs, and encourage participation and transparency. Third, it relies on a mapping tool called the Environmental Justice Screening Method, developed by the DRP in partnership with the University of Southern California and Occidental College. The tool allows DRP to identify stationary sources of pollution and analyze cumulative environmental impacts, and it serves as a public resource and foundation for environmental justice policies. Finally, Green Zones includes prevention and mitigation strategies to help improve coordination among various regulatory agencies and to support industrial businesses to become better neighbors in their communities. Through the Green Zones program, DRP will reduce the environmental health impacts of heavy industrial uses to sensitive populations and help improve the health of workers and residents in vulnerable communities.

What progress has been made?

Between June 2020 and June 2021, DRP conducted eight virtual stakeholder meetings, working with East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice and Communities for a Better Environment to help stakeholders access and attend the virtual meetings. Stakeholder feedback directly influenced the development of ordinance language, outreach materials, and the creation of an implementation guide. In early 2021, DRP released a revised draft of the Green Zones ordinance for public review, accompanied by the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). DRP is in the process

of developing the implementation guide and an internal protocol for tracking business compliance with the Green Zones Program. The Green Zones project entails multiple policy changes, including policy additions to the General Plan, zone changes to 28 properties, plan amendments to 15 of the 28 zone change properties, and revisions to the Title 22 County Zoning Code. DRP has been conducting stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the project, beginning in 2016, including the initial outreach which brought non-profits and local community members of diverse backgrounds together to survey on-the-ground environmental conditions of properties which will be subject to the program. Observations from surveys and qualitative experiences of community members informed proposed land-use policies incorporated into the project.



What is planned for next year and beyond?

DRP sent out emails, mailed out notices of public hearing, and published a newspaper ad to publicize the public hearing before the Commission this summer. Public comment was accepted on the implementation guide as well as the ordinance during the public hearing processes. On September 22, 2021, after the required public review period, the Regional Planning Commission certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Green Zones Program, and recommended adoption of the Green Zones Ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. The Board hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Once the project is adopted, it will be implemented by DRP staff through ongoing land use development review, enforcement, public agency coordination, and report-outs to the community. Implementation will start with finalizing a starting database of existing businesses in the Green Zone Districts subject to the Green Zones ordinance in preparation for outreach on milestones for compliance. DRP will also begin requiring

any new businesses in all unincorporated areas to adhere to the new Green Zones provisions as applicable. As part of the approval process for the Green Zones ordinance, DRP will be providing an implementation guide for public review, which includes background information, interpretations and clarifications on new permitting processes and development standards required, and a list of available financial incentive programs offered by County Development Authority and the South Coast Air Quality Management District for existing businesses to comply with new requirements. The success of the Green Zones Program will rely on continued reporting out to community stakeholders and dialogue as the department begins to reach out to businesses for their voluntary compliance and the County's enforcement.

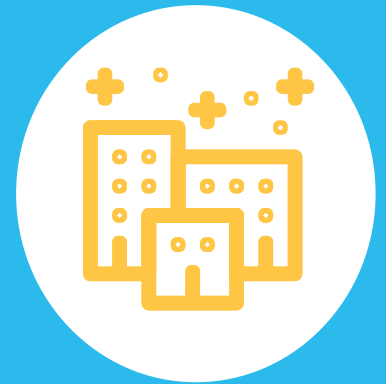
ANCHOR CBO SPOTLIGHT

Communities for a Better Environment

Engagement on Green Zones

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) has supported the County's Green Zone policy by ground-truthing land-uses in unincorporated areas of Southeast Los Angeles and engaging with DRP to address harmful land use practices. Most recently, CBE gathered verbal and written comments through community meetings and presented community concerns, feedback, and suggestions for consideration by the County. CBE's comments

recommend ways in which the ordinance can improve practices through the planning and zoning code, especially to address land use practices that place toxic facilities near/adjacent to community sensitive receptors. CBE believes the proposed ordinance, the first of its kind, has the potential to make key improvements and facilitate greater interagency coordination and accountability.



Goal 2

Buildings and infrastructure
that support human health
and resilience

Action 28A and B



Conduct a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses physical and social vulnerability and use it to guide priorities for investments, policy, and planning.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

The County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is an analysis of the extent to which the County is susceptible to harm from the impacts of climate change over time. Findings from the assessment will inform a range of climate adaptation, emergency preparedness, and community resilience efforts. The CSO designed the CVA to be human-centered, not only by looking at the direct risks that climate hazards pose for people, but also by focusing the infrastructure assessment around questions of how risks to infrastructure ultimately impact people. The CVA integrates input from groups of people that are frequently excluded from governmental decision-making or under-represented in the data.

What progress has been made?

Between 2020 and 2021, the CSO worked with a large team of partners that included climate scientists, health experts, infrastructure managers, and community leaders to examine how exposure to climate change-related

hazards will change in the coming decades, and to assess the vulnerability of infrastructure and communities to these hazards. The assessment included analyzing more than 60 indicators and having conversations with community leaders and experts on infrastructure systems. The CVA was released on October 13, 2021 and can be found [HERE](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/cso-actions/). <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/cso-actions/>.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The CSO will work with our assessment partners, County departments, cities throughout the County, and a wide variety of other stakeholders to develop strategies for mitigating and addressing the risks we face due to climate change. The assessment results and tools we developed will be available to the public, and the CSO will continue working to support colleagues and communities in using this information to develop future plans.

ANCHOR CBO SPOTLIGHT

Communities for a Better Environment

Climate and Emergency Resilience Toolkit

Building on our Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Education (CARE) Manual, a tool for residents to elevate environmental justice in adaptation planning, CBE is developing a Climate and Emergency Resilience Toolkit to explain and amplify the significant climate impacts faced in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities across California. The toolkit, which is being released in segments with community input and across social media platforms,

is meant to show how our wellbeing is affected by cumulative environmental stressors; how communities can better prepare for climate change impacts on an individual and communal level; increasing resiliency in EJ communities; and how to advocate and push for community-led solutions that transition us away from a fossil fuel reliance that exacerbate negative climate impacts and move us toward greater sustainability over the long term.

Action 29



Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Climate change threatens public health by causing higher average temperatures and more frequent and severe heat waves. However, risk of heat related illness is not evenly distributed. Parts of the County are much hotter than others due to factors such as topography and the heat island effect, which results when heat-trapping surfaces such as asphalt and concrete raise temperatures in nearby areas. The County's low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to live in heat islands. Moreover, people in these communities often lack access to resources, such as air conditioners and cooling centers, that can help them cope with extreme heat. This increased risk of harm is shared by people experiencing homelessness, people who work in the outdoors, older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. A comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan will identify and assess these impacts throughout the County and lay out strategies to address them.

What progress has been made?

In 2018, DPH collaborated with other County departments to develop a draft Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan,

which identifies strategies across County departments to reduce urban heat. The existing draft of the Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan is divided into four strategies, each with corresponding actions: cool roofs (6 actions), cool pavements (5 actions), trees, (15 actions), and green spaces (10 actions). In 2018 and 2019, DPH engaged 22 community-based, academic, government, and private sector stakeholders to provide feedback on draft sections of the Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan. Feedback from stakeholders was incorporated into the draft.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The completion of this action is contingent on funding. Funding has been requested for staff and a consulting team to update and finalize the urban heat island mitigation strategy and develop an implementation plan. Pending sufficient resources, in 2021, DPH will transform the existing draft plan to align with Action 29 in the *OurCounty* Sustainability Plan. After revising the actions in the draft plan to align with Action 29, DPH will refine the corresponding performance metrics to ultimately measure increases in green space; increased number of trees (and improved distribution in areas lacking them); increased number (and surface area) of cool roofs; and increased surface area of cool pavements, all of which reduce the discrepancy between temperatures in heavily urban areas and those in comparable areas with fewer heat-trapping surfaces. The implementation plan will look to allocate resources through an equity lens, as urban heat impacts historically overburdened and under-resourced communities more than wealthier areas. DPH has requested funding for a consultant that will coordinate a stakeholder engagement process that prioritizes equity in the implementation plan.



Action 34



Invest in multi-benefit water management solutions that diversify and increase reliability of the water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, prioritize solutions that mimic natural systems, and maximize benefits to Native and disadvantaged communities.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short-to-Long Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Measure W, also known as the Safe Clean Water Program, was passed by County voters in November 2018. It's expected to generate approximately \$285 million annually to fund multi-benefit water management projects across the County. The Safe Clean Water Program has five key elements which will advance this action: collaboration, asset management, education, community engagement, and stewardship of public funds. The program provides funding for operations and maintenance of infrastructure projects, which ensures investments for long-term sustainability and resiliency, and it emphasizes projects that prioritize natural solutions. It further provides dedicated funding for stormwater-related outreach, public education, school education, and workforce training. The Safe Clean Water Program is designed to allocate funds equitably across the region, with special emphasis on disadvantaged communities. Of the funding generated by Measure W, municipalities will directly receive 40 percent of the funding,

while 50 percent of the funding is part of a Regional Program to finance regional watershed scale projects and 10 percent of the funding is returned to the County Flood Control District to implement District projects and programs and administer the Safe Clean Water Program.

As part of the municipal program, County unincorporated areas will receive approximately \$11 million every year as local return. The Unincorporated Areas Stormwater Runoff Urban Quality Program, which is also funded through the County's General Fund, will administer the \$11 million and will construct projects in unincorporated areas that improve stormwater quality in our region's lakes, rivers, and oceans while providing additional benefits and community enhancements.





What is planned for next year and beyond?

Several projects are planned for construction in the next few years, including a school partnership project at Bassett High School. PW also plans to complete the construction of the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture project. Progress will be tracked and measured by total capacity in acre-feet. PW will lead a collaborative planning process for four of the seven pilot WHAM projects, including tracking climate resilience and equity metrics for the projects, and participate in the collaborative process for the remaining three pilot projects, which are led by DPR and Metro.

What progress has been made?

In 2020-2021, the UA Stormwater Runoff Urban Quality Program completed construction of five regional projects with a construction cost close to \$100 million. These included projects at Roosevelt Park, Magic Johnson Park, Ladera Park, Gates Canyon Park, and Carriage Crest Park. The five projects that were constructed in 2020-2021 cumulatively added close to 50 acre-feet in stormwater management capacity. More broadly, the Board approved the first Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) under the Safe Clean Water Program, including funding for 37 new projects that each provide community investment benefits in addition to nature-based stormwater management solutions, spanning 21 cities and benefiting the watersheds of the entire region. This includes \$320 million for projects benefiting disadvantaged communities and over 61,000 acres of drainage area.

Additionally, Public Works is a member of the WHAM taskforce. In December 2019, the Board directed the CSO to convene the WHAM taskforce – comprised of leaders from the departments and agencies leading the implementation of measures W, H, A, and M and other relevant agencies – to coordinate the resources generated by the funding measures and spur the development of equitable, community-led, and climate resilient infrastructure. In June 2021, the WHAM Taskforce identified seven pilot WHAM projects to test drive the collaborate process.



Action 35

Develop a local water supply plan.



Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short-to-Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Nearly 60 percent of the water used in the County is sourced from outside the region. This leaves the supply vulnerable to disruptions due to potential shocks and stressors like earthquakes and droughts. Public Works is actively engaged in developing the Los Angeles County Water Plan (Water Plan). The Water Plan will build on existing planning efforts to articulate a shared vision for enhanced water resources management across the region. The Water Plan will be developed with the goal of establishing a resilient regional water supply plan while providing social, environmental, and economic benefits to present and future generations.

What progress has been made?

In April 2016, the Board directed PW to develop the Water Plan. Development began with limited stakeholder engagement with major public agencies. Under Phase 1 of the Water Plan, PW conducted background research on existing plans like the Los Angeles River Master Plan and the Metropolitan Water Districts Integrated Water Resource Plan, convened an expert technical advisory team, performed a data review and gaps analysis, drafted a Water

Plan outline, and engaged additional stakeholders. The Phase 1 gaps analysis of existing plans and data identified specific challenges, targets, and strategies which will provide guidance in developing the targets and strategies of the Water Plan. PW is now beginning Phase 2 of the Water Plan by developing and initiating the Water Plan engagement process and conducting initial meetings using the Integrated Regional Water Management platform.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW will continue the stakeholder engagement and plan development process for the Water Plan through 2022. PW plans to engage stakeholders including cities, local community groups, water advocacy NGOs, local water agencies, regional water districts, and neighboring counties. In spring 2022, PW anticipates releasing a draft Water Plan for public comment, and targets summer 2022 to submit the final Water Plan to the Board for approval.



Action 42



Develop a plan to ensure effective, well-maintained flood risk mitigation infrastructure to communities and include a mechanism to facilitate reporting of incidents by residents/municipalities to help identify and address any chronic local flooding issues.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

This action is implemented through the Drainage Needs Assessment Program (DNAP). The goal of DNAP is to ensure effective, well-maintained flood risk mitigation infrastructure to communities, and it includes a mechanism to facilitate reporting of incidents by residents and municipalities to help identify and address any chronic local flooding issues.

What progress has been made?

DNAP was launched in November 2020, followed by three online training workshops from December 2020 to February 2021. Year 1 evaluation of drainage issues is currently ongoing, leading to the identification of priority drainage issues in Q4 2021 for project concept development and design. Stakeholder engagement is mainly through annual municipal and County staff training workshops on

how to submit drainage issues online. City residents can report drainage issues through their city's department of public works. Unincorporated area residents can report drainage issues through PW. The DNAP scoring mechanism awards points for projects that would benefit underserved communities to help advance equity.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Performance will be evaluated by the delivery of flood infrastructure projects to address local drainage issues.



Action 43



Create and implement a community-informed Urban Forest Management Plan that incorporates equitable urban forest practices, identifies County funding sources, and prioritizes tree- and park-poor communities; climate and watershed-appropriate and drought/pest-resistant vegetation; appropriate watering, maintenance, and disposal practices; shading; and biodiversity.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

A County Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) will establish a path to increasing the extent and resilience of tree canopy in the County, which will create more resilient and healthy community environments and promote thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity. A key goal for the UFMP is addressing existing inequities in the tree canopy; recent tree inventories have shown that low-income communities and communities of color often have less tree canopy than other places in the County. The UFMP will comprehensively document, and provide a strategy to address, these inequities.

What progress has been made?

In November 2020, the Chief Executive Office was awarded a \$1.5 million Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to fund the UFMP. The UFMP grant includes funding for an extensive stakeholder engagement process, which will be coordinated and closely aligned with the City of Los Angeles's own parallel UFMP process. The grant also includes funding for an early action tree planting project in Florence-Firestone.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The CSO will develop scopes of work for the UFMP planning and stakeholder engagement scopes of work. The CSO expects to kick off the UFMP process in fall 2021.





Goal 3

Equitable and sustainable land
use and development without
displacement

Action 47



Support the preservation of agricultural and working lands, including rangelands, by limiting the conversion of these lands to residential or other uses through tools such as the creation of agricultural easements, particularly within high climate-hazard areas and Significant Ecological Areas.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

In many areas of the County, the zoning of agricultural and rural working lands allows for the development of non-agricultural uses. Strategies to preserve these lands and limit their conversion to other uses, such as housing, can support the region's ability to provide a local food supply, mitigate potential impacts from climate change, and preserve the way of life of communities that depend on these lands.

What progress has been made?

The zoning regulations that apply to these areas are currently being updated by the DRP. Agricultural land is an important resource in California and in the County. Much of the agricultural land in the County has been developed into the cities we see today, and the current trend for agriculture is more farms on fewer acres of land. According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, since 1997 the number of farms in the County has increased; however, the total acreage of land used for farming activities has continually declined. The County General Plan identifies Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs), which consist of farmland identified by the California Department of Conservation, including Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, and Unique. ARAs also include lands issued permits from the County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures. However, ARAs do not include Grazing Lands, which are included within the California Department of Conservation group of farmland categories. Since 2015, the date of adoption of the County General Plan ARAs, a total of 260 acres of Grazing Land has been converted to single-family residential or similar uses (12 acres) and large-scale utility solar uses (248 acres). There have been no conversions of ARA lands.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Further work on this project will evaluate what potential pathways may be available for limiting the conversion of agricultural and working lands. DRP will continue to seek funding to support these efforts.

Action 49



Expand the number and extent of transit oriented communities while ensuring that vital public amenities such as parks and active transportation infrastructure are included.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Transit oriented communities offer a mix of land uses and building types near high-quality transit with bicycle and pedestrian connections, creating vibrant communities with health benefits including higher rates of walking and biking. This action will be carried out through the implementation of the General Plan Transit Oriented District (TOD) Program, alternatively referred to as Transit Oriented Communities (TOC). A key component is the transformation of the current mobility network to one that places a higher priority on the principles of complete streets and multi-modal design to encourage active transportation and transit use. The TOD Program aims to promote streets that facilitate safe, accessible connections between major destinations for multiple modes of transportation. Additionally, it encourages parking management strategies to more efficiently use parking resources and supports programs that reduce parking demand.

What progress has been made?

This year, the DRP is working towards the adoption of the Florence-Firestone TOD Specific Plan. By encouraging transit supportive uses, the TOD will allow more people to access active transit modes such as walking and bicycling, which may improve health outcomes. This will encourage fewer auto trips, which in turn helps reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled within the community. Since the project was initiated in March 2020, DRP has facilitated engagement with the public by hosting community meetings and office hours, presenting project information at Charles Drew Middle School, sharing project details in an online and printed TOD Planning Guide, and soliciting feedback through an accompanying survey. The project consultant has drafted four background reports to help inform the materials that will be used to draft the Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The Specific Plan and EIR was released for public review public in September 2021 and will go to the DRP Commission in December 2021 or January 2022. Then, they will go to the Board in February or March 2022. After adoption of the Specific Plan, progress can be monitored by reviewing any increase in the number of units developed near the three TOD stations until horizon year 2035, and through implementation of strategies identified in the Specific Plan's implementation program. Additional TOC Specific Plans will be prioritized according to the General Plan TOD Policy Map.



Action 52



Promote walkability through various tools, including zoning that enables a mix of uses, and pedestrian enhancements.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Improving walkability, ensuring residents can undertake a wide variety of daily errands and activities within walking distance of their homes, is one important way to make neighborhoods more livable and more sustainable. This action will be carried out collectively through programs and place-based policies the County implements that are appropriate for promoting walkability.

What progress has been made?

As part of the Florence-Firestone TOD (FFTOD) Specific Plan, background reports were drafted on Mobility and Equity and First/Last Mile recommendations for the unincorporated community of Florence-Firestone. DRP additionally serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for Public Health's Step By Step LA County: Pedestrian Plans for Unincorporated Communities (East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence-Firestone, and Willowbrook/West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria).

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The information from the FFTOD reports will be used to produce a chapter in the Specific Plan on mobility. The chapter will include policy and implementation actions for pedestrian improvements such as a pedestrian bridge and pathways around transit stations.



Action 53



Develop equitable design guidelines that promote high quality living environments for all.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Equitable design guidelines are intended to provide clear design guidance for new development, allowing the County to improve the quality of the built environment in all communities while providing greater certainty to developers to help speed approvals and keep development costs down. The Design Requirements amendment will include guiding principles, guidelines, and implementation requirements that will apply to all development projects regardless of land use, with additional specific standards related to residential and mixed land use development projects where needed. The Design Requirements shall address design best practices including, but not limited to, site planning and building placement; building orientation; façade and roofline articulation; compatibility with existing development and natural settings; energy efficiency; preservation of ecological and environmental resources; streetscape; pedestrian connectivity and safety; signage; and building materials design. To facilitate easy understanding and incorporation into project design, the Design Requirements will be quantifiable objective standards as required by Senate Bill 330 (2019, Skinner) and will include example photos of built projects and/or design illustrations.

What progress has been made?

The County was awarded funding under the state's Local Early Action Planning Grant to develop design standards that will ease the development of housing. The standards are intended both to provide greater certainty to developers, and thus bring down costs, and to create a baseline for acceptable development design to result in an overall improvement to the built environment for all unincorporated communities of the County. On June 1, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a consultant contract to assist DRP with the development of an amendment to Title 22 of the

County Code to improve the design of development projects in the unincorporated County. Over the past year, the DRP worked with its selected consultant to update the project parameters in light of changing state laws.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

To facilitate easy understanding and incorporation into project design, the Design Requirements will be quantifiable and objective in line with the requirements of SB 330 and will include example photos of built projects and/or design illustrations. Over the course of the upcoming year, the consultant will develop several informational documents based on existing code requirements and policies to inform the to-be-developed design standards. Ultimately, the consultant will assist DRP with the development of specific design standards that will be incorporated into Title 22.



Action 56



Evaluate options to limit new large-scale development in high climate-hazard areas.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Limiting new large-scale development in high climate hazard areas reduces the potential future impacts and disruptions when major climate events, such as wildfire, occur. Major climate events cause physical and economic damage in addition to potential displacement, resulting in high recovery and rebuilding costs to property owners and governments. In particular, disadvantaged populations may not have resources available to adapt quickly to a hazardous event or have access to a wide range of housing options. Implementation of this action will increase the region's climate resilience by reducing the number of people and the amount of property exposed to high climate hazard risks.

What progress has been made?

To support the implementation of this action, the Department of Regional Planning was awarded technical assistance from the Community Planning for Wildfire (CPAW) Program in February 2020. The CPAW technical assistance focused on wildfire risk, including conducting two community outreach meetings in May and October 2020 and providing a briefing to the Commission in October 2020. A final recommendations report was completed in December 2020, which will be used to guide amendments to Title 21 (Subdivision Code) and Title 22 (Planning and Zoning Code) regarding large-scale development, in order

to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires. DRP is also conducting a Safety Element Update of the General Plan; the process began in July 2020 and includes reviewing the element for impacts to development in all high climate hazard areas.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DRP will complete the Safety Element update, which will include an assessment of climate vulnerability and high climate hazard areas accompanied by appropriate policies to address new large-scale development within these identified areas. DRP received the Southern California Gas Company's Climate Adaptation Resiliency Grant in December 2019, and the grant will fund partnerships with community-based organizations to help facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities around the Safety Element update. Outreach for the Safety Element is planned for summer 2021, and DRP plans to present the Safety Element update to the Commission in winter 2021. By August 2022, DRP plans to prepare amendments to Title 21 and Title 22 focusing on the reduction of damage to life and property from wildfires and perform outreach around the draft amendments.





Goal 4

A prosperous Los Angeles County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy

Action 59



Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles and others to develop a “Just Transition” plan and task force that examines the impact of the transition to a cleaner economy on disadvantaged workers, identifies strategies for supporting displaced workers, and develops recommendations for ensuring inclusive employment practices within growth sectors of the economy.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

A Just Transition Plan is critical to achieving equity goals in *OurCounty*. It will address existing economic inequities by targeting disadvantaged workers for new opportunities in a cleaner economy. It will also ensure that other *OurCounty* goals, for instance around transitioning to a zero-emission energy system, do not exacerbate existing or create new economic hardship.

What progress has been made?

On September 29, 2020 the Board adopted a motion directing the CSO to convene a Taskforce and develop a report outlining a strategy to achieve a just transition to clean energy, specifically focused on assessing workforce development opportunities arising from plugging idle and orphaned oil wells. The Taskforce consisted of stakeholders representing a diverse set of sectors including business, labor, community-based organizations, philanthropy, academia, and local and State government. This group met three times to support development of the strategy, which consisted of a set of recommendations, including an

overall recommendation that the scope of the County’s just transition work should be increased to comprehensively consider fossil fuel workers, frontline communities, and a broader set of potential workforce opportunities. This report was submitted to the Board in June 2021.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

As noted above, the report responding to the September 2020 Board motion contained a series of recommendations, including an overarching recommendation to expand the scope of the just transition work. In September 2021, the Board adopted a motion to follow-up on these recommendations, directing CSO to expand and reconvene the Just Transition Task Force, and work towards development of a comprehensive Just Transition Strategy. The motion further directs CSO to report to the Board on progress on this latest motion within six months, with annual updates thereafter.



Action 60



Partner with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to connect and place graduates and workers with meaningful on-the-job training and employment opportunities within growth sectors of the economy.

Lead Department:

WDACS

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Indirect

About this Action

The County is a manufacturing center of the U.S. and a clean technology leader with a diverse and skilled workforce. Partnering with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to connect recent graduates and current workers with training and employment opportunities will support the growth of local green economy sectors and help ensure that our economy is one that works for everyone.

What progress has been made?

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) has successfully engaged local partners in the creation of several coalitions that are guiding the use of resources in our local communities. These partnerships have created several high road training programs (HRTP), establishing onboarding opportunities for our priority populations to gain access to livable wage careers and yielding excellent placement and retention rates, which provides a foundation for additional programs and growth. For example, WDACS successfully started a HRTP in partnership with an electric bus manufacturer in the City of Industry called Proterra. The partnership is a first of its kind and included other partners, such as Citrus College, Jobs to Move America, The United Steel Workers, and the Miguel Contreras Foundation. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first cohort of 15 students (COVID impacted the size of the training for safety purposes) began training in October of 2020, and it concluded in January of 2021. The second training cohort of 15 students began in August of 2021 and is set to complete in October of 2021. The census from the two cohorts was very diverse, as designed by the collaborative, and focuses on priority populations including women, justice involved individuals, and veterans.

Between June 2020 and December 2020, WDACS initiated systemwide, coordinated efforts to host business advisory and stakeholder convenings to establish a baseline for the formation of programs to meet established job training and employment opportunity needs. WDACS engaged employment sectors that were identified by the Board and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation economic report, as being high growth, in-demand sectors in LA County. Based upon recommendations made during the convenings, employer engagement and training programs were planned and established to meet the needs for the local stakeholders, businesses and participants in each service region. WDACS continues to learn from experience, refining its processes and partnerships to allow for more efficiency in the setting up these types of programs in the future.



What is planned for next year and beyond?

WDACS is continuing its implementation efforts in establishing these HRTP and other training programs. Sector convenings will continue during the coming year to gauge the success of the work done so far and to look at pivoting as the needs dictate. WDACS is looking to branch out into several other sub sectors in FY 2021-2022, such as more defined work in the health sector (creating more entry points into this career pathway); green technology (with an eye to IT and infrastructure); and construction trades (creating more refined partnerships with livable wage outcomes). WDACS will follow the same guidelines we set forth for FY 2020-2021, with at least bi-annual if not quarterly stakeholder meetings that are broken down by industry sectors. These events will be used to gauge progress and to plan for future programs. Constant feedback is sought to inform our efforts as we move forward.



Action 65



Promote the development and growth of community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and other models for the provision of permanently affordable rental and ownership housing, including by identifying appropriate public land.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

All models of permanently affordable ownership housing provide homeownership opportunities to low-income households, who typically have limited homeownership opportunities. Both rental and ownership housing types that are permanently affordable remove units and property from speculative housing markets to secure access to housing for multiple generations. One such affordable ownership model is a community land trust (CLT), which purchases ownership of the land beneath homes and multi-family buildings and retains ownership even after these buildings are sold to income-qualifying households or other nonprofits. Under the community land trust model, decisions that impact the households that live in a community are made by those households, prioritizing residents' knowledge about and vision for their community.

What progress has been made?

The County's Pilot CLT Partnership program is an implementation program of the 2021-2029 Housing Element. It will pilot the acquisition of housing by community land trusts (CLTs) and nonprofit organizations to create long-term affordable housing. In January 2021, the Board authorized the transfer of \$14 million from the CEO Affordable Housing Budget Unit to LACDA for the CLT pilot program to acquire and rehabilitate at least one property in each Supervisorial District. The Housing Element implementation programs, including the CLT pilot program, were developed in concert with stakeholders and County departments. Beginning on October 4, 2020, the CEO convened a working group consisting of Treasurer and Tax Collector, Los Angeles County Development Authority, County Counsel, and the Los Angeles (LA) CLT Coalition. The LA CLT Coalition consists of CLTs operating throughout the County and collectively serving all five Supervisorial Districts. As part of the

working group, the LA CLT Coalition and their community development corporation partners identified both Chapter 8 and non-Chapter 8 (tax-defaulted) properties suitable for affordable housing. As of June 3, 2021, Coalition member organizations acquired three multifamily buildings with 23 units.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The Housing Element will be publicly released in summer 2021 and heard at the Commission and Board during fall and winter of 2021. It is expected to be adopted by the Board at the end of 2021. During implementation, the CEO will evaluate the pilot and make recommendations to the Board for consideration to establish a long-term program. DRP will submit program updates annually to the California Department of Housing and Community Development as part of the Housing Element Annual Progress Report.







Goal 5

Thriving ecosystems,
habitats, and biodiversity

Action 68



Establish comprehensive and coordinated management guidelines for local waterways, which balance priorities such as water management, flood risk mitigation, habitat, biodiversity, and community preference.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Indirect

About this Action

PW will utilize the Los Angeles River Master Plan and other river master planning efforts to guide development of local waterway management guidelines. Based on the lessons learned and input provided in the previous river master plan development processes, PW will establish a process for creating management guidelines which take into account flood risk mitigation, water conservation, impacts on downstream habitats, and community needs.

Utilizing the regional partnerships formed through the Los Angeles County Water Plan (Water Plan), PW will work collaboratively with partnering agencies to advise on best practices in developing coordinated management guidelines. The Water Plan will serve as a forum for PW to share key findings with the relevant regional partners and agencies responsible for managing local waterways which fall outside of the purview of the Flood Control District.



What progress has been made?

In April 2016, the Board directed PW to develop the Water Plan. Development began with limited stakeholder engagement with major public agencies. Under Phase 1 of the Water Plan, PW conducted background research, convened an expert technical advisory team, performed a data review and gaps analysis, drafted a Water Plan outline, and performed a broader stakeholder engagement process.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW will continue the stakeholder engagement and plan development process for the Water Plan through 2022. PW plans to engage stakeholders including cities, local community groups, water advocacy Non-Governmental Organizations, local water agencies, regional water districts, and neighboring counties. In spring 2022, PW anticipates releasing a draft Water Plan for public comment, and targets summer 2022 to submit the final Water Plan to the Board for approval.



Action 70



Increase coordination amongst and expand training of County and affiliated personnel with regards to promoting native and climate-resilient species selection, biodiversity, habitat quality, and connectivity.

Lead Department:

CEO, Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

This action is essential for protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of our urban ecosystems in the face of a changing climate. Through this action, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) leads or supports efforts to preserve and conserve the region's natural resources and habitat. An education and training curriculum will be created for internal and external County stakeholders and will promote sustainability for open spaces, natural areas, and significant ecological areas throughout the County.

What progress has been made?

DPR convened an internal learning circle of County department representatives to explore ways to provide climate resilience and biodiversity training opportunities for County grounds maintenance personnel, additional staff at DPR and other County agencies, and stakeholders and members of the public. The learning circle outlined goals and strategies related to climate resilience and biodiversity training in a document, which DPR has shared with County departments, as well as with external stakeholders, to identify opportunities for collaboration and potential next steps for biodiversity training. DPR is also working with PW to develop educational brochures for completed projects that describe the multiple benefits provided by those projects, such as sustainable stormwater management, biodiversity, water conservation, and climate resilience. DPR is also implementing the "Everybody Explores" program, which encourages youth across the County to get outdoors and visit seven Nature Centers for free activities and workshops to discover, explore, and create while learning about the natural world.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPR will seek additional input from community-based organizations on the goals and strategies document developed by its learning circle and incorporate that feedback into a final document that identifies next steps for action and opportunities for collaboration. DPR will also continue to actively seek opportunities to provide free biodiversity groundskeeping and maintenance training and education events for park staff, as well as free educational programming related to climate resilience and biodiversity to stakeholders and members of the public.







Goal 6

Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities

Action 74



Work with cities and across agencies to plan, implement, and maintain parks, greenways, plazas (and other public spaces), vacant lot adoptions, and joint-use green schoolyards in those neighborhoods with high park need and/or missing habitat linkages.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Ongoing

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

In places without many available natural and open spaces, the County needs to consider creative solutions to identify opportunities for new green spaces. This is especially critical in neighborhoods with high park need and areas with missing habitat linkages. New green spaces in these high need areas will provide community recreation and social cohesion, habitat connectivity and biodiversity, and climate resilient services such as cooling and stormwater management.

What progress has been made?

DPR is currently working on a focused update to the Park Needs Assessment (PNA) called the Regional and Rural Edition. The Regional and Rural Edition is a comprehensive study to understand and document the need for regional facilities like beaches and lakes, natural

areas and open spaces, regional parks, trails, and the park needs of the rural parts of the County. This effort involves extensive coordination with cities, park/trail agencies, and unincorporated communities across the County to identify regional and rural park needs as well as opportunities to address those needs, including potential land acquisitions, joint-use opportunities, partnerships, or other strategies.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPR is continuing to develop the Regional and Rural Edition of the PNA, and is using a variety of methods, including online surveys, virtual and in-person workshops, and social media polls to gather public input in the summer of 2021. DPR will complete the final report in Fall 2021.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Pacoima Beautiful

Bert Corona Charter High School Garden

Students, parents, staff, and community members worked together to transform a small plot of land at Bert Corona Charter High School into a pollinator garden. A pollinator garden can have many benefits for the community, including being drought tolerant, pollinating neighboring vegetables and fruits, and creating a small ecosystem on campus. On February 9, 2020, 15 students and staff from the school and fifteen Pacoima Beautiful community members worked together to create a garden site. Together they assembled three 4x8 garden beds in just two hours. They encountered some challenges throughout the day, like running out of soil to fill the garden beds. This was resolved with the help of two Pacoima Beautiful volunteers who drove to nearby Lopez Canyon Environmental Center to load more soil onto a truck and deliver it back to the garden site. Pacoima Beautiful volunteers are always willing to meet every challenge with action.



The school was identified as an opportunity site for a garden by the principal, Yolanda Fuentes. When she arrived at Bert Corona, she knew she needed to green up the campus and soften up the asphalt that surrounded the classrooms. Pacoima Beautiful also partnered with Steve List, the Agriculture teacher at Sylmar High and a great partner of Pacoima Beautiful. Mr. List donated soil amendment for raised beds in addition to pollinator plants and strawberry plants.

The goal for this garden is to give youth a hands-on experience in building a garden alongside their community. A garden can teach a variety of values and skills, such as how to be resilient under extreme weather conditions. An additional goal for this garden is to have the students and neighboring community tend to the garden after its construction. Pacoima Beautiful is committed to working with the students and community to support their efforts and ensure the garden is thriving.



Action 75



Implement Community Parks and Recreation Plans, and park projects identified in the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, with priority given to those in Very High/High Need Study Areas.

Lead Department:

Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

The LA Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA), completed in 2016, is a comprehensive study of the diverse parks and recreation facilities throughout the County's cities and unincorporated communities. The PNA gathered data to determine the scope, scale, and location of park need in the County, and is invaluable in informing planning and decision-making. Guided by the findings of the PNA, DPR works to identify, fund, and implement park projects in the highest need areas of the County.

What progress has been made?

DPR continues to proactively pursue grants and other funding opportunities to implement projects that meet the needs of high and very high need communities. For example, DPR received \$560,000 to fund a tree planting project at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area to

address tree canopy and shade equity. Last year, DPR successfully secured \$16 million in

Prop 68 grant funding to implement four projects in very high- and high-need communities. In March 2021, DPR applied for funding totaling \$32 million for four additional projects, including new park development, park expansion, and park renovation projects for high need areas and park-poor rural communities in the Antelope Valley.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPR will continue implementing the park projects for which funding has been secured and expects to complete the four funded projects by 2023. If funding is secured for four additional projects from the March 2021 application, DPR will begin implementation for those projects as well.



Action 78



Collaborate with local tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Native communities face many of the same, and often more severe, disparities in socioeconomic and health outcomes as do many low-income people and people of color. However, the heterogeneity of these communities in terms of culture, history, and the relationship of local tribes to the County as sovereign nations, necessitates diverse solutions. This action ensures that the County addresses inequities unique to tribal communities, especially where inequities create barriers to observation of tribal cultural practices.

What progress has been made?

On September 29, 2020, the Board adopted the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 motion, directing the CSO in collaboration with the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) and County departments to engage Native communities to prepare a report identifying barriers to access that Native communities face, and recommendations to address these barriers. In early 2021, CSO and LANAIC hosted a series of listening sessions with local Tribal nations and Native community members. Based on these sessions, CSO and LANAIC prepared a draft report which was sent out for review to Tribal representatives and Native community members.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The report was reviewed and finalized, and the CSO submitted the final version to the Board in October 2021. The CSO will work with LANAIC to identify pathways to move forward with recommendations from the report, and will continue to engage local Tribes and Native communities as recommendations are implemented.







Goal 7

A fossil fuel-free LA County

Action 85



Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and other members of the Building Decarbonization Coalition to develop building energy and emissions performance standards that put the County on a path towards building decarbonization.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Building decarbonization requires the elimination of fossil fuels in building systems and appliances – such as by switching from oil- or gas-powered heating and cooling systems to electrically-powered systems, and switching from gas stoves to electric or induction stoves. Decarbonizing the County’s building stock is a critical step in reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. Further, household gas appliances, such as ovens and heaters, produce indoor air pollution that can contribute to negative health outcomes such as asthma. Using electric alternatives can improve indoor air quality and protect occupant health. PW plans to require decarbonization for new single family and low-rise residential buildings. All new single family and low-rise residential buildings will be required to use electric heat pumps for their space heating and water heating. This requirement will be extended to all new buildings in other occupancy categories in the future, and the County will explore options for addressing fossil fuel use in existing buildings.

What progress has been made?

PW is the process of developing a building decarbonization ordinance for new single family and low-rise residential buildings. The Department’s initial efforts involve developing an energy and water benchmarking program that would require commercial buildings in unincorporated areas that are 20,000 square feet or larger and residential buildings in unincorporated areas that are 20,000 square feet or larger and have 17+ units to measure and report energy and water usage starting January 2023. The County’s energy and water benchmarking program will allow for data to be collected, including greenhouse gas emissions, to determine where resources need to be applied and understand the need to improve buildings, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities throughout the County. This benchmarking program will provide critical data that can

help inform development of future building decarbonization efforts. The County has created a benchmarking account on EPA’s ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, which will be used to request and collect energy and water usage data from building owners in unincorporated County that are required to comply with the water and benchmarking ordinance. The County is in ongoing discussions with the California Energy Commission and U.S. EPA to obtain feedback on our ordinance development and stakeholder outreach.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

As a precursor to a building decarbonization ordinance, the County’s energy and water benchmarking ordinance is set to be developed by November 2022. As the ordinance is developed, the County will continue discussions with stakeholder groups to identify pathways to move towards building decarbonization. This will include engaging utilities, unincorporated communities, and local jurisdictions to create unified requirements across neighboring cities and the County, as well as engaging unions, home builders, designers, and environmental justice advocacy organizations to understand the action’s effect and receive input on implementation strategies. The County will also work with the Clean Power Alliance to provide resources to cities interested in developing and implementing their own building decarbonization codes and strategies. In the future, the State may require PW to present to the Energy Commission to show that the ordinance is in compliance with state requirements.

Action 88



Maximize the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property whenever cost-effective.

Lead Department:
Internal Services Department
Horizon: Short Term
Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The benefits of emissions-free electricity, solar energy, and energy storage on County facilities include environmental benefits, such as reduced carbon footprint, and financial benefits such as helping reduce the County's utility expenses and insulating the County from future inflation in the retail cost of electricity. The cost of energy storage has dropped over the last few years such that it can now be economically viable to add energy storage to manage a site's peak demand charges, which can be nearly half of the cost of electricity on many sites.

What progress has been made?

In December 2020, the Internal Services Department (ISD) received approval from the Board of Supervisors for an expansion of solar capacity at an existing County solar facility in Lancaster, and the environmental site assessment is underway. Since the project uses third

party financing through a Power Purchase Agreement, it requires little upfront County cost for financing. ISD worked with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to include apprentices and skilled electricians in the subcontracts for the project. Additionally, ISD has started applications to Southern California Edison for an interconnection study to understand what electrical systems upgrades may be needed to safely connect the solar array to the distribution grid.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The planned interconnection study will go into 2022, and ISD hopes to begin construction on the Lancaster solar expansion in 2023.



Action 90



Develop and implement a strategy to eliminate fossil fuels in County operated co-generation facilities.

Lead Department:

Internal Services Department

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

A co-generation facility, also known as a combined heat and power system, is an energy plant that recovers waste heat from conventional power generation to produce thermal energy. While many co-generation facilities rely on fossil fuels such as natural gas, they can be designed to rely on renewable sources of energy. Eliminating fossil fuels in County operated co-generation facilities will reduce the County's carbon footprint, improve air quality, and advance the goal of a fossil fuel free County.

What progress has been made?

The Central Heating and Refrigeration Plant in downtown Los Angeles provides district heating and cooling to critical public buildings including the Hall of Administration, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Music Center, and the Los Angeles Cathedral. Originally built in the 1950s, the Central Heating and Refrigeration Plant is the last County operated co-generation plant, and some of the original equipment is still in operation. Decommissioning the co-generation part of the plant will reduce the County's natural gas use at the site by over 70 percent. Currently, the co-generation plant is shut down, and it is being decommissioned. Scoping and high-level planning for the overhaul has been completed by PW, and CEO Capital Projects has set aside funding for the update. ISD is in discussions with Air Quality Maintenance District on plans for this regulated site after decommissioning.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Demolition of the old co-generation plant, including decommissioning and removing old equipment as well as installing temporary chillers to serve the downtown buildings during construction, is expected in FY 2021-22. Final Board approval process is expected in 2022.



Action 92



Install electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities and properties for public, employee, and fleet use, prioritizing locations in disadvantaged communities.

Lead Department:

Internal Services Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

When combined with cleaner sources of electricity and an overall reduction in vehicle miles traveled, a zero-emission transportation system will reduce pollution and deliver cleaner air. A key to this transformation is a commitment to transitioning from fossil fuel combustion to zero-emission vehicle technologies like electric vehicles. To scale up the adoption of electric vehicles, a robust network of charging stations is needed to facilitate reliable and efficient long-distance travel by EV for County business needs and to the public.

What progress has been made?

The County is making progress with increasing EV infrastructure. ISD increased the number of EVSEs deployed to over 650 stations. Though funding levels need to increase to meet the *OurCounty* EV charging targets, the County allocated approximately \$1.25 million in FY 2020-2021 for EV chargers. ISD continuously applies for grants and was recently awarded a grant from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to add more chargers at the County's Olive View Hospital in Sylmar. ISD is also developing an EVSE map of County facilities to identify sites near disadvantaged communities to prioritize for EV charging deployment. Because changing from a free to a pay-per-use model will help the County cover costs associated with deployment, in FY 2020-2021 the County implemented use fees for EVSE to recover deployment and operational costs of running the EVSE network. ISD piloted the Electrifyze EV education campaign for County staff, an electric vehicle engagement, education, and adoption initiative to help people learn about and buy an electric car, with over 1,000 people participating. ISD is tracking deployment rate and monthly usage to measure gallons of gas offset by EV charging.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

ISD will continue to pursue and secure grants for additional EV charging equipment and for novel approaches, such as education campaigns and partnerships, to rapidly increase EV adoption and keep the County's cost low. For example, ISD is planning to implement a partnership with California Conservation Corps and Cerritos Community College on EVSE workforce development, expand its Electrifyze EV educational campaign, and provide group-buy car discounts.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Pacoima Beautiful

Replace Your Ride Program

Pacoima Beautiful helped residents navigate Replace Your Ride, a program offered to qualified residents of the South Coast Air Quality Management District that allows community members to replace their older, high-polluting vehicle with a newer vehicle. The community resident can upgrade to a hybrid or electric vehicle or get vouchers for car-sharing or public transit passes. Pacoima Beautiful helps residents apply online and submit all the required documents after confirming their eligibility. Once a community member is approved for the program, they must find a qualified dealer, select a car, and finalize the paperwork. Pacoima Beautiful guides the community member through this process from start to finish. While the program is not currently available because it has run out of funds, Pacoima Beautiful intends to advocate for more funds to continue this important and necessary program.

Community Member Testimonial

Enero 17, 2020

Mi nombre es Reynalda Felix residente de Panorama City. Me siento muy afortunada de saber del Programa Reemplace su Automóvil (RYRP) por medio de la Organización Pacoima Beautiful quien llego a una de nuestras escuelas locales para dar un taller basado en los diferentes programas para familias de bajos ingresos. Decidí aplicar para el programa reemplace su automóvil por el motivo de que mi auto Honda 2001 estaba causando bastante problemas mecánicos lo cual implicaba gastos extras para la familia, aparte del presupuesto que invertía en gas, hoy en día mi familia y yo nos sentimos muy feliz, pues con mi nuevo automóvil convencional el gasto se redujo de \$70.00 a \$40.00 contando con la ventaja de que puedo utilizar gas solo cuando sea necesario. Mi nuevo auto me ha brindado estabilidad y confianza. Antes me preocupaba cada vez que subía a la autopista con mis niñas. Tenía mucho temor quedarme varada y sin ayuda de mi esposo quien trabaja muy lejos del área. Anteriormente mi esposo perdió oportunidades de trabajo por falta de confianza en nuestro auto viejo lo cual represento menos ingreso para el hogar. Espero que el programa continúe por muchos años. Estoy segura que hay muchas familias con la mismas necesidades que mi familia. En nombre de mi familia doy las gracias a la organización Pacoima Beautiful.

January 17, 2020

My name is Reynalda Felix, and I have been very fortunate to hear about the Replace Your Ride Program (RYRP) through Pacoima Beautiful who came to one of our local schools to give a workshop based on different programs for low-income families. I decided to apply for the Replace Your Ride program because my 2001 Honda was causing quite a lot of mechanical problems which implied extra expenses for the family, apart from the budget that I invested in gas. Nowadays my family and I feel very happy because with my new efficient car the expense was reduced from \$70.00 to \$40.00, with the advantage that I can use gas only when necessary. My new car has given me stability and confidence. Before I would worry every time I got on the freeway with my girls. I was very afraid of being stranded and without help because my husband works very far from the area. Previously, my husband lost job opportunities due to lack of confidence in our old car, which represents less income for the home. I hope that the Program continues for many years. I am sure that there are many families with the same needs as my family. On behalf of my family, I thank Pacoima Beautiful.

Action 93



Revise and regularly update the County's fleet policy to require zero-emission vehicles or better whenever available and operationally feasible.

Lead Department:

Internal Services Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

OurCounty made clear the role that motor vehicles play in contributing to air pollution and climate change. This action demonstrated the opportunity for the County to lead by example and align the County's purchasing power with the *OurCounty* air quality and climate goals. At the time of the Plan's adoption, the County's fleet purchasing policy only required a share of County fleets to include alternative fuel vehicles but did not require zero emission vehicles.

What progress has been made?

In December 2019, the Board adopted a motion directing ISD in collaboration with the CSO to revise the fleet purchasing policy to align County policy with the *OurCounty* Plan. In April 2021, the Board adopted a revised fleet policy that includes the requirement to purchase zero emission vehicles for the County when replacing all County vehicles, to the

extent that they are available and meet operational needs. The policy also includes a guidance on a limited exemption process.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

ISD and departments that manage their own fleets will implement the new policy and work to achieve a systematic approach to vehicle replacement. ISD will continue to support departments to install charging for battery electric vehicles. CSO will review exemption requests. Departments that manage their own fleets will report to the Board by March 1st annually on the composition of their fleet.



Action 94



Convert Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) fleet to zero emission by partnering with vehicle manufacturers to develop a zero emission pursuit vehicle and transport bus.

Lead Department:

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The LASD air and climate pollution footprint can be significantly improved with conversion to an electric fleet. The LASD provides leadership on converting pursuit and transport vehicles to electric alternatives.

What progress has been made?

LASD is developing the specifications to pilot two EV inmate transportation buses. Funding is identified, but not yet appropriated in the budget. Additionally, LASD is currently installing EV chargers at all of its stations. This will allow its fleet bureau to pursue procurement of EV fleet vehicles for non-pursuit vehicles.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

LASD is working towards having the electric bus specifications completed this summer; then it will move forward with obtaining Board approval to procure and solicit Request for Proposals. We anticipate a contract to be awarded to 2 bus manufacturers by Jan 2022. It will take 9 months to 1 year to build the buses. LASD will pursue opportunities for electric pursuit vehicles in the future.



Action 95



Partner with Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) and equipment manufacturers to pilot a zero emission fire engine.

Lead Department:

Fire Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The Fire Department air and climate pollution footprint can be significantly improved with conversion to electric fire engines. The Fire Department provides leadership on converting heavy duty and specialty vehicles to electric alternatives.

What progress has been made?

At this time, the technology to meet performance requirements does not exist, but LACoFD is testing conversion to Renewable Diesel Fuel (RDF) as a transitional fuel until a zero-emission engine can be developed. RDF has been tested and shown to reduce carcinogenic compounds by 80 percent compared to conventional fossil diesel fuel. The County Fire Department, along with the Fire Department for the City of Los Angeles, viewed presentations from Rosenbauer for a hybrid electric/diesel fire engine, though this is not a long-term solution for a fully electric fire engine. The engine uses diesel as a backup when the charged power

is depleted. The Fire Department is seeking research and development grant funding to develop key components that meet performance requirements.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The Fire Department will continue to seek research and development grant funding opportunities, while continuing to increase RDF usage internally. We expect progress may be slow until grant funding is available and the department is successful in receiving this funding. Full success to meet this priority will be achieved when the Department acquires a fully functional fire engine meeting all performance requirements for long-term incidents. The Fire Department will continue researching and sharing information with all local Fire Departments within the Southern California region and beyond until this priority is achieved.





Goal 8

A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility and quality of life while reducing car dependency

Action 97



Support Metro's efforts to study congestion pricing and amplify considerations of equity.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Congestion pricing is a transportation demand management strategy to reduce peak-period vehicle traffic. It involves charging road users during set peak times or dynamically based on demand, acting essentially as variable road tolls. The funds that are raised can be used for transportation improvements and programs, such as free transit passes or bus rapid transit. Metro is currently studying such a strategy, called the Traffic Reduction Study. A congestion pricing program in the County should be designed so that the benefits and costs of the program are equitably distributed.

What progress has been made?

The County, including as a member of the Transportation Electrification Partnership, has met with Metro various times during the development of their Congestion Pricing Study

and Pilot Program, now called the Traffic Reduction Study. During these collaborations, the agencies have discussed potential pilot locations for a congestion pricing program, how it may impact residents, and potential equitable approaches, such as dedicating revenue from the pilot to bus rapid transit and fare discounts for bus riders.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Though the currently proposed pilot locations in consideration are not within unincorporated County areas, the County will continue to participate and provide support to the Metro project.



Action 99



Develop and implement a comprehensive parking reform strategy, which should include, but not be limited to: elimination of minimum parking requirements for all new residential units, establishment of parking maximums within half a mile of high quality transit stops, creation and expansion of parking benefit districts, and incentives for developers to provide less than maximum allowable parking.

Lead Department:

CEO, Department of Regional Planning

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

While parking requirements were created as a tool for local governments to ensure that buildings and destinations have adequate parking to meet demand, they have unintended consequences. Parking requirements can add significant costs to new developments and redevelopments and often do not serve individuals who do not drive cars. For example, parking requirements can add substantial costs to redevelopment projects in neighborhoods with older buildings, as they were often built before parking requirements were in place; updating them to meet today's parking requirements is difficult and costly. The cost of meeting parking requirements can be prohibitive, preventing investments for the transformation of existing uses or the expansion of businesses. To address this, parking reform can be a strategy to reduce barriers to investments, especially in multifamily housing production; reduce the overall costs of housing; and help lower vehicle miles traveled.

What progress has been made?

DRP has prepared a request for proposals for consultant services to conduct a parking study and make zoning amendment recommendations for parking reform for multifamily housing. The project is being funded through a Local Early Action Planning grant awarded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.



What is planned for next year and beyond?

The Parking Study and zoning amendment recommendations will be completed by September 2022. Based on these findings, DRP will create a draft zoning ordinance. DRP will release the draft ordinance for public review, conduct stakeholder engagement, and prepare a final ordinance for a public hearing before the Commission and the Board.

Action 100



Offer free transit passes for students, youth, seniors, disabled, and low-income populations.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Availability of and access to public transit can create more sustainable and vibrant communities by providing ways for more people to travel sustainably and reducing reliance on forms of transportation, like automobiles, that contribute to climate change. Increased access is especially important to low-income people, those who have limited or no access to private vehicles, and others who choose to travel sustainably. A Free Transit Pass or Fareless Transit program will increase access for those who qualify to a convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility, opportunity, and quality of life and reduces car dependency.

What progress has been made?

While restrictions due the COVID-19 pandemic affected ridership and delayed the implementation of this program during 2020, PW has determined funding availability of each Supervisorial District's allocation of Proposition A Local Return Transit funds. PW is conducting reviews for each Supervisorial District to select impactful transit services in communities with the greatest need to promote public transit usage and improve quality of life. Also during this year, Metro initiated a "Fareless System Initiative" to develop the Free Transit Pass Program. Metro's program is focused on increasing ridership, increasing student success, and improving student health.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW will continue its coordination with the Metro Fareless System Initiative pilot project and set an implementation schedule for the Free Transit Passes program. PW will present recommendations and estimated project costs to each Supervisorial District for its concurrence prior to implementation. PW anticipates beginning implementation in spring 2022, including service marketing and public service announcements about the program. The Free Transit Passes program presents a great opportunity to help ridership recover from the impacts of COVID-19, which included a ridership reduction of more than 50 percent for most County transit services.



Action 104



Pilot an alternative work site program for County employees.

Lead Department:

Department of Human Resources
Internal Services Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The expansion of alternative worksite options for County employees, whether through increased telework opportunities or access to alternate work facilities closer to home, will reduce the County workforce's carbon footprint and the overall commute time of individual employees. A pilot program was intended to determine the benefit of allowing employees to work from a selection of alternate locations throughout the County on an as-needed basis, with facilities located in multiple cities across the County, helping to reduce the commute times of employees who travel the furthest to their places of work each day. However, with the need for social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all County employees who are able to telework have been working from home since mid-March 2020 and will continue to do so for an indeterminate amount of time. For now, remote working has superseded the original pilot program.

What progress has been made?

In 2019-2020, ISD piloted a shared workspace model by partnering with a number of shared workspace companies, such as WeWork, to provide secure offices for County staff to work remotely closer to their residence. The pilot tracked several metrics, including reduced miles traveled, gallons of gas saved, and GHG emissions reduced. When the pilot program was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ISD applied the underlying tools that were used to study employee commutes for the pilot across the entire County employee base while many County employees worked from home. ISD studied nearly 60,000 employees; cumulatively they teleworked nearly 6.5 million days, saving 216 million miles travelled for their commutes. This translates to approximately 9.8 million gallons of gas saved, over 87,000 metric tons of CO2 avoided, and nearly \$32 million in gas money saved by County employees in the last year.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Currently, there are no plans to resume the alternative worksite pilot program. If the pilot program is able to resume, it will need to be redesigned to take into account the outcomes, findings, and lessons learned from County staff who teleworked during the COVID-19 emergency. It will also include those who may continue to use alternative work site arrangements. County staff will develop metrics to evaluate the environmental, operational, personnel, and fiscal impacts of the alternative worksite arrangements.



Action 105



Implement the County's Vision Zero Action Plan within unincorporated communities and work with local jurisdictions to implement transportation safety enhancements that reduce traffic injuries and deaths.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works,
Department of Public Health

Horizon: Short-to-Medium Term**Sphere of influence:** Direct and indirect

About this Action

Between 2013 and 2017, traffic deaths on unincorporated county roadways increased by 28 percent, with someone losing their life every five days on average in a traffic collision. For this reason, people may not feel comfortable when using various modes of active transportation. Through the implementation of the County's Vision Zero Action Plan (Vision Zero), which contains strategies to eliminate traffic related fatalities and severe injuries, the County aims to enhance the safety of unincorporated county roadways, thereby creating more sustainable and vibrant communities. The Vision Zero initiative focuses efforts in communities that are most burdened by traffic deaths and severe injuries, and accounts for equity by applying a prioritization factor for collisions that occurred in the most disadvantaged communities per the Healthy Places Index.

What progress has been made?

On August 4, 2020 the Board adopted an action plan for traffic safety titled Vision Zero Los Angeles County: A Plan for Safer Roadways, and instructed the Directors of PW and DPH to co-lead its implementation, strengthening its commitment to traffic safety. The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies multidisciplinary actions aimed at enhancing traffic safety, including engineering enhancements; policy changes; education opportunities; and focused enforcement of unsafe behaviors, such as speeding and impaired driving. Additionally, each action includes details on incremental benchmarks for evaluating success to ensure the County is on track towards its broader goal of eliminating fatal collisions. The County is making progress on securing funding for Vision Zero actions, and PW and DPH continue to apply for and secure grant opportunities. In 2020, PW applied for \$102.5 million in transportation grant funding and was awarded \$50.1 million for transportation related projects, a portion of which will fund traffic safety enhancements along County-maintained roadways. In 2021,

PW submitted approximately \$153 million in federal requests through the House Member Designated Transportation Projects (FAST Act Authorization) and Member Requested Community Projects processes to fund projects that include traffic safety enhancements that support Vision Zero actions. Additionally, PW was awarded \$430,000 in Measure M Multi-Year Subregional Program funds to implement transportation improvements. Furthermore, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) awarded three 1-year grants totaling \$485,462 to DPH for car seat safety clinics; virtual workshops on road safety; virtual and in-person (when allowable) bicycle and pedestrian safety presentation and workshops; and an outdoor traffic safety media campaign. The grant program runs from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Despite these grant awards, additional resources are necessary to fully implement the various actions within the Vision Zero Action Plan. For example, DPH activities related to Vision Zero data collection, management, analysis and surveillance cannot be implemented without additional funding and data staff.

Implementation highlights over the past year include the installation of the County's first Class IV (protected) bikeway in unincorporated Avocado Heights and the July 2, 2020 launch of the Slow Streets Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Slow Streets Program promotes traffic calming, helps communities comply with social distancing requirements, and encourages physical activity in neighborhoods. By installing over 1,100 new and replacement signs at nearly 580 locations, the program is estimated to have served nearly 43,000 residents one year later. PW also began developing pilot projects that focus on three of the top 25 Collision Concentration Corridors (CCC) and added various traffic safety enhancements to planned PW projects along top 20 CCC's. Additionally, in December

2020, DPH held a virtual community meeting in Westmont to share and gather feedback on a traffic safety campaign Artist-in-Residence Clement Hanami developed with youth at Woodcrest Library and update residents about County traffic safety efforts in the community. Furthermore, in March 2021, DPH utilized an Office of Traffic Safety grant to begin traffic safety community engagement in Walnut Park, Westmont/West Athens, and West Whittier-Los Nietos to share information on traffic safety efforts in these communities, provide bicycle/pedestrian safety information and trainings, and begin planning for localized outdoor advertising campaigns to run on key Vision Zero Collision Concentration Corridors during summer 2021.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW intends to focus on several Actions from the Vision Zero Action Plan in FY 2021-2022, including continuing to plan and implement quick-build projects along three of the Top 25 collision concentration corridors; continuing to update crosswalk guidelines; creating a Safe Routes to School program (if funded); continuing to plan and implement high visibility crosswalks; leading pedestrian intervals; curb extensions and left turn phasing; and updating traffic calming informational materials. Additionally, although not an action identified in the Vision Zero Action Plan, PW's update to the Bike Master Plan, which commenced in 2019 and will continue with community outreach through 2023, can have an impact on traffic deaths as bicycle facilities are planned in unincorporated communities with input from those that cycle among others. DPH intends to continue continues to work on its OTS funded grants, including running a media campaign in July 2021 and August 2021, and conducting community engagement and safety presentations between June 2021 and September 30, 2021. DPH also expects to continue community engagement and develop first drafts of pedestrian plans for the communities of East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence Firestone, and Willowbrook/West Rancho Dominguez in Summer 2021 (past tense) through Summer 2022. Achieving the Vision Zero goal, which may require changes to the County's roadways that reduce the potential for conflicts between people walking and biking and motor vehicles, will require extensive community engagement and support of future engineering projects and programs. To view the Vision Zero Action plan and find out more about the County's initiative, stakeholders may visit VisionZeroLACounty.com.







Goal 9

**Sustainable production and
consumption of resources**

Action 107



In collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, develop and implement an equitable strategy to phase out single use plastics, including in County contracts and facilities.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works,
Internal Services Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Single-use plastics are convenience products created using fossil fuels, and reliance on them has created an abundance of waste that pollutes the air, our public spaces, inland water supply, and the ocean. The presence of single-use plastics is detrimental to human, animal, and plant ecosystem health. The County has long advocated for strategies that reduce or eliminate single-use plastics, including prohibitions on single-use bags and straws. This action continues that work by requiring County departments to engage stakeholders in the drafting of an ordinance that would further reduce single-use plastic food service ware use and increase use of recyclable or compostable alternatives.

What progress has been made?

The County has been a strong advocate for countywide and statewide legislation and policies to reduce the impacts of single use plastics. In 2018, the Board adopted the Plastic Straw Ordinance prohibiting food-serving businesses from automatically providing single use plastic straws and stirrers. In 2019, the Board adopted a motion directing the CSO, in coordination with identified County agencies, to contract with researchers at UCLA to complete a report addressing management of single use plastic food service ware waste in the County. Upon review of the 2020 UCLA report and witnessing the increased use and litter of a wide variety of single use plastics as a result of the recent pandemic, the Board passed a motion on February 9, 2021, directing County Counsel in coordination with other County agencies to develop a draft ordinance to prohibit food service providers from automatically providing single use accessories to customers. The ordinance will require food service providers to provide disposable food service accessories upon request and require third-party app-based delivery platforms to include an option for customers to affirmatively request food service accessories. The final draft ordinance was introduced to the Board for

consideration on May 18, 2021 and was approved at the Board meeting on June 8, 2021. On May 4, 2021, the Board adopted a motion to eliminate the use of single use plastics in County facilities, require that any single use items are compostable or highly recyclable, and encourage the use of reusables. PW, with support from the CSO and DPH, will draft a policy for Board consideration.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW, along with DPH, will continue education and outreach to affected businesses and consumers. The ordinance for accessories upon request is expected to become enforceable in November 2021, at which point the County will begin enforcement with identified businesses as needed. Also in November 2021, PW will submit its policy to eliminate the use of single-use plastics at County facilities to the Board. The CSO and PW are also working towards a single-use plastics ordinance focused on food serviceware that will restrict the use of certain single-use plastic items and encourage reusable and compostable alternatives to plastic.



ANCHOR CBO SPOTLIGHT

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)

Advocating for a Sustainable Waste Future

EYCEJ is leading the way to a sustainable waste future for Los Angeles through a variety of initiatives.

- EYCEJ successfully campaigned to shut down the Commerce incinerator in 2018, and is currently starting a campaign to decommission the Long Beach incinerator. EYCEJ is educating residents on zero waste policies and initiatives, convening local stakeholders, and developing a community-based plan to close the incinerator and transition our local waste economy to a green and regenerative one.
- Over the last year, EYCEJ has continued doing work around addressing single use plastics. While this work was impacted by the pandemic, EYCEJ has been able to regroup with members and allies who support each other in navigating the pandemic. EYCEJ convened via virtual platforms, showed up to public hearings, and engaged with decision makers around initiating the necessary steps to implement policy to move away from single use plastics. This included participating in meetings as an Environmental Justice Advisor for the Clean Seas Coalition, a statewide coalition focusing on policies related to plastic pollution

solutions, to identify environmental justice needs, values, and priorities to inform a strategic vision for the coalition and statewide legislation.

- EYCEJ has been participating in and continues to engage in meetings with groups across the United States and the globe that are part of the #breakfreefromplastic Movement, a global movement working on a plastic free future, and is helping to organize a virtual toxic tour on plastic pollution. EYCEJ also attempted to advance legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the two municipal solid waste incinerators in California which burn plastics that are part of the residential and commercial waste streams and emit dioxins and furans that are harmful to public health. While the legislation did not succeed, EYCEJ continues to advocate for waste management solutions that protect public health.



Action 108



Adopt and advocate for producer and manufacturer responsibility requirements.

Lead Department:

CEO, Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Approximately 75 percent of our County's waste stream comes from manufactured products – from common household items such as magazines, prepared food, or toys to household hazardous waste products like electronics, fluorescent lights, batteries, paint, and pesticides. Hard-to-manage waste products such as paint, mattresses, and batteries are often illegally dumped in low-income communities and communities of color because these materials are difficult and expensive to properly manage. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which manufacturers assume a shared responsibility for the impacts and management costs of their products. Requiring producers to provide take-back programs for recycling their products after their useful life can reduce cases of illegal dumping. Boosting the percentage of packaging that is efficient, reusable, and/or recyclable not only reduces waste but could also reduce costs for manufacturers. Because local government implementation of local product or disposal bans alone cannot effectively address problematic materials, EPR policies and programs are most effective when implemented on a broad scale such as nationally or statewide.

What progress has been made?

PW builds support for statewide and national EPR legislation – specifically for single-use packaging, single-use products, tobacco products, and batteries – as well as for creating improvements to existing EPR and stewardship programs regarding pharmaceuticals, sharps, mattresses, and carpeting. PW tracks, analyzes, and prepares recommendations on policy positions for state and federal EPR legislation, reviews policy reports, and presents information to the Los Angeles County Integrated Solid Waste Management Task Force and other stakeholder groups. PW also serves as a member of the California Product Stewardship Council and the National Stewardship Action Council, participates in the Assembly Bill 1583 (2019,

Eggman) Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling, and corresponds with federal representatives, state legislature, and regulatory agencies about EPR. This year, California legislators have also introduced EPR legislation, including State Bill 54 (Allen) to address plastic pollution; Assembly Bill 842 (Garcia) to reduce and recycle single-use plastic packaging and products; and State Bill 289 (Newman) for household batteries which cause lethal and costly fires in the waste management system. Senate Bill 212 (2018, Jackson) established a Statewide EPR Program for pharmaceutical and sharps waste collection. On January 2, 2021, the Office of Administrative Law approved CalRecycle's Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship regulations, which establish minimum requirements for a stewardship program implemented by manufacturers or distributors of covered drugs and sharps. CalRecycle estimates the Stewardship program to be fully implemented by July 2, 2022.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

In the coming year, PW will continue to support EPR legislation during California's legislative sessions. PW will promote Statewide take-back programs locally such as carpet care, paint care, and mattress recycling. PW will also continue to host mattress collection events at locations in unincorporated County, depending on the severity of the pandemic, and continue to monitor and comment on EPR regulations and implementation of new EPR programs such as those being developed pursuant to SB 212.

Action 110



Conduct regular Waste Characterization Studies for sectors and sub-sectors and public space, including County facilities, to gather data on actual waste generation, composition, and recycling rates.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Waste characterization studies, or waste audits, determine the mix of waste types in the disposed waste of an area or facility by collecting waste data and taking waste samples. Waste characterization can determine how much of the disposed waste is recyclable, how much is organic, or how much is hazardous. The information gained from waste characterization is important for setting up recycling and reuse programs that are appropriate and sufficient for a given location, and for developing relevant strategies to reduce waste generation.

What progress has been made?

In 2019, the County contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to conduct a waste characterization study to examine solid waste composition and generation rates originating in the unincorporated communities of the County. Cascadia's team randomly selected nearly 1,500 single-family households to be part of the study. Additionally,

they recruited approximately 100 businesses to participate in the study. Together with their subcontractors, Cascadia collected waste samples for one season in February 2020 and March 2020. The study was temporarily paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to resume in October 2021 for one more season of sampling.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The data collected from this sampling will be used to better plan for services and programs for residents across the County. The results of this study will enable the County to effectively design programs to address trends in solid waste disposal and diversion. Having data to understand the waste stream for individual communities and customer types will help the County to plan and determine where to focus waste reduction, recycling programs, and outreach.

PW is continuously engaging with the consultant to ensure that the project is progressing on schedule. The results of the study will be shared with relevant stakeholders, including businesses, government institutions, professional industries, and the public in mid-2022 after the final report is completed.



Action 114

Develop a Net Zero Water Ordinance for new development.



Lead Department:
Department of Public Works
Horizon: Short Term
Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

A Net Zero Water system is one that does not rely on any off-site water sources to meet its water demands. Instead, a Net Zero Water system, which can include a single process, a building, or an entire community, reduces its water consumption and relies on sources such as rainwater collection, wastewater treatment, and water reuse to meet its water needs. A targeted Net Zero Water (NZW) ordinance for the County will encourage water conservation, water efficiency, the use of alternate water sources, and water capture and reuse for certain development types, such as new developments.

such as low impact development, green building, updated plumbing code, and the model water efficient landscape ordinance.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The County will continue to explore strategies to meet the objectives of this initiative through ordinances and code updates while tracking ongoing work on the State level to develop local conservation targets.

What progress has been made?

A series of interdepartmental meetings was held to review research on established NZW ordinances in other municipalities and establish the basic framework of the ordinance. Through this process, the County found that implementing a comprehensive NZW ordinance in County unincorporated area would be difficult due to the complexity of water governance in unincorporated areas; therefore, the concept was put on hold in order to prioritize other water efficiency actions,



Action 119



Ensure that all County facilities over 25,000 square feet report their energy and water use to Energy Star Portfolio Manager, perform retro-commissioning at those facilities with the greatest energy use and/or energy use intensity, and attain an Energy Star rating when cost-effective.

About this Action

The first step to managing an efficient, high-performance building is to understand the building's operations, including measuring its energy and water use and comparing its performance to other, similar buildings. The process of evaluating an existing building's systems and operations is called retro-commissioning, and comparing the energy and water use of a building to other buildings is called benchmarking. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, part of the EPA ENERGY STAR program, is the country's industry-leading benchmarking tool. Nearly 25 percent of commercial building space in the U.S. is already actively benchmarking in Portfolio Manager.

Lead Department:

Internal Services Department

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

What progress has been made?

The County submitted ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager data for 29 of its largest office buildings that are greater than 50,000 square feet. To assist with the reporting, ISD met with building proprietors and provided the tools necessary for them to report their building data. ISD supported County departments by organizing and preparing the submission on behalf of most departments, including simplifying the report by pre-filling all data that ISD was able to get from County data systems to make the reporting easier for departments

and to help them comply with state Assembly Bill 802 (2015, Williams) benchmarking requirements.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

In the coming reporting year, ISD will help other departments with large non-office building types, such as hospitals and prisons, comply with the benchmarking requirement.



Action 120



Establish guidelines for large-quantity food waste or green waste generators to perform on-site composting, mulching, or anaerobic digestion, and develop a marketing plan for the product.

Lead Department:

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

When organic waste is disposed in landfills, its decomposition generates emissions of methane, a climate pollutant 84 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in terms of atmospheric warming. Sustainably managing organic waste, such as with onsite composting, mulching, or anaerobic digestion, can offer significant immediate emissions reduction benefits to help mitigate the climate crisis. Onsite organic waste management will divert waste from landfills and support the development of new organic waste recycling infrastructure in the County. Infrastructure and programs to divert organic waste from landfills can also produce beneficial products, such as renewable electricity, renewable fuels, compost, and mulch.

What progress has been made?

In July 2020, PW initiated a study of County facilities to analyze the feasibility of on-site organic waste management. In November 2020, PW published a list of small-scale technologies designed for on-site management of organic waste. Also in November 2020, the State Bill 1383 (2016, Lara) regulations were adopted by the State, and PW prepared a strategy to procure recovered organic waste products as required by the regulations.



What is planned for next year and beyond?

In January 2022, PW will begin tracking the County and its contractors' progress in procuring sufficient compost, mulch, and biomethane vehicle fuel created from recovered organic waste to satisfy the SB 1383 requirements. PW will also track progress towards SB 1383 compliance by determining how many County facilities and businesses are recycling organic waste either on-site or through their waste hauler. Stakeholders will be engaged through the quarterly Infrastructure Los Angeles Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee meetings, monthly Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) meetings, and the SoCalConversion website and monthly newsletters.



Action 121



Promote and communicate source separation, organic waste collection requirements, food waste reduction and donation, and local organic waste recycling programs, and conduct targeted, sector-based educational campaigns.

Lead Department:

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
Department of Public Health
Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

This action will redistribute nutritious food that would otherwise be sent to landfills to low-income communities while reducing carbon dioxide and methane emissions associated with waste disposal in the County. Establishing sustainable waste management to help foster vibrant and thriving County communities is a priority for the County, as demonstrated by the adoption of the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future in 2014, which was subsequently incorporated in to the *OurCounty* goals.

What progress has been made?

Both the DPH and PW are implementing programs to address this action. DPH has leveraged Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) federal funds to partner with community-based organizations to support the redistribution of surplus produce to low-income communities. DPH has also applied for and received funding



from the County's Quality and Productivity Commission to increase efficiency of food redistribution by partnering with an existing food redistribution mobile application (app). The funding will be used to waive the cost of a one-year subscription to the mobile app to incentivize businesses to participate in the program. Subscription to the app will include services such as picking up surplus food from the business and transporting it to community-based organizations that can quickly redistribute it to those in need. So far, 25 businesses have applied to participate in the program. PW worked to provide outreach and education encouraging sustainable practices to reduce organic waste in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual Smart Gardening webinars were offered to educate and teach residents how to grow their own produce, including how to use food scraps to make their own compost at home. Newsletters to households in County unincorporated communities were also distributed with tips and information on how to reduce food waste, such as checking their refrigerators and pantries before creating grocery shopping lists, learning about "best buy" dates, donating food, and more. Through Food DROP, food generating businesses were encouraged to donate their edible food to non-profit organizations to help address food insecurity. Outreach to residents, businesses, and other stakeholders was conducted via virtual meetings.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPH will continue recruitment for and implementation of its app in the coming year. DPH is also currently exploring a partnership with the American Heart Association to gauge interest in supporting free food distribution across the County. PW will continue to provide outreach next year and incorporate more in-person outreach if allowed by local public health orders. PW will track progress by the number of methods used to provide outreach and education to residents and businesses to promote proper source separation, organic waste collection, food waste reduction, edible food donation, and participation in local organic waste recycling programs. PW will also analyze behavior change and knowledge on sustainable practices to reduce organic waste generation. Other indicators of success will be the various programs established that can help sustainably manage organic waste.

ANCHOR CBO SPOTLIGHT

Day One

From Scraps to Soil

Day One is thrilled to introduce its Day One Compost restaurant partners: Bourreguitas, Pomona Pizza Co, and Mi Mercadito Market. These amazing businesses have agreed to donate their food scraps weekly to assist with Day One's goal of collecting 1,200 lbs of food scraps. Day One is grateful for their support and proud of the steps they are taking to promote the health of the Pomona community! Day One encourages you to check out these tasty and environmentally-conscious spots! To kick off the new Day One Compost: From Scraps to Soil project, Day One hosted 12 in-person compost demonstrations at Pomona

Summer Movies in the Park and the El Monte Farmer's Market to raise awareness about the importance of composting. Day One has also posted the demonstrations on social media for ongoing education and reach. All of this was accomplished with dedication and help from the amazing Peyton Fort, who is a fellow from the California Climate Action Corps. Peyton has been able to work with the Day One team and community to accomplish all of this in eight weeks. Day One has also set up a composting site in partnership with Lopez Urban Farm, and looks forward to working towards its goal of composting 1,200 lbs of food waste by the end of the summer!

Action 122



Expand and support existing countywide programs that incentivize the development of local upcycling and recycling markets and quality recycled materials.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Businesses that recycle, upcycle, and remanufacture materials create jobs that support local communities. They also provide environmental benefits by diverting these materials from landfills and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Policies such as the Green Zones Ordinance promote equity by ensuring large polluting businesses are not concentrated in specific areas such as disadvantaged communities. By attracting new businesses and/or expanding current operations, the Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program will create new jobs and support economic recovery.

What progress has been made?

The County is a partner with the State of California for the RMDZ Program by serving as a Zone Administrator to assist businesses. The CalRecycle RMDZ Program provides resources such as business assistance and loans to businesses that use materials from the waste stream to manufacture their products within one of its development zones. The County RMDZ can attract new businesses to the County or provide resources to expand existing businesses. The RMDZ Program receives \$4,500 each year in Zone Incentive Funds from CalRecycle that can be used over a three-year period. The County RMDZ Program currently has 19 cities that are part of its zone and provides an important resource to incentivize new recycling businesses to operate in unincorporated County and the 19 cities. To date, businesses in the County RMDZ have been awarded 30 loans totaling over \$25 million, the most of any RMDZ in the State. The most recent RMDZ loan for the County was given in 2019 to rPlanet Earth for \$2 million. Recently, PW created an online marketing campaign to promote RMDZ on a national level in a cost-efficient manner. The ad campaign ran from April 15, 2021 through April 30, 2021, reaching over 440,000 unique viewers through their Facebook feeds.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW will continue to promote the RMDZ Program through our Facebook page while continuing to work with cities to provide basic information about the program. We plan to pitch the program to cities within the County that currently are not part of our zone to increase the number of cities participating.

Action 123



Increase the diversion requirements in the County's Construction and Demolition debris ordinance, encourage the use of recycled-content materials in construction projects, and incentivize use of recycled materials in public art projects funded or commissioned by the County.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

According to a 2014 report by CalRecycle, construction and demolition (C and D) materials are estimated to account for up to a quarter of California's waste disposal. Updating the C and D Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance will increase the recycling rate of C and D debris generated in the unincorporated County, reduce illegal dumping in vulnerable areas, and require certification from facilities to establish consistent standards and level the playing field in the industry. The updated ordinance will require tracking and reporting of all materials to ensure they are managed at an appropriate facility.

What progress has been made?

In 2020, PW developed a draft updated C and D debris ordinance to share with stakeholders. PW hosted two virtual meetings about the draft C and D debris ordinance in November 2020 and another two virtual meetings in June 2021 with stakeholders including homeowners, contractors, waste haulers, C and D facility operators, and other industry representatives. PW incorporated stakeholder feedback into the draft ordinance and developed a set of draft guidelines for the ordinance.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

After the ordinance is adopted by the Board, expected in winter 2021-22, stakeholder engagement and education will continue to ensure that contractors are fully aware of the requirements to comply with the updated ordinance. PW will continue to track the number of C and D permit applications that are received as well as the amount of C and D debris that is recycled. PW will work with stakeholders in the construction and recycling communities to ensure that all requirements are followed, and that the highest level of recycling is achieved. The updated ordinance will increase overall recycling of C and D materials and help address illegal dumping of construction debris in vulnerable areas through education, outreach, enforcement, and cleanup.







Goal 10

A sustainable and just food system
that enhances access to affordable,
local, and healthy food

Action 127



A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Social Services

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

CalFresh is the County's biggest food safety net program, offering cash-like benefits to low-income people at risk of hunger. It is a federally-funded entitlement program, meaning there is no cap on the number of people it can serve; anybody who is eligible may enroll. Studies have shown that it lifts families out of poverty, making it important for overall community resilience – especially during emergencies and times of economic stress.

Historically, participation has been low in the County, though the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has made great effort to improve participation in the past five years. This action will build on existing efforts to further support participation.

What progress has been made?

DPSS took many actions to maximize enrollment in CalFresh during the pandemic, including by collaborating with the CSO, other County departments, and external organizations to promote the program through a wide variety of channels.

One highlight of that work was a paid media campaign, through which we partnered with a communications firm to develop culturally and linguistically relevant messages and advertisements. The campaign included TV, radio, social media placements, digital banners, paid search, print advertising, and in-store kiosk ads in English, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin and Vietnamese. Following the campaign, we saw a 40 percent jump in monthly applications.

Additionally, DPSS ensured that low-income families, including non-CalFresh households, received additional food support to sustain them during economic loss and food scarcity. We achieved this by:

- Implementing rollout of the First Contact Resolution (FCR) Business Process, which includes the CalFresh Flexible Interview for initial applications and the

Renewal Line. Effective July 27, 2021, all public-facing district offices are utilizing the FCR business model. This will enable the department to measure, manage, and continually improve the processes for completing timely and accurate public assistance benefit determinations for eligible residents of the County.

- Expanding the Customer Service Centers (CSCs) by adding five Intake Call Centers (ICC) to accept applications by phone. By accepting and processing CalFresh applications over the telephone on the same day, it enhances the service delivery as there is no need for a DPSS office visit and it also expedites the process.
- Expanding CSC Eligibility Workers (EWs) availability to Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and adding Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These changes were made to create an improved customer-centered model.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPSS will continue to develop and implement innovative and proactive communications strategies to support enrollment of under-served populations. We will build on last year's campaign to grow public awareness of the program as communities across the County continue to recover from the pandemic.

Action 128



Enhance and expand the County's existing Food DROP food donation and redistribution program to divert edible food from landfills and make it available to food insecure communities.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Works

Horizon: Short-to-Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

Each year, the County businesses and residents send on average nearly 1.76 million tons of uneaten food to regional landfills, yet the County is home to the largest population of food insecure people in the nation. Since the pandemic started in 2020, nearly 1 in 3 people in the County have suffered from food insecurity. This action works to reduce food waste and its impact on climate change while providing food to those who need it. It also supports the County's Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future and the County's requirements to comply with SB 1383.

July 2020 through June 2021, over 100,000 pounds of edible food was donated by food generating businesses operating in the County unincorporated communities. PW also maintained weekly communications with nonprofits through phone calls or e-mails and continued to provide resources to support their food recovery activities, including donating 6,700 reusable bags for local food distribution events. The Edible Food Recovery Capacity Assessment Project was developed and started in January 2021 to help determine current food recovery capacity in the County and the needs to expand the capacity. PW created educational outreach materials about SB 1383 and its requirements for businesses and food recovery organizations, and assessment questionnaires to determine how much food businesses can donate and the current capacity level at food recovery facilities. This project will help the County recover for human consumption the maximum amount of surplus food currently being disposed and be in compliance with SB 1383.



What is planned for next year and beyond?

PW will complete its Edible Food Recovery Capacity Assessment Project, which includes analyzing survey data to calculate edible food recovery capacity in the County; compiling a report based on the findings and identifying challenges; determining the need to expand food recovery capacity in the County; and identifying measures to accomplish the County's food recovery goal. PW will also develop and implement a food recovery grant program to help food recovery organizations enhance infrastructure to expand food recovery capacity. First steps for this project include identifying the need to expand food recovery capacity, determining budget sources and amounts for the grant, and developing the plan and scope of work to implement the food recovery grant program.

What progress has been made?

The County launched Food DROP in 2018 to provide resources to businesses to safely donate their excess food to local charities to feed the hungry. Since then, Food DROP has provided education outreach to food generators and food recovery organizations. During the pandemic, the Food DROP team provided outreach to businesses and encouraged them to donate their excess edible food. From

Action 130



Support the use of public and private land for urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Local agricultural production can support resilience in the food supply chain. The CSO seeks to identify mechanisms for supporting agricultural businesses, as well as enabling residents to build social cohesion and resilience through community-based agricultural initiatives.

What progress has been made?

In the summer of 2021, the CSO engaged a team of graduate students at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy to research needs, barriers, and opportunities for supporting agricultural activities within the County. Through

their literature review and semi-structured interviews with key informants, the students found that key barriers include scarcity and high cost of both water and arable land; competing land-use interests; and lack of institutional supports, such as an inventory of available land. The team identified resources that the County could draw upon – existing agricultural operations and undeveloped land in the Antelope Valley region – and outlined ideas for addressing barriers such as agricultural preservation policy, partnerships with neighboring counties, and mandated

investment policy or housing development fees to fund technical assistance, expansion of water infrastructure, or acquisition of land for agricultural use.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The CSO will work with County department staff to explore the feasibility of ideas outlined in the report.



Action 132



Implement Good Food Purchasing Policy and/or other model policies that promote local, fair and sustainable production of agricultural products and seafood, prioritizing vendors with certifications for sustainable agricultural practices related to water, public health, energy use, pesticides, and workers' rights.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Department of Parks and Recreation

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) transforms the way public institutions purchase food by creating a transparent and equitable food system built on five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. A GFPP would build on existing County healthy food procurement practices that are already in place, creating additional opportunity to reimagine a healthier and more sustainable food procurement system.

implementation of the GFPP. If adopted, implementation will be targeted with departments with programs that serve vulnerable populations, such as the Summer Food Service Program and Senior Meals. To evaluate progress, DPH will assess participating County departments' shifts in food purchasing across the GFPP's five value categories, changes in food service environments, and lessons learned with implementation.

What progress has been made?

The DPH completed and evaluated the pilot program and submitted a report to the Board in December 2019. There was significant stakeholder engagement to implement the pilot including collaboration between the DPR, the Center for Good Food Purchasing, the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, and the Board. However, due to the impacts of COVID-19 on the County's budget and priorities, the adoption of the GFPP and the implementation of this action are likely to be delayed.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Depending upon future Board action, DPH will continue to coordinate with stakeholders on the development and







Goal 11

Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that facilitates participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities

Action 138

Develop equity goals and metrics for *OurCounty* initiatives.



Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

OurCounty is an equity-centered approach to regional sustainability, where equity permeates the entire plan. In order to quantify progress on equity across the plan, this action is intended to set a standard approach to measuring equity across the many actions of the plan regardless of what department is acting as the lead.

What progress has been made?

The CSO contracted with a consultant to launch broader work to examine how to develop equity metrics across *OurCounty* actions. The consultant's report described two main routes that have been used to develop equity metrics at other municipalities and organizations: creating an equity "tool" and then using that tool to set and track metrics, and using a centralized office or department to create a system of tracking metrics across various departments. The report suggested that the County may need to use a combination of these two routes, and that the CSO should

work closely with the County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) as a centralized office for equity metrics. The report found that having equity metrics housed in a centralized office can allow for consistency, a central location for stakeholders to find information, and an ability for the metrics and tracking to be intersectional in nature.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

In the coming year, the CSO will work with ARDI to determine next steps on developing equity metrics based on the findings and recommendations of the consultant's report.



Action 145



Develop a climate-related health equity data initiative that includes collection and dissemination, builds stakeholder capacity, and drives decision making.

Lead Department:

Department of Public Health

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

As one of the largest local health departments in the country, the County's DPH is uniquely positioned to lead the modernization of health departments' approach to climate-health data. DPH is one of the few local health departments monitoring heat-related illness through syndromic surveillance. DPH's Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology (OHAE) and the Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) program track additional climate-health indicators, including acute respiratory illness, Valley Fever, and West Nile Virus. DPH is likewise one of the few local health departments administering its own representative population health survey—the Los Angeles County Health Survey—which provides finer-scale data on physical and mental health indicators and health care issues facing residents of the County. Through this Climate and Health Data Initiative, DPH will build its capacity to provide timely, user-friendly data on climate-health indicators for both internal and external use via a regularly updated data dashboard. The project will improve the breadth, quality, timeliness, interpretability, and accessibility of data on local climate-health indicators to inform real-time decision-making and short-and long-term planning both within the department and with external partners such as other local agencies, governments, community-based organizations, and labor partners.

What progress has been made?

DPH has applied for funding from the Centers for Disease Control Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Grant to support implementation of this action. However, funding was not awarded.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

DPH will continue efforts to secure funding for this action, and in the meantime will move forward on steps that can

be taken with existing resources. An early deliverable of the Initiative will be a report, anticipated in 2022, outlining the health impacts of extreme heat in the County. DPH also anticipates updating its climate change webpage with publicly available historical data on heat-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations. Outcomes of Climate and Health Data Initiative include: Short-term Outcomes: (a) Increased timeliness and accessibility of climate-health data for internal and external use; (b) Improved awareness and understanding of the current status, gaps, and opportunities related to climate change data systems, particularly how to improved understanding of near real-time data for informing health protective interventions; and (c) Increased localized knowledge of how people in the County are experiencing climate impacts, and their awareness of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Intermediate Outcomes: (a) Improved workforce capabilities, and data and health information systems and processes related to climate change, particularly improved local health department capacity to collect, synthesize, analyze and present climate-health data for internal and external use; and (b) Improved use of data within DPH for messaging and other interventions that help protect the public from the health impacts of climate change; and (c) Increased number of external stakeholders accessing climate-related health data from County sources. Long-term Outcomes: (a) Increased number of stakeholders using climate-health data to inform health protective adaptation actions and climate resilience-building activities, programs, and policies; and (b) Reduced negative health outcomes in LAC related to the adverse effects of climate change.

Action 148



Implement arts-based civic engagement strategies to support planning and implementation of *OurCounty* initiatives.

Lead Department:

Arts and Culture

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Arts and Culture’s civic engagement around cultural and environmental sustainability ranges widely in scope and scale to increase access to the arts for all. Using arts-based strategies to support and complement sustainability initiatives draws people in and helps connect these initiatives with a broader range of audiences.

What progress has been made?

Arts and Culture continues its participation in the LA River Master Plan community workshops and meetings, with special focus on an arts component for the headwaters project. Arts and Culture is implementing its Creative Strategist Program, which places artists in County departments to work alongside staff, project partners, and community stakeholders in a collaborative process to develop, strategize, promote, and implement artist-driven solutions to complex social challenges; including challenges related to health, equity, and sustainability. For example, Creative Strategist Sandra de la Loza in DPR is working to

implement the arts and culture framework she developed at the Ervin Magic Johnson Park. Her programming includes themes of nature and environmental stewardship as a way to engage the public to use and develop a relationship with the parklands. Additionally, Arts and Culture received a Hewlett Grant to perform six training workshops for staff to develop professional guidance around civic engagement strategies to support planning and implementation of *OurCounty* initiatives; these workshops are ongoing.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Arts and Culture has several upcoming and ongoing initiatives. For example, Arts and Culture is supporting a roster of Artists-in-Residence. One of the artists-in-residence, Cheryl Molnar, has been implementing coloring books for families to support pride in landscape and environmental stewardship; a digital version of her coloring

book will be released on the Arts and Culture website in 2021. Arts and Culture will also be collaborating with PW on a project for One Stop Development Center in La Puente. The project, a mosaic artwork, will have the goal of embracing the history of indigenous stewardship of the land, the diversity of past and present communities, and the essential values of environmental sustainability including inclusivity, accessibility, and trust. between communities.



Action 149



Work with historically impacted communities to produce asset maps that identify community resources, desires, and opportunities around sustainability efforts.

Lead Department:

Arts and Culture

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

Asset mapping is a tool to provide information about the strengths and resources of a community and to help uncover solutions to community needs. Once community strengths and resources, both formal and informal, are



inventoried and depicted in a map, you can more easily think about how to build on those assets to address community needs and improve health and wellbeing. Asset mapping promotes community involvement, ownership, and empowerment in the identification and implementation of potential strategies.

What progress has been made?

Arts and Culture developed the Countywide Cultural Policy, which was adopted by the Board in 2020. As part of the policy, Arts and Culture is preparing to conduct an arts and culture needs assessment, which will provide a landscape analysis and asset mapping of County-supported arts and culture facilities, programming, and resources to identify where there are gaps and areas of need. In particular, Arts and Culture is in conversation with PW about funding for cultural asset mapping regarding community needs towards environmental and cultural sustainability along the Los Angeles River, beginning with the high need areas identified in the LA River Master Plan. The Arts and Culture Civic Art program is a member of the Art Advisory Group for Metro's Nos Vemos project to engage local artists for asset mapping in South East Los Angeles for the Los Angeles River Master Plan.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The arts and culture needs assessment will be conducted in the year ahead and will be instrumental in supporting the mapping of County-owned arts and cultural assets and County investment in arts and culture.





Goal 12

A commitment to realize *OurCounty* sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships

Action 150



Coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts to seek local, state, federal, and philanthropic funding to support *OurCounty* initiatives, and provide technical assistance for smaller jurisdictions and tribal governments.

Lead Department:

CEO

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Indirect

About this Action

This action seeks to identify creative funding solutions and partnerships that support implementation of *OurCounty* sustainability Goals and Actions. As cities emerge from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, working collaboratively to secure limited resources that meet *OurCounty* Goals has become more urgent. Based on the experience from previous economic recessions, it is likely that cities that serve low-income communities and communities of color will be hardest hit and face the strongest need for assistance in pursuing funding. Yet, these same cities are most likely to have the least capacity.

What progress has been made?

In the FY 2020-2021, the CSO made five major achievements to implement Action 150. The CSO's participation in the Healthy Design Work Group Grants Committee resulted in \$1.5 million state grant awards for Urban Forest Management Plans for both the County and the City of Los Angeles to work in partnership towards urban tree canopy equity. Since adoption of *OurCounty*, the CSO has led the County's participation in the Southern California Resilience Initiative to bring in-kind resources to climate resilience-



related aspects of the Sustainability Plan. We also partnered with Jet Propulsion Lab and the International Red Cross Red Crescent for NASA funding to apply for funding to research long-term impacts of extreme humid heat in the Los Angeles region. That research would be a resource for all 88 cities of the County. The CSO also approached philanthropy partners to articulate the need for an outside partner to help identify state and federal funding opportunities for the County and the cities related to sustainability given the increasing amount of attention and funding available at those levels of government. Lastly, the CSO hired a cities liaison who will be the point person for working with cities on *OurCounty* actions, including the pursuit of local, state, federal, and philanthropy dollars.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

Next year will be the first full fiscal year with a CSO staff person wholly dedicated to supporting cities in the pursuit of *OurCounty* actions. The work plan is currently under development and will be implemented next year. Given the federal government's substantial interest in addressing climate, the CSO expects that there will be an ongoing need to assist local governments to pursue such sources of funding, especially when there are opportunities for multiple jurisdictions to work together.



ANCHOR CBO SPOTLIGHT Day One

Advanced Energy Community

Day One is partnering with UCLA, The Energy Coalition, and other community partners on the Advanced Energy Communities Project. Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community (BAAEC, pronounced “bay-sea” for short). BAAEC is a team of local nonprofits, community organizations, and energy technology leaders

working to bring together the community to produce renewable energy locally. That means saving money on energy bills, reducing local pollution, and showing the rest of California (and the world for that matter!) how we can transition to a just and clean energy future. The project is in its second year, and Day One will be out in the community hosting pop-ups and working with students and parents to engage them in this exciting project.

Action 151



Inventory and document County-owned arts and cultural assets.

Lead Department:

Arts and Culture

Horizon: Short Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The County Department of Arts and Culture envisions the County as a region in which arts, culture, and creativity are integral to civic life for all people. Arts and Culture continues to increase its collaborations and partnerships in the inventory, documentation, and creation of sustainable cultural assets, including: mapping existing and potential arts facilities; collaborative research to respond more equitably and inclusively to artist needs; and civic artworks commissions, which depict and celebrate the County's diverse landscapes.

What progress has been made?

Over the past year, Arts and Culture took several approaches to make progress on this action. In 2020, Arts and Culture began discussions with the Department of Beaches and Harbors and DPR about collaborating around asset mapping of County facilities managed by those

departments. At the end of 2020, Arts and Culture removed from storage the artworks in the Golden State Mural Collection and prepared them through conservation and reframing to be displayed for the first time in Supervisorial District 2. Arts and Culture also convened a Focus Group to discuss the County Civic Art collection, demographic makeup of civic artists, and content in Civic Art collection to prepare a report of findings to provide more equitable, inclusive, and culturally sustainable artists' opportunities in the future.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

In 2019, the Civic Art Division hosted a conservation intern through the Broad's Diversity Apprenticeship Program. While the program was on hold in 2020, in 2021 an intern will work on inventory and maintenance of the collection and receive mentorship opportunities.



Action 156



Apply sustainability as a lens for consideration of departmental budget requests, especially to support the implementation of the sustainability plan.

Lead Department:

All departments

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct

About this Action

The CEO is responsible for preparation of the County's annual budget which includes reviewing departmental budget requests. In the review of those requests, the CEO considers funding for implementation of the sustainability plan.

What progress has been made?

The CEO consults with the CSO in reviewing departmental budget requests for implementation of the sustainability plan and includes the CSO in departmental budget hearings. This consultative role allows the CEO to identify and prioritize budget requests.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

The CEO will continue to include the CSO in departmental budget reviews.



Action 158



Modernize the County's purchasing and contracting policies, including its Green Purchasing Policy, to ensure that the County remains fiscally responsible while promoting environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and socially responsible practices, such as contracting with organizations that provide family-sustaining wage jobs in disadvantaged communities.

Lead Department:

Internal Services Department

Horizon: Medium Term

Sphere of influence: Direct and indirect

About this Action

The County can use its purchasing power to reduce its environmental footprint while demonstrating leadership in sustainable purchasing and contracting policies. A Green Purchasing Policy is a policy for procuring goods and services that minimize environmental damage and are more environmentally friendly than conventional products. For example, this can include specifying the purchase of materials containing recycled content or specifying the procurement of caterers that use reusable serveware.

What progress has been made?

The implementation of this action has been put on hold due to the impact of the pandemic on the County's budget and administrative capacity.

What is planned for next year and beyond?

ISD will implement this action once sufficient funding and staff capacity can be identified.



CLOSING

This year's *OurCounty* Annual Report shows how far we have come in the first two years of implementation, and it charts the path forward by identifying priorities for the coming year. We continue to make important progress towards *OurCounty* goals, and we know that we still have a long way to go to achieve our vision for Los Angeles. Each year, the County will gain momentum on the priority actions identified in this report, and we will continue completing early priorities

and adding new priority actions to the agenda. As the implementation process continues to unfold, we will have more to share – more accomplishments to enjoy, more partnerships to celebrate, and more lessons learned. This year, we're one step closer to achieving the vision of *OurCounty* for current and future generations of Los Angeles.

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Appendix

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

Each year, County Departments and stakeholders provide feedback on a list of near-term priority actions from the *OurCounty* plan to create an annual Priorities List. The Priorities List builds on itself each year, as some actions are completed, some are temporarily deprioritized, and new priority actions are

added. Once this 2021 Draft Priorities List is finalized, Departments will use the list to inform their annual budget requests and budget planning processes for FY 2022-23. Then, the CSO will report progress on actions from the 2021 Priorities List in the 2022 Annual Progress Report.

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
1	Limit siting of new sensitive uses, such as playgrounds, daycare centers, schools, residences, or medical facilities, at least 500 feet from freeways.	DRP
2	Expand the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses.	DRP
4	Require oil and gas facility operators to prepare and make available to the public a comprehensive Community Safety Plan, in coordination with County departments, including Fire, Public Works, and Law Enforcement.	DPH
5	Expand the role for DPH in the initial siting process and the ongoing enforcement of regulations for industrial facilities.	DPH
7	Utilize fenceline and community air monitoring data to improve emissions regulations on refineries and other industrial facilities, and expand enforcement resources for these regulations.	DPH
8	Plan and implement a new lead-based paint hazard remediation program.	DPH, LACDA
11	Develop a public engagement, enforcement, and compliance plan for illegal dumping.	PW
12	Complete development and start implementation of the Green Zones Program.	DRP

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
17	Advocate for drinking water affordability through equitable utility pricing, Cal Fresh/EBT water supplements, reducing obstacles to lifeline rates and water-efficient appliance subsidies.	CEO
27	Increase resources such as drinking water fountains, filling stations, bathrooms, showers, kitchens, and laundry facilities in parks and public spaces that can be activated to support community resilience during emergencies.	DBH, DPR
28A	Conduct a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses social vulnerability and use it to guide priorities for investments in public health preparedness, emergency preparedness and response planning, and community resiliency.	CEO
28B	Conduct a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses physical infrastructure vulnerability and use it to guide priorities for investments in building upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and zoning and code changes.	CEO
29	Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.	DPH
30	Build shade structures at major transit stops, such as those identified in Metro’s Active Transportation Strategic Plan, prioritizing communities with high heat vulnerability.	PW and DPR
33	Use climate projections instead of historic data for weather and precipitation modeling to inform planning, infrastructure, and community development processes.	CEO

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
34	Invest in multi-benefit water management solutions that diversify and increase reliability of the water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, prioritize solutions that mimic natural systems, and maximize benefits to Native and disadvantaged communities.	PW
35	Develop a local water supply plan.	PW
42	Develop a plan to ensure effective, well-maintained flood risk mitigation infrastructure to communities and include a mechanism to facilitate reporting of incidents by residents/municipalities to help identify and address any chronic local flooding issues.	PW
43	<p>Create and implement a community-informed Urban Forest Management Plan that incorporates equitable urban forest practices, identifies County funding sources, and prioritizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tree- and park-poor communities; 2. Climate and watershed-appropriate and drought/pest-resistant vegetation; 3. Appropriate watering, maintenance, and disposal practices; 4. Shading, and; 5. Biodiversity. 	CEO
47	Support the preservation of agricultural and working lands, including rangelands, by limiting the conversion of these lands to residential or other uses through tools such as the creation of agricultural easements, particularly within high climate-hazard areas and SEAs	DRP
49	Expand the number and extent of transit oriented communities while ensuring that vital public amenities such as parks and active transportation infrastructure are included.	DRP
52	Promote walkability through various tools, including zoning that enables a mix of uses, and pedestrian enhancements.	DRP

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
53	Develop equitable design guidelines that promote high quality living environments for all.	DRP
56	Evaluate options to limit new large-scale development in high climate-hazard areas.	DRP
59	Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles and others to develop a “Just Transition” plan and task force that examines the impact of the transition to a cleaner economy on disadvantaged workers, identifies strategies for supporting displaced workers, and develops recommendations for ensuring inclusive employment practices within growth sectors of the economy.	CEO
60	Partner with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to connect and place graduates and workers with meaningful on-the-job training and employment opportunities within growth sectors of the economy.	WDACS
65	Promote the development and growth of community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and other models for the provision of permanently affordable rental and ownership housing, including by identifying appropriate public land.	DRP
70	Increase coordination amongst and expand training of County and affiliated personnel with regards to promoting native and climate-resilient species selection, biodiversity, habitat quality, and connectivity.	CEO, DPR
74	Work with cities and across agencies to plan, implement, and maintain parks, greenways, plazas (and other public spaces), vacant lot adoptions, and joint-use green schoolyards in those neighborhoods with high park need and/or missing habitat linkages.	DPR

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
75	Implement Community Parks and Recreation Plans, and park projects identified in the LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, with priority given to those in Very High/High Need Study Areas.	DPR
77	Support regional and state efforts and legislation to establish a monitoring program for freshwater recreation sites and provide guidelines on consistent monitoring and public notification.	CEO
78	Collaborate with local tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land.	CEO
85	Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and other members of the Building Decarbonization Coalition to develop building energy and emissions performance standards that put the County on a path towards building decarbonization.	PW
88	Maximize the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property whenever cost-effective.	ISD
90	Develop and implement a strategy to eliminate fossil fuels in County operated co-generation facilities.	ISD
92	Install electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities and properties for public, employee, and fleet use, prioritizing locations in disadvantaged communities.	ISD
93	Revise and regularly update the County's fleet policy to require zero-emission vehicles or better whenever available and operationally feasible.	ISD

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
94	Convert Sheriff's Department (LASD) fleet to zero emission by partnering with vehicle manufacturers to develop a zero emission pursuit vehicle and transport bus.	LASD
95	Partner with Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and equipment manufacturers to pilot a zero emission fire engine.	FIRE
97	Support Metro's efforts to study congestion pricing and amplify considerations of equity.	DPH, PW
99	Develop and implement a comprehensive parking reform strategy, which should include, but not be limited to: elimination of minimum parking requirements for all new residential units, establishment of parking maximums within half a mile of high quality transit stops, creation and expansion of parking benefit districts, and incentives for developers to provide less than maximum allowable parking.	DRP
100	Offer free transit passes for students, youth, seniors, disabled, and low-income populations.	PW
101	Develop and implement a transportation demand management (TDM) ordinance that requires developers to incorporate measures such as subsidized transit passes and car share.	PW and CEO
104	Pilot an alternative work site program for County employees.	DHR, ISD
105	Implement the County's Vision Zero Action Plan within unincorporated communities and work with local jurisdictions to implement transportation safety enhancements that reduce traffic injuries and deaths.	PW, DPH

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
107	In collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, develop and implement an equitable strategy to phase out single use plastics, including in County contracts and facilities.	PW, ISD
108	Adopt and advocate for producer and manufacturer responsibility requirements.	CEO, PW
110	Conduct regular Waste Characterization Studies for sectors and sub-sectors and public space, including County facilities, to gather data on actual waste generation, composition, and recycling rates.	PW
119	Ensure that all County facilities over 25,000 square feet report their energy and water use to Energy Star Portfolio Manager, perform retro-commissioning at those facilities with the greatest energy use and/or energy use intensity, and attain an Energy Star rating when cost-effective.	ISD
120	Establish guidelines for large-quantity food waste or green waste generators to perform on-site composting, mulching, or anaerobic digestion, and develop a marketing plan for the product.	ACWM, DPR, PW
121	Promote and communicate source separation, organic waste collection requirements, food waste reduction and donation, and local organic waste recycling programs, and conduct targeted, sector-based educational campaigns.	ACWM, DPH, PW
122	Expand and support existing countywide programs that incentivize the development of local upcycling and recycling markets and quality recycled materials.	PW
123	Increase the diversion requirements in the County's Construction and Demolition debris ordinance, encourage the use of recycled-content materials in construction projects, and incentivize use of recycled materials in public art projects funded or commissioned by the County.	PW

2021 DRAFT PRIORITIES LIST

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
127	Maximize enrollment in CalFresh by partnering with public-facing agencies to promote the program and assist residents of LA County with the application.	DPSS
128	Enhance and expand the County’s existing Food DROP food donation and redistribution program to divert edible food from landfills and make it available to food insecure communities.	PW
130	Support the use of public and private land for urban and peri-urban agriculture.	CEO
132	Implement Good Food Purchasing Policy and/or other model policies that promote local, fair and sustainable production of agricultural products and seafood, prioritizing vendors with certifications for sustainable agricultural practices related to water, public health, energy use, pesticides, and workers’ rights.	DPH, DPR
138	Develop equity goals and metrics for <i>OurCounty</i> initiatives.	CEO
145	Develop a climate-related health equity data initiative that includes collection and dissemination, builds stakeholder capacity, and drives decision making.	DPH
148	Implement arts-based civic engagement strategies to support planning and implementation of <i>OurCounty</i> initiatives.	Arts and Culture
149	Work with historically impacted communities to produce asset maps that identify community resources, desires, and opportunities around sustainability efforts.	Arts and Culture
150	Coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts to seek local, state, federal, and philanthropic funding to support <i>OurCounty</i> initiatives, and provide technical assistance for smaller jurisdictions and tribal governments.	CEO

#	ACTION	Lead County Entity
151	Inventory and document County-owned arts and cultural assets.	Arts and Culture
156	Apply sustainability as a lens for consideration of departmental budget requests, especially to support the implementation of the sustainability plan.	All departments
158	Modernize the County’s purchasing and contracting policies, including its Green Purchasing Policy, to ensure that the County remains fiscally responsible while promoting environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and socially responsible practices, such as contracting with organizations that provide family-sustaining wage jobs in disadvantaged communities.	ISD



Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office
2021 Annual Report



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