



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

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- a) Receive a presentation from the Sustainability Program concerning the activities of the program and the development of the Countywide Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and;
- b) Provide direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee members

- a. Receive a presentation from the Sustainability Program concerning the activities of the program and the development of the Countywide Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and;
- b. Provide direction to staff.

SUMMARY:

The Sustainability Program has been in operation at the County since 2020 and primarily focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions both externally countywide as well as internally in County operations. In 2020, when the program launched, a survey was conducted which resulted in a materiality matrix allowing staff to better understand the sustainability priorities of the residents, businesses and associations in the County. This survey as well as the General Plan directive to complete a Climate Action Plan, and the Board adopted Sustainability Program Plan have guided the activities of the program over the last few years.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainability Program divides its activities under three primary categories, municipal or operational activities, countywide activities, and programmatic activities. About 36% of staff time is spent on countywide activities which include the Climate Action Plan process and its implementation including the development of policies to reduce emissions locally, as well as assisting the county in implementing other statewide legislation related to climate action, such as SB1383, also known as the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act. Operational climate action activities include working to reduce emissions from our county facilities, transitioning our fleet to electric vehicles, and reducing emissions from employee commuting. Operational activities tend to be more tangible as they involve direct projects and programming including sustainable infrastructure. In 2022, a second staff was added to the Sustainability Program to specifically focus on sustainable infrastructure projects since these require substantial time and effort but generate significant savings for the county. Programmatic activities include administrative duties such as budgeting, contracting, and grant writing as well as representing the county at a regional level in sustainability focused groups.

In 2022, The Sustainability Program was awarded approximately \$1.1M in grant funding through 5 separate grants to conduct a variety of planning and implementation efforts focused on improving

emissions from transportation and developing a strategic framework to decarbonize our buildings. At the same time, the program conducted more than 30 public meetings and workshops engaging with over 300 individuals, businesses, and organizations from all sectors of the economy to develop a set of comprehensive strategies for our Countywide Climate Action and Adaptation Plan which is expected to be brought before the Board this spring. In addition to projects and programming activities, the Sustainability team is closely following the implementation of the state National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure plan for electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) funding roll out as well as the state's program for the State-Based Home Efficiency Contractor Training Grants and Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebates programs which are funded through the Inflation Reduction Act and allocated by the Department of Energy.

Below is a sample of the portfolio of projects that the program has undertaken to date.

Countywide Climate Action Activities:

1. Development of the Countywide Climate Action and Adaptation Plan - funded in part by a \$175,000 grant from the Department of Conservation
2. Coordination of implementation of SB1383, The Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act
3. Zero Emissions Shared Mobility Feasibility Study- funded by a \$248,596 grant from the Department of Transportation
4. Transformative Climate Communities Study- funded by a \$300,000 grant from the Strategic Growth Council
5. Increased electric vehicle rewiring code
6. Exploration of all electric building code

Municipal Climate Action Activities:

1. Infrastructure Inventory and Deep Decarbonization Framework Study- funded by a \$150,000 grant from Central Coast Community Energy
2. Tariff Rate Optimization Program- realizing savings of more than \$350,000 for the County utility budget to date.
3. Zero Net Carbon Project- projected to save the county \$12M in electricity costs over the life of the project
4. EcoGreen On Bill Finance for Natividad Medical Center- projected to save the county more than \$1M on utility costs over 10 years.
5. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Funding- \$275,000 allocated to the county through the Federal Department of Energy
6. Rural Electric Vehicle Project- Funded through a \$568,239 grant from the California Energy Commission Rural Electric Vehicle program
7. Heat Pump Hot Water Heater Project- Realizes \$70,000 worth of free replacement equipment for county operations
8. Clean Fleet Policy and Fleet Analysis- projects a \$1.1M savings to the county in fuel costs for near term vehicle switches
9. EVCS Program Roll Out- needs additional staff to implement.
10. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and Rollout
11. Waste Room Audit and Recommendations for compliance with SB1383
12. Updated Telecommuting Policy

Programmatic Activity

1. Multijurisdiction Climate Action Council
2. Regional Climate Project Working Group

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

OES, HCD, Env. Health, PWFP

FINANCING:

There is no financial impact from receiving this report. The Sustainability program is funded through the General Fund as well as grants.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Economic Development

Administration

Health & Human Services

Infrastructure

Public Safety

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Attachments:

Staff Report