

## Sonoma County, California

### Action Plan Encourages Sustainability

Sonoma County is the first county in the nation to approach climate protection comprehensively. For the past seven years, all nine cities in the County have been working together with the County to protect the climate. In October 2008, the Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan was released and includes strengthening General Plans and Environmental Impact Reports to promote climate protection.

Sonoma County plans to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal and community operations to 25% below 1990 levels by 2015. This amounts to a 1.4 million metric ton reduction of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>E) from 2015 business as usual projections.

In order to achieve these reductions, Sonoma County aims to reduce emissions in four major categories: energy and water efficiency, smart transit and land use, renewable energy investment, and forest and farmland protections.

The County estimates the cost to implement the Climate Action Plan will be approximately \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion dollars over the span of seven to ten years. Sonoma County has identified several financing tools to accomplish these priorities; including AB 811 loans, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and a Pay-As-You-Save® program for energy efficient appliances.



### Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan



Photo Credit: climateprotectioncampaign.org

### Green Actions Snapshot

- Adopted County Community Climate Action Plan
- Retrofitted buildings with energy-efficient lighting and appliances
- Encourages the use of renewable energy
- Promotes sustainable land use practices
- Implemented Comprehensive Transportation Plan to increase the use of public transit
- Working to establish green building ordinances

### Environmental Benefits

- Land devoted to agriculture and forests will be protected and increased
- Producing electricity and fuel as well as food and wine from Sonoma farms and vineyards

### Estimated Cost to Implement Initiatives

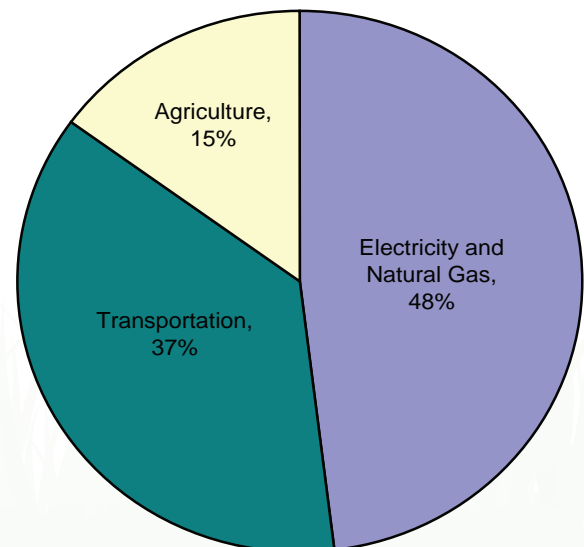
- \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion over the next 7-10 years

### Estimated Overall Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions

- 1.4 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>E

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2005

The majority of Sonoma's GHG emissions come from electricity and natural gas use at 48%. This graph represents GHG emissions in Sonoma from 1990. This data is from the Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign (2005).



## What Actions Is Sonoma Taking to Save Energy and Conserve Water?

The County is in the process of retrofitting buildings with state-of-the-art, energy efficient heating and cooling devices and appliances. The County has set a goal of retrofitting 80% of homes and commercial spaces to the highest efficiency level. The County also wants to encourage the installation of water-saving appliances, solar hot water heaters and efficient irrigation systems. The County supports local city ordinances that establish mandatory green building ordinances. Finally, the County wants to improve how water is pumped around the County and wastewater is treated by coordinating pumping schedules and installing digesters to generate energy from wastewater biogas. Through these actions the County's goal is to reduce 168,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## What Actions Is Sonoma Taking to Support Green Transportation?

In order to reduce the amount of fossil fuels used for transportation, the County wants to promote public transit and sustainable land use practices. This begins with the construction of a Sonoma/Marin train to encourage public transit between the two counties. In addition, the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan aims to achieve a 13% shift from driving to public transit. The County's goal is to reduce 588,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> through this initiative.

## What Actions Is Sonoma Taking to Use Renewable Energy?

In the County, electricity use is responsible for 40% of all GHG emissions. By encouraging the use of renewable energy, the County hopes to reduce its electricity emissions by 50%. They plan to increase renewable energy sources and replace traditional energy sources with cleaner technologies. The County plans to replace 80% of residential natural gas furnaces with heat pumps and 80% of natural gas water heaters with solar hot water heaters. In addition, they will incentivize small-scale solar, wind and hydro installations. The County's goal is to reduce 630,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> via this initiative.

**Sonoma County** continues to strive for its goal to reduce emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2015.

PROUD PARTNERS INCLUDE:



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**“There is widespread consensus that human health will be affected by changes in the world's climate. Implementing this Plan is a great step in protecting our residents.”**

**-Walter Kruse  
Sonoma County  
Director of Environmental Health**



Photo Credit: <http://us.sunpowercorp.com>

Shown above is a view of Sonoma County Water Agency's 500 kilowatt solar installation at the airport wastewater treatment facility in Santa Rosa, California.

### Contact Information

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