

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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The County of Santa Clara California

Resolution BOS-2018-145

Adopted
Dec 18, 2018 9:30 AM

Adopt resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara to reaffirm and augment the County's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and establish a 100 percent carbon neutral commitment for County of Santa Clara operations by 2045, and to consolidate prior actions and resolutions. (Cortese)

Information

Department: Supervisor Dave Cortese
(Supervisorial District Three)

Sponsors:

Category: Board Referral

Links

- [▶ Link 98209](#) : Consider recommendations relating to Employee Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- [▶ Link 100294](#) : Consider recommendations relating to Employee Transportation Demand Management (TDM). (Referral from January 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting, Item No. 81)
- [▶ Link 101138](#) : Under advisement from the January 28, 2020 (Referral from August 27, 2019, Item No. 10): Consider recommendations relating to Employee Transportation Demand Management (TDM). (Facilities and Fleet Department)
- [▶ Link 102251](#) : Held from August 25, 2020 (Item No. 35): Receive report relating to the Transportation Needs Assessment (TNA) for County Clients, Employee Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Guide, and the Reach Your Destination Easily (RYDE) program.

Attachments

[Printout](#)
[Final Signed Copy Resolution re GHG Emissions](#)

Body

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with adopting this resolution. Future costs associated with implementing these new GHG reduction and carbon neutrality targets will be identified in the County's Sustainability Master Plan implementation measures.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The County of Santa Clara has a history of being at the forefront of major movements in the country. Climate action is one of those important causes and requires bold action.

My office has worked with the Director of the Office of Sustainability, Susan Gilbert Miller, and County Counsel in developing this proposed resolution, which is intended to:

- Recap the county's previous climate-related goals.
- Include the county's existing pledge to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity for its operations by December 31, 2019.
- Establish a 100 percent carbon neutrality commitment for County Operations by 2045.
- Establish GHG emission baselines for 2005.
- Establish GHG emission reduction targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050.
- Direct Administration to complete annual GHG inventories and set interim annual reduction targets and by 2020 complete a carbon storage inventory to set a baseline and interim targets for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth by working towards a sustainable environment for future generations.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors by promoting environmentally sustainable strategies that reduce the likelihood of extreme weather events which threaten to displace seniors from their homes and subject sensitive populations to adverse health effects.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action would enhance environmental sustainability by committing the County to engaging in efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Increased reliance on renewable energy sources, as well as environmentally friendly vehicles and heightened energy efficiency standards will slow the pace of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

BACKGROUND

The County of Santa Clara is an established leader in the area of climate action, having been at the forefront of issues such as energy efficiency and savings, renewable power, green building, zero waste, agricultural preservation, integrated pest management, and tree preservation.

Through these targeted strategies, the Office of Sustainability calculates that by 2015 the county had reduced GHG emissions from its own operations by 24.6 percent since 2005. That figure changes to 15.3 percent when factoring in emissions generated by County employees' commute.

As a result of the Board of Supervisors establishing these baselines and targets called for in the resolution, the Office of Sustainability will be better poised to develop realistic policies, strategies and programs into the County's Sustainability Master Plan, which is currently under development.

Meeting History

Dec 18, 2018 9:30 AM Video **Board of Supervisors** **Regular Meeting**

Added to the Consent Calendar at the request of Supervisor Wasserman.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Ken Yeager, Supervisor

SECONDER: Mike Wasserman, Supervisor
AYES: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian

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