

**MONTEREY COUNTY  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE  
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

**SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM  
POLICIES GOVERNING SUSTAINABILITY  
ACTIVITIES**

## **Alternative Energy and Environment Committee Roles and Responsibilities**

### **COMMITTEE ROLE:**

The purpose of the Committee is to provide guidance to the Sustainability Program of the County and on issues affecting the local environment and energy-related emissions as well as make recommendations regarding the Program to the Board of Supervisors.

### **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Committee shall work with staff in developing recommendations for the Board of Supervisors concerning policies and action programs for long-term environmental sustainability in the County.

This committee will:

1. Work to ensure compliance with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32) and other state or federal laws governing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
2. Review and develop Sustainability Program priorities annually and receive regular updates from the Sustainability program on progress towards those initiatives.
3. Meet on an as-needed basis, normally bi-monthly, to review and provide direction or recommendations on Sustainability issues to County staff, departments, and legislative advocates.
4. Address opportunities for and obstacles to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and any Climate Change-related mitigation and adaptation efforts as recommended by any County-adopted plans such as the Climate Action Plan or Hazard Mitigation Plan.
5. Provide direction to staff regarding internal and external sustainability efforts including:
  - a. Coordination of the County's Sustainability Program efforts among departments and between department heads and the Board of Supervisors.
  - b. Identifying and directing and prioritizing resources for County approved Sustainability efforts.
6. Review regulations, state laws, and other legislation that directly affects the environment or County-wide emissions and provide direction to staff.

# **MONTEREY COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM POLICIES GOVERNING SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES**

The County of Monterey recognizes the impacts of climate change and the importance of environmental protection at the local level. To this end, the following protocol shall be followed:

## **I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- a) As the elected legislative body charged with making policy decisions for the County of Monterey, the Board of Supervisors shall direct the County's Sustainability efforts.
- b) The Board of Supervisors shall annually adopt a Sustainability Program Plan, which shall direct the County's sustainability efforts for that calendar year.
- c) Any member of the Board of Supervisors may refer items to the Board's AEE Committee for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Referred items shall be sent to IGLA staff. IGLA staff shall obtain the approval of the AEE Committee Chair prior to adding referred items to a meeting agenda.

## **II. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE – INTERGOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION (IGLA) – SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM**

### **a. OVERVIEW**

1. The IGLA Division serves as staff to the Board of Supervisors AEE Committee and executes the County's Sustainability program. IGLA staff is the independent sustainability analyst for the Board of Supervisors. IGLA staff serves under the policy direction of the Board of Supervisors but reports to the County Administrative Officer.
2. IGLA has the responsibility to help the County to meet its Climate Action targets as set forth in AB32 the Global Warming Solutions Act, and subsequent bill SB32, and to meet its obligations with respect to other climate-related legislation such as SB1383 the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act and SB375 Transportation Planning bill through coordination with the County departments and environmental partners.

### **b. BOARD DIRECTION**

- i. IGLA direction is provided by the Board of Supervisors annually adopted Sustainability Program Plan and subsequent Board direction.
- ii. IGLA shall seek authorization from the Board of Supervisors prior to acting on items not included in the annual platform.

### **c. PROGRAM PRINCIPLES**

- i. The County Sustainability program has developed the following principles that define its priorities and actions:
  1. Energy and Emissions: Meet or exceed state climate goals for emissions reductions with clean, efficient sources of energy and climate action.
  2. Water: Preserve and enhance water quality and supply through efficient and practical measures.
  3. Air: Support activities that ensure healthy, clean, fresh air for all County residents.
  4. Waste: Transform the way we manage our waste streams to a system that replenishes our resources.

5. Transportation: Actively support planning for complete streets with low-impact and affordable development that increases mobility options and access to services.
6. Agriculture: Promote sustainable agricultural practices and support our local food supply.
7. Partnerships: Create partnerships with our cities and regions to share in and maximize our sustainability actions.
8. Adaptation and Mitigation: Prepare and strengthen our community for and against climate change hazards
9. Conservation: Protect and restore the health and balance of our natural habitats.
10. Equity (overarching theme): Ensure that all sustainability activities are inclusive of diverse cultural, socio-economic and ethnic perspectives and provide ways for disadvantaged communities to thrive.

### **III. COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

#### **a. OVERVIEW.**

- i. County departments and IGLA shall work together on objectives that meet the above goals.
- ii. County departments shall consult with or coordinate with the Sustainability Program on projects or issues that affect any of the above stated goals.

### **IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM**

#### **a. PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM**

- i. In late winter/early spring IGLA staff shall begin the process of development of the Sustainability Program Plan for the next fiscal year. IGLA shall solicit input from relevant County departments.
  - ii. The Board of Supervisors Alternative Energy and Environment Committee shall review and recommend to the Board of Supervisors a Sustainability Program Plan for the next year in the late winter/early spring.
- b. IGLA staff shall distribute the County's adopted sustainability documents to the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and environmental advocates. The documents shall also be posted on the County of Monterey's internet website.