



## Introduction and Purpose

The *Go Green! Monterey County Action Plan* seeks to introduce and implement strategies and policies that aid in the creation of healthy communities, promoting sustainability of our resources while preserving the natural environment.

The County's actions will reflect our community's value to honor our County's beautiful natural resources. Monterey County's economic success (ecotourism and agriculture) is dependent on natural resources. *Go Green!* will help Monterey County's staff and elected officials to consider and recognize the inter-relatedness of our economy, society, and environment, and by integrating these values into our existing operations and improving coordination among County departments and agencies. *Go Green! Monterey County* leverages and builds upon other related efforts in Monterey County.

Once Monterey County makes progress on the strategies in *Go Green!*, County staff can expand the scope to consider how the County can support and encourage community-wide sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, and in Monterey County cities.

## Go Green! Vision

*The Monterey County Government organization acts as a regional leader by ensuring our programs, services, operations, and decision-making processes reflect our deep commitment to environmental integrity, while balancing economic sustainability, social equity, and community health for current residents and future generations.*

## Go Green! Goals and Strategies

The Go Green! Action Plan strategies are listed under the following 11 goals:

- ✓ Goal 1. Water use and conservation: Reduce water use and water-system GHG emissions in County facilities and operations.
- ✓ Goal 2. Stormwater Quality and Quantity: Stormwater quality from runoff, wastewater, and other sources free of pollutants and toxic substances, and that is clean enough to be re-used for later purposes.
- ✓ Goal 3. Waste: Work toward becoming a zero waste organization by managing resources efficiently and responsibly.
- ✓ Goal 4. Energy Efficiency: Reduce County facility and employee energy consumption through progressively updated technology and efficient operating systems.

- ✓ Goal 5. Renewable Energy: Generate energy for County operations to increase the use of clean energy and transition away from fossil fuels.
- ✓ Goal 6. Biological Resources and Climate Adaptation: County operations and facilities are low-impact and supportive of healthy and vibrant ecosystems sustain and naturally occurring species, while becoming more resilient to the potential adverse environmental, social, health, and economic effects of climate change.
- ✓ Goal 7. Toxics and Facility Environmental Quality: Ensure that indoor County facilities provide healthy air, lighting, and climate for employees and visitors and the use of toxic materials and products are very limited.
- ✓ Goal 8. Built Environment (Land Use): Ensure the location and design of County facilities creates positive and healthy public spaces that are easily accessible and well-integrated into the surrounding neighborhood.
- ✓ Goal 9. Infrastructure: Invest in infrastructure systems that will support the greater sustainability for County operations as well as countywide.
- ✓ Goal 10. Transportation: Reduce CO2 emissions from employee commutes as well as travel for County business through increased active transportation, cleaner vehicle fuels, and fewer required vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- ✓ Goal 11. Food System: Contribute to the enhancement of the local sustainable food system that includes food production, distribution, consumption, and waste in County facilities and events to support employees and visitors in eating safe, healthy, delicious, and affordable food.