



2025 OurCounty Plan

Public Review Draft

July 2025



Land Acknowledgement

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants—past, present, and emerging—as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the:

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov.



Outlining a bold, inclusive and truly regional vision for the present and future generations of Los Angeles.



Executive Summary

Overview

OurCounty is a regional sustainability plan for Los Angeles. It is a comprehensive vision and action plan for LA's continued success.

OurCounty focuses on people. It outlines what local governments and partners can do to enhance the well-being of every community in the County while reducing damage to the natural environment and adapting to the changing climate, particularly focusing on those communities that have been disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. This plan envisions streets and parks that are accessible, safe, and welcoming to everyone; air, water, and soil that are clean and healthy; affordable housing that enables all residents to thrive in place; climate ready communities that are informed and prepared with infrastructure that supports them today and in a changing climate; and a just economy that runs on renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. OurCounty serves to guide coordinated decision making from partners across the region, grounded in the co-equal values of equity, environment, and economy. The plan establishes a roadmap for a region where all communities benefit from healthy natural and built environments, diverse ecosystems thrive, and a regenerative economy provides opportunities for all residents.

The 2025 OurCounty plan

After nearly six years, the OurCounty plan has been updated. In that time, we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic, catastrophic wildfires, and changing political landscapes. Our collective efforts to implement OurCounty have led to stronger tenant protections to help communities thrive in place; investments in tree canopy expansion and pedestrian infrastructure to support safer, more walkable streets; progress toward phasing out oil and gas drilling; expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; creation of new parks in underserved areas; inclusive programming to increase access to nature; and much more. However, there is still work to be done. The intention of this 2025 update is not to completely rewrite the plan but rather to revise actions based on lessons learned over the last six years, consider new sustainability challenges that our region may face into the future or which have grown in urgency such as climate resilience, and ensure that the plan continues to reflect the vision and priorities of our community..

Plan Organization

The 2025 OurCounty plan is organized around the same 12 cross-cutting goals from the original plan and describes our shared vision for a sustainable LA County. By focusing on broad, aspirational, and cross-cutting goals, we challenge ourselves to embrace positive change by thinking beyond our current barriers to action, whether they be technological, political, or bureaucratic.



The plan identifies lead entities in the County and partners who will work to bring these 12 goals to fruition, implementing related strategies and actions identified in this document. Targets will guide the scope and scale of our actions to make demonstrable progress toward sustainable outcomes.

Goal 1: Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place

The County will protect low-income communities and communities of color from pollution, reduce health and economic inequities, and support more resilient and inclusive communities.

Example Target: By 2045, reduce toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities by 80%

Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience

Through LA County action such as adoption of green building standards, buildings and infrastructure of both yesterday and tomorrow will utilize more efficient technologies and practices that reduce resource use, improve health, and increase resilience.

Example Target: By 2045, achieve at least 20% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined

Goal 3: Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement

With LA County policy tools such as anti-displacement measures, existing community members can remain in and strengthen their neighborhoods and networks while accepting new residents through more compact, mixed-use development.

Example Target: By 2045, ensure 45 cities and/or unincorporated communities have a walk score of 70 or higher

Goal 4: A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy

The County will support the growth of green economy sectors through procurement practices, land use authority, and various economic and workforce development incentives.

Example Target: By 2045, create 560,000 green jobs

Goal 5: Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity

Through careful planning, the County will ensure that ecosystems, including urban habitats, thrive even as the region becomes increasingly urbanized and faces stressors from climate change.

Example Target: By 2045, increase the percentage of conserved area to 45% of total LA County land area

Goal 6: Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities

The County will help make parks and other public lands more accessible and inclusive and will manage them carefully so that all residents may enjoy their benefits.

Example Target: By 2045, increase the proportion of residents within half a mile of parks and open space to 80%



Goal 7: A fossil fuel-free LA County

By supporting an efficient transition to a zero emission energy and transportation system, the County will be a leader in taking action to address the climate crisis.

Example Target: By 2045, achieve carbon neutrality

Goal 8: A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility while reducing car dependency

By developing programs and policies that expand mobility options beyond private vehicles and improve transit safety, the County will guide people toward safer and healthier alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.

Example Target: By 2045, at least 50% of all trips will be by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit

Goal 9: Sustainable production and consumption of resources

The County will effectively manage waste, water, energy, and material resources by improving the ability to promote integrative and collaborative solutions at the local and regional scale.

Example Target: By 2045, decrease overall per capita waste generation by 35%

Goal 10: A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food

The County will leverage its capital assets, public services, and regulatory authority to improve access to healthy food while optimizing its purchasing power and business services to make food production more sustainable.

Example Target: By 2045, reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the food served by 35%

Goal 11: Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that facilitates participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities

The County will act to create a more inclusive and accountable governance structure, in order to build stronger communities and better-informed policy and programs.

Example Action: Develop an accessible, centralized online hub for OurCounty climate and environmental data to support advocacy and implementation efforts across community partners, city and Tribal governments, County departments, and residents

Goal 12: A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships

The County will seek to strengthen partnerships, establish new funding techniques, and leverage its own purchasing power to advance the goals of OurCounty.

Example Action: Revise and simplify the County's contracting and granting mechanisms and procedures to lower barriers for CBO collaboration



Contents

Land Acknowledgement.....	2
Executive Summary.....	4
Contents.....	7
Introduction.....	9
Goal 1. Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place.....	26
Strategy 1A: Minimize the exposure of vulnerable populations to pollution and reduce health disparities.....	30
Strategy 1B: Ensure housing and household utility affordability.....	37
Strategy 1C: Ensure access to safe, clean, and affordable water.....	42
Strategy 1D: Develop community capacity to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and bounce forward from climate and hazard emergencies.....	43
Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience.....	45
Strategy 2A: Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into planning, buildings, infrastructure, and community development decisions.....	48
Strategy 2B: Transition to sustainable and healthy building design and construction.....	53
Strategy 2C: Create an integrated and resilient water system.....	55
Strategy 2D: Ensure that shade and a climate-appropriate, healthy community tree canopy are equitably distributed.....	59
Goal 3. Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement.....	61
Strategy 3A: Increase housing production and density, and limit urban sprawl.....	63
Strategy 3B: Promote walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods.....	64
Strategy 3C: Ensure that public investments do not facilitate displacement, particularly of disadvantaged communities.....	68
Strategy 3D: Limit development in high flood and high fire hazard areas.....	71
Goal 4. A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy.....	74
Strategy 4A: Grow the green economy and support small businesses.....	76
Strategy 4B: Meet the needs of sustainable industry growth.....	77
Goal 5. Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity.....	82
Strategy 5A: Increase ecosystem function, habitat quality, and connectivity, and prevent the loss of native biodiversity in the region.....	84
Strategy 5B: Preserve and enhance open space, waterways, and priority ecological areas.....	87
Goal 6. Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities.....	92
Strategy 6A: Improve access to parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces.....	94
Strategy 6B: Implement inclusive design and programming for parks, beaches, public lands, cultural amenities, and public spaces.....	98
Goal 7. A fossil fuel-free LA County.....	100
Strategy 7A: Transition to a zero-carbon energy system that reduces air and climate pollution and that minimizes the dangers of a changing climate to our communities and economy.....	103
Strategy 7B: Create a zero-emission transportation system.....	110



Goal 8. A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility and quality of life while reducing car dependency.....	113
Strategy 8A: Reduce vehicle miles traveled by prioritizing alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.....	116
Strategy 8B: Improve transportation health and safety outcomes.....	120
Goal 9. Sustainable production and consumption of resources.....	124
Strategy 9A: Reduce waste generation.....	126
Strategy 9B: Implement strong water conservation measures.....	129
Strategy 9C: Reduce building energy consumption.....	131
Strategy 9D: Capture organic waste and develop regional capacity for beneficial reuse.....	134
Strategy 9E: Divert reusable and recyclable materials from landfills.....	136
Goal 10. A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food.....	139
Strategy 10A: Improve access to healthy food.....	141
Strategy 10B: Support the fair and sustainable production of food.....	144
Goal 11. Inclusive and accountable governance that supports and encourages participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities.....	146
Strategy 11A: Create an inclusive governance structure.....	147
Strategy 11B: Promote environmental stewardship and accessible education across different age, income, ethnicity, and language groups.....	151
Goal 12. A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships.....	154
Strategy 12A: Improve regional collaboration and coordination.....	155
Strategy 12B: Leverage the County's purchasing power to support organizations achieving positive social and environmental impact.....	159
Appendix.....	161
Acknowledgements.....	162
Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	164
Glossary.....	166



Introduction

Los Angeles County is blessed with an abundance of cultural richness and diversity that makes it one of the most dynamic, creative, and innovative places in the world. It is the most populous and among the most diverse counties in the nation, with nearly 10 million people who collectively speak over 200 languages. It is the largest manufacturing center in the United States, and its economic output is similar in size to that of Mexico or Indonesia. It is rich in natural beauty, with a great variety of biodiverse ecosystems including forests, deserts, mountains, waterways, islands, and 75 miles of coastline.

Located within the ancestral home of many California Native American Tribes, the region has been inhabited by humans since time immemorial. Today, more Native Americans live in Los Angeles County than in any other U.S. county. The urbanized region we know today grew quickly around aerospace and industrial production during World War II. This led to migration from other states, which was soon followed by a surge in international migration during the 1970s. This history of migration contributed to the diverse region we enjoy today.

However, that growth was also accompanied by sprawling development patterns that were the result of cheap land and vast single-family subdivisions. As LA County continued to grow, so did its dependence on the automobile, which directly and indirectly led to a host of social, environmental, and health issues.

Furthermore, Los Angeles has a well-documented history of exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and the siting of industrial and toxic uses in communities of color. As a result, low-income communities in the Los Angeles region became disproportionately affected by conditions such as polluted stormwater runoff, dirty air, and a lack of access to parks and open space. These communities suffer from cumulative impacts of concurrent exposure to contaminated soil, criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and the consequences of inadequate and unmaintained infrastructure.

Currently, LA County is home to 88 independent cities, most of which have 60,000 or fewer residents, and approximately 120 unincorporated communities. Now more than ever, the County is facing environmental challenges that threaten our communities. Climate change, which is largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation, is already impacting our region. Its effects include frequent, longer, and more intense heat waves; longer droughts punctuated by more significant rainstorms; more severe wildfires; rising sea levels; and an increased presence of organisms that transmit infectious disease. These effects, along with rising ocean temperatures and loss of habitat, threaten the region's rich biodiversity. **We must address multiple environmental challenges to ensure that our land and resources will continue to sustain us and that current residents and future generations can thrive in place.**



Fortunately, efforts to address LA's environmental challenges are under way. The local economy is already shifting toward more environment-friendly industries and practices. The County government has a responsibility to support this economic transition and the impacted workers. Some County residents have access to every imaginable opportunity and all the privileges of living in one of the world's richest economies. Yet, many more face the risk of being excluded from a rapidly changing economy. We can leverage this transition as a chance to reduce economic inequality across the region and develop a robustly diverse workforce. **We must support a just transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to an inclusive, green economy. We must provide all residents with access to a high quality of life, including fulfilling work.**

Improving access to economic opportunity in LA County will not, however, fully resolve inequitable social and health outcomes, such as disproportionately higher asthma rates among Black residents compared to White residents. Many of these inequities result from centuries of unjust policies and practices that disproportionately expose people of color to harm. The practice of building industrial facilities near majority Black communities, for example, continues to expose residents of those communities to hazardous amounts of air pollution. **We must ensure all residents have access to resources that are crucial to their well-being throughout their lifetime. These include dignified housing, clean air, and convenient access to affordable, fresh, and healthy food.**

Given the breadth, diversity, and complexity of this region and its people, the only way to effect meaningful, equitable, and sustainable change is through coordinated local action. Developing a sustainability plan serves as an opportunity to simultaneously address each of these issues: protecting the environment, improving economic opportunity, and advancing equity.

First adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2019, OurCounty sets a bold vision for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable Los Angeles. As the County's first comprehensive regional sustainability plan, it outlines how local governments and partners can work together to enhance community wellbeing, protect the natural environment, and adapt to our changing climate.

In the nearly six years that followed its initial release, LA County and the world have experienced a series of devastating challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to catastrophic wildfires, all set against the backdrop of changing federal priorities. We have also made significant progress, including passing a landmark ordinance phasing out oil and gas extraction in unincorporated LA County, transitioning thousands of energy customers to 100 percent renewable power through the Clean Power Alliance, investing nearly \$1 billion in multi-benefit stormwater capture programs to store and reuse water, approving a Tenant Right to Counsel Ordinance to ensure free access to legal representation, and more.



In uncertain times, a roadmap becomes even more essential. In updating the OurCounty plan, we sought to build off of the foundational work of the original while evaluating existing actions to ensure relevance and developing new actions based on opportunities ahead and feedback from community thought partners, such as local Tribes, nonprofits, residents, businesses, and cities.

The resulting 2025 OurCounty plan maintains the same 12 visionary goals found in the original with a streamlined set of strategies—33 compared to 37—and dozens of new actions. Some strategies have been consolidated and some actions have been removed because they have been completed or are no longer relevant. Some actions have been added where new ideas and efforts can occur, and some have been revised to better meet the needs of today. In the 2025 OurCounty plan, targets have been consolidated at the goal level and narrowed to focus on those metrics and indicators that can be tracked with public data and reflect progress toward our regional goals.

What does the 2025 OurCounty plan cover?

Over a million of the County's residents live on land that is not within the boundaries of an incorporated city. These residents comprise the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles, which spread across 2,600 square miles, or two-thirds of the County's land area. In unincorporated areas, the County holds many governing powers that would otherwise be held by city governments, such as decision-making around how the land can be used. The 2025 OurCounty plan will guide decision-making in these unincorporated areas, and will provide a model for cities' decision-making in incorporated areas. **As a strategic plan, OurCounty does not supersede land use plans that the Regional Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors have adopted, including the County's General Plan and various area, community, and neighborhood plans.**

Instead, OurCounty is a forward-looking strategic plan that establishes a common sustainability vision for the entire County. Creating a sustainable and equitable County is a collective responsibility that requires regional action. We will continue to work to transcend historic and entrenched divisions and form powerful alliances, creating a County in which values of sharing and respect are fundamental.



County and Regional Action

The County cannot achieve these aspirational goals and targets on its own - they extend well beyond the County's immediate jurisdiction over unincorporated areas. OurCounty lays the foundation for continued collaborative and coordinated action by guiding decision-making in the unincorporated areas and assisting cities in their own efforts to implement elements of the plan.

The coequal values of environment, equity, and economy continue to guide every conversation and decision about the vision for OurCounty, and are fundamental to the plan as a whole.

Equity

OurCounty envisions a future where all residents throughout the region benefit from flourishing, pollution-free natural and built environments, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, income, or other social differences. Los Angeles has a well-documented history of exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and other unjust policies that burden low-income communities and communities of color with conditions such as polluted stormwater runoff, dirty air, and lack of access to parks and open space. Rectifying these inequities is essential to a sustainable future.

Environment

OurCounty will protect and enhance the vitality and integrity of our diverse ecosystems, stewarding millions of acres of public lands including forest, desert, and the spectacular coastline. We will integrate nature and the built environment, ensuring that native flora and fauna thrive. We will provide all communities access to healthy and vibrant parks, open spaces, and natural areas through innovative planning, design, and programming.

Economy

No community is truly sustainable without economic opportunity for all. All residents will have access to the requisite training, skills, and jobs needed to prosper and flourish in the new, regenerative economy. As we move from extractive industries toward sustainable production, we will simultaneously seek to grow the number of jobs, ensure family-sustaining wages, and redress the historical inequities that have restricted employment opportunities for marginalized individuals and communities. We can collectively manage a just economic transition that benefits workers and historically impacted communities, rather than harming them.



Implementation

OurCounty is a strategic plan and call to action. We are proud that this plan is both comprehensive and ambitious, but recognize that we must proactively work to implement these actions in order to meet the goals of OurCounty. County departments can—and already are—undertaking certain actions, while other policies will require new initiatives and commitments. The County commits to working across our departments, and with other partners, to oversee progress and resolve any barriers to implementation, actively engaging community members, seeking funding to support plan implementation, and applying a sustainability lens to the County's budget. To realize the vision for the 2025 OurCounty plan, the County's Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) will lead a collaborative effort, working closely with the County Sustainability Council and departments across the County to coordinate and implement many of the initiatives. Other government entities across the region including cities, tribal governments, and state and regional agencies will be key for advancing initiatives that lie beyond the County's administrative or geographic jurisdiction. Organizations including nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, academia, and the private sector will further the work of OurCounty through their advocacy, research, services, and operations. And of course, Los Angeles County residents will play a critical role in bringing the OurCounty vision to life through everyday actions and collective efforts.

How is the 2025 OurCounty plan related to other County plans and initiatives?

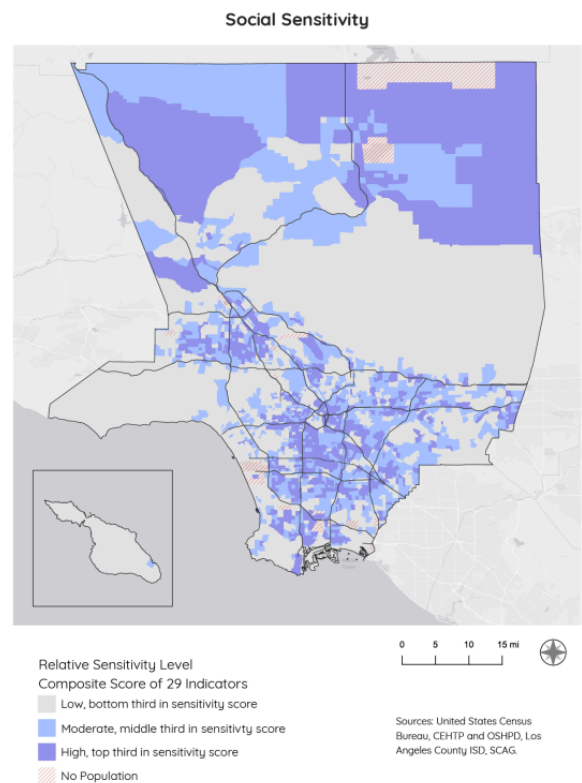
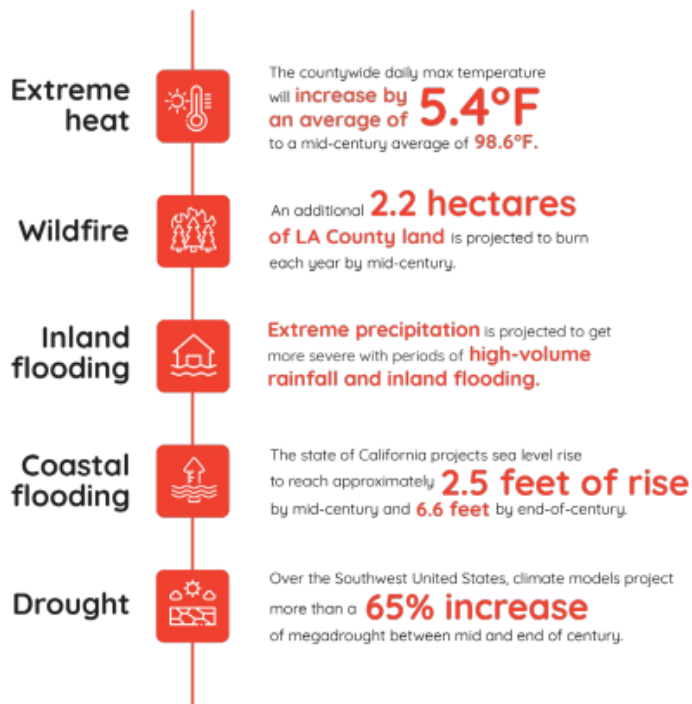
In addition to OurCounty, the County has developed a number of plans and initiatives that are aligned with OurCounty goals, but are more focused on specific topics. OurCounty serves as an overarching framework for sustainability work, encompassing initiatives across departments and geographies within LA County. Examples of recent plans and initiatives include the Community Forest Management Plan, the 2045 Climate Action Plan, the Water Plan, and the Parks Needs Assessment Plus. References to relevant plans and initiatives are incorporated throughout the 2025 OurCounty plan.



Climate Resilience

In recent years, LA County has experienced record-breaking heat, prolonged drought, extreme rainfall that has caused flooding, and more intense wildfires, including the January 2025 urban firestorms. Changing conditions and each hazard event strain our communities, directly harming our health, economy and finances, infrastructure, and the natural resources we rely on and that connect us to place.

Through this 2025 plan, the County is elevating the need for and defining the actions and solutions to deliver climate resilience. Since the initial plan, the County developed a [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) (CVA), which assessed the County's social and physical vulnerability to climate hazards such as extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding—which are projected to become more severe in the coming decades. The CVA highlights equity implications, including how climate vulnerabilities are unevenly distributed across different communities within the County.





In response to the CVA, the LA County Board of Supervisors directed the creation and implementation of a climate resilience initiative through a 2022 Board motion requiring a whole-of-government approach to adapt to a changing climate. The initiative is to coordinate policies and regulations for climate resilience, address individual and worker protections, adapt infrastructure and facilities, strengthen community information channels and regional partnerships, and maximize funding and financing to reinvest in communities today and for the future. This plan includes revised and new actions that build from: the foundational direction of the 2019 OurCounty plan and CVA, along with current and new efforts called out throughout the plan, such as the County Water Plan and Heat Action Plan.

As we take necessary steps to prepare for, and adapt to, more climate change, we must also continue local and global efforts to halt the human pollution that is causing global heating and climate change. The costs of adapting and protecting the County infrastructure systems, and the people that depend on them, are far lower than the consequences of inaction.

Negative to Positive Change - As climate change becomes more severe we will proactively empower communities and businesses to take actions, and change government policies and investments to not only address climate hazards, but also advance community and environmental improvements.

Equitable Outcomes - In building a more climate resilient region, the County will address equity in climate and health risks, redress historical inequities in infrastructure, service quality, and access, and support a more prosperous future for all communities.

Action Across Scales - Climate impacts do not abide by political borders and climate resilience must be built at many scales from individuals, to households, to communities, to the broader region, working across cities and the unincorporated LA County.

The climate resilience initiative represents a shared commitment to prepare LA County for a changing future, ensuring no community is left behind. Through cross-sector partnerships, bold local leadership, and the deep wisdom of frontline communities, we can collectively reimagine our systems and environment to advance equity, health and well-being, and long-term sustainability.



What do we mean by equity?

Equity is an end state in which all groups have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to improve the quality of their lives. OurCounty uses the following framework:

Procedural Equity: inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in processes to develop or implement sustainability programs and policies.

- Example: OurCounty is actualizing procedural equity through its work with community-based organizations to engage community members in the development and implementation of OurCounty's goals, strategies, and actions.

Distributional Equity: sustainability programs and policies resulting in fair distribution of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community, prioritizing benefits to those communities with highest need.

- Example: Departments will advance distributional equity by assessing the distribution of resources and opportunities, and prioritizing investments and services in communities where there is poor access to resources and opportunities.

Structural Equity: sustainability decision-makers institutionalize accountability; decisions are made with a recognition of the historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that have routinely benefited privileged groups and resulted in chronic, cumulative disadvantage for subordinated groups.

- Example: Structural equity is embedded into OurCounty through its commitment to regularly report on implementation efforts and promote transparent, inclusive decision-making.

Transgenerational Equity: sustainability decisions consider generational impacts and don't result in unfair burdens on future generations.

- Example: OurCounty actions will provide near- and long-term social, environmental, and economic benefits.

The above principles will help ensure that OurCounty sustainability efforts have equitable impacts, but we must also deal with the inequities that already exist. In acknowledgment that structural racism has harmed people of color across all categories of social and physical well-being, OurCounty is aimed at achieving an end state in which race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, such as educational attainment, employment, or health status. Strategies and actions throughout this document have been and will continue to be developed with racial equity as a central consideration.



Historically Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations

Centering Community Needs

In order to create a healthy and resilient Los Angeles County where every resident can thrive in place, we must confront our history of inequity and injustice toward specific groups of people based on their race, income level, or other shared characteristics. Policies and practices such as redlining and racially and ethnically restrictive covenants have burdened many communities with undue exposure to harm. They limit opportunities and resources, including access to jobs, high-quality transit, nutritious food, parks, and open space. These barriers make it harder for communities to manage the impacts of a changing climate. OurCounty centers the perspectives, needs, and priorities of these communities.

Members of these communities often suffer poor health or social outcomes stemming from these systemic inequities and injustices. Many of the plan's strategies and actions focus on changes that can be made across the County to improve health and social outcomes among these historically impacted communities. The set of communities may vary by issue, based on which communities are most impacted, but will often include Black, Latino, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and low-income communities. Because government was often instrumental in creating or facilitating inequities, we believe government must have a role in reducing them, especially as they stand to deepen as a result of climate change. In many cases, an effort to improve outcomes will begin with an assessment of which communities are affected and will be advanced through County-community partnerships to develop tailored solutions.

Terminology

In this document, we use a variety of terms when referring to historically impacted communities, including "low-income communities" and "communities of color" where appropriate. We also use the term "disadvantaged communities," which aligns with the definitions used by the State of California, and "communities of concentrated disadvantage," which is based on an [LA County Index](#) using census variables such as age and unemployment. One way that the state identifies the "disadvantaged" geographic areas that most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens is through the use of an analytical tool called the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, better known as [CalEnviroScreen](#).



We also sometimes refer to “vulnerable” populations when discussing broader population groups that are sometimes but not always geographically defined and face the greatest risks from chronic stresses and acute shocks, including those stemming from climate change. These include, but are not limited to, youth, older adults, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, Native American people, documented and undocumented immigrants, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, people experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, people experiencing linguistic isolation, outdoor workers, and those with limited access to transportation, critical infrastructure, or municipal services.

For a full list of terms and definitions used within this document, please refer to the glossary in the Appendix.

Rural Communities

Rural communities are integral to the identity and historic legacy of our region. These areas have their own unique set of qualities that bring valuable diversity to LA County and allow it to support many types of people, places, and ways of life. It is important that we recognize, value, support, and engage these historic rural communities as we move toward our sustainable future.

Rural areas also contribute significantly to the County’s cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and natural resource protection. These areas are generally characterized by expansive land resources but often lack equitable access to amenities, infrastructure, mobility options, and services needed to support community well-being. Preserving their character while better meeting the needs of rural communities is key to creating a more inclusive and resilient region.



Progress summary

Since adopting OurCounty in 2019, LA County has made meaningful progress toward building a more sustainable region. The County has launched groundbreaking initiatives to reduce pollution, cut reliance on fossil fuels, engage youth in climate action, and much more. At the same time, multiple crises, from COVID-19 to an affordable housing shortage, have required significant resources to save lives and provide basic services. A renewed commitment to regional collaboration and a focus on OurCounty priorities was critical to progress, but there is still much work to be done. An analysis of progress since the original OurCounty plan reveals opportunities to build upon past successes and apply lessons learned.

Tracking progress

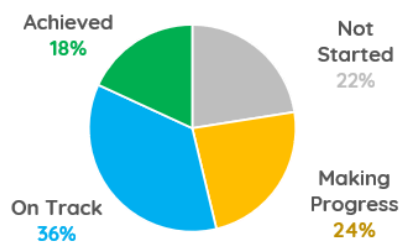
Actions

Work done on OurCounty actions is tracked through annual Progress Reports, which also highlight those actions identified as priorities by LA County departments and community partners. In 2024, each priority action was assigned a status: “Achieved,” “On Track,” or “Making Progress.” As part of this plan update, we evaluated progress on all actions to assess overall progress and identify areas needing greater focus.

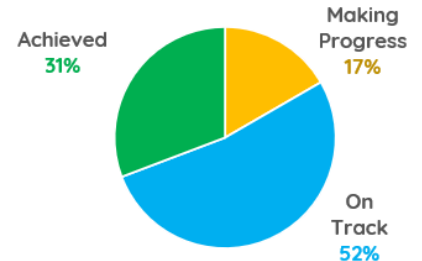
We determined action status through department surveys and interviews. Overall, more than half of all actions are either achieved or on track, while fewer than a quarter remain “Not Started.” These tend to be actions where the County has less direct control, or long-term initiatives that are not yet underway.

Among priority actions, 83 percent have been achieved or are on track to be achieved by the assigned time horizon. The remaining 17 percent of prioritized actions are in progress. For more details on action progress, please see the [OurCounty Annual Reports](#).

Overall Action Progress



Priority Action Progress



Achieved - Action completed

On Track - Action expected to be completed by target date

Making Progress - Action started but not expected to be completed by target date



Targets

The original OurCounty plan included 124 measurable targets designed to track progress toward sustainable outcomes. These targets varied in scale: some focused on unincorporated areas or LA County operations, while others applied countywide as aspirational benchmarks of collective action. The original targets relied on a varied mix of data sources and methodologies; some of which have been regularly updated since the release of OurCounty, and others that have not. The 2025 OurCounty plan refines and streamlines the original targets list to focus on those with accessible, reliable data and those most meaningful for tracking progress. For most of these targets, whether we meet them as a region is not completely within the County's direct control; however, these metrics can be a helpful guide for understanding progress toward larger strategies and goals.

The updated targets are now summarized at the goal level and include, where relevant, a baseline from the original plan (or new baseline where a new target is introduced), a progress update based on the latest available data, and targets for 2030, 2035, and 2045. Of the 31 targets included in the 2025 OurCounty plan, 13 targets are trending in the right direction toward sustainable outcomes and one target is headed in the opposite direction and requires a concerted countywide effort to correct.*

*Some targets are new and do not have historical trends and others have neutral progress; neither type are included in the counts.



Target Progress Summary			
Target	Trend	Target	Trend
Reduce toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities	+	Increase the proportion of residents within half a mile of parks and open space	+
Increase in affordable housing units	/	Increase the number of public swimming pools and splash pads per 100,000 residents	/
Decrease percent of cost-burdened renter households	+	Reduce countywide GHG emissions	/
Increase of water agencies that have affordable cost of water to meet health and safety needs	-	Increase renewable electrical generation	/
Increase perceptions of household disaster preparedness	/	Increase number of new public EV chargers	+
Meet RHNA housing production targets	/	Reduce unincorporated GHG emissions	+
Increase acres of green infrastructure at schools and public spaces	/	Reduce GHG emissions from County operations	+
Avoided projected heat stress emergency department visits	/	Increase the percent of all trips by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit	/
Increase percent of water sourced locally	+	Reduce average daily vehicle miles traveled per capita	+
Increase canopy cover for all unincorporated areas	/	Reduce average Transportation Cost Index	/
Increase number of cities and unincorporated communities with a walk score of 70 or higher	+	Reduce traffic-related fatalities	+
Achieve a 1:1 replacement of demolished housing units with equally affordable units	/	Decrease per capita waste generation	/
Create green jobs	/	Reduce per capita water demand	+
Increase percent of adults with stable full-time employment at or above 250% federal poverty	/	Increase the amount of waste diverted from landfill	/
Increase percent of conserved area	/	Increase acceptance of CalFresh and EBT at all farmers' markets	+
		Reduce the GHG emissions associated with food served	/

Key:

+ is trending positively - is trending negatively
 / has a neutral trend or is not applicable because it is a new target



How was the 2025 OurCounty plan developed?

The CSO engaged partners and communities to discuss progress-to-date and inform the future direction of sustainability actions using a variety of methods, including pop-up events, a countywide survey, and a series of topical workshops.

Eight community based organizations (CBOs) and the LA County Youth Climate Commission (YCC) hosted 23 community-centered pop-up events throughout all five Supervisorial Districts to engage residents and distribute the survey. The countywide survey gathered insights from the community on their sustainability priorities and was developed and distributed in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, and Korean). In total, we collected 3,625 survey responses, providing valuable insights for the 2025 OurCounty plan. A total of eight workshops were hosted both in-person and virtually to discuss specific topics and opportunities for action. Over 360 individuals attended, from labor to academia to businesses and nonprofits. In addition, targeted outreach was conducted with Tribes and rural communities, and individual meetings were held as requested by partners to ensure inclusive participation and meaningful engagement.

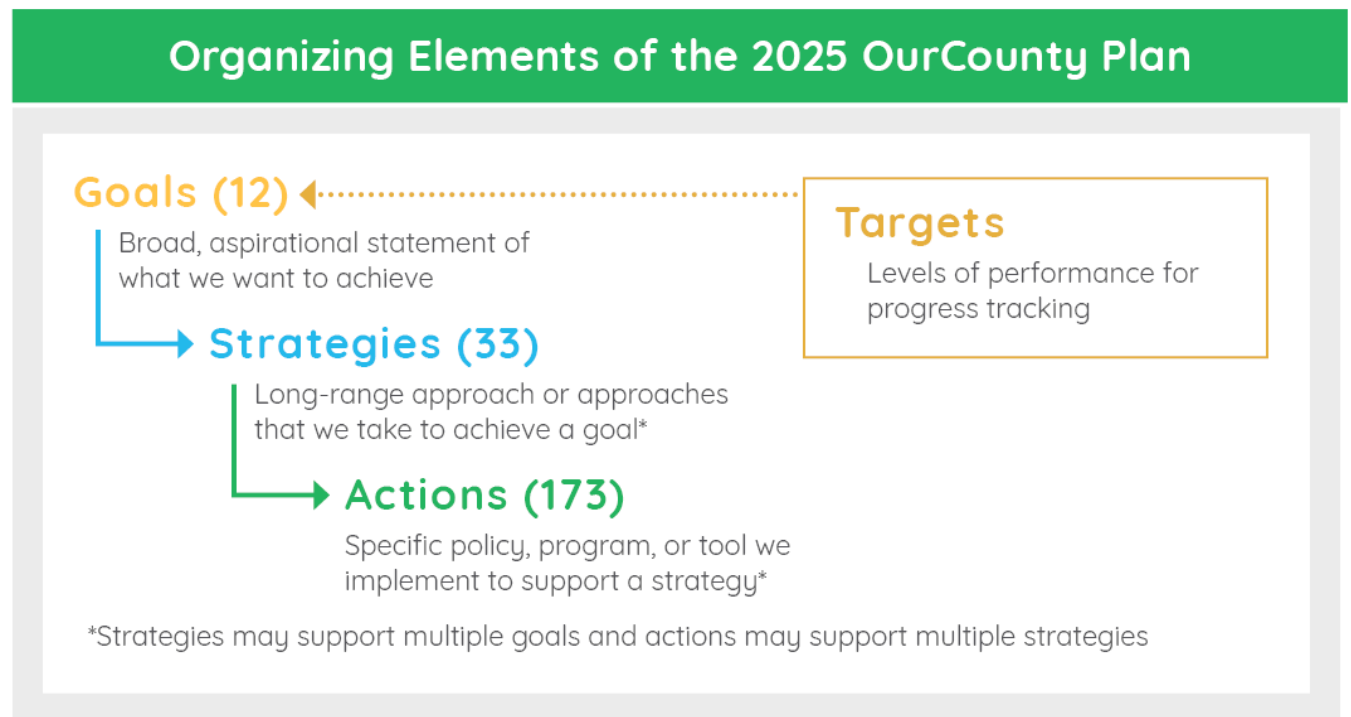
Community and partner feedback deepened the County's understanding of how to align with ongoing sustainability efforts, surfaced emerging and underrepresented issues, and engaged a diverse range of community members and partners from across the County. Workshop summaries and countywide survey results can be found at <https://cso.lacounty.gov/ourcounty-2025>.



How to read this plan

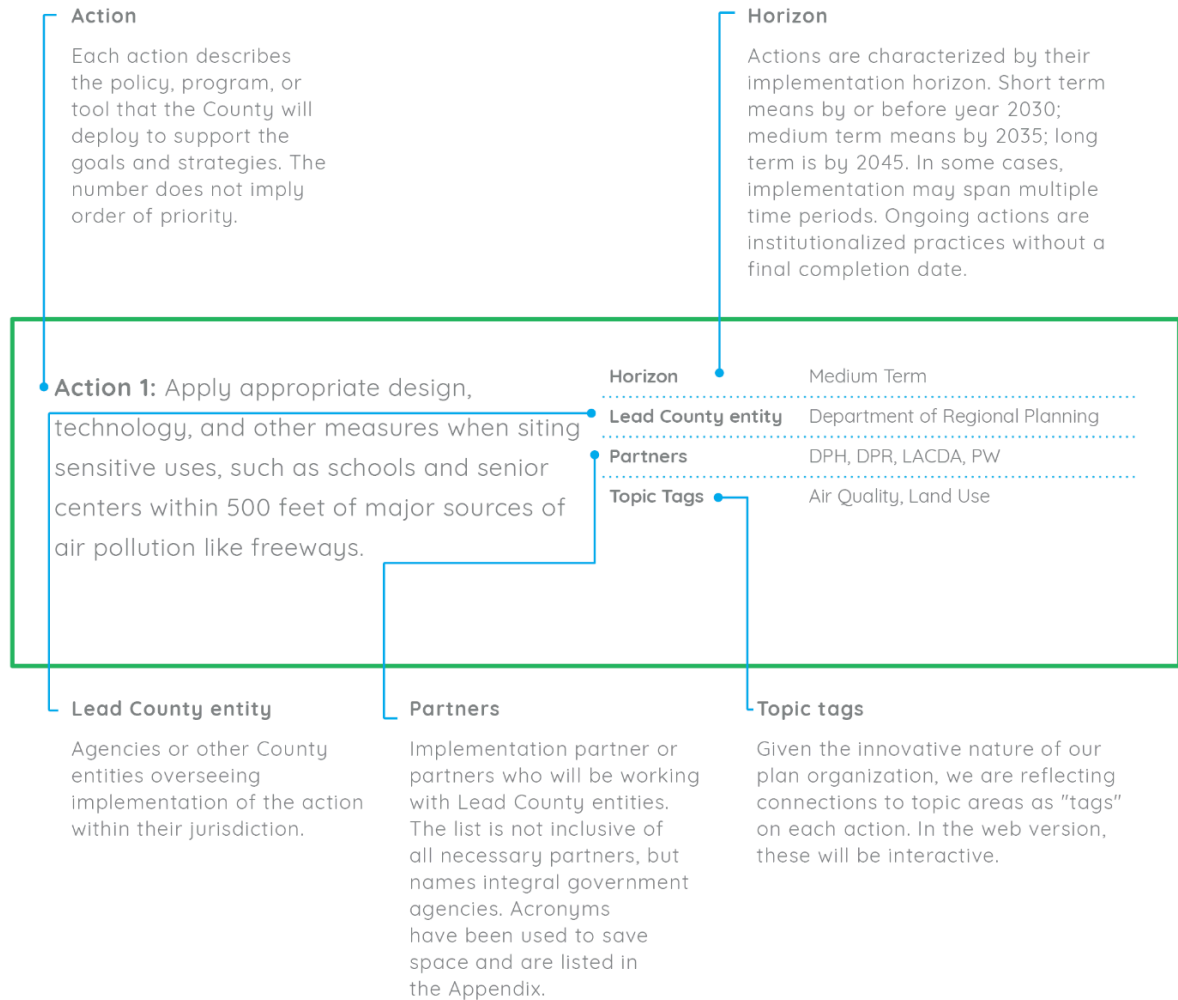
The OurCounty plan is organized around 12 cross-cutting goals that describe our shared vision for a sustainable Los Angeles County. It is not organized around specific topic areas—there is no climate change chapter or water chapter—but rather the goals reach across topics to consider the interrelated connections between them.

This approach embraces the notion that sustainability is inherently intersectional; in other words, there is very little in this world that does not affect something else. For example, an action to support local water supplies can provide new or improved parks and open space, while also reducing energy from pumping water into Los Angeles from hundreds of miles away. Reducing energy use also reduces air and climate pollution as power plants are used less, which also contributes to improved public health. By focusing on broad, aspirational, and cross-cutting goals, we are challenging ourselves to embrace positive change by thinking beyond our current barriers to action, whether they be technological, political, or bureaucratic.





How to read an action





Commitment to implementation and accountability

We are proud that the 2025 OurCounty plan is both comprehensive and ambitious, and recognize that we must proactively work to implement these actions in order to meet the plan goals. To do that, the County commits to the following:

- Advocating for state and federal legislation and resources aligned with OurCounty goals and strategies
- Applying a sustainability lens to the County's budget
- Actively seeking funding to support plan implementation, including state and federal grants and philanthropic resources, and supporting partners in their efforts to secure funding aligned with OurCounty goals
- Working across LA County departments and with other partners to help prioritize actions, oversee progress, and identify and resolve any barriers to implementation
- Actively engaging community organizations and other external partners to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership and to understand and resolve concerns
- Assisting cities and local Tribes in their own sustainability efforts

We also recognize that many of OurCounty's actions involve the commissioning of new assessments and/or detailed action plans. We commit to activating those studies and plans.

Additionally, to make sure that Los Angeles County is accountable to the public, we commit to the following:

- Preparing an annual report to the Board of Supervisors that openly and honestly describes plan progress and/or barriers to progress, and that identifies and recommends solutions to those obstacles
- Meeting with community members, cities, and local Tribes to discuss the implementation of the plan, identifying both successes and failures
- Regularly reporting on implementation progress through social media, newsletters, and other communication channels
- Connecting with communities where they are through tailored, accessible education and outreach efforts that reflect diverse needs and communication channels



Goal 1. Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place



It is essential for individuals and communities to have clean air, water, and soil, as well as to feel safe and secure in their daily lives. Los Angeles County, like much of the United States, has a long history of discriminatory public policy that has led to housing and land use patterns. In turn, low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately burdened by pollution exposure, affordability challenges, and diminished access to economic opportunity, parks, and open space.

Climate change adds to the burdens of these historical inequities.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the effects of many of these deeply rooted inequalities with zip code being highly correlated to health outcomes. Preexisting health conditions, such as asthma from exposure to freeway air pollutants, put individuals at higher risk, as did other socioeconomic factors. The “redlining” discriminatory practices that began in the 1930s are still being felt today, and reversing these effects to build a more resilient and healthy community will require comprehensive and sustained attention.

With collaboration and support from local jurisdictions and unincorporated areas, OurCounty will promote thriving and healthy places for current and future generations. We will work to eliminate inequities and alleviate development-driven displacement, supporting stronger, more resilient and inclusive communities.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 1A: Minimize the exposure of vulnerable populations to pollution and reduce health disparities

Strategy 1B: Ensure housing and household utility affordability

Strategy 1C: Ensure access to safe, clean, and affordable water

Strategy 1D: Develop community capacity to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and bounce forward from climate and hazard emergencies

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	Disadvantaged communities in LA County had an average toxicity-weighted concentration of emissions of 6,364 µg/m ³ in 2011-2013 <i>Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0</i>	Toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities have reduced by 27% (data from 2017-2019)	Reduce toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities by 35%	Reduce toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities by 40%	Reduce toxicity-weighted concentrations of emissions in disadvantaged communities by 80%
	Los Angeles County had a shortfall of 581,823 homes affordable to the lowest-income renters as of 2018 <i>Source: Annual Affordable Housing Outcomes Report</i>	There were 146,571 affordable homes in 2023	200,000 new affordable housing units	300,000 new affordable housing units	585,000 new affordable housing units



Countywide	<p>58% of renters experienced cost burden in 2016, with 25% of renters experiencing moderate cost burden and 33% experiencing severe cost burden</p> <p><i>Source: Annual Affordable Housing Outcomes Report</i></p>	<p>54% of renters experienced cost burden in 2022, with 24% of renters experiencing moderate cost burden and 30% experiencing severe cost burden</p>	<p>Decrease percent of cost-burdened renter households to 45%</p>	<p>Decrease percent of cost-burdened renter households to 35%</p>	<p>Decrease percent of cost-burdened renter households to 15%</p>
	<p>97% of water agencies have affordable cost of water to meet health and safety needs (2020)</p> <p><i>Source: LA County Water Plan Dashboard</i></p>	<p>94% of water agencies have affordable cost of water to meet health and safety needs (2022)</p>			<p>100% of water agencies have affordable cost of water to meet health and safety needs</p>
	<p>45% of LA County residents report being very or somewhat prepared for a large-scale disaster or emergency (2023)</p> <p><i>Source: LA County Health Survey, Department of Public Health</i></p>		<p>Increase perceptions of household disaster preparedness to 50%</p>	<p>Increase perceptions of household disaster preparedness to 55%</p>	<p>Increase perceptions of household disaster preparedness to 60%</p>



Unincorporated	<p>580 very low-income, 108 low-income, and 0 moderate-income units had been permitted in unincorporated Los Angeles County as of 2018, compared to the 5th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation of 7,841 units, 4,644 units, and 5,052 units, respectively</p> <p><i>Source: Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)</i></p>	<p>7% of RHNA housing production targets were reached for very low, low, and moderate-income during the 5th cycle (2013 - 2021) in unincorporated areas</p> <p>The 6th cycle allocation is 25,648 units, 13,691 units, and 14,180 units, respectively.</p>	Meet 25% of RHNA housing production targets for very low, low, and moderate-income housing	Meet 50% of RHNA housing production targets for very low, low, and moderate-income housing	Meet 100% of RHNA housing production targets for very low, low, and moderate-income housing
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Strategy 1A: Minimize the exposure of vulnerable populations to pollution and reduce health disparities

Highways and polluting facilities such as refineries, rail yards, and factories are often located in close proximity to low-income communities and communities of color in LA County. These communities face elevated health risks from pollutant exposure and have historically been overburdened and under-resourced.

OurCounty establishes a framework for long-term policies to better protect these communities from pollution and reduce health inequities, with short-term and medium-term actions that support these goals.

Action 1: Apply appropriate design, technology, and other measures when siting sensitive uses, such as schools and senior centers within 500 feet of major sources of air pollution like freeways.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	DPH, DPR, LACDA, PW
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Land Use

Action 2: Coordinate with state agencies to develop and implement a closure plan for orphan and idle oil and gas wells that prioritizes by condition and proximity to sensitive populations, and identifies potential funding sources for implementation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DPH, DPR, LACoFD
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Funding & Financing, Land Use, Public Health

Action 3: Support the development and implementation of local regulations for oil and gas operations and maintenance activities that strengthen health and safety protections and increase transparency for local communities, including strengthening public notification requirements.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	DRP, LACoFD, PW, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Public Health



Action 4: Use fence-line and community air monitoring data to improve regulations on industrial facilities, and expand enforcement resources for these regulations.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	Air pollution control districts
Topic Tags	Air Quality

Action 5: Continue and expand the lead-based paint hazard remediation program.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH, LACDA
Partners	Cities
Topic Tags	Public Health

Action 6: Partner with SCAQMD to monitor air quality in the vicinity of schools and identify measures to reduce pollution exposure.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPH, School Districts
Topic Tags	Air Quality

Action 7: Develop strategies with interdepartmental and regional coordination to reduce illegal dumping of bulky items, construction materials, mulch, and other materials and identify funding sources to expand education, eradication, and enforcement.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	District Attorney, DPH, DRP, LACoFD, Local law enforcement, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Land Use, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management



Action 8: Support small businesses in meeting or exceeding requirements in Green Zone Program areas through counseling and funding opportunity identification.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	DCBA, DPH, DPR, DRP, TTC
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Economy & Workforce, Public Health

Action 9: Explore the feasibility of establishing a brownfields program and explore innovative funding mechanisms to facilitate the remediation and reuse of brownfields for community-serving uses, such as affordable housing, parks, and community gardens, through close collaboration with CBOs in impacted communities.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPR, LACDA, PW
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management

Action 10: Implement ordinance to phase out oil drilling, with priority for disproportionately affected communities.

Horizon	Medium-to-Long Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	DPH, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Land Use, Public Health

Action 11: Support the application of bioremediation methods, such as the use of plants, fungi, and microbes, as an innovative approach to brownfield remediation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPR, PW
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems

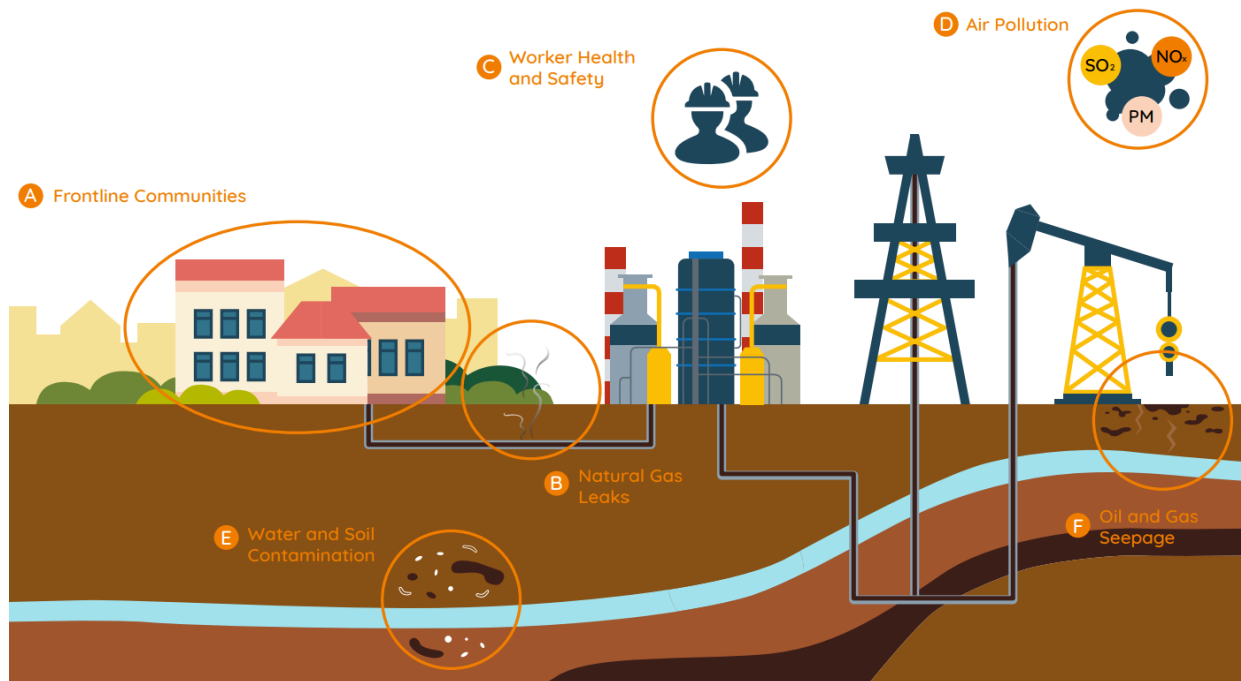


Action 12: Support the implementation of SCAQMD's Warehouse Indirect Source Rule 2305, which creates a point system known as Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) that incentivizes warehouses to reduce emissions, including installing filtration systems in schools.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPH, DRP
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Environmental and Health Impacts of Oil and Gas Operations

Environmental and Health Impacts of Oil and Gas Operations



A—Frontline Communities

Residents in close proximity to oil and gas operations are exposed to pollutants that increase the risk of breathing problems, low birth weight, and other negative health outcomes.

**B—Natural Gas Leaks**

Natural gas largely consists of methane, an invisible, odorless greenhouse gas, as well as smaller amounts of other compounds. Exposure to high levels of natural gas can lead to headaches, difficulty breathing, and other symptoms. Gas leaks are also a hazard to people and infrastructure because they can lead to explosion and fire.

C—Worker Health and Safety

Workers are exposed to hazardous conditions and pollutants that may increase the risk of various types of cancer.

D—Air Pollution

Particulate matter and other toxic air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), have been associated with a number of negative health impacts including increased rates of asthma, cancer, preterm births, headaches, and nausea.

E—Water and Soil Contamination

Fossil fuels and the chemicals used to extract them can contaminate soil and water, adversely affecting wildlife and residents who rely on these local resources.

F—Oil and Gas Seepage

Leaking oil wells and continued production can cause gas to accumulate near the surface, which can lead to ground subsidence, seismic activity, releases and explosions, and soil, aquifer, and air contamination.



LA County Revised Oil Well Ordinance

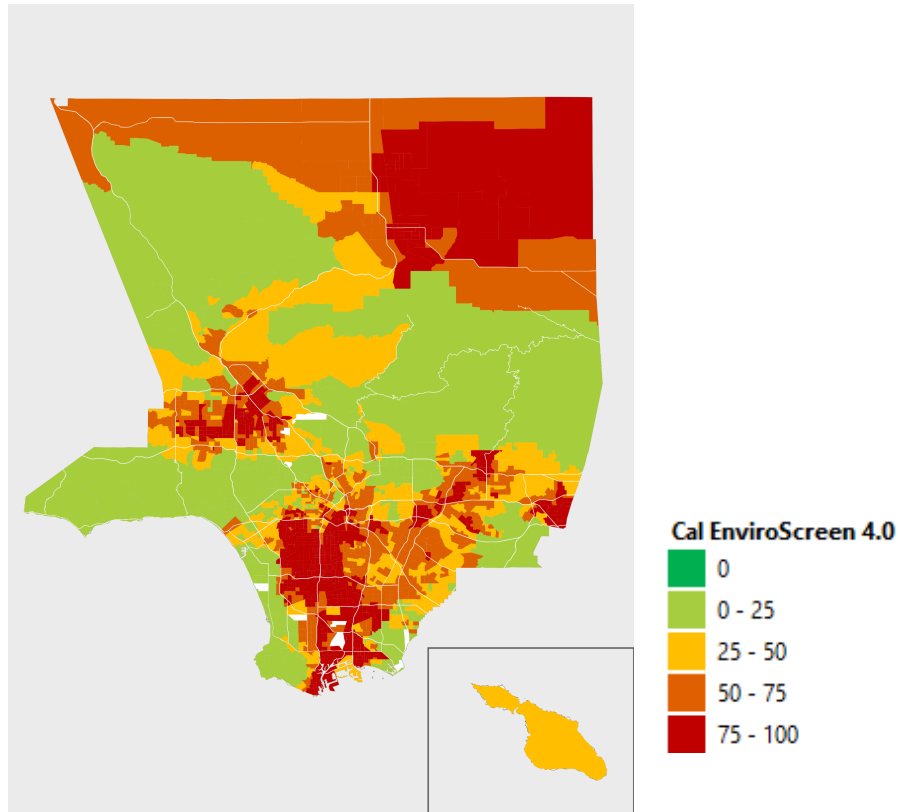
On September 15, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved three motions highlighting the County's commitment to safeguarding public health, safety, and welfare for residents living near oil drilling sites, and initiating a just transition away from fossil fuels and toward decarbonization. Although full implementation will span several decades, this marked the achievement and advancement of multiple 2019 OurCounty plan actions.

In response to these motions, the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) developed the Oil Well Ordinance, which the Board adopted on January 24, 2023. This landmark ordinance marked a major step toward protecting community health and reducing the County's reliance on fossil fuels. Community and environmental groups, including the coalition STAND-L.A. (Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling – Los Angeles), played a critical role in securing its approval through sustained advocacy, public engagement, and elevation of the voices of frontline residents impacted by urban oil drilling.

To ensure alignment with new state laws, a [Revised Oil Well Ordinance](#) is now being developed. This revised ordinance will reaffirm and extend the County's regulatory framework by integrating previously recommended amendments to the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District and to the County General Plan. It will also establish local regulatory authority explicitly granted by Assembly Bill (AB) 3233 (Addis), effective January 1, 2025, which authorizes local governments to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations within their jurisdictions. The County remains committed to phasing out oil extraction activities and advancing community resilience, with the Revised Oil Well Ordinance anticipated to be adopted in 2026.



Monitoring Air Toxics Risk



Developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is the latest in a series of reports and tools aiming to identify the California communities that are most burdened by health and other impacts. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is a dataset and mapping tool, along with a report, that indicates the severity of different indicators, ranging from air quality concerns to groundwater threats.

The map above identifies the asthma burden across LA County census tracts, where Antelope Valley and South Central LA have the highest rates of asthma. Air pollution leads to asthma and other health conditions. Understanding these spatial patterns is crucial for figuring out where to target interventions to improve air quality, such as strategies to reduce heat and increase green spaces, which can reduce asthma burden.

In LA County, areas within 500 feet of freeways have some of the highest pollution levels and rates of asthma, cancer, heart attack, stroke, reduced lung function, preterm birth, and a long list of other health problems.

Data Source: OEHHA



Strategy 1B: Ensure housing and household utility affordability

OurCounty recognizes that access to stable, affordable housing and essential utilities is foundational to community well-being. Consistent housing supports physical and mental health, economic progress, and educational outcomes while housing insecurity can lead to a cascade of negative outcomes, particularly for more vulnerable groups like children. Housing affordability is also critical to addressing the root causes of homelessness; without it, even the County's most comprehensive services cannot fully resolve the crisis.

Given the magnitude of the challenges related to housing and homelessness, existing affordable housing must be preserved and new affordable housing developed in every neighborhood. These priorities must also inform all LA County policies affecting the built environment, including land use and zoning.

At the same time, energy and water must remain affordable as we invest in building upgrades and clean infrastructure. Many LA County households face higher utility burdens due to rising costs and lower incomes, with water rates varying widely across communities and residential electricity costs far higher than the national average. As we make these investments, we must protect our residents from exorbitant utility costs while ensuring everyone can benefit from zero-carbon, resilient energy and water sources.

Action 13: Identify and implement best practices to preserve and increase the amount of affordable housing proximate to job centers, transit, parks, and open space amenities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	CEO, LACDA
Topic Tags	Housing, Land Use

Action 14: Advocate for drinking water affordability through equitable utility pricing, Cal Fresh/EBT water supplements, reducing obstacles to lifeline rates, and water-efficient appliance subsidies.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, CSO
Partners	Local water agencies, PW
Topic Tags	Housing, Water



Action 15: Advocate on behalf of County residents for energy affordability and climate resilience at the California Public Utility Commission.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	ISD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy

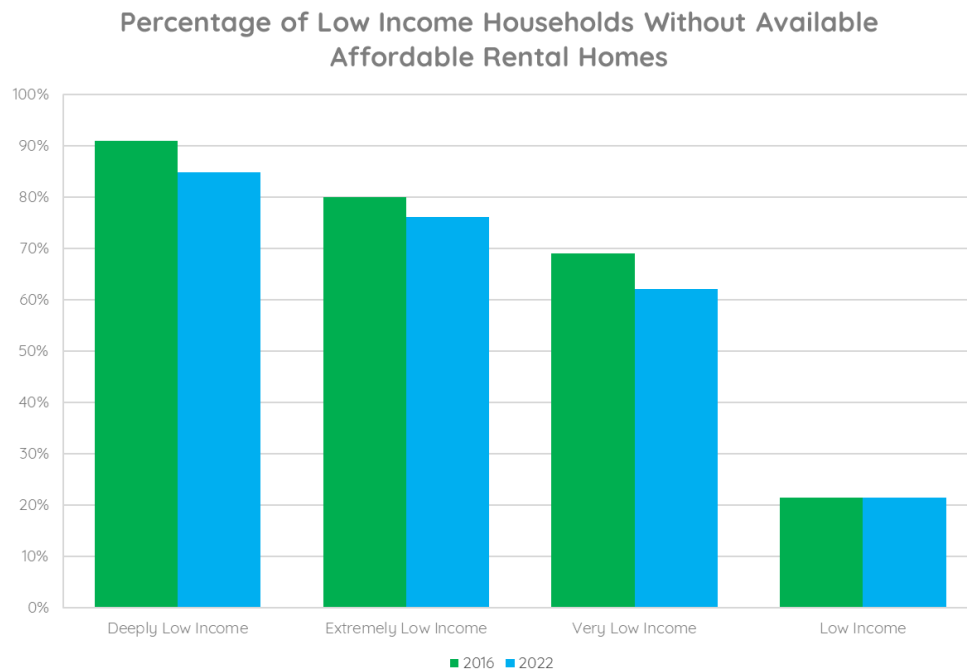
Homeless Initiative

The [Homeless Initiative \(HI\)](#) is the central coordinating body for Los Angeles County's work to prevent and end homelessness. Established by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, HI is leading collaboration between service providers, people with lived experience, cities, LA County departments, and elected officials to spark change in our communities and build a Los Angeles County where everyone has a permanent place to call home.

Funding for HI comes from a variety of state and local sources, including voter-approved 2024 Measure A, a half-cent sales tax countywide to address homelessness through housing and services, which repealed and replaced Measure H on April 1, 2025. Measure A is the first ongoing revenue stream in LA County to address the full picture of ending homelessness, from prevention to permanent homes. The Measure A Ordinance created five clear goals to track and align progress across all homelessness programs and investments in the region. Baseline data and metrics to establish progress toward meeting the goals, along with the [Responsive Regional Plan](#), were approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 25, 2025.



Affordable Housing Need and Availability



The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion in 2015 to create an Affordable Housing Programs budget unit and establish a multi-year plan for providing funding for new affordable housing. As part of this effort, an Annual Affordable Housing Report demonstrates the affordable housing need throughout the County and provides recommendations for addressing this critical need.

The housing affordability crisis is increasingly impacting LA County residents as wealth inequalities grow and access to affordable housing is limited. According to the 2024 report, summarizing data and trends from 2022, a total of 494,446 rental units are needed to address the housing needs of very low-income, extremely low-income, and deeply low-income households. Since 2016, the percentage of households without affordable housing has decreased across every income group by 4 percent to 5 percent, while the rate among low-income households has remained roughly the same.

While subsidized affordable housing remains essential, the County also recognizes the importance of increasing overall housing production to support long-term affordability. Expanding the housing supply, especially in areas with access to jobs, transit, and services, helps preserve naturally occurring affordable housing and reduces pressure on the existing stock.

Data Source: 2024 Annual Affordable Housing Outcomes Report by the California Housing Partnership Corporation



Strategy 1C: Ensure access to safe, clean, and affordable water

Safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water has been recognized as a fundamental human right, with California becoming the first state in the country to recognize this right legislatively through AB 685. While the majority of LA County residents receive high-quality water from large water providers, some communities are in need of meaningful improvements to their water infrastructure to ensure that their drinking water is healthy, reliable, and affordable, particularly in the face of increasing stressors on water resources due to climate change. Addressing these issues will require innovative policy solutions as well as a robust assessment to identify the scope and scale of issues.

Action 16: In alignment with the County Water Plan, provide support for small water systems and develop a "toolbox" of options to ensure Countywide communities have access to safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CEO, LACoFD, Local water agencies
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing, Water

Action 17: Advocate for the development of funding or financing mechanisms for property owners to replace leaky, corroded, and/or unsafe pipes and fixtures.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, PW
Partners	CSO, DPH
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing, Public Health, Water

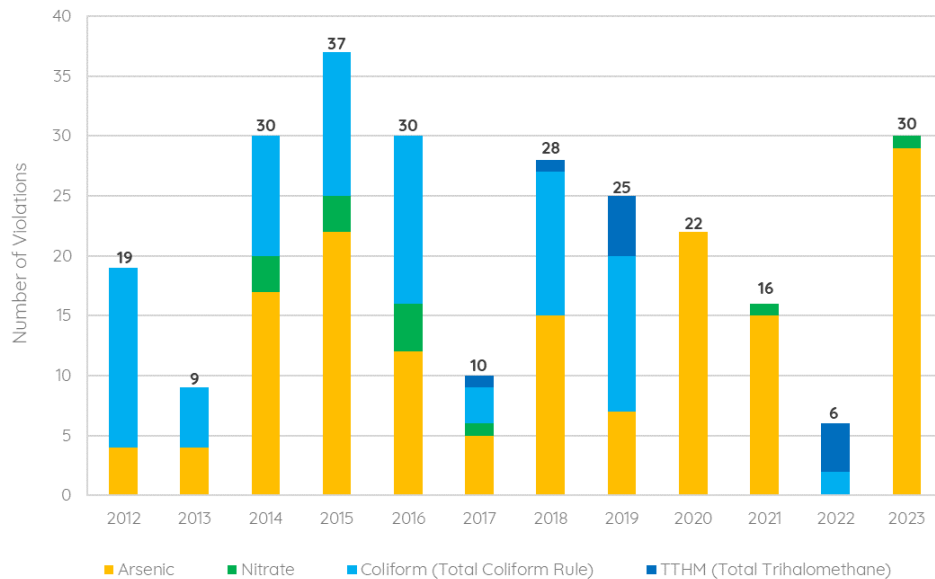
Action 18: Adopt and advocate for policies to control sources of difficult to manage water contaminants, including PFAS, microplastics, and other emerging contaminants of concern.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, PW
Partners	CSO, DPH
Topic Tags	Public Health, Water



Monitoring Drinking Water Quality

MCL Violations by Public Water Systems



The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) sets thresholds known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) to monitor water quality. All drinking water systems must meet the MCLs to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. MCLs are measured at the water treatment plant before drinking water is distributed; any violations trigger notifications to customers. In 2023, there were a total of 30 violations of primary MCLs in LA County, including arsenic and nitrate. The 30 violations came from nine public water systems. Overall from 2012 to 2023, a total of 73 public water systems had at least one MCL violation out of more than 200 total public water systems in the region, with the majority of these systems serving 500 or less customers. While the impacted population is small compared to the size of our region—the population impacted by these violations has not exceeded 1 percent of the LA County population—the County recognizes that access to safe, clean drinking water at all times and for all residents is fundamental to our sustainability goals.

Data Source: SWRCB



Strategy 1D: Develop community capacity to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and bounce forward from climate and hazard emergencies

Truly resilient communities are able to individually prepare and support neighbors in responding to shocks (like earthquakes, wildfires, extreme heat, and flooding) and long-term stresses (like inequity, climate change, and aging infrastructure) by adapting to maintain crucial community functions (like strong social networks, safe drinking water, roads, and public safety infrastructure). The power of resilient communities is their ability to adapt to and learn from a variety of shocks and stresses and incorporate any lessons learned into preparation for and reaction to future events.

OurCounty will support community resilience by partnering to expand community capacity to respond to emergencies at the neighborhood scale in ways that respect and maintain community culture and social fabric. For example, the County can support neighborhood use of public spaces in ways that increase community bonds and can serve as organizing hubs during a shock. These actions will contribute to community cohesion and will also improve residents' short-term and long-term quality of life.

Action 19: Expand and partner on opportunities for community hazards trainings, ensuring a culturally-specific and trauma-informed lens, such as household and family emergency preparedness, Community Sensitive Site Safety Blueprint, or Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	OEM
Partners	CEO, DPH, LACoFD, Library, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 20: Advance economic resiliency in the region by building the capacity of small businesses to prepare for and sustain operations following natural disasters and other economic shocks.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	Arts & Culture, CSO, OEM
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Economy & Workforce



Action 21: Increase new and update existing resources such as hydration stations and bathroom facilities in parks and public spaces that can support community resilience and access to clean water and sanitation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DBH, DPR
Partners	DPH, OEM
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 22: Expand battery storage systems and microgrids at critical County facilities and infrastructure to enhance resilience.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	CEO, LACDA, LACoFD, PW, Metro, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy

Action 23: Encourage and support neighborhoods to become certified Firewise Communities or create California Fire Safe Councils and to maintain their practices.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	LACoFD
Partners	CSO, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 24: Partner with communities most impacted by climate hazards to map and assess existing assets that support communities outside of, during, and after hazard events.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPH, DPR, LAAD, LACDA, Library, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience



Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

What will I learn?



Building community capacity for disaster response is essential to protecting lives. In the aftermath of a major disaster, emergency personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. In those critical first hours, it is often household preparedness that keeps people safe, and neighbors helping neighbors.

The [CERT program](#) equips residents with the skills to protect themselves, their families, and their communities when disaster strikes. Offered free of charge by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and many other incorporated cities' first responders, this FEMA-approved 20-hour course trains participants in fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster medical operations, and hazards specific to their area. CERT graduates are prepared to step up in support of professional responders.

The OurCounty Plan builds on this work by committing to expand access to emergency preparedness resources. This includes partnering with local organizations to co-develop culturally responsive and linguistically inclusive hazard training that reflect the diversity of Los Angeles County communities.



Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience



Buildings and infrastructure, such as our water systems and tree canopy, are integral components of our daily lives. It is critical that these systems enable and support the well-being of the communities they serve. In the past, buildings were often constructed without consideration for sustainability, resilience, and health. For example, older buildings built without proper insulation and with large south-facing windows heat up quickly. This requires a significant amount of cooling and contributes to unhealthy environments.

Further, our infrastructure systems often lack resiliency and redundancy, such as a diverse range of water sources during droughts, use of open space to manage flooding, or cool surfaces and canopies that mitigate urban heat. The buildings and infrastructure of both yesterday and tomorrow will need to utilize more efficient technologies and practices that reduce resource use, improve health, and increase resilience.

The fires that ravaged LA County in January 2025 highlighted how climate change is leading to more intense and frequent wildfires, and in turn, the increasing need to mitigate and adapt to these more extreme conditions. We will need to ensure our buildings and infrastructure can withstand and mitigate impacts, cope with potential consequences, and even take advantage of potential opportunities that climate events may create. OurCounty will help create a built environment that supports healthy, active lifestyles and adapts to provide protection against climate risks, now and in the future.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 2A: Integrate climate resilience and adaptation into planning, buildings, infrastructure, and community development decisions

Strategy 2B: Transition to sustainable and healthy building design and construction

Strategy 2C: Create an integrated and resilient water system

Strategy 2D: Ensure that shade and a climate-appropriate, healthy community tree canopy are equitably distributed

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	LA County has 271,415 acres of pavement <i>Source: DepaveLA Assessment (ARLA, Hyphae)</i>	New target, no progress update	Replace 500 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with green infrastructure	Replace 1,000 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with green infrastructure	Replace 1,600 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with green infrastructure
	In 2017 there were 1,285 heat stress emergency department visits <i>Source: LA County Department of Public Health / CA Department of Health Care Access and Information</i>	In 2022, there were 1,195 heat stress emergency department visits	Avoid 10% of projected heat stress emergency department visits	Avoid 20% of projected heat stress emergency department visits	Avoid 30% of projected heat stress emergency department visits



Countywide	<p>44% of LA County's water supply came from local sources in 2017</p> <p><i>Source: LA County Water Plan</i></p>	<p>45% of LA County's water supply came from local sources in 2019</p>	<p>Increase local water supply sources by 175,000 acre-feet per year</p>	<p>Increase local water supply sources by 310,000 acre-feet per year</p>	<p>Increase local water supply sources by 580,000 acre-feet per year</p>
	<p>Unincorporated LA County had 15.9% urban tree canopy cover in 2020</p> <p><i>Source: LA County Community Forest Management Plan</i></p>	<p>The County created a new methodology for measuring canopy cover as part of the CFMP that will be used for tracking progress moving forward</p>	-	<p>Achieve at least 18% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined</p>	<p>Achieve at least 20% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined</p>



Strategy 2A: Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into planning, buildings, infrastructure, and community development decisions

Climate change is already reshaping life in Los Angeles County, bringing record high temperatures with worsening air quality, sea level rise and coastal erosion, and fueling more frequent and destructive wildfires. These impacts touch everything in daily life from school closures and business disruptions during wildfire events to rising cooling costs for residents and businesses. Urban and rural communities alike face exacerbated health and home safety issues due to climate change. As the County and regional partners work to improve public infrastructure and construct new buildings, it is critical also to support existing homes, and those households, in becoming more energy and climate resilient.

Climate change also worsens existing inequities in specific communities:

- Low-income residents, who have fewer resources to prepare for and recover from climate hazard events and who suffer disproportionately from respiratory illnesses (which are exacerbated by extreme heat, fires smoke, and poor air quality)
- Undocumented immigrants and migrant workers, who are at a risk of linguistic isolation and fear of arrest if they seek resources and help during events
- Outdoor workers, who are at higher risk of heat stress and other heat-related disorders, injury, and reduced productivity from heat events
- Older residents, who are more likely to have chronic health issues and less access to mobility options during events.

The County will integrate climate adaptation and resilience in all future planning and development decisions. This effort will prioritize green infrastructure and biodiversity preservation that will support a healthy, resilient environment while addressing inequities and public health. The dangers the region faces from climate change are real and daunting. In using available climate change data, every action to protect our homes, communities, and infrastructure, will reduce harm and better prepare us for the future.

Action 25: Maintain, update, and use the countywide Climate Vulnerability Assessment to assess high risk infrastructure assets and guide priority investments, projects, programs, and policy changes to address social and physical infrastructure risks.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	County Counsel, DPH, DPR, DRP, LACoFD, OEM, PW, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Public Health



Action 26: Support the development and implementation of advanced clean technology, such as virtual power plants, vehicle-to-grid or vehicle-to-building technology, and microgrids, to build a more equitable and resilient grid.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	ISD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy

Action 27: Develop and implement a County Heat Action Plan to ensure that communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems can thrive in the face of rising temperatures and more extreme heat.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	CEO, DEO, DPH, DPR, DRP, ISD, LAAD, LACoFD, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Public Health

Action 28: Establish a collaborative regional approach to develop and implement a coastal resilience and adaptation program, integrating sea level rise and environmental justice to protect beaches and public safety.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DBH
Partners	DPR
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use

Action 29: Develop a whole home hazards retrofit program, including an accessible digital platform, to provide guidance, financing resources, and direct install support for sustainable and resilient building upgrades that address risks such as fire, flood, drought, seismic events, and indoor air quality.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, ISD
Partners	DRP, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Funding & Financing



Action 30: Collaborate with climate-vulnerable communities, local organizations, and other community-based organizations to enhance capacity to engage in, plan for, and co-create programs and projects solutions for sustainability and climate resilience challenges.

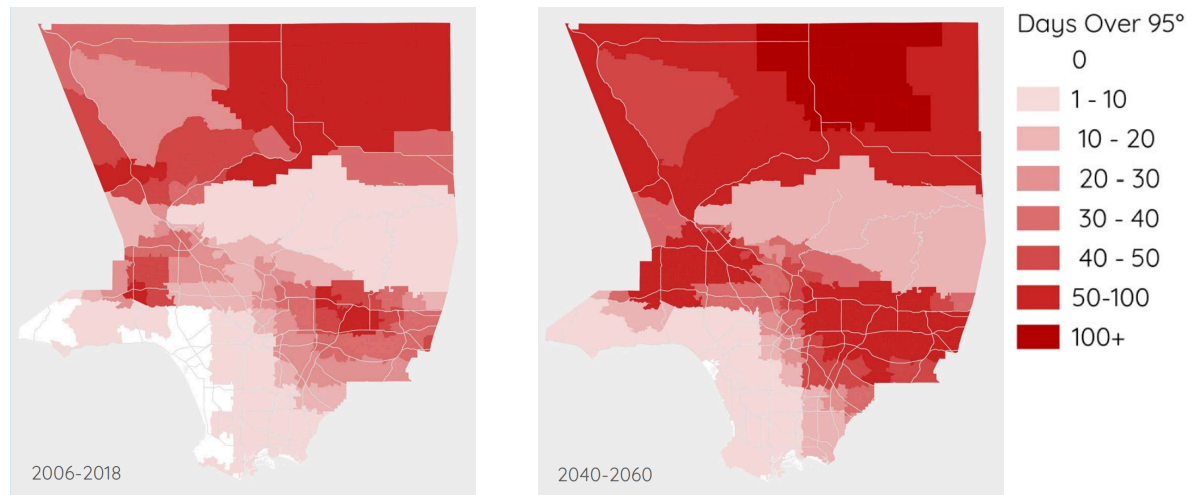
Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	Arts & Culture, DPH, DPR, DRP, LAAD, LACDA, Library, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 31: Collaborate with County departments, academic partners, and other jurisdictions to review lessons learned from past disasters and apply insights to proactively strengthen preparedness, response, and resilience strategies.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience



Climate Vulnerability Assessment & LA County Heat Action Plan



Left map shows the average annual high-heat days from 2006–2018; Right map shows projected average annual high-heat days from 2040–2060. The maps depict air temperatures alone and do not include the impact of radiant heat, humidity, nor the frequency and duration of heat waves.

Los Angeles County is already facing the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe extreme heat, wildfires, coastal and inland flooding, and drought. To better understand these risks, and as called for in the 2019 OurCounty plan, the County completed a [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) in 2021 to identify communities and infrastructure most at risk.

The assessment evaluates climate hazards, social and physical vulnerability to these hazards, and cascading impacts, or how failures in one system can disrupt others. It highlights both geographic areas and population characteristics associated with higher sensitivity, such as housing conditions, health status, occupation, and income. This analysis helps the County prioritize adaptation efforts and direct resources to the most vulnerable communities.

Air temperatures are projected to increase across the entire region as shown above. Heatwaves will become more frequent and severe, and vulnerable residents across the County may be burdened by heat impacts such as impaired cognition, injuries, and heat-related illness. Whereas heat has historically been perceived as more of an inconvenience than an actual hazard, the County experiences over 200 excess deaths annually, on average, during extreme heat.

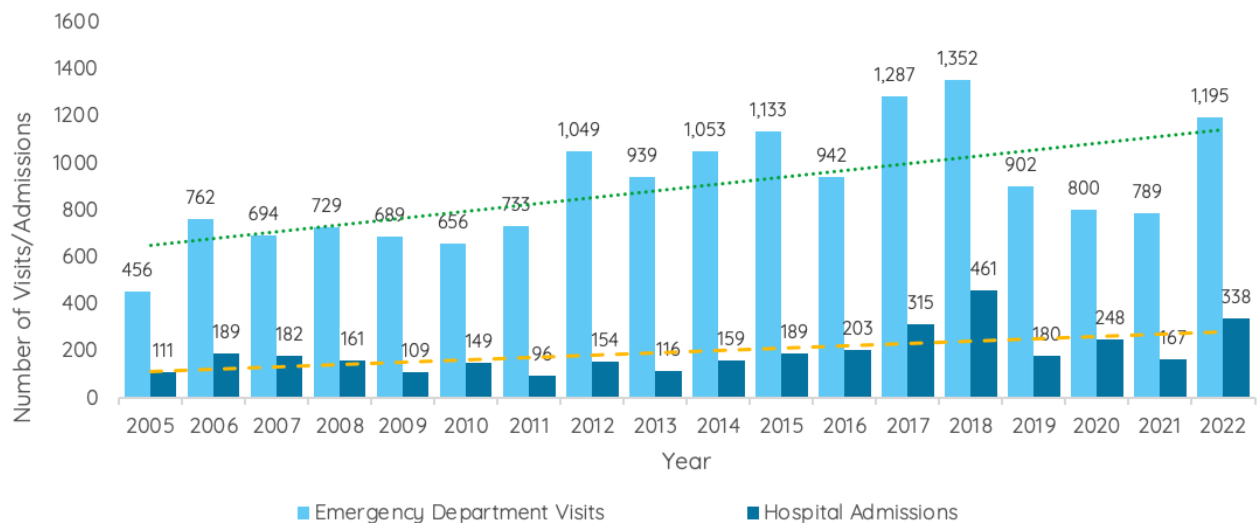
The County has already taken important steps to mitigate heat impacts, including the adoption of the cool roof ordinance in 2018 and the Community Forest Management Plan in 2024. Building on this work, the County is currently developing a [Heat Action Plan](#) to guide a more comprehensive, all-of-government approach to heat resilience.

Source: Cal-Adapt (RCP 8.5/HadGEM-ES)



Heat-Stress ED Visits

Annual Number of Emergency Department Visits and Hospital Admissions for Heat-Related Illness in Los Angeles County, 2005 – 2022



Notes: 1) 2016–2018 heat-related illness Hospital Admissions estimates have been updated to include heat-related illness in infants and other corrections; 2) 2005–2015 estimates do not include cases of newborn environmental hyperthermia due to limitation of ICD-9 codes

Climate change directly results in more high-heat days and, absent any interventions, we could expect more heat stress-related emergency department visits as a result. As illustrated above, we have seen an upward trend in heat-related illness hospital admissions or emergency department visits. Older adults, young children, outdoor workers, people with illnesses or disabilities, and the unhoused population are especially vulnerable to negative health impacts from extreme heat.

Data Source: LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) / California Department of Health Care Access (HCAI) yearly Emergency Department (ED) and Patient Discharge Data (PDD)



Strategy 2B: Transition to sustainable and healthy building design and construction

Local governments have tremendous influence in shaping the future building stock. Priorities should include energy- and carbon-efficient buildings that also support occupant health and well-being.

CALGreen, California's Green Building Standards Code, is the nation's first statewide green building code, setting minimum requirements for sustainable design, construction, and operation. Local jurisdictions can exceed CALGreen and energy code requirements by adopting reach codes to further cut emissions, improve efficiency, and promote healthier indoor environments.

Meeting higher building standards can be complex, especially for property owners and developers with limited resources or technical expertise. Clear design guidelines and accessible technical assistance can help bridge this gap, making it easier to understand requirements, reduce costs, and implement effective strategies for energy efficiency, electrification, and indoor air quality. The County will lead the way through investments and improvements to its existing facilities and by demonstrating consistent and forward-looking climate change design standards for new construction. These tools and supports are essential for scaling sustainable building practices countywide.

Action 32: Continue to adopt CALGreen Tier 1 green building standards, and seek opportunities to adopt Tier 2 standards in alignment with County priorities and goals.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Water

Action 33: Establish uniform climate change design guidelines for capital project planning and develop and implement a climate capital improvement program that can serve as a replicable model for other jurisdictions.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, CSO
Partners	DPR, DRP, ISD, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Public Health



Action 34: Maximize cool roof and solar and battery installation at LACDA low-income housing facilities.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	LACDA
Partners	ISD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy, Public Health

Action 35: Provide technical assistance to building owners and operators to take action on County priorities such as energy efficiency, decarbonization, climate resilience, and indoor air quality.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	CSO, PW
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Climate Resilience, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

The Sixth Revision of the Housing Element for the County of Los Angeles

The [Sixth Revision of the Housing Element](#) for the County of Los Angeles (Housing Element) is the County's roadmap for meeting housing needs in the unincorporated areas, with a focus on providing safe, decent, and affordable homes for current and future residents. It features seven core strategies, including Ensure Sustainability in Housing Production, which seeks to align new housing with climate and environmental goals. To do this, the Housing Element includes four supporting policies: require consistency with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan; apply Green Building Standards to new development; support policies that reduce energy, water, and material consumption; and prioritize housing in locations that minimize environmental impacts (e.g., near transit or infill sites). This strategy ensures that housing growth not only meets demand, but also contributes to the County's broader goals for climate mitigation, climate resilience, and environmental justice.



Strategy 2C: Create an integrated and resilient water system

Historically, water management in LA County failed to account for the interconnectedness of all water, including groundwater, surface water, rainwater, and wastewater. This approach has led to a complex, disjointed system that is not well-suited to meeting regional water demand and a changing climate. With increased understanding of integrated water management strategies, more recent planning efforts have focused on solutions that take a “one water” approach to water resources management that recognizes this interconnectedness and achieves multiple benefits. Full implementation of these strategies, however, will require addressing fundamental challenges including cost and existing governance structures.

The County has made important strides toward supporting a more integrated and holistic water system. The passage of the Safe, Clean Water Program (Measure W) in 2018 created a new funding stream to support stormwater projects, with an emphasis on those that achieve multiple benefits, including not just water quality and water supply, but also goals such as creating recreational space, supporting biodiversity, and focusing benefits in disadvantaged communities. In 2023, the Board adopted the County’s Water Plan, which presents a regional path toward a resilient water system for Los Angeles, and was built collaboratively with communities and regional water agencies. The region must continue to build on this planning effort and implement the County’s Water Plan, investing in a 21st-century water system that prioritizes multi-benefit strategies and restores natural processes and cycles.

Action 36: Invest in multi-benefit, nature-based stormwater management solutions that diversify and increase reliability of the water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, reduce impermeable area, and increase green space and vegetation, and maximize benefits to Native and disadvantaged communities.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Cities, CSO, DPR
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Water

Action 37: Implement and adaptively manage the County Water Plan in order to realize the local water supply plan to maximize both centralized and decentralized sources, including large recycling projects, groundwater, stormwater capture, and the use of alternative water sources such as greywater and rainwater, in addition to improved and efficient regional conveyance of water.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, PW
Partners	DPH, DPR, LACSD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Water



Action 38: In alignment with the County Water Plan, support efforts to clean up contaminated aquifers and protect groundwater basins from seawater intrusion and other pollutants.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Groundwater management agencies
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Public Health, Water

Action 39: In alignment with the County Water Plan, advocate for a collaborative approach to partnering with the region's various groundwater managers to sustainably manage regional groundwater basins and develop a regional stormwater-aquifer model to improve groundwater recharge.

Horizon	Medium-to-Long Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Groundwater management agencies
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health

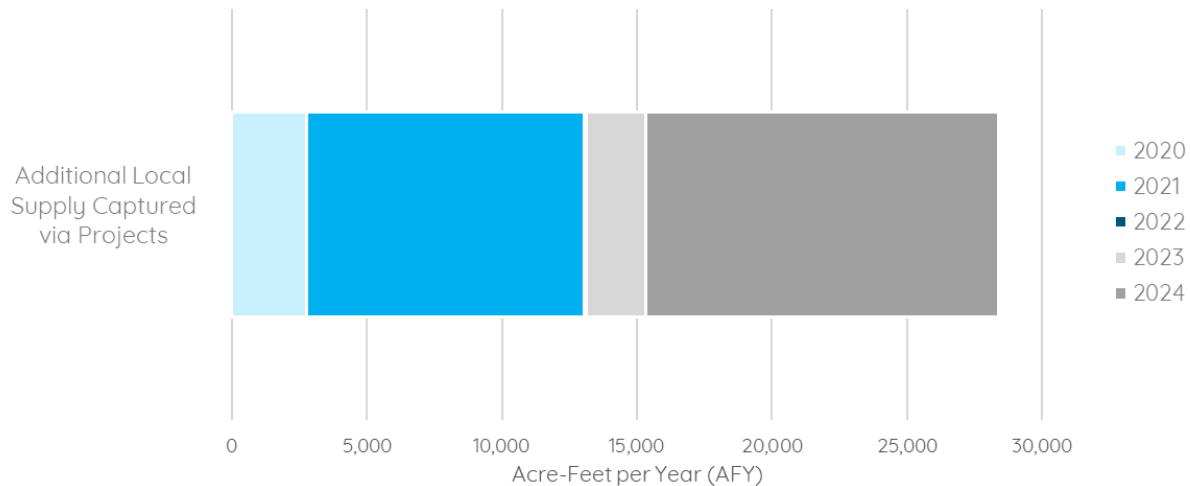
Action 40: Implement and adaptively manage existing programs to ensure effective, well-maintained flood-risk mitigation infrastructure to communities and include a mechanism to facilitate reporting of incidents by residents/municipalities to help identify and address any chronic local flooding issues.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Cities
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Water



LA County Water Plan

Total Water Supply Sourced Within LA County



Cumulative acre-feet of additional local water supply captured via projects in the County.

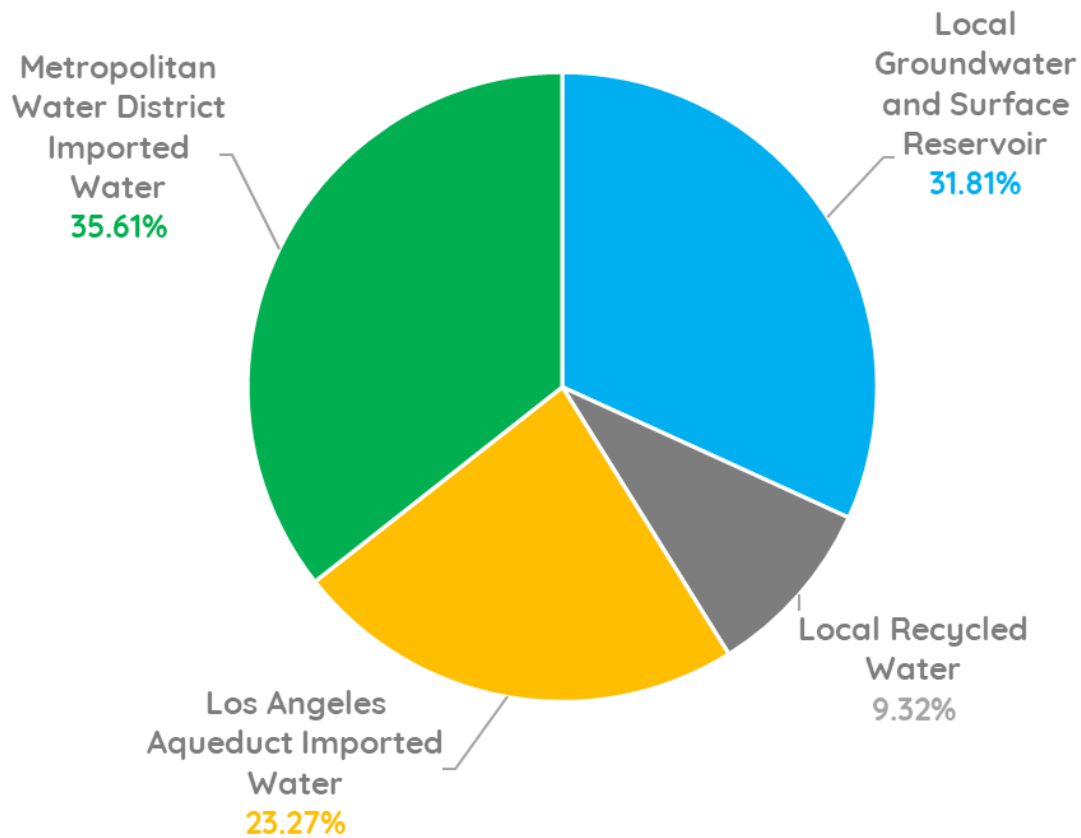
In 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted a first-of-its-kind regional roadmap called the [Los Angeles County Water Plan](#) (CWP). The plan outlines a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably and equitably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County, and it was developed through the collaboration of over 200 water management agencies, Tribes, and interested parties. It focuses on four key areas: regional water supply reliability, groundwater management, small and at-risk water systems resilience, and sediment impact management from wildfires. Each key area includes measurable targets and metrics, such as the one shown above measuring additional water supply volumes provided by local projects annually. The graph visualizes this data as cumulative Acre-Feet, enabling the County and its partners to track progress over time. For example, the CWP includes a target to increase local supply sources by 580,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) by 2045. As of 2024, just over 28,000 acre-feet have been added since 2020.. CWP Task Forces have been established to implement elements of the CWP two-year action plans. A CWP Wildfire Working Group is also preparing recommendations on regional water resilience in light of the 2025 LA area wildfires.

Source: LA County Water Plan



Water Supply Sources

Sources of Water (2023)



In 2023, LA County consumed approximately 1,286,000 gallons of water (a 14 percent reduction from the 1,490,000 gallons consumed in 2017). More than half of the water consumed, 59 percent, was sourced from outside the region, equivalent to the 2017 levels of imported water. Only 9 percent of water came from local recycled water sources, and 32 percent was sourced from local groundwater resources, also similar to 2017. More water from local sources means less energy and fewer emissions associated with transporting water long distances and more opportunity for a locally circular water system.

Data Source: LA County Water Plan



Strategy 2D: Ensure that shade and a climate-appropriate, healthy community tree canopy are equitably distributed

The community forest is an essential part of a healthy neighborhood, made up of trees on both public and private lands. Spread equitably and supported by other greening measures, a well-managed community forest throughout LA County can deliver healthier soils, biodiversity, habitats, shading from heat, and greater community health and well-being. As a part of this strategy, the County will focus on implementing Room to Grow, the County's first ever Community Forest Management Plan, which prioritizes resilient, climate-appropriate trees and shade equity. The plan also supports conserving mature trees and properly managing resources to ensure that trees thrive in our communities.

Action 41: Implement priority actions from the Room to Grow: the Los Angeles County Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP).

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	ACWM, DBH, DEO, DPH, DPR, DRP, LACoFD, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health

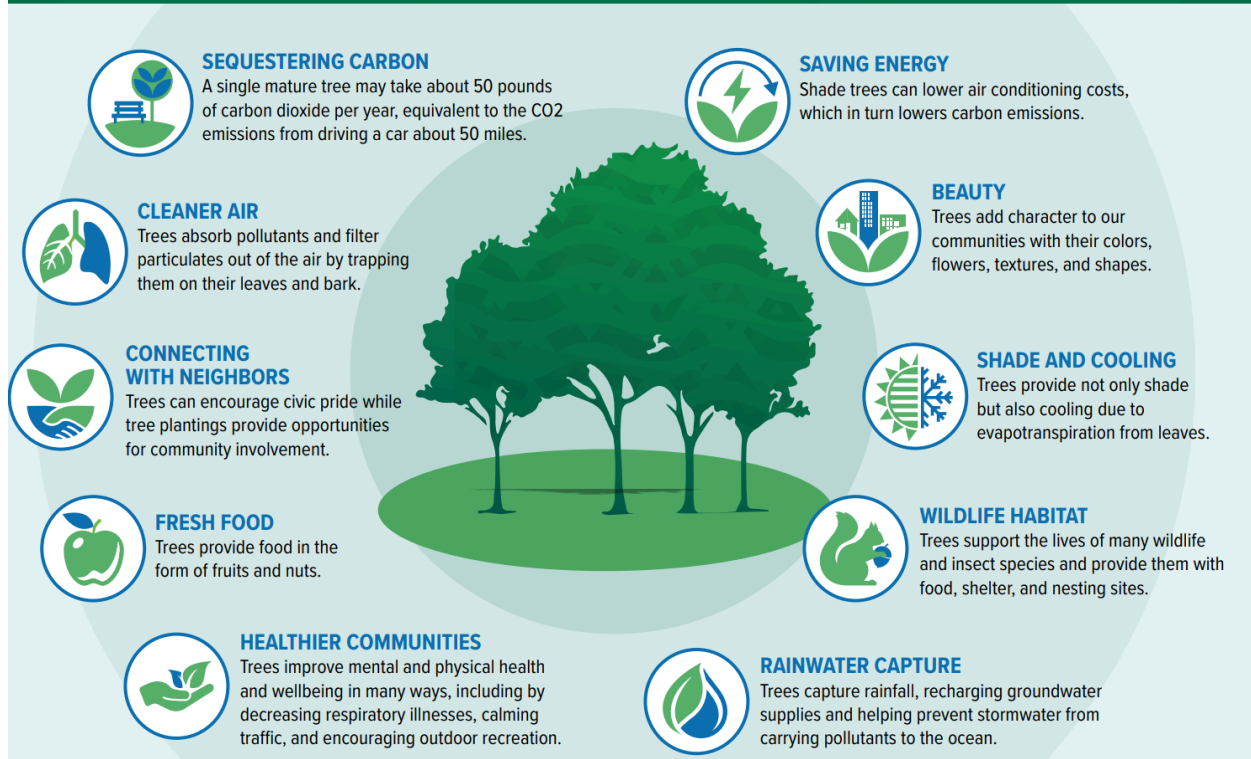
Action 42: Complete an assessment identifying early opportunities for depaving projects in multiple high canopy need communities, including on public and private property.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DPH
Partners	PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Water



Community Forest Management Plan

Benefits of Trees



The Los Angeles County [“Room to Grow” Community Forest Management Plan](#) (CFMP) is a long-term, actionable plan to maintain, protect, and expand the tree canopy in unincorporated communities. Acknowledging disparities in tree canopy cover, which ranges from just 1 percent to over 50 percent, the plan sets a target of at least 15 percent canopy cover in every community and 20 percent coverage across all unincorporated areas in total. The plan is organized around five key themes: Equitable Tree Canopy; Regional Community Forest; County Tree Management; Workforce and Economic Opportunities; and Commitment to Funding and Partnerships. The CFMP outlines actions such as extending watering periods for new trees, prioritizing depaving—removing pavement such as asphalt and concrete and replacing it with soil and growing space for trees and other plants—in low-canopy areas, and exploring strategies to support native trees and fruit trees.



Goal 3. Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement



LA County's rapid and sprawling development in the 1900s have led to much existing housing in what are now known to be high fire-hazard areas, placed burdens on infrastructure, lengthened commute times, and increased pollution. At the same time, housing production has failed to keep pace with housing demand, especially for affordable units.

By rethinking our land use and development standards, we can more effectively accommodate additional affordable housing and climate resilient growth while also protecting our low-income residents and small businesses from development-driven displacement. Infill development such as small-scale multi-family housing, combined with policy tools such as rent stabilization, can enable existing community members to remain in their homes while providing more housing options for current and new residents through more compact, mixed-use development. Land use and development decisions in LA County should pursue outcomes that are inclusive, safe, healthy, accessible, and transit-oriented.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 3A: Increase housing production and density, and limit urban sprawl

Strategy 3B: Promote walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods

Strategy 3C: Ensure that public investments do not facilitate displacement, particularly of disadvantaged communities

Strategy 3D: Limit development in high flood and high fire hazard areas

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	17 cities and/or unincorporated communities had a walk score of 70 or higher as of 2019 <i>Source: WalkScore</i>	27 cities and/or unincorporated communities had a walk score of 70 or higher as of 2024	Ensure 30 cities and/or unincorporated communities have a walk score of 70 or higher	Ensure 35 cities and/or unincorporated communities have a walk score of 70 or higher	Ensure 45 cities and/or unincorporated communities have a walk score of 70 or higher
	4,330 affordable units were granted certificates of occupancy in 2024 and 1,118 units were demolished or destroyed <i>Source: California Department of Housing and Community Development</i>	New target, no progress update	At least 1:1 replacement of demolished housing units with equally affordable units		



Strategy 3A: Increase housing production and density, and limit urban sprawl

Many of our most celebrated neighborhoods have buildings and a mix of land uses that would be impossible to recreate under today's zoning codes. Modern zoning rules largely promote single-family homes strictly separated from commercial districts and a transportation system centered around cars. Rethinking this type of zoning and targeting strategic growth in our developed areas will efficiently use our existing infrastructure. We will have new homes in urban areas that are well-connected to transit, jobs, and services. This type of growth reduces environmental impacts while creating a more sustainable economy.

Meanwhile, urban and exurban sprawl development, in which new large communities are built on the urban periphery or in even more distant outlying areas, can create significant air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as well as fire hazard, destroy our remaining natural and working lands, and threaten our traditionally rural towns. Large, new low-density areas generate more vehicle miles traveled as residents travel to essential services and require costly expansions of roads and utility infrastructure.

The County of Los Angeles will focus growth in existing communities through investing in infill housing, including "missing middle" options like duplexes, fourplexes, and small-scale multi-unit buildings, and by working to protect agricultural and working lands from the threats of sprawl.

Action 43: Update land use and development standards to facilitate production of infill "missing middle" housing.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Housing, Land Use

Action 44: Support the preservation of agricultural and working lands by limiting their conversion, particularly in high fire and flood hazard areas, and identifying opportunities for incentivizing agricultural uses.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP, OFS
Partners	State agencies
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use



Strategy 3B: Promote walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods

The County will take a holistic approach to making neighborhoods more livable. It will address long-standing regulatory barriers and employ new strategies to ensure that residents can undertake a wide variety of daily errands and activities within walking distance of their homes. A complete neighborhood features grocery stores, banking institutions, childcare, parks and open spaces, robust public transit options, medical services, and much more, within a small geographic vicinity. These spaces can create opportunities for more interaction and can build social connectivity and community resilience.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) plays a key role in this vision by promoting a mix of land uses and building types near high-quality transit, supported by safe bicycle and pedestrian connections. TOD has many co-benefits including health benefits related to higher rates of walking and biking as well as cleaner air due to reduced car usage. OurCounty supports this pattern of development with policies shaping urban design, building density, right-sized parking, and first/last mile services that support transit ridership and reduce auto dependency.

Action 45: Expand transit oriented communities, which include vital public amenities such as parks and active infrastructure.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	Cities, DPR, Metro and other transit agencies, PW
Topic Tags	Housing, Land Use, Transportation

Action 46: Develop a rubric through the County's Land Bank Pilot to evaluate properties that are most viable for the County to acquire to build affordable housing, including mapping layers with future public transit to identify opportunities for transit-oriented development.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	Cities, DPR, Metro and other transit agencies, PW
Topic Tags	Housing, Land Use, Transportation



Action 47: Promote walkability through various tools, including zoning that enables a mix of uses, pedestrian and active transportation enhancements with metrics (e.g., Walk Score) to demonstrate improvements, and public art and amenities.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH, DRP
Partners	Arts & Culture, Metro and other transit agencies, PW
Topic Tags	Housing, Transportation

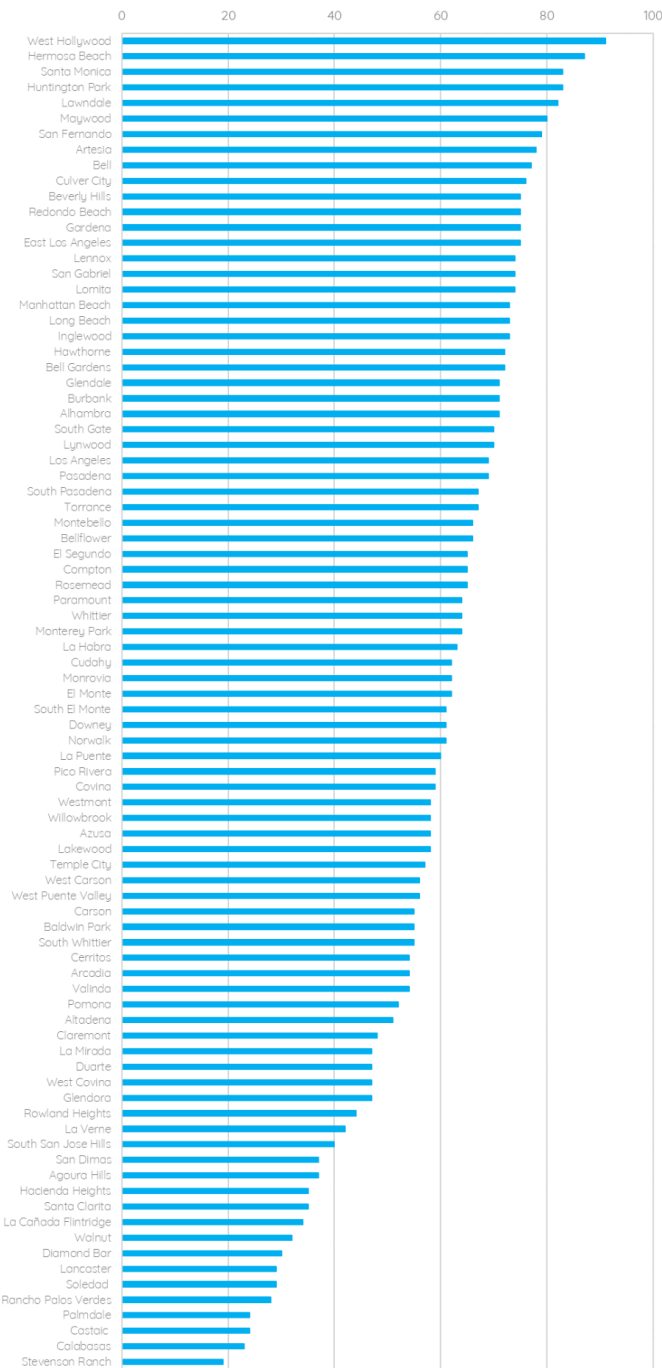
Action 48: Develop recommendations, including decriminalization practices and diversion programs, to promote public safety for all forms of mobility and transportation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	CSO, DHS, DPH, JCOD, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Public Health, Transportation



Walk Scores

Walk Scores in Los Angeles County



Walk Scores measure the walkability of towns and neighborhoods, and consider factors such as distances between amenities, block length, intersection density, and population density. An area with a Walk Score between 90 and 100 is considered a “Walker’s Paradise.” Among cities in LA County, Walk Scores range between 19 and 91, with an average score around 59 or “Somewhat Walkable.” West Hollywood, Hermosa Beach, Santa Monica, and Huntington Park rank among the highest in the County.

Walk Scores offer one lens to understand walkability, but they are not fully representative of the issue. For instance, Walk Scores do not account for pedestrian safety factors, such as pedestrian crash rates or sidewalk availability. Additionally, communities with fewer or more dispersed amenities are often the result of historic neighborhood disinvestment. As we work toward a more walkable LA County, we must also strive to address these structural challenges that can limit walkability and access to resources.

Source: [WalkScore](https://www.walkscore.com/)



Step by Step: Los Angeles County Pedestrian Plans for Unincorporated Communities

The LA County Department of Public Health develops [community pedestrian plans](#) to help enhance and encourage walkability in the unincorporated communities by identifying and addressing safety, accessibility, and infrastructure gaps. Each pedestrian plan provides guidance for completing the network of sidewalks, off-street paths, trails, and amenities (such as lighting, crosswalks and benches) that allow people to walk safely and comfortably to key destinations like parks and schools throughout a community. They also identify programs that promote walking such as Safe Routes to School education and encouragement activities, “open streets” events like CicLAvia, or Safe Passages gang interventionists to ensure safe travel to schools and parks. As of October 2025, pedestrian plans have been completed for eight unincorporated communities, including East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence-Firestone, Lake Los Angeles, Walnut Park, Westmont/West Athens, West Whittier-Los Nietos, and Willowbrook/West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria. Additional plans are currently in development for the communities of Alondra Park/El Camino Village, Del Aire/Wiseburn, Lennox, Rancho Dominguez, South San Jose Hills/West Puente Valley/Valinda, and West Carson.



Strategy 3C: Ensure that public investments do not facilitate displacement, particularly of disadvantaged communities

Public investments that affect neighborhoods, such as the LA River restoration and transit-oriented development, can impact area land values. This can, in turn, drive up the cost of housing and small business rents. Additionally, “green gentrification” is when investments in urban greening and sustainability raise quality of life and property values and push out vulnerable residents.

Proactive measures to stop rent hikes can help to prevent the development-driven displacement of low-income residents and businesses, ensuring they will benefit from improvements to transit access, neighborhood amenities, and social support networks. These tools are especially critical for low-income renters, people of color, immigrants, or other vulnerable groups who disproportionately experience housing insecurity.

Recent County legislation to establish rent stabilization and other tenant protections is an important first step. Building on this foundation, the County will continue to support the expansion of tenant protections across jurisdictions and explore models to promote long-term affordability and community ownership.

Action 49: Increase awareness of the County's Rent Stabilization Ordinances among vulnerable populations, including immigrant communities, and expand capacity of associated resources such as the tenant protection hotline.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DCBA
Partners	CEO, DRP, LACDA, PW
Topic Tags	Housing

Action 50: Promote and enhance public awareness on the Tenant Right to Counsel Program that is essential in providing vulnerable tenants facing eviction and identify and pursue funding opportunities to support this work.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DCBA
Partners	CEO, DRP, LACDA, PW
Topic Tags	Housing



Action 51: Provide technical assistance to cities to strengthen existing tenant protections and develop rent stabilization ordinances, including through convening regular housing summits for cities.

Horizon Medium Term

Lead County Entity DCBA

Partners LACDA

Topic Tags Housing

Action 52: Promote the development and growth of community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and other models for the provision of permanently affordable rental and ownership housing, including by identifying appropriate public land.

Horizon Medium Term

Lead County Entity DRP

Partners CEO, DCBA, LACDA

Topic Tags Housing, Land Use

Advancing Affordable Housing in LA County

As part of the broader effort to address the housing crisis in unincorporated LA County, the Board of Supervisors adopted the [Inclusionary Housing Ordinance](#) and two rent stabilization ordinances aimed at both expanding housing opportunities and preventing displacement. The Inclusionary Housing Ordinance requires developers to set aside affordable housing units in specific submarkets when new residential developments are being built. The [Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protection Ordinance](#) limits annual rent increases for rent-stabilized units, enacts just-cause eviction protections, and provides anti-harassment and retaliation protections. Finally, the Mobilehome Rent Stabilization and Mobilehome Owner Protections Ordinance limits annual rent increases for mobile home spaces and provides anti-harassment and retaliation protections. Collectively, these important policies are helping to increase the number of affordable housing units and ease the housing burden for renters in unincorporated LA County.

The Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSAs) is another lever with which the County is advancing affordable housing goals. Created in 2022 through state legislation, LACAHSAs is a countywide agency that focuses on unlocking financing mechanisms to incentivize the construction of new affordable homes, preserving existing lower-rent housing, and ensuring that people can remain in their homes. LACAHSAs also aims to establish new programs that offer rental assistance and free attorneys for those facing unfair evictions.



Right to Counsel Ordinance and Stay Housed LA Program

The [Tenant Right to Counsel Ordinance](#) provides free legal representation to eligible tenants facing eviction in unincorporated Los Angeles County. This ordinance institutionalizes the [Stay Housed LA County](#) (SHLA) program, a collaborative initiative providing outreach, education, and legal aid to tenants. SHLA aims to prevent tenant displacement and homelessness by ensuring tenants understand their rights and have access to legal support.

Since SHLA's inception in 2020, the program has connected over 23,000 tenants with free legal services. By codifying SHLA into law, the Tenant Right to Counsel Ordinance seeks to expand these services even further, ensuring that more tenants have the necessary support to navigate eviction proceedings and maintain housing stability.



Strategy 3D: Limit development in high flood and high fire hazard areas

Understanding the climate hazard risks for communities across LA County is essential to keeping individuals safe and not facilitating development in risky settings. Current regulatory hazard maps and forward-looking climate hazard data allow us to identify the areas that are most at risk, including floodplains and the wildland-urban interface at the edge of developed areas.

Wildfire is an integral component of ecological processes in LA County, but it is also on the rise due to hotter temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and wildland management practices. The numerous devastating wildfires across the region are a stark reminder of the risks posed to lives, homes, natural areas, and infrastructure. LA County is already seeing longer droughts punctuated by intense rain events, which not only increases fire risk, but leads to flood vulnerability. In planning for these climate-related hazards, it is important to support existing communities and better manage any future growth and development, to reduce and avoid risks and impacts.

Action 53: Incorporate climate projections into the regular updates of the building code, fire code, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and Floodplain Management Plan.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CSO, DRP, LACoFD, OEM
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Land Use

Action 54: Evaluate and implement opportunities to protect, preserve, and restore floodplains, streams, and wetlands to maximize ecosystem services.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP, CSO
Partners	DPH, DPR, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use, Water

Action 55: Adopt a Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance, and engage in and support the development, implementation, and maintenance of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	CSO, LACoFD, OEM
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Land Use



Action 56: Increase flood insurance affordability countywide by maintaining, maximizing, and expanding jurisdictions' participation in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

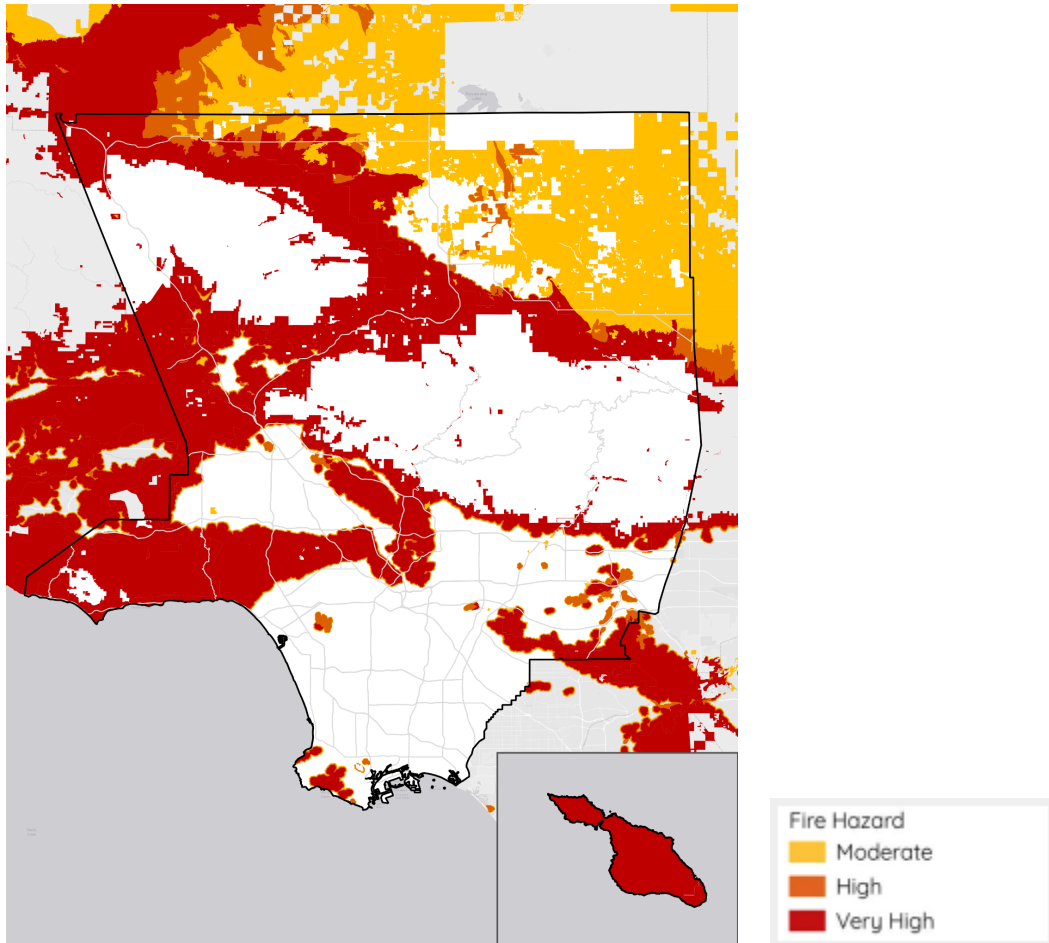
Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 57: Explore the creation of managed land buffers in high fire hazard and flood risk areas to protect communities and increase access to open spaces that can also provide recreational, local food, and other community benefits.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR, DRP
Partners	CEO, CSO, LACoFD, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use



Fire Hazard



CAL FIRE actively monitors areas based on Fire Hazard Severity Zones, which are determined based on factors such as fuel, slope, terrain, and weather patterns. Degrees of fire hazard can range from moderate to high or very high. While these designations cannot predict where wildfires will occur or provide information about risk, they represent the probability of fire occurring in a given area based on physical conditions. An updated version of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones was released in 2025. Within LA County, there are approximately 770,000 acres of Very High Fire Hazard area, equivalent to the area of 180 Griffith Parks. This is an increase from just under 650,000 acres in the previous assessment.

Data Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Goal 4. A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy



Although originally built on oil and gas extraction, LA County is shifting its economy away from fossil fuels production and consumption and toward a growing green economy. Renewable energy, electric vehicles, vegetation management, and other industries are expanding, but the LA County workforce and businesses require support to meet this demand and transition all sectors away from carbon-intensive practices.

Economic transitions have the potential to exacerbate inequality. Communities and workers that are economically dependent on fossil fuel use or extraction may face challenges in transitioning to a green economy. But with adequate planning and support, an economic transition can serve as an opportunity to implement more inclusive economic practices that will reduce inequality and support all residents. A truly “just” transition will protect and support job seekers and current workers, particularly those that are low income and/or reside in disadvantaged communities so that they can transition into a green economy with dignity and without bearing the costs of change.

Los Angeles is both the largest manufacturing center in the U.S. and a clean technology leader. This innovation can be harnessed for the greater good by supporting local entrepreneurs and connecting them to our diverse, skilled workforce. The County government will support the growth of green economy sectors and ensure that our economy is one that works for everyone.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 4A: Grow the green economy and support small businesses

Strategy 4B: Meet the needs of sustainable industry growth

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>There were 178,000 green jobs in LA County in 2018</p> <p><i>Source: LACI Green Jobs in Los Angeles Report</i></p>	<p>The LACI Green Jobs report is the latest calculation of green jobs in the County.</p>	-	Create 400,000 green jobs	Create 560,000 green jobs
	<p><i>[Baseline is pending]</i></p> <p><i>Source: ARDI</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	-	Increase the percent of adults with stable full-time employment at or above 250% federal poverty level by 2033	-



Strategy 4A: Grow the green economy and support small businesses

Transitioning to a green economy will depend on new and growing sectors related to renewable energy, building design and construction, materials management, food production, and many more. This growth presents an opportunity for LA County to embrace new industries that bring good jobs to the region and provide economic prosperity for all. The County can facilitate the green economy sectors through policies that encourage growth in these industries in a way that equitably benefits workers and residents across the County.

Small businesses are essential to this transformation; they are innovators, employers, and trusted community anchors. Their deep local roots, adaptability, and entrepreneurial spirit position them to lead in areas like energy efficiency retrofits, sustainable goods and services, circular economy practices, and climate-smart food production. By supporting small businesses, especially those in communities of concentrated disadvantage, the County can help scale climate solutions while strengthening local economies and building resilience from the ground up.

Action 58: Incentivize economic growth in sectors that are important to the fulfillment of sustainability goals, such as material recycling, through business attraction and incubator programming.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	DCBA, LACDA, PW
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce

Action 59: Support the establishment, preservation, and growth of small businesses, such as through streamlined permitting processes and equitable contracting opportunities.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce

Action 60: Promote the growth of local aquaculture operations through economic development and creation of market opportunities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	OFS
Partners	CEO, CSO, DEO, DPH, DRP
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce



Strategy 4B: Meet the needs of sustainable industry growth

A well-developed and connected workforce will support high-growth sectors in the County while improving economic opportunity for all. Everyone can benefit, from younger people entering the workforce to career oil and gas workers transitioning to new jobs.

It is critical to ensure that all jobs provide safe and healthy working environments and family-sustaining wages, especially in sectors that are traditionally dangerous and low paid. Economic equity is inextricably linked to sustainability and resilience, as lack of access to economic opportunity strains health, prosperity, and quality of life. Low-income communities are often the least financially equipped to handle the effects of a changing climate such as fires and floods, and end up suffering the most.

OurCounty prioritizes economic growth that is equitable and considerate of the County's working class. The County can address economic inequality by leveraging sustainability projects to increase access to family-sustaining jobs, and by pursuing innovative policy solutions to build wealth in disadvantaged communities.

Action 61: Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles, Just Transition Task Force, and other stakeholders to implement and expand upon the Los Angeles Just Transition Strategy.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DEO
Partners	DCBA, DPR, DRP
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Land Use

Action 62: Partner with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to develop High Road Training Partnerships that connect workers to growth sectors of the economy.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	Arts & Culture, DPH, DPSS
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce



Action 63: Select common quantifiable metrics to track the outcomes of all LA County funded training programs (e.g. graduates, job retention, wages, and mobility).

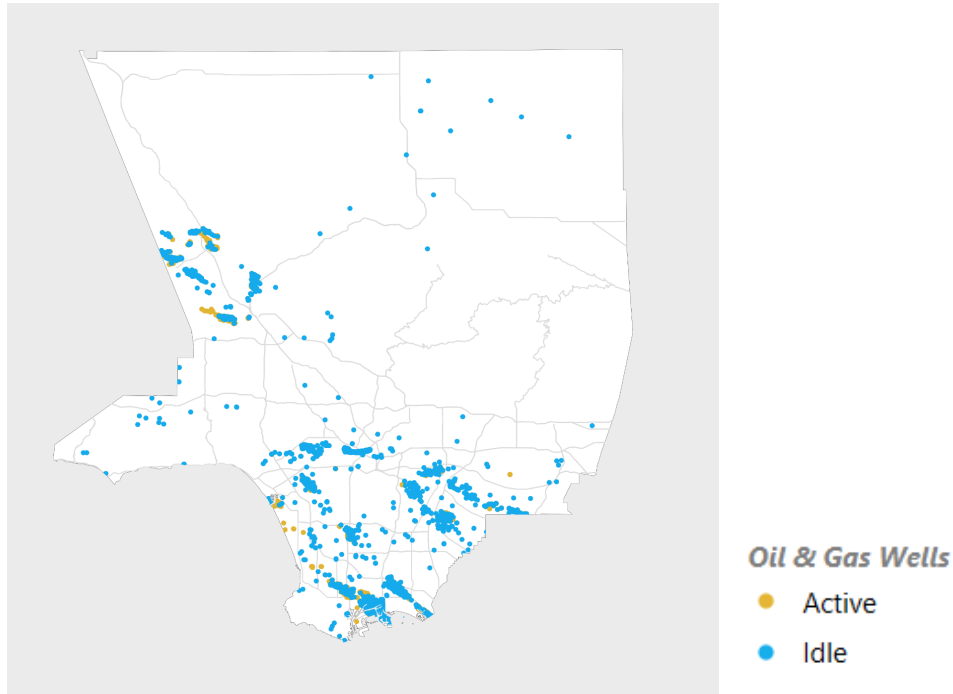
Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce

Action 64: Conduct a green economy study to investigate workforce and just transition opportunities in emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, offshore wind, biodiversity, and resource circularity.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	CEO, CSO
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce



Los Angeles Just Transition Strategy



In 2019, both the City and County of Los Angeles set ambitious goals to phase out oil and gas operations as part of their respective sustainability plans. The 2019 OurCounty plan called for a fossil fuel-free Los Angeles by 2045, while the City's Green New Deal committed to reducing exposure to harmful pollutants in disadvantaged communities and directed coordination with the County to develop a sunset strategy for oil and gas production. Today, Los Angeles County is home to about 8,200 active and idle oil and gas wells, many of which are located near homes, schools, and parks.

In 2022, the Chief Sustainability Office and the City worked in collaboration with the cross-sector members of the Just Transition Task Force to develop and release a [Los Angeles Just Transition Strategy](#) that provides recommendations to ensure a just transition for workers and communities impacted by the proposed phase-out of oil drilling and extraction activities. The long-term priority areas identified by the report are 1) support for workers, 2) site remediation and reuse, and 3) finance and coordination. Specifically, the three goals of the Just Transition Strategy are:

- Provide oil workers impacted by the phase-out of drilling and extraction of oil with the necessary support to transition their skills into jobs of comparable, family-sustaining compensation or retirement in ways that promote livelihoods and dignity.

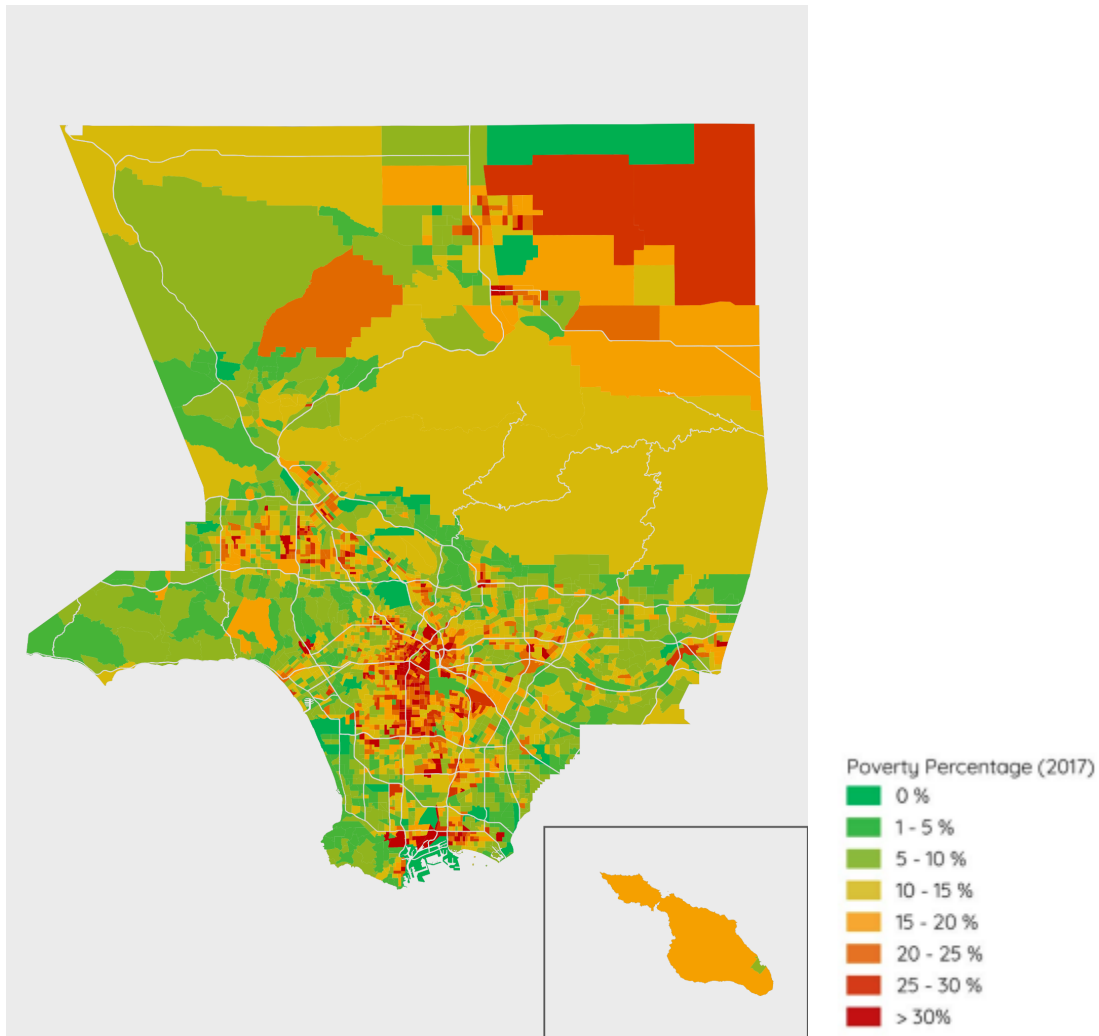


- Properly remediate and monitor impacts of closing oil well sites and integrate co-visioning and input from sovereign Native Nations on whose ancestral homelands Los Angeles is built—Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash—and frontline communities in community visioning, remediation and land use redevelopment planning processes.
- Leverage public and private funds to equitably and sustainably finance and coordinate the successful implementation of Strategy and Action recommendations, with ongoing accountability, transparency and advising from the Just Transition Task Force.

Data Source: California Department of Conservation



Poverty Levels



In 2023, 14 percent of Los Angeles County residents were living below the national poverty level. This value is only representative of those for whom the poverty status is known, but it does show a slight reduction in poverty rates countywide, compared to 17 percent in 2017. Antelope Valley and South Central LA have the highest percentages of residents living under the national poverty level across encompassed census tracts, although Van Nuys and Westwood have some census tracts experiencing the highest poverty rates in the County

Data Source: U.S. Census 5-Year American Community Survey



Goal 5. Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity



Los Angeles County's landscapes encompass islands, mountains, deserts, rivers, lakes, beaches, and coastlines—supporting a remarkable diversity of ecosystems and species. The region is home to the largest number of threatened and endangered plants and animals in the continental United States and is the most urbanized area to be designated one of Conservation International's global biodiversity hotspots.

These natural spaces not only provide critical habitat for wildlife, but also offer residents opportunities for recreation, cultural activities, and connection with nature, contributing significantly to health, well-being, and community identity. Yet, these landscapes face growing stress from climate change, urbanization, and a legacy of land use decisions that have fragmented ecosystems and reduced biodiversity. Coastal and ocean ecosystems are also under pressure, despite their vital role in regulating climate, supporting marine biodiversity, and sustaining local economies and food systems.

The Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) underscores the importance of both protecting natural lands and restoring degraded lands, particularly in urban and historically underserved areas. These efforts are essential to expanding access to nature, enhancing biodiversity, and building regional resilience.

The County of Los Angeles will continue to advance efforts to conserve natural habitats, including coastal and ocean ecosystems, restore degraded lands, and expand inclusive access to parks and open spaces, ensuring that public lands and waters serve as vital assets for people, flora, and fauna.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 5A: Increase ecosystem function, habitat quality, and connectivity, and prevent the loss of native biodiversity in the region

Strategy 5B: Preserve and enhance open space, waterways, and priority ecological areas

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>The percentage of conserved area is 31% of LA County’s total land area in 2025</p> <p><i>Source: California Conserved Areas Explorer</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	<p>Increase the percentage of conserved area to 35% of total County land area</p>	<p>Increase the percentage of conserved area to 40% of total County land area</p>	<p>Increase the percentage of conserved area to 45% of total County land area</p>



Strategy 5A: Increase ecosystem function, habitat quality, and connectivity, and prevent the loss of native biodiversity in the region

Los Angeles County is an international biodiversity hotspot, and protecting biodiversity requires intentional management. For example, creating and sustaining linkages between habitats is critical to supporting healthy populations of many species, especially large carnivores that require substantial space. Habitat linkages also provide opportunities for species' ranges to shift in response to climate change, urbanization, or other disturbances.

Conservation and ecosystem management are also essential to combating climate change. Natural lands and healthy ecosystems, such as wetlands and forests, can help store carbon and improve climate resilience.

The County has a large role to play in protecting our diverse and rich habitats. Specifically, it has influence over large swaths of unincorporated land including many of the region's waterways, such as the LA River, that were heavily altered through channelization to provide flood protection. While flood risk management is critical, these alterations can also result in disruption of natural processes such as sediment transport, leading to cascading effects throughout the watershed all the way to the coast. The County also has influence over smaller pieces of land interspersed throughout urban spaces where urban habitats can thrive.

Action 65: Pursue strategies to protect biodiversity from human activity impacts, such as conducting wildlife connectivity analyses and land conversion assessments.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	Cities, CSO, DBH, DPR
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 66: Support the development of wildlife crossings and habitat corridors at critical habitat connectivity points, including in urban areas.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	DPR, NHM
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use



Action 67: Develop a native plants policy for County managed facilities, including development of resources that can support conversion of traditional landscaping to native and drought tolerant options.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DBH, DPR, ISD, Library, NHM, PW
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 68: Increase coordination and expand training for County and affiliated personnel to promote the selection of native, climate-resilient species that strengthen biodiversity, fire resistance, stormwater capture, and regional habitat connectivity.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DPR
Partners	CIO, DBH, DRP, LACoFD, NHM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 69: Increase the number of native plants, trees, and pollinator/bird friendly landscapes on public properties for education and habitat connectivity.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	ISD, DPR
Partners	CSO, DBH, Library, NHM
Topic Tags	Landscape & Ecosystems

Action 70: Identify opportunities for ecosystem enhancement for areas impacted by disturbances such as wildfires or invasive pests.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR, LACoFD
Partners	ACWM, DBH, DRP
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems



Action 71: Support and advocate for efforts by sanitation districts to pilot solutions that address nutrient pollution and ocean acidification, such as alkalinity enhancement, wetlands, or advanced monitoring systems.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DBH, DPH, LACSD, PW,
Topic Tags	Public Health, Water

Endangered Species

There are ongoing efforts within LA County to better understand the region's rich biodiversity, including how many species are endangered, threatened, at risk of endangerment (candidate species), or locally extinct. Community science is becoming an increasingly valuable tool in this work, especially in urban areas where formal ecological surveys may be limited. Platforms like iNaturalist invite residents to document the natural world around them, helping scientists and land managers identify species and better understand local habitats.

A key initiative that uses iNaturalist is the City Nature Challenge, an annual global event that encourages community members to observe and share their biodiversity findings. Within LA County, participation has grown significantly. As of July 2025, iNaturalist users have recorded 6,908 distinct species in LA County, increasing the 4,250 species recorded in 2019. This growth reflects both the region's ecological richness and the power of community engagement in conservation efforts. Some key regional resources for biodiversity include the [Biodiversity Atlas of LA](#) and the [LA Nature Map](#).



Strategy 5B: Preserve and enhance open space, waterways, and priority ecological areas

LA County has roughly 800,000 acres of conserved land, an area larger than the State of Rhode Island. This represents 31 percent of the County's total land area. Conserved areas support the long-term conservation of habitats and species, promote soil health, and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and ecological discovery.

In 2022, the County completed an updated assessment of open space called the Parks Needs Assessment Plus. This foundational resource provides an up-to-date understanding of the scale of available open space and identifies the need to protect and create more open space, especially in certain disadvantaged communities.

The County will lead by intensifying its efforts to conserve land and partnering with other jurisdictions to align policies and programs to preserve and enhance regional open space.

Action 72: Implement the countywide Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) to meet the 30x30 goal, prioritizing open space preservation and acquisition in priority areas for environmental conservation and restoration.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR
Partners	CSO, DBH, DRP
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use

Action 73: Support strategies to preserve and protect priority ecological sites, supporting sites, and priority species, including but not limited to significant ecological areas, habitat connections, terrestrial streams, wetlands, and aquatic habitats.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	ACWM, CSO, DBH, DPR, LACoFD, NHM
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use

Action 74: Integrate best practices for sustainable parks into the County's Park Design Guidelines, addressing key issues such as biodiversity and native plants, operations and maintenance, and stormwater management.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPR
Partners	DBH, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems



Action 75: Develop river corridor master plans to establish comprehensive and coordinated management guidelines for local waterways, prioritizing re-wilding where feasible, while also balancing needs such as flood management, habitat, biodiversity, and community preference.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Cities, CSO, DPR, DRP, LACSD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use

Action 76: Facilitate restoration of sandy beaches, dunes, wetlands, kelp forests, and other marine and coastal habitats that support biodiversity, economic activity, and equitable access to recreational activities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DBH
Partners	DRP, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Economy & Workforce, Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 77: Explore innovative land management strategies that enable tribal and community stewardship while minimizing administrative and financial burdens on local partners.

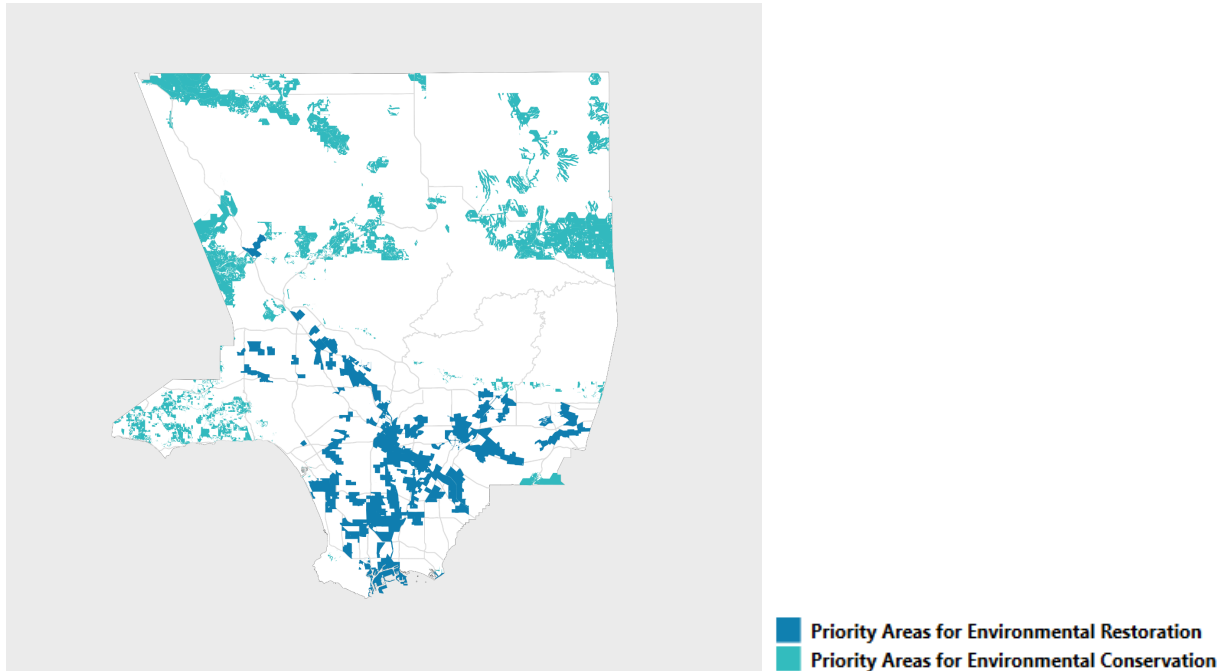
Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR
Partners	CEO, DBH, LANAIC
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Land Use

Action 78: Support sanitation districts in exploring options for beneficial reuse of brine to reduce the volume discharged to the environment as a result of wastewater recycling and other water treatment processes.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CSO, DPH, LACSD
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Water



Environmental Conservation and Restoration



In 2022, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) completed the [Parks Needs Assessment Plus](#) (PNA+) which complements and offers new information not previously included in the 2016 PNA. Specifically, PNA+ includes data about access to regional parks, open space, trails, beaches and lakes, and local parks in rural areas, as well as mapping and analyses related to population vulnerability, environmental benefits and burdens, and priority areas for environmental conservation, restoration, and regional and rural recreation. The State of California has made a commitment to achieve “30x30,” the goal of conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by the year 2030 to fight climate change, advance conservation and protect biodiversity. Aligning with and expanding on this effort, the PNA+ identifies priority areas for environmental conservation and restoration which forms the basis for a 30x30 plan for LA County. This strategy reimagines conservation through an equity lens to include both the protection of natural lands and the restoration of degraded lands, such as brownfields, landfills, and oil fields.

Data Source: LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Plus, 2022

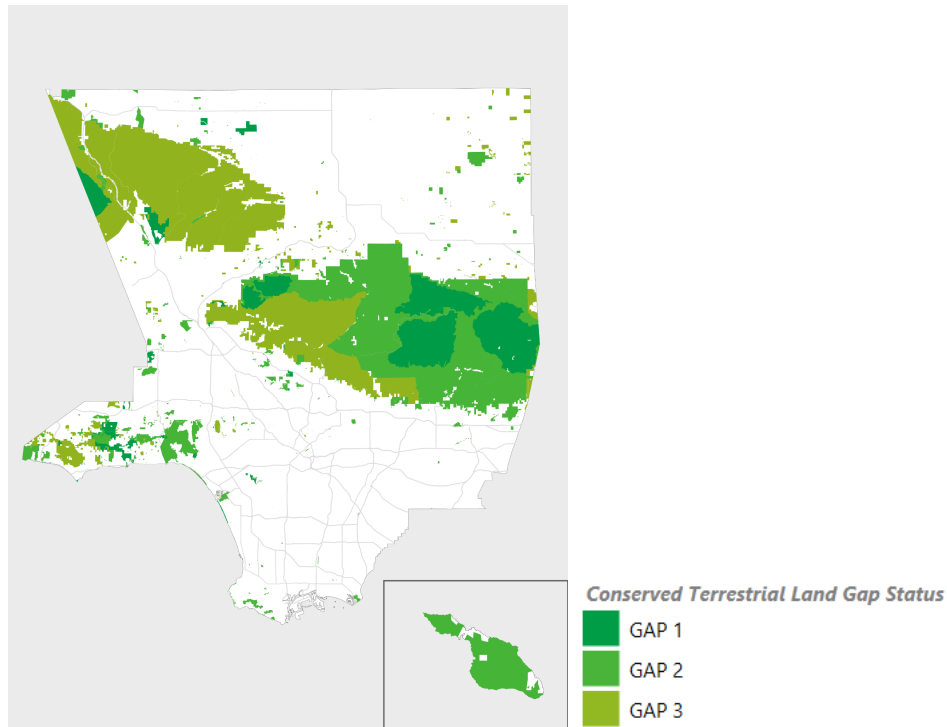


Coastal Resilience

With predicted sea level rise and intensifying coastal hazards causing extreme erosion, LA County is taking steps to strengthen shoreline resilience. The Department of Beaches & Harbors completed a [Coastal Resilience Study](#) and is developing a Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan for the stretch of coastline from Leo Carrillo Beach to Torrance Beach. The plan aims to coordinate resilience efforts across multiple jurisdictions and will be informed by both scientific data and community input. As part of this effort, the County will launch a regional shoreline monitoring program to collect data that supports long-term planning and decision-making. The final plan will identify and prioritize resilience projects, recommend funding strategies, and outline coalition structures to support implementation. The County is also developing and implementing demonstration living shoreline projects with input from coastal management partners, community-based organizations, academia, and the public and identifying innovative beach management practices.



Protected Areas



To track progress and maintain visibility toward the 30x30 goal, [CA Nature](#) provides public conservation data divided by Gap Analysis Program (GAP) Status Codes:

- Status 1: Permanently conserved land with a required management plan where natural disturbances may occur without interference.
- Status 2: Permanently conserved land with a required management plan where natural disturbances may be interfered with for a specific purpose.
- Status 3: Permanently conserved land that may be subject to extractive practices (mining or logging).

While the state's 30x30 goal counts only lands classified as GAP 1 and 2—those with the highest levels of biodiversity protection—LA County takes a more inclusive approach by also factoring in GAP 3 lands. These areas, while not managed primarily for conservation, still provide meaningful ecological value and public access. Using this broader lens, 31 percent of the County's total land area is considered conserved. Many city and LA County parks fall under GAP 4 and are not counted by the state, yet they remain vital for recreation, everyday nature access, and urban biodiversity. Sustaining these efforts—through ongoing protection, stewardship, and investment across all types of lands—is essential to conserving biodiversity and ensuring equitable, safe access to nature for all.

Data Source: California Natural Resources Agency



Goal 6. Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities



Parks and other open spaces are essential to the health, well-being, and resilience of our communities. They serve as places to gather, play, exercise, and connect with nature and for many, they are also places of cultural and spiritual significance, particularly for Native American communities. During emergencies, these spaces can provide critical refuge, and can even offer access to amenities such as sinks, kitchens, bathrooms, and shelter.

However, as a result of discriminatory land use practices and historic underinvestment, low-income communities and communities of color often have fewer parks and face greater barriers to accessing quality green space. These disparities extend beyond acreage to include vegetation, shade, amenities, and programming—leaving many residents without the full health, environmental, and social benefits that parks can provide.

To address these long-standing inequities, the County is committed to expanding access to parks and other public spaces, especially in underserved neighborhoods. Recognizing the fiscal constraints facing local governments, the County will pursue creative, cross-sector strategies and prioritize limited resources to advance park equity, protect biodiversity, and restore habitats and degraded lands, ensuring that all residents can enjoy the benefits of nature, now and into the future.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 6A: Improve access to parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces

Strategy 6B: Implement inclusive design and programming for parks, beaches, public lands, cultural amenities, and public spaces

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>49% of residents lived within half a mile of a park or open space as of 2018</p> <p><i>Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation</i></p>	<p>69% of residents live within a half a mile of a park or open space in 2025</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of residents within half a mile of parks and open space to 70%</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of residents within half a mile of parks and open space to 75%</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of residents within half a mile of parks and open space to 80%</p>
	<p>2 public swimming pools per 100,000 residents and 1 splash pad per 100,000 residents</p> <p><i>Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	<p>Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.25 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.25 per 100,000 residents</p>	<p>Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.50 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.50 per 100,000 residents</p>	<p>Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.75 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.75 per 100,000 residents</p>



Strategy 6A: Improve access to parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces

Parks and other public spaces are important amenities for neighborhoods and can serve as gathering places for the entire community. Public lands may be located in areas of special significance to local Tribes for their traditional practices. Gathering places can help build social connectedness, which improves a community's ability to deal with disasters and its overall resilience. These spaces can also serve as refuge during disasters.

It is essential that all LA County residents have access to a park, beach, recreational space, or other public land and space within a reasonable distance. Not only must these areas be accessible to everyone, but they must be well maintained and safe for our communities. OurCounty actions intend to grow and improve these assets and expand access to parks and other public lands and spaces.

Action 79: Collaborate with cities and agencies to plan, implement, and maintain parks, trails and greenways, plazas, vacant lot adoptions, and joint-use green schoolyards in neighborhoods with Very High/High park need and/or critical habitat gaps.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	DPR
Partners	Cities, DPH, DRP, Library, PW, School Districts
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health

Action 80: Implement the Community Parks and Recreation Plans, Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (PNA) and Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), prioritizing park projects in Very High/High park need areas and priority areas for regional recreation, rural recreation, conservation, and restoration.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR
Partners	Cities
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health



Action 81: Support the implementation of the County's Bicycle Master Plan, including but not limited to providing safe and convenient connections to open spaces, parks, beaches, mountains, trails, recreation facilities, transit stations, and bus stops.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DBH, DPR, Metro and other transit agencies
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health, Transportation

Action 82: Implement recommendations from the Indigenous Peoples' Day Report and the "We Are Still Here" report to address barriers to observance of traditional practices, particularly on County-owned land.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	LANAIC
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 83: Simplify permitting and administrative processes to facilitate community-led events and programs in County-owned spaces.

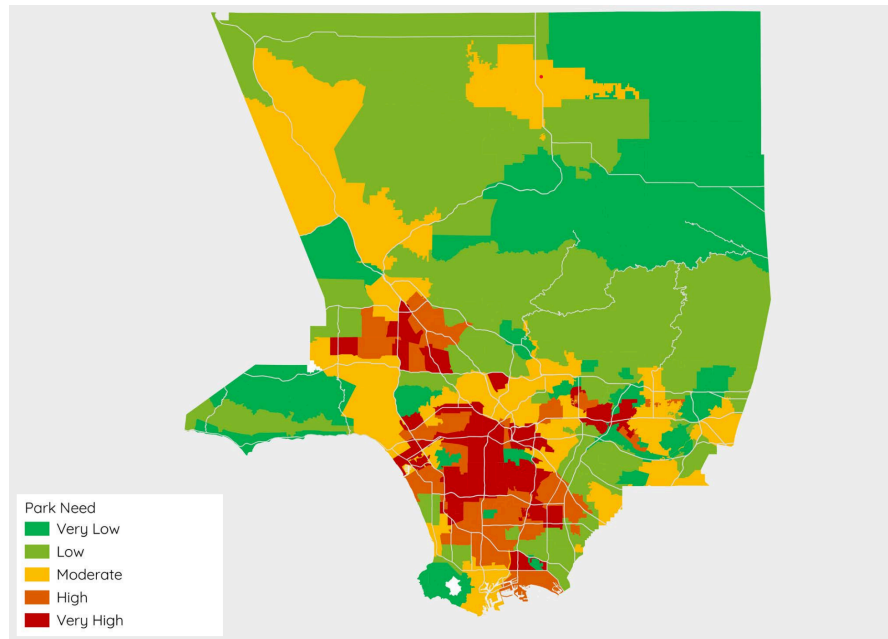
Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DBH, DPR, ISD, Library
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 84: Enhance public notification system and multi-lingual outreach to expand access to timely water quality information for recreational waterbodies.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	DBH
Topic Tags	Public Health, Water



Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment



The [Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment](#) (PNA) is a comprehensive study of the diverse parks and recreation facilities throughout LA County's cities and unincorporated communities. Prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the PNA gathered data to determine the scope, scale, and location of park needs in the County. Since its adoption in July 2016, the PNA has been invaluable in guiding planning, decision-making, and resource allocation for parks and recreation. Specifically, the PNA informs the allocation and distribution of funding from Measure A, the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure, approved by voters in November 2016.

Areas with High and Very High park need vary considerably in their locations and socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, and include East Los Angeles, Pacoima, Walnut Park, and West Athens-Westmont. The County average is 3.3 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Areas with High park need have an average of 1.6 park acres per 1,000 residents, while areas with Very High need have less than an acre of park land per 1,000 residents.

Since 2016, DPR, other park agencies, and our partners have collectively tackled park inequities by creating new parks and improving existing ones across the County, especially in Very High and High park need communities. However, more work remains to be done. For example, the 2022 [Parks Needs Assessment Plus](#) (PNA+) reveals that while rural areas are relatively rich in parkland, they are lacking in certain amenities, especially water-based recreation facilities such as swimming pools and splash pads, as well as shaded seating, play areas, and multi-use trails.

Data Source: LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, 2016



Indigenous Peoples Day Report and “We Are Still Here” Report

Both the [Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Report](#) and [We are Still Here](#) are products of a larger U.S. movement aiming to recognize the historical and ongoing injustices faced by Indigenous communities. The reports are based on information shared with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) by members of local Tribal nations and urban American Indian and Alaska Native community members.

The Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Report, published in 2021, identifies the barriers, including administrative practices and policies, that prevent local indigenous groups from pursuing cultural and religious practices on County lands. In collaboration with the County, local Tribal leaders and American Indian and Alaska Native community members provided recommendations to dismantle these barriers including waiving event permitting fees, hiring tribal practitioners for land stewardship, developing land exclusivity agreements, and mandating staff educational events to promote cultural literacy.

We Are Still Here, published in 2023, results from a motion calling on the County to acknowledge and apologize for the mistreatment of Native communities and to take concrete action to rectify this harm. Recommendations discussed within the report include establishing a Tribal Relations Office staffed with native members, creating policies for land return, providing affordable housing and tax revenue sharing with Tribes, and incorporating indigenous history into County education.



Strategy 6B: Implement inclusive design and programming for parks, beaches, public lands, cultural amenities, and public spaces

Parks, beaches, and other public spaces must be inclusive and welcoming to all residents, regardless of age, ability, language, or background. Accessible features—such as thoughtfully designed playgrounds, restrooms, signage, and trails—help ensure that people with diverse needs and abilities can fully enjoy public spaces.

Inclusivity also extends to programming. Both large regional parks and smaller local parks should offer opportunities that reflect the County’s cultural and linguistic diversity and support meaningful participation in recreation, learning, and community life. Public spaces also serve as important venues for celebrating arts, culture, and heritage.

By embedding accessibility and inclusion into both physical spaces and programming, parks and public lands can foster connection, belonging, and equity, ensuring that all communities throughout Los Angeles County are able to benefit from and enjoy these shared resources.

Action 85: Offer diverse programs and events—especially in Very High/High park need areas—to meet community needs and activate public spaces, including Parks After Dark, farmer’s markets, concerts, movie nights, adaptive and culturally relevant activities, and vendor opportunities that support small businesses, including through street closures.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	DBH, DPR
Partners	Arts & Culture, DEO, DPH, PW
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health

Action 86: Include civic art as a part of design, capital projects, climate infrastructure such as shade structures, and programming for parks, beaches, public lands, cultural amenities, and public spaces.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	Arts & Culture
Partners	DBH, DPR, PW
Topic Tags	Landscapes & Ecosystems



Action 87: Integrate artists, cultural organizations, community members, and local Tribes in planning processes and project development for parks, public lands, and public spaces to support equitable development and access to arts and culture.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	Arts & Culture
Partners	DBH, DPR
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Landscapes & Ecosystems



Goal 7. A fossil fuel-free LA County



LA County is already experiencing the impacts of climate change from wildfires to droughts to extreme heat. Advancing the County's carbon neutrality goals by eliminating fossil fuels not only helps mitigate climate change but significantly reduces other harmful local pollutants that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. With a focus on the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions, significant strides are being made to shift to a zero-emissions future.

A transition of this magnitude requires thoughtful policies and programs to ensure a just, equitable, and resilient system is put in place. Communities cannot be disproportionately burdened with the cost or the infrastructure associated with this transition. At the same time, increased reliance on electricity to power our buildings and vehicles demands a robust and resilient energy system that benefits everyone.

Leveraging advancements in new zero emissions technology while thoughtfully balancing social, economic, and environmental impacts will be critical. To this end, the County will continue to implement policies, programs, and projects to help eliminate fossil fuels and support communities through this transition.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 7A: Transition to a zero-carbon energy system that reduces air and climate pollution and that minimizes the dangers of a changing climate to our communities and economy

Strategy 7B: Create a zero-emission transportation system

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>Countywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions totaled 105 million mtCO₂e in 2015</p> <p><i>Source: 2015 LA County GHG Emissions Inventory</i></p>	<p>A countywide GHG inventory has not been completed since 2015</p>	<p>Achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions</p>	<p>Achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions</p>	<p>Achieve carbon neutrality</p>
	<p>LA County generated approximately 4,118 GWh of renewable energy in 2023</p> <p><i>Source: California Energy Commission Utility Renewable Generation</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	<p>Increase renewable electrical generation to at least 5,400 GWh</p>	<p>Increase renewable electrical generation to at least 6,500 GWh</p>	<p>Increase renewable electrical generation to at least 9,500 GWh</p>
	<p>LA County had 1,013 public EV charging stations as of 2018</p> <p><i>Source: California Energy Commission Zero Emission Vehicle and Infrastructure Statistics Dashboard</i></p>	<p>LA County has 28,281 public chargers as of February 2025</p>	<p>60,000 new public EV chargers</p>	<p>130,000 new public EV chargers</p>	<p>225,000 new public EV chargers</p>



Unincorporated	<p>The unincorporated County generated 5.5 million mtCO₂e of GHG emissions in 2015</p> <p><i>Source: 2045 Climate Action Plan</i></p>	<p>The unincorporated County generated 5.2 million mtCO₂e of GHG emissions in 2018</p> <p><i>Source: 2045 Climate Action Plan</i></p>	Achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions	Achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions	Achieve carbon neutrality
County operations	<p>County operations generated 1.3 million mtCO₂e of GHG emissions in 2009</p> <p><i>Source: LA County 2023 Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory*</i></p> <p><i>*Note that the baseline has changed per the latest inventory report and methodology</i></p>	<p>County operations generated 0.8 million mtCO₂e of GHG emissions in 2023</p>	Achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions	Achieve a 60% reduction in GHG emissions	Achieve carbon neutrality



Strategy 7A: Transition to a zero-carbon energy system that reduces air and climate pollution and that minimizes the dangers of a changing climate to our communities and economy

Energy serves a vital role in the functioning of the economy and the everyday lives of people, but an energy system reliant on fossil fuel also has detrimental impacts on local air pollution and greenhouse gases. LA County has pushed to reduce its production and use of fossil fuels while transitioning toward clean, renewable energy.

The benefits of this transition must be equitably distributed across the region, so that all communities experience the public health and resilience co-benefits. This includes expanding distributed generation and microgrids, upgrading infrastructure to support the grid, and addressing community and environmental concerns related to new technologies. Clean energy investments should strengthen, rather than burden, the surrounding communities and ecosystems, and OurCounty will work to ensure these improvements are felt by all residents.

Action 88: Develop a publicly-accessible community energy map that identifies opportunities for deploying distributed energy resources and microgrids in order to improve energy resiliency in climate vulnerable communities.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	PW, Utilities
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy

Action 89: Maximize the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property, including requiring solar on new facilities, whenever cost-effective.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	DHS, DPR, LACDA, LACoFD, PW, Sheriff, Utilities
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy

Action 90: Develop and adopt an updated Renewable Energy Ordinance that advances the development of renewable energy facilities and supportive technology, like solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems, while supporting community priorities like safety and energy resilience.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Land Use



Action 91: Identify suitable areas and incentives for the development of renewable energy technology that also address community concerns.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	CSO, ISD
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Land Use

Action 92: Advocate at the state and local level for an equitable transition away from natural gas utilities and infrastructure.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	CEO
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 93: Transition all County facilities to a renewable energy supply, including those in incorporated LA County.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, ISD
Partners	Utilities
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 94: Develop policy recommendations to ensure environmental and community concerns are addressed in emerging energy sectors like green hydrogen and offshore wind.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DRP
Partners	
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction



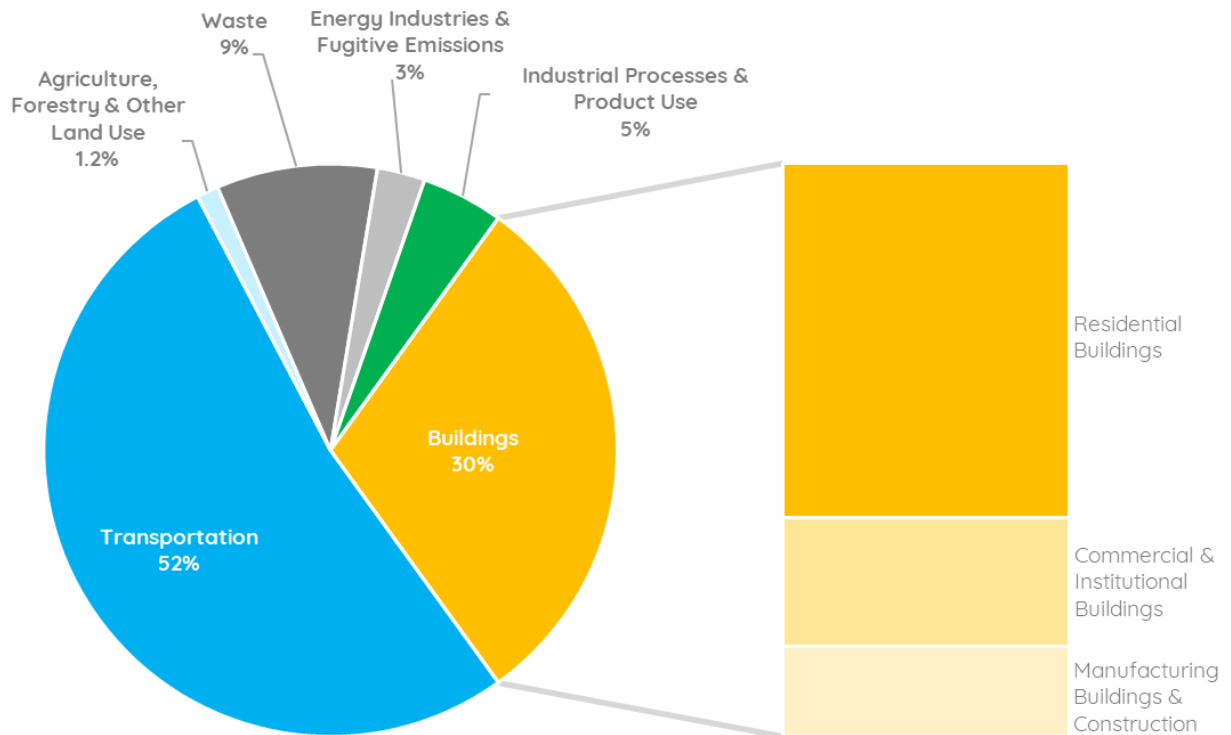
Action 95: Identify the sustainability impacts of AI on LA County and policy levers for addressing water and energy demand.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	ISD, PW
Topic Tags	Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Water



The Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan

GHG Emissions by Sector (2018)



As climate change intensifies, LA County is advancing bold strategies to reduce emissions and promote environmental equity. The [Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan](#) provides a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality in unincorporated areas, aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement and state climate mandates. Focusing on community-wide activities, the plan prioritizes actions that deliver co-benefits for residents, such as improved air quality, job creation, and public health, particularly in disadvantaged communities. It sets a near-term target to cut greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 2015 levels by 2030, laying the groundwork for a carbon-neutral future. In 2018, emissions in unincorporated LA County from the transportation sector represented more than half of all emissions. The buildings sector was the next biggest sector contributing 30 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: LA County 2045 Climate Action Plan

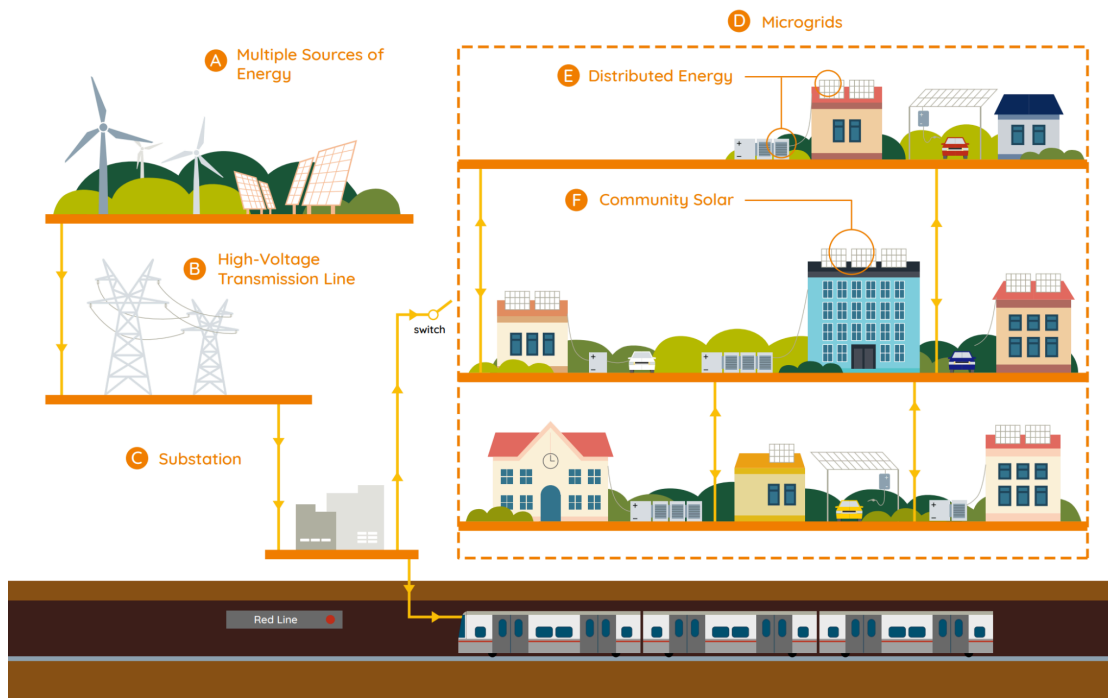


Clean Power Alliance & 100% Clean Energy

Expanding access to clean, affordable energy is central to LA County's climate and equity goals, and is why the County initiated the creation of the [Clean Power Alliance](#) (CPA). CPA is a not-for-profit electricity provider to over one million customers in LA and Ventura Counties. The majority of their customers receive 100 percent clean, renewable energy at competitive rates, which has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, and supported green jobs in the region. By giving communities more control over their energy mix, CPA plays a key role in accelerating the region's transition to a fossil fuel-free LA County.

Energy Infrastructure

Energy Infrastructure



A—Multiple Sources of Energy



Power for residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses is generated by multiple sources of energy including solar and wind sources, and stored, like in batteries, to save excess energy for later distribution.

B—High-Voltage Transmission Line

Direct Current (DC) electricity is then converted to high-voltage Alternating Current (AC) and delivered through a network of transmission lines.

C—Substation

A substation steps down the voltage and sends the electricity to distribution lines which are connected to homes and businesses, or to a microgrid that includes homes and businesses.

D—Microgrids

Microgrids are groups of distributed energy resources that can connect and disconnect from the grid to enable operation in both grid-connected and “island mode.”

E—Distributed Energy

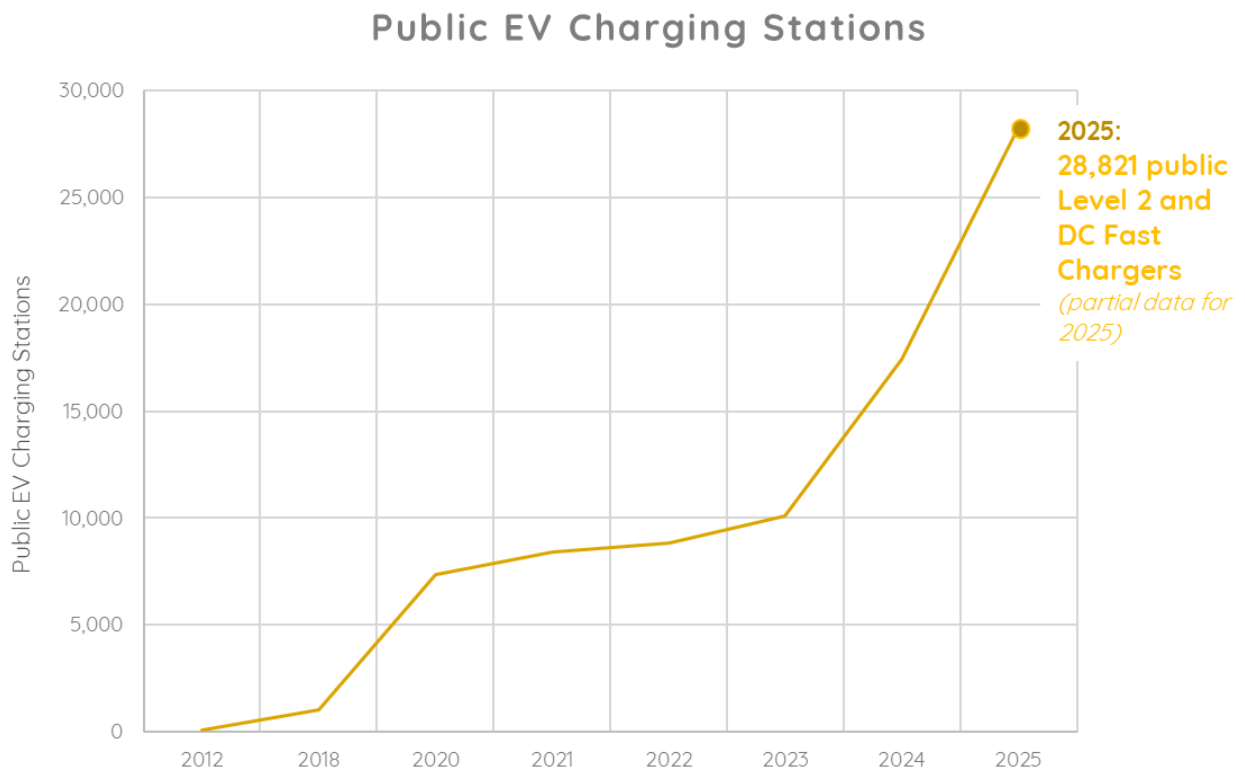
Technologies such as rooftop solar energy systems connected to battery storage can meet local demand as well as distribute power to the rest of the grid.

F—Community Solar

Local solar energy installations can generate and supply electricity to multiple customers within a specific geographic area. Participants typically pay to reserve a portion of the system’s output. As the system generates electricity, participants receive credits on their energy bill.



EV Chargers



To scale up the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), a robust network of charging stations can facilitate reliable and efficient long-distance travel by EV. As of February 2025, LA County has over 28,000 EV charging stations, up from just 1,000 in 2018 and only 101 in 2012. These stations vary in charging speed and type, ranging from Level 2 (moderate) chargers to Direct Current (DC) fast chargers, which can rapidly power up vehicles in under an hour. Level 1 chargers are also a part of the EV charging network but are most often found in residential buildings or private locations and charge at a much slower rate than Level 2 or DC fast chargers.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Strategy 7B: Create a zero-emission transportation system

For more than 50 years, California has led, and continues to lead the way, in reducing pollution from vehicles. With the advancement of zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure, the state and LA County have seen a rapid transformation in the transportation sector that should reduce pollution and deliver cleaner air, especially for residents that live near major roadways.

To drive this transformation, LA County will lead by example, transitioning its own fleet to zero-emission vehicles while also working to accelerate change in more challenging areas such as freight, rail, and off-road equipment. At the same time, we will embrace emerging technologies that reduce emissions and improve mobility options. Achieving a truly zero-emission transportation system means staying focused not only on vehicles, but also on safety, accessibility, affordability, and equity, so that all communities benefit from cleaner air and greater opportunity..

Action 96: Install 5,000 electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities and properties for public, employee, and fleet use, prioritizing locations in disadvantaged communities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	DBH, DPR, LACoFD, Metro, PW, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 97: Partner with equipment manufacturers to pilot zero-emission public safety vehicles, including a Sheriff pursuit vehicle and transport bus and LACoFD fire engine.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	LACoFD, Sheriff
Partners	
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation



Action 98: Update the circulation element of the General Plan to incorporate a Truck Route Master Plan to identify and establish specific truck travel routes for safe and efficient transport and prioritize the reduction of emissions exposure for vulnerable populations, including avoiding residential areas and sensitive receptors.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DPH, Metro and other transit agencies
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Transportation

Action 99: Partner with local and regional agencies, private freight movers, CBOs, and community members along key freight corridors to implement 'green goods movement' technologies, such as medium- and heavy-duty zero emission vehicle infrastructure at County facilities, through initiatives like Metro's I-710 Corridor Project or use of County properties for refueling.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	Metro, PW
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 100: Incentivize the transition to zero-emission cargo handling equipment at the San Pedro Bay Port Complex in partnership with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, labor organizations, and community stakeholders.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 101: Support the transition to a zero-emission rail system for goods movement by coordinating with regional, state, and federal agencies to invest in electrified rail infrastructure, prioritize zero-emission technology upgrades at railyards, and reduce emissions in communities disproportionately impacted by freight corridors.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation



Action 102: Implement the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Master Plan, including but not limited to ZEV infrastructure deployment; partnerships with relevant private, government, and non-government entities; workforce training opportunities; and advancing the County's zero-emission fleet goals.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	All Departments
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Economy & Workforce, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Transportation Electrification Partnership & Clean Energy Partnership

Regional collaboration is essential to meeting Los Angeles's climate and air quality goals, especially ahead of major global events like the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The [Transportation Electrification Partnership](#) (TEP), convened by the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), brings together 25 public and private sector members to accelerate zero-emission transportation and goods movement. The partnership has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by an additional 25 percent beyond existing commitments by 2028, guided by the Zero Emissions 2028 Roadmap.

LACI also convenes the [Clean Energy Partnership](#), which focuses on transitioning to 100 percent clean energy while meeting the growing demands of transportation electrification, building decarbonization, and grid resilience. This partnership includes representatives from state agencies, utilities, local governments, startups, and industry leaders. Through the Clean Energy 2028 Roadmap, the group aims to cut emissions an additional 15 percent across the electricity, building, and transportation sectors by 2028.

These partnerships help align regional actors around bold, coordinated action to accelerate a cleaner and healthier future.



Goal 8. A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility and quality of life while reducing car dependency



With voter-approved funding and federal grants, investments in public transportation are driving new and expanded options for residents to move away from single-occupancy private vehicles. This comes at a critical time after ridership declined during the COVID-19 pandemic and with the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games approaching.

For decades, government and other institutions, both nationally and locally, have prioritized private vehicle travel at the expense of other modes. Today, automobile infrastructure still dominates the built environment. Most LA County residents take trips in private vehicles, emitting vast quantities of harmful pollutants into the air. By developing programs that focus on reducing the number of miles people travel in private vehicles, the County will help people choose alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles. These programs will expand residents' mobility, including those residents whose limited automobile access translates to stifled economic opportunity.

The County will prioritize public transit as the most efficient way to move people. Transit will be the backbone of the transportation system while other modes and new technologies will support a reduction in vehicle miles traveled. These include walking, biking, and e-scooters.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 8A: Reduce vehicle miles traveled by prioritizing alternatives to single occupancy vehicles

Strategy 8B: Improve transportation health and safety outcomes

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>Approximately 11% of all commute trips in LA County were made by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit in 2017</p> <p><i>Source: US Census</i></p>	<p>Approximately 11% of all commute trips in LA County were made by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit in 2023</p>	<p>Increase to at least 15% of all trips by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit</p>	<p>Increase to at least 30% of all trips by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit</p>	<p>Increase to at least 50% of all trips by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit</p>
	<p>LA County tallied 21.9 average daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita in 2017</p> <p><i>Source: Caltrans</i></p>	<p>LA County tallied 20.2 average daily VMT per capita in 2022</p>	<p>Reduce average daily VMT per capita to 18 miles</p>	<p>Reduce average daily VMT per capita to 15 miles</p>	<p>Reduce average daily VMT per capita to 10 miles</p>
	<p>Average transportation costs as a share of income (Transportation Cost Index) is 17% in LA County</p> <p><i>Source: Center of Neighborhood Technology</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	<p>Reduce average Transportation Cost Index to 12%</p>	<p>Reduce average Transportation Cost Index to 10%</p>	<p>Reduce average Transportation Cost Index to 5%</p>



Countywide	<p>There were 618 traffic-related fatalities in 2015</p> <p><i>Source: Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS)</i></p>	<p>There were 606 traffic-related fatalities in 2024</p>	-	<p>Eliminate traffic-related fatalities</p>	<p>Maintain zero traffic-related fatalities</p>
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Strategy 8A: Reduce vehicle miles traveled by prioritizing alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles

Reducing the need for single-occupancy and privately owned vehicles promotes health and cleaner air, and lessens the impact of cars on the environment. LA County voters have taken steps over the past decade to commit to public transit through the passages of Measures R and M.

Providing people with real alternatives to sitting alone in a car can improve the quality of life for everyone, not just those who have a car. Innovations such as ride-hailing services, micromobility services like on-demand scooters, and autonomous vehicles are dramatically changing the County's transportation network. At the same time, the growing prevalence of telecommuting, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is creating a trend of fewer commuting trips, alleviating rush hour congestion. Still, after an initial decline, private passenger vehicle miles are quickly rebounding to pre-pandemic levels.

By proactively engaging with new transportation options and expanding transit through partnerships with LA Metro and Metrolink, among others, the County can increase the likelihood that people choose alternatives to private vehicles, and that these alternatives are equitably implemented. This need is further underscored by upcoming large-scale special events, like the World Cup and Olympic and Paralympic Games, which require coordinated investments in multimodal infrastructure, wayfinding, and crowd management to reduce congestion and maximize safety and accessibility.

Shifting away from a car-dominated approach will also help free up land and infrastructure currently dedicated to automobiles so that it may be used instead for housing, public space, and other people-centered priorities.

Action 103: Support Metro and City of Los Angeles efforts to develop and implement a "Transit First" policy that prioritizes public transportation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Metro and other transit agencies
Topic Tags	Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Public Health, Transportation



Action 104: Support Metro's efforts to install bus-only lanes and signal prioritization along major thoroughfares, as well as their coordination with transit agencies and neighboring jurisdictions to plan and install full bus rapid transit infrastructure along priority corridors.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Cities, Metro and other transit agencies
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 105: Enhance parking strategies to expand the use of active transportation and maximize land use efficiency, such as eliminating minimum parking requirements for all new residential units, establishing parking maximums within half a mile of high quality transit stops, creating and expanding parking benefit districts, and incentives for developers to provide less than maximum allowable parking.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	PW, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Housing, Land Use, Transportation

Action 106: Develop and implement a transportation demand management (TDM) ordinance that requires developers to incorporate measures such as subsidized transit passes and car share.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, PW
Partners	DRP, Metro and other transit agencies
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 107: Evaluate and implement demand-based parking pricing at County facilities and on County streets where appropriate.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	Sheriff
Topic Tags	Transportation



Action 108: Explore hoteling options for County departments to optimize space utilization and reduce commute-related emissions.

Horizon Near-to-Medium Term

Lead County Entity DHR, ISD, CEO

Partners

Topic Tags Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation

Action 109: Pilot mobility hubs and other temporary transportation interventions at County facilities during special events to test clean mobility solutions and inform future investments.

Horizon Near Term

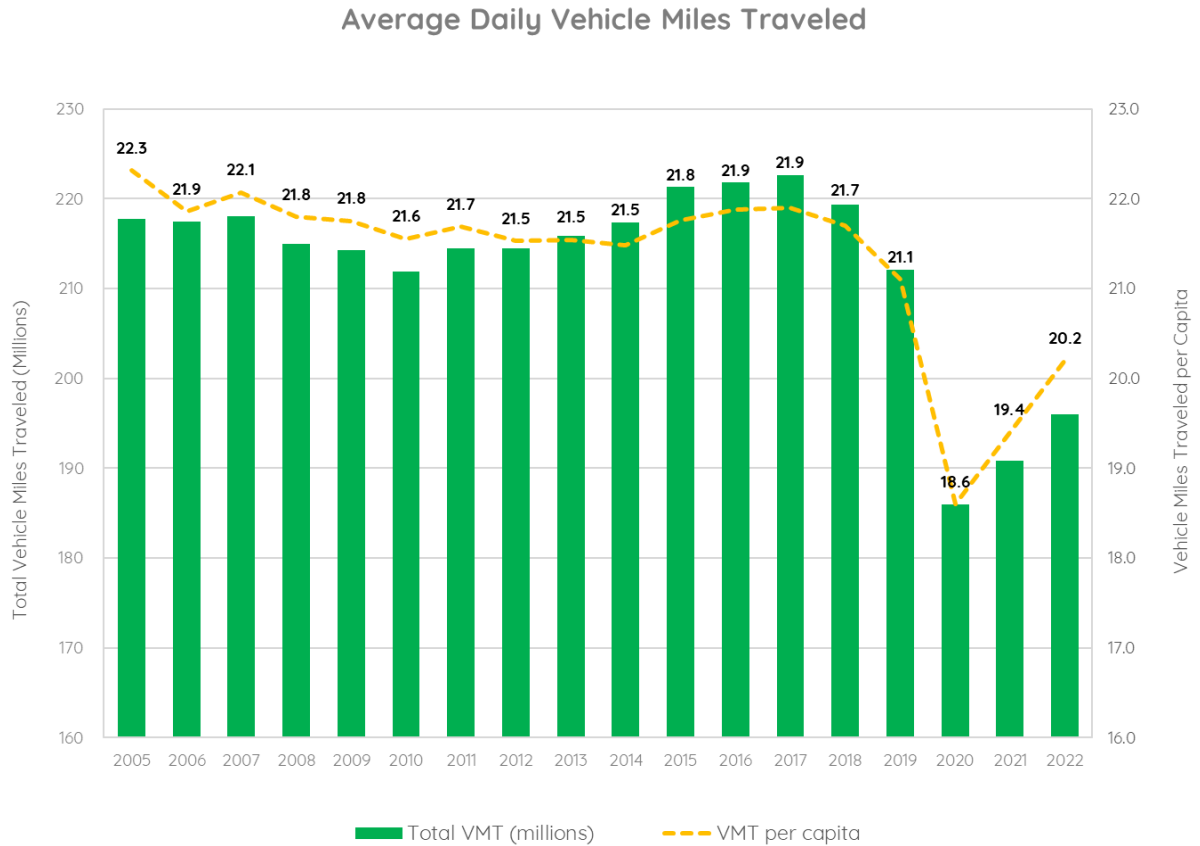
Lead County Entity CSO

Partners DRP, Metro, PW

Topic Tags Air Quality, Transportation



Vehicle Miles Traveled



Total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is one indicator of an area's dependence on single-occupant vehicle travel. This mode of travel, while often perceived as the most convenient option, is carbon- and resource-intensive. The County saw a major drop in VMT due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, VMT has begun to trend back upwards as people return to the office and other daily activities. In 2022, VMT was at nearly 20.2 miles per person per day, which is still a significant reduction from pre-COVID levels.

Data Source: Caltrans



Strategy 8B: Improve transportation health and safety outcomes

Traffic fatalities and severe injuries are serious public health threats: on average, one person is killed every four days as a result of a traffic collision on unincorporated County roadways. Traffic collisions are the leading cause of death for children in LA County, and older adults and people of color are also at heightened risk. Among all road users, people walking and biking are the most vulnerable.

To reduce injuries and collisions while also encouraging biking and walking (also referred to as "active transportation"), local governments can invest in infrastructure improvements such as protected bike lanes and paths, wider sidewalks, and better crosswalk infrastructure. By embracing a "living streets" approach, the County can further ensure that our streetscapes prioritize pedestrians while reducing urban heat and improving environmental performance. Additionally, emerging cleantech mobility solutions can play a role in reducing transportation emissions and improving health and safety outcomes.

Action 110: Implement the County's Vision Zero Action Plan for unincorporated communities and work with local jurisdictions to implement transportation safety enhancements that reduce traffic injuries and deaths.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPH, PW
Partners	LACDA, LACoFD, Metro and other transit agencies, Sheriff
Topic Tags	Public Health, Transportation

Action 111: Support Metro's efforts to explore a pilot project of congestion pricing to reduce traffic, improve air quality, increase transit ridership, and make streets safer while amplifying considerations of equity.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPH, Metro, PW
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Public Health, Transportation

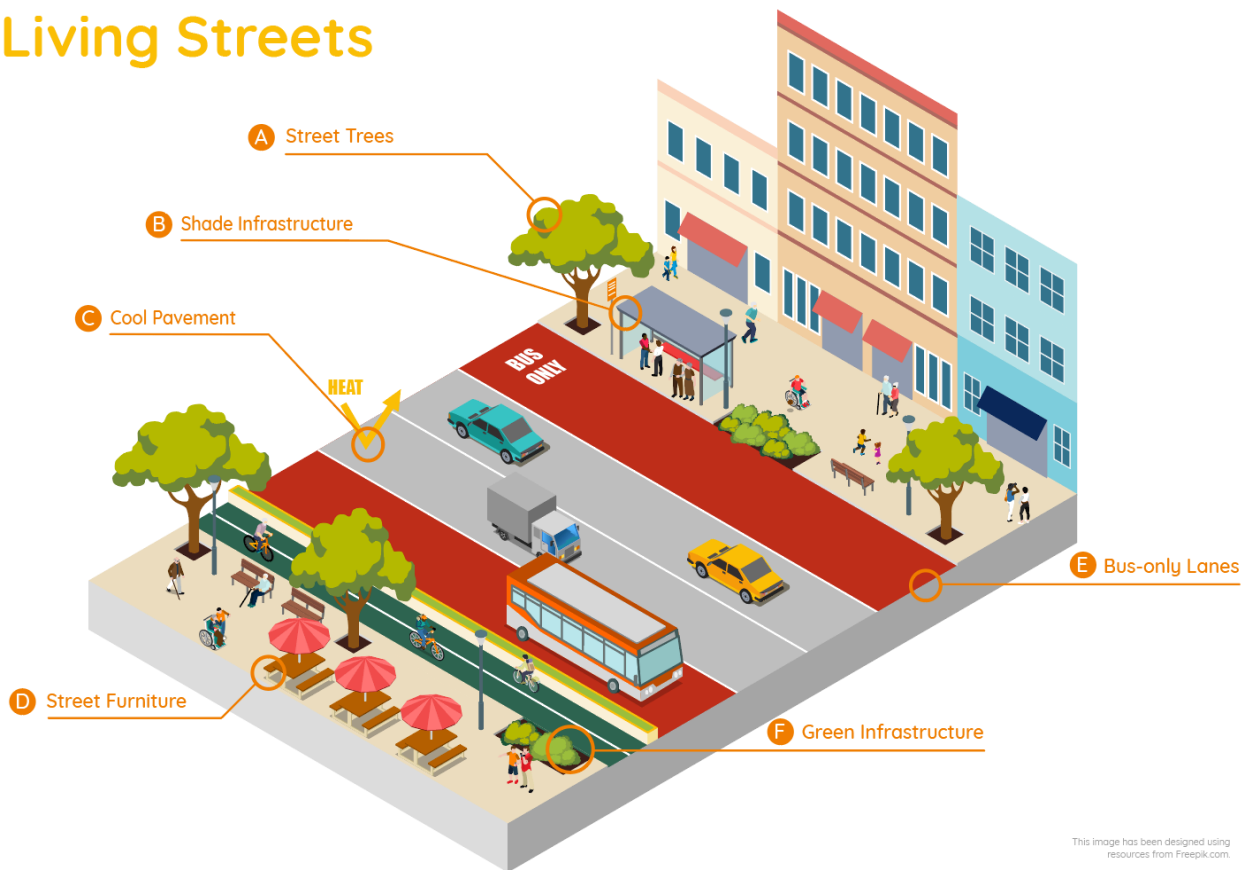
Action 112: Collaborate with cities to monitor and evaluate the impacts of emerging cleantech mobility solutions, including autonomous vehicles, on pedestrian safety, transportation emissions, and mobility to inform future testing and deployment within the region.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	Cities
Topic Tags	Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Transportation



Living Streets

Living Streets



A—Street Trees

Street trees can help reduce heat and stormwater runoff while improving air quality and biodiversity. Selection of native and climate adapted trees can minimize the need for irrigation.

B—Shade Infrastructure

Shade infrastructure such as covered bus stops or shade canopies provide cooling for pedestrians during high heat days.

C—Cool Pavement

Streets paved with cooling materials can reflect heat, lowering the temperature at ground level and helping to prevent the health and environmental impacts of extreme heat.

**D—Street Furniture**

Street furniture makes outdoor public spaces more inviting, promoting physical activity and social connection.

E—Bus-Only Lanes

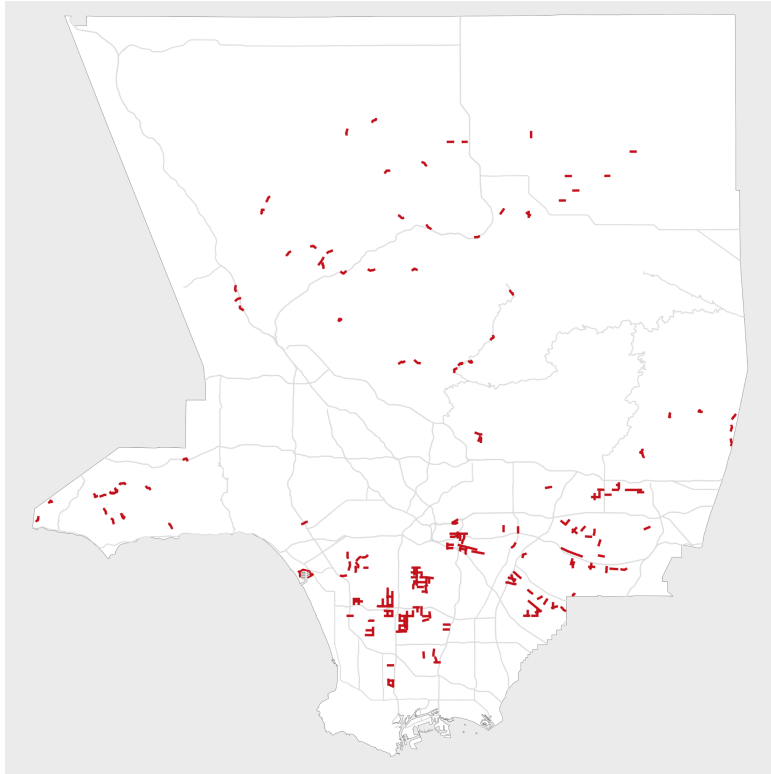
Bus-only lanes help improve access to transit, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve safety, and increase transit frequency.

F—Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales made from plants and other natural materials absorb and slow down stormwater and filter pollutants from runoff.



Vision Zero Action Plan



— Collision Concentration Corridors

Traffic-related deaths are among the leading causes of premature death in Los Angeles County. Between 2015 and 2024, 7,079 people lost their lives in traffic collisions in LA County, with 941, or 13 percent, of these deaths occurring on County-maintained roadways in the unincorporated communities. In response, LA County adopted the [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) in 2020 to eliminate traffic-related fatalities in unincorporated communities. The plan maps County-maintained corridors that experience concentrations of fatal and severe injuries, as illustrated in the map above, and includes over 60 actions to promote and enhance traffic safety throughout the unincorporated communities. Developed jointly by the Departments of Public Health and Public Works, the plan emphasizes cross-departmental collaboration to advance public health, equity, and safe mobility for all road users.

Data Source: Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS)



Goal 9. Sustainable production and consumption of resources



The resources we rely on—water, energy, materials, and land—are finite, and their use must be carefully managed to ensure a sustainable, equitable future. To advance this goal LA County must reduce waste, conserve natural resources, and manage materials across their entire lifecycle, from extraction and consumption to recovery and reuse.

To achieve this, the County will reduce waste generation at its source, expand access to reuse and repair opportunities, support circularity, divert recyclable and compostable materials from landfills, and build out regional capacity for organic waste processing. These efforts are guided by LA County's Zero Waste Plan and align with state legislation, including SB 1383, which mandates organic waste reduction and food recovery, and SB 54, which requires producers to reduce single-use plastic packaging and ensure recyclability or compostability by 2032.

Water and energy conservation are equally critical. The County will implement strong water-saving measures and reduce building energy consumption through design improvements, efficiency upgrades, and behavioral change. These strategies support a shift toward a circular economy, where resources are kept in use longer, environmental impacts are minimized, and new green jobs and innovation are encouraged.

This lifecycle approach also helps identify and correct inequities in resource use and environmental burden. While higher-income households tend to use more water and energy, lower-income communities often bear the brunt of this high resource use, whether through disproportionately high utility costs, illegal dumping and proximity to landfills, and the impacts of climate change. By embracing integrated, regional solutions and centering equity, LA County can reduce resource consumption, lower emissions, and improve the quality of life for all residents.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 9A: Reduce waste generation

Strategy 9B: Implement strong water conservation measures

Strategy 9C: Reduce building energy consumption

Strategy 9D: Capture organic waste and develop regional capacity for beneficial reuse

Strategy 9E: Divert reusable and recyclable materials for landfills

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	County residents and businesses generated 6 pounds of waste per person per day in 2017 <i>Source: CalRecycle Disposal Reporting System</i>	County residents and businesses still generate around 6 pounds of waste per person per day in 2022	Decrease by 25% overall per capita waste generation	Decrease by 30% overall per capita waste generation	Decrease by 35% overall per capita waste generation
	Potable water demand in 2017 was 116 gallons per capita per day <i>Source: Metropolitan Water District</i>	Potable water demand in 2023 was 103 gallons per capita per day	Per capita potable water demand does not exceed 90 gallons per day	Per capita potable water demand does not exceed 80 gallons per day	Per capita potable water demand does not exceed 70 gallons per day
Unincorporated	65% of waste diverted from landfills (2017) <i>Source: Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, Annual Reports</i>	65% of waste was diverted from landfills in 2021	80% of waste diverted from landfills	90% of waste diverted from landfills	Over 95% of waste diverted from landfills



Strategy 9A: Reduce waste generation

The large amounts of solid waste currently generated in LA County require infrastructural support, from storage to transportation to treatment and processing. Landfills have a finite capacity and require large amounts of land.

Our growing population and economy, particularly the manufacturing sector, create a large and complex waste stream that necessitates a multifaceted and well-coordinated approach to waste reduction. Better data about waste will help inform how to best craft long-term, multi-benefit solutions so the County can minimize waste and prevent its creation in the first place. In addition, developing equitable strategies to recycle and reuse products will support zero waste practices.

Action 113: Develop and implement an equitable strategy to address plastic waste and pollution, and support a transition to reusable products and materials.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD, PW
Partners	DBH, DCBA, DEO, DPH
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management

Action 114: Conduct a comprehensive waste characterization study of the unincorporated communities every five years.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DPR
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management

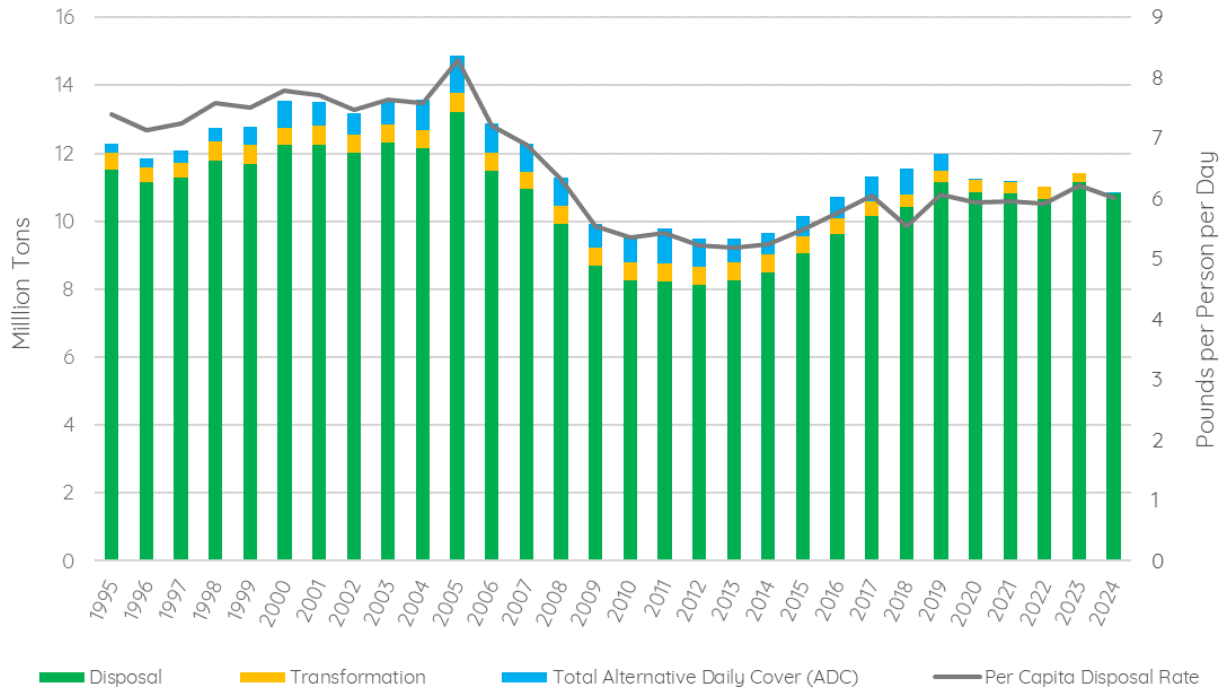
Action 115: Establish rigorous recycling programs and requirements in County facilities, pursue zero waste certification requirements at County facilities, and develop incentives for businesses to achieve zero waste certification.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, PW
Partners	DEO, DPR, ISD, RR/CC
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Waste & Resource Management



Waste Disposal

Total Waste Disposal in Los Angeles County

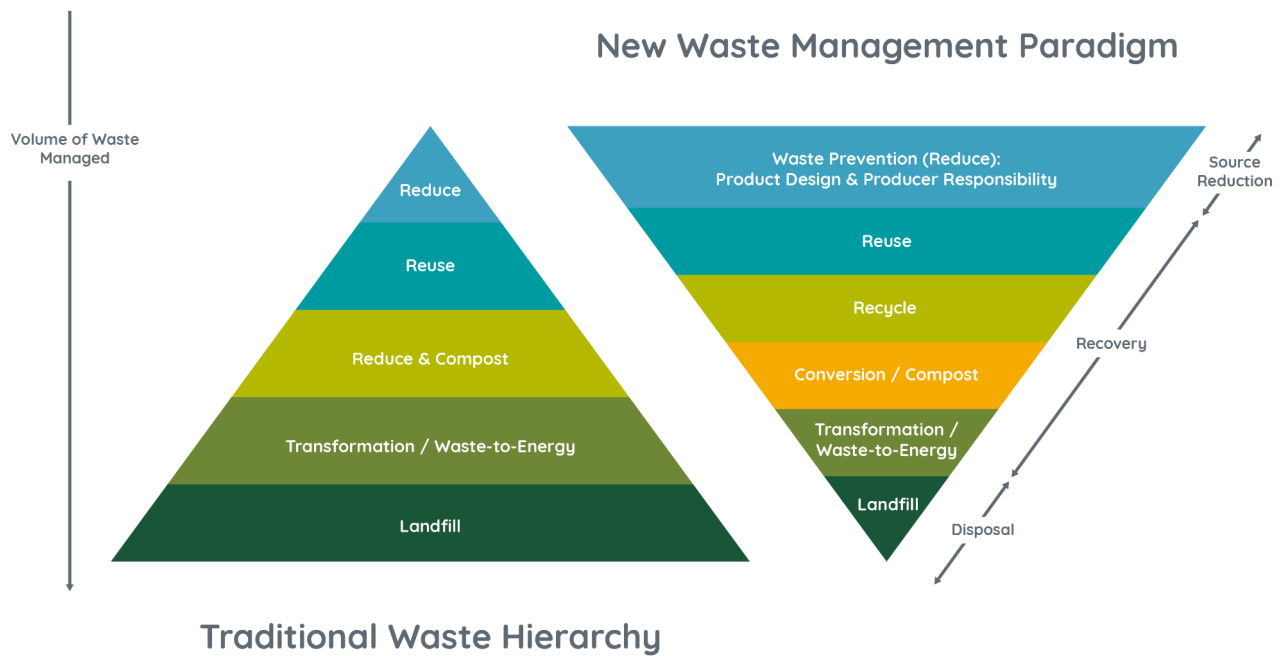


Waste disposal includes all waste that ends up in landfills. The majority of disposed waste goes straight into a landfill (Disposal) while a minority is transformed in some way so that it is cheaper or easier to dispose of (Transformation). In 2020, the state reclassified certain types of landscaping and land-clearing waste used as alternative daily cover (ADC) for mitigating odors and preventing waste from blowing away, reducing the amount counted toward recycling goals. These materials are now classified as disposal rather than as a form of diversion. After nearly a decade-long decline, waste generation rates in LA County have gone up since 2014 but also stayed somewhat constant since 2020. It is important to note that reported waste diversion may differ from the reality, as entities may misreport or illegally dispose of waste.

Data Source: CalRecycle



Waste Management Hierarchy



The County's approach to waste management emphasizes strategies that prevent waste at its source and minimize environmental harm. See the glossary in the Appendix for additional definitions and terms related to this approach.

Source: LA County Department of Public Works, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan



Strategy 9B: Implement strong water conservation measures

Water conservation is critical to a sustainable water supply that meets community needs in LA County. Conservation is also our most cost-effective strategy on the path to water self-sufficiency.

A more self-sufficient water system will increase the County's resilience by reducing wasted water and leaks and reducing reliance on water systems hundreds of miles away that are not directly managed within our region. A relatively small number of LA County residents account for most residential overconsumption of water. But many residents could conserve water more effectively, and overconsumption by anyone affects all of us.

The County will lead water conservation efforts by reducing indoor and outdoor water consumption and adopting measures that lead to lower water demand or increased water reuse and recycling, with consideration for the diverse needs of water users.

Action 116: In alignment with the County Water Plan, support implementation of the California State Water Control Board Urban Water Use objectives through local water conservation strategies, including adoption and enforcement of ordinances, incentive programs, and coordinated messaging and education.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DPR, ISD, Local water agencies
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Water

Action 117: Promote, advocate for, and ensure equitable and countywide access to incentive programs that support water conservation and stormwater retrofits, particularly those that use a multi-benefit, watershed approach.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Local water districts
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Water

Action 118: Conduct outreach and provide incentives and education in support of low flow appliances, particularly for those that may not be covered by existing incentive programs.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CSO, Local water districts
Topic Tags	Water



Action 119: Establish pilot programs for smart metering or sub-metering indoor and outdoor water use at County facilities.

Horizon Near Term

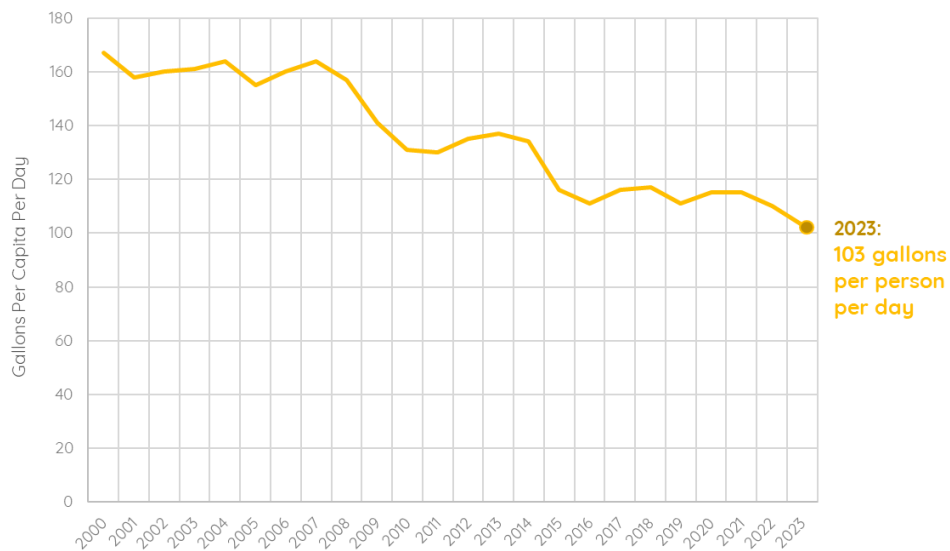
Lead County Entity ISD, PW

Partners DPR

Topic Tags Water

Potable Water Demand

Daily Per Capita Potable Water Demand



Potable water demand per capita in 2023 was roughly 103 gallons per day, reflecting a steady decline since 2000. Although our daily potable water consumption is still unsustainable in the face of climate change-induced droughts and other stressors on our water systems, the 38 percent reduction highlights the success of standards like CalGreen and local landscape water use policies. Introducing more stringent regulation, enforcing implementation, and encouraging culture change all have the power to generate further reductions and can help mirror efforts in similar jurisdictions like San Francisco, where the average daily water demand per person is under 50 gallons.

Data Source: Metropolitan Water District



Strategy 9C: Reduce building energy consumption

Energy conservation is the first step in moving toward a zero-carbon energy future. Buildings are a major energy consumer in the County, and energy use over the past ten years has only seen a slight reduction despite technological advances and the availability of much more efficient alternatives to highly polluting and wasteful systems of the past. Further, natural gas consumption per capita has declined only slightly since 2010.

While new construction presents opportunities to integrate modern technologies and design strategies, most of the buildings that will exist in 2045 are already standing today. Thus, guiding existing building owners and managers toward carbon neutrality is a tremendous and necessary challenge.

An initial step to reducing energy consumption in existing buildings is to begin tracking energy use to better understand consumption patterns and identify opportunities for deep energy retrofits. Building owners also need access to affordable capital to make these energy-saving and, ultimately, cost-saving retrofits. The County can do more to accelerate both energy efficiency and the shift from natural gas to electricity-based systems.

Action 120: Adopt a Building Performance Standard, along with benchmarking policy and supporting reach codes, for buildings at least 20,000 square feet and greater, working collaboratively with jurisdictions across LA County.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, PW
Partners	ISD
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 121: Support the equitable implementation of energy efficiency measures and building decarbonization of single family, multifamily, and manufactured homes through SoCalREN.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Housing



Action 122: Ensure that all County facilities over 20,000 square feet report their energy and water use to Energy Star Portfolio Manager, perform retro-commissioning at those facilities with the greatest energy use and/or energy use intensity, and attain an Energy Star rating when cost-effective.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 123: Develop and implement a building decarbonization portfolio plan for County facilities to support carbon neutrality.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Energy Use

Buildings are a major energy consumer in the County and represent the greatest challenge to reducing countywide energy consumption. Our buildings use electricity and natural gas to provide heating, cooling, and power to our homes, offices, and retail spaces. As represented in the Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP), energy associated emissions across natural gas and electricity in the building sector are approximately proportional to energy consumption. As the grid continues to decarbonize, building electrification will be a key strategy to reducing overall emissions as fossil fuel emission factors remain constant. When looking at just the commercial building sector analyzed in the 2045 CAP, natural gas consumption was actually lower than electricity consumption and still resulted in a higher proportion of emissions.

Source: Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP)



SoCalREN

Improving energy efficiency is a critical strategy for reducing emissions and lowering utility costs, especially in underserved communities. The [Southern California Regional Energy Network](#) (SoCalREN) delivers energy-saving programs across Southern California Edison and SoCalGas territories, targeting homes, businesses, and local governments. Programs include rebates for energy efficiency upgrades and direct installation no-cost improvements on all types of buildings and facilities. In 2024 alone, nearly 15,000 households received energy efficiency upgrades through SoCalREN, and nearly \$2.5 million was saved annually in energy costs at both public and private buildings. Through programs like these, SoCalREN helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, cut utility bills, and improve building performance throughout the region.



Strategy 9D: Capture organic waste and develop regional capacity for beneficial reuse

Organic waste includes things like food waste, landscaping and pruning waste, and nonhazardous wood waste. When organic waste ends up in landfills, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to reduce organic waste disposal and recover edible food. Compliance often requires expanded waste infrastructure, especially for communities that lack proper organics collection and processing services. These facilities, and recycling facilities in general, are unpopular in neighborhoods.

Most important to the growth of organics recycling is proper source separation of waste. Any contaminated waste streams provide difficulties to waste management and oftentimes deem waste non-recyclable. A multifaceted approach, combining infrastructure and education, will help move the region toward organic waste reduction and beneficial reuse.

Action 124: Develop mechanisms to purchase recovered organic waste products (e.g., compost, mulch, and renewable energy) through County contracts and service agreements.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPR, PW
Partners	DRP, ISD, LACSD
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Waste & Resource Management

Action 125: Promote, communicate, and expand source separation, organic waste collection requirements, edible food donation, and composting and conduct targeted sector-based educational campaigns.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ACWM, DPH, PW
Partners	
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management

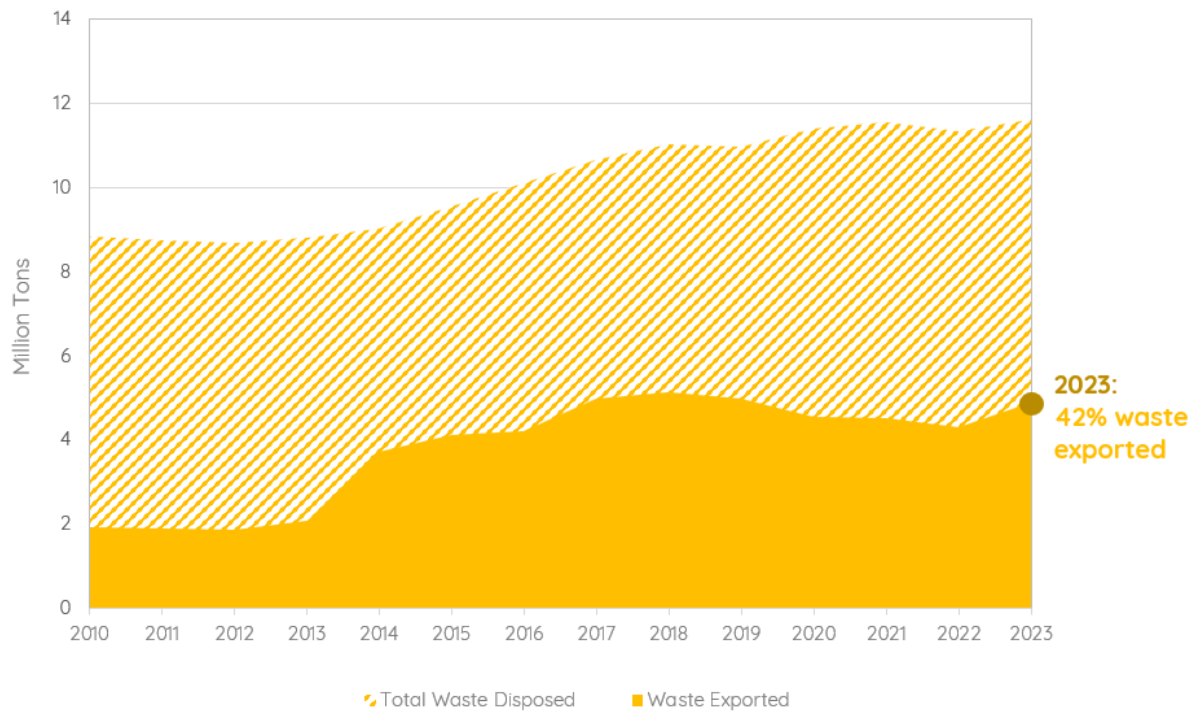
Action 126: Develop a regional organic waste processing infrastructure development strategy that addresses barriers to securing sites, streamlines permitting processes, and promotes equitable infrastructure siting by identifying suitable public and private lands.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DRP
Topic Tags	Land Use, Waste & Resource Management



Waste Disposal

Total Exported Waste



Exporting waste shifts the burden of managing waste to other regions, which may not have the same health, safety, and environmental standards as the place where the waste was generated. In 2023, 42 percent of LA County's disposed waste, mostly organic waste, was sent out of the County for treatment. Waste is exported due to a lack of waste treatment infrastructure within the County, including composting, anaerobic digestion, and recycling.

Data Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works



Strategy 9E: Divert reusable and recyclable materials from landfills

Recycling is the process of collecting, sorting, cleaning, and treating materials that would otherwise become solid waste, and then changing them into raw materials for new, reused, or restored products. Most recycled goods and materials are created in less energy-intensive ways than new, unused materials.

Recycling is one component of the County's efforts to build a circular economy: an economy that emphasizes reducing consumption, designing products for durability and reuse, and keeping materials in use for as long as possible. Residents and businesses within the County already recycle, and even upcycle, many materials, with an estimated 65 percent of the waste generated in the unincorporated areas diverted from landfills in 2021.

The County's Zero Waste Plan lays the groundwork for this transition by prioritizing waste prevention, material recovery, and local circular economy development. Supporting local markets for reuse and remanufacturing, especially in textiles, building materials, and durable goods, can support small businesses, reduce reliance on global supply chains, and create quality jobs. These efforts also align with SB 54, which requires producers to reduce single-use plastic packaging and ensure all packaging is recyclable or compostable by 2032.

Action 127: Expand use of sustainable building materials for County projects, including but not limited to recycled and repurposed material, low-carbon concrete alternatives, sustainable pavement, renewable and biodegradable materials, energy efficient materials, and locally-sourced materials.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	
Topic Tags	Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Waste & Resource Management

Action 128: Expand and support existing countywide programs that incentivize the development of local upcycling and recycling markets and quality recycled materials, including but not limited to textiles and e-waste.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DRP, RR/CC
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Waste & Resource Management



Action 129: Incentivize use of recycled materials and other sustainability practices in public art projects funded or commissioned by the County.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	Arts & Culture
Partners	DPR, Libraries, PW
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Waste & Resource Management

Action 130: Develop an equitable alternative-to-landfill facility siting and product plan.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	Cities, LACoFD, LACSD
Topic Tags	Land Use, Waste & Resource Management

Action 131: Support the implementation of the goals of the Zero Waste Plan, including waste diversion and reduction, advocating for Extended Producer and Manufacturer Responsibility (EPR), sustainable product design, and the development of sustainable waste management facilities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	All Departments
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management

Action 132: Support the right to repair by advocating for policies and programs that increase access to affordable repair services, promote community repair hubs, reduce barriers to repairing electronics and appliances, and state and federal legislation that upholds consumer repair rights.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DRP, PW
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management



Action 133: Identify and map existing programs, facilities, and partners that support reuse, repair, and material recovery across the County.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	CSO, ISD, Library
Topic Tags	Waste & Resource Management

Zero Waste Plan

The [Los Angeles County Zero Waste Plan](#), adopted in 2022, addresses the urgent need to reduce landfill dependency and greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane from decomposing waste. The Plan focuses on three strategic pillars: enhancing programs and services, measuring results, and expanding facilities and infrastructure. Key actions include scaling community composting and food recovery networks, developing waste-conscious purchasing guidelines, and improving recycling and organic waste infrastructure. By embedding equity, accountability, and system-wide change, the Zero Waste Plan positions the County to lead on climate action while addressing longstanding disparities in waste services and environmental burdens.



Goal 10. A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food



A sustainable and just food system is one in which every resident can access, afford, and consume foods that optimize their health and well-being without compromising the land where the food is grown. The global food system works primarily to support the reliable production of large quantities of food. Unfortunately, it does not adequately ensure that food production and distribution methods are equitable, environmentally sound, and supportive of community health.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of building a more resilient and sustainable food system that offers affordable, nutritious food, and culturally appropriate for everyone. With one in four households in LA County still experiencing food insecurity, improving food access, enabling food recovery, and supporting local food businesses are all important approaches to addressing this chronic issue.

The County will leverage its capital assets, public services, and regulatory authority to improve access to healthy food within County boundaries while optimizing its purchasing power and business services to make food production more sustainable.



How will we work toward achieving this goal?

Strategies

Strategy 10A: Improve access to healthy food

Strategy 10B: Support the fair and sustainable production of food

Targets

	Baseline	Progress	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
Countywide	<p>63% of farmers' markets accepted Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) in 2017</p> <p><i>Source: Los Angeles Food Policy Council</i></p>	<p>74% acceptance of CalFresh and EBT at all farmers' markets (2024)</p>	<p>100% acceptance of CalFresh and EBT at all farmers' markets</p>	<p>Maintain 100% acceptance of CalFresh and EBT at all farmers' markets</p>	<p>-</p>
County operations	<p>Baseline data forthcoming</p> <p><i>Source: LA County Department of Public Health</i></p>	<p>New target, no progress update</p>	<p>Reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with food served by 15%</p>	<p>Reduce the GHG emissions associated with food served by 25%</p>	<p>Reduce the GHG emissions associated with food served by 35%</p>



Strategy 10A: Improve access to healthy food

Reliable access to safe and healthy food is a basic human need that goes unmet for all too many people in Los Angeles County. Policies and practices that segregated people by race and class throughout the County's history also drained economic activity, including food production and retail, from communities of concentrated disadvantage.

OurCounty will build off of existing programs to address this injustice by incentivizing an equitable food retail economy, maximizing the reach of food assistance and food recovery programs, and allowing LA County land to be used for agricultural production.

Action 134: Improve food access and good jobs in under-resourced communities, such as through economic development and assistance for innovative food retail models.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	OFS
Partners	CSO, DEO, DRP
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Public Health

Action 135: Maximize enrollment in CalFresh by partnering with public-facing agencies to promote the program and assist residents of LA County with the application process.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	DPSS
Partners	DPR, Library
Topic Tags	Public Health

Action 136: Enhance and expand the County's existing food donation and redistribution programs (e.g. Food DROP, CalFresh Healthy Living) to divert edible food from landfills and make it available to communities experiencing food insecurity.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	PW
Partners	DPH
Topic Tags	Public Health, Waste & Resource Management



Action 137: Expand access to affordable, locally grown produce by increasing the number of farmers' markets and community-serving food retailers that participate in nutrition incentive programs such as Market Match and produce prescription programs.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	DPSS
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Public Health

Action 138: Support the use of public and private land for community gardens by measures such as identifying potential sites and incentives, and developing best practices for joint use or shared access.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	OFS
Partners	CEO, CSO, DPH, DRP
Topic Tags	Land Use, Public Health

Office of Food Systems / Food Equity Fund

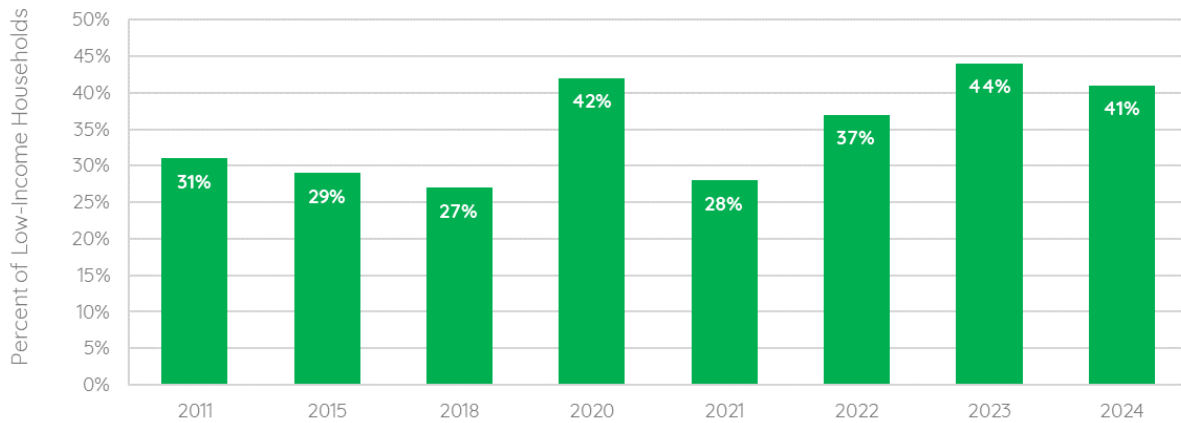
The [Office of Food Systems](#) is a public-private partnership between Los Angeles County and philanthropic partners working to build a more healthy, fair, resilient and sustainable food system. The office functions as an innovation hub, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to improve the affordability and accessibility of healthy food, increase demand for locally sourced food options, and advance sustainability across food supply chains.

In parallel, and supported by the Office of Food Systems, the LA Food Equity Fund has invested more than \$20 million in grants to 46 nonprofits addressing food insecurity. Grantees, including organizations like Hunger Action LA, Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), and Food Forward, carry out a range of activities such as community-based food production, nutrition education, and enrollment in food assistance programs. These efforts are guided by the [Los Angeles Food Equity Roundtable Action Plan](#), which aims to align resources and strategies toward a more equitable regional food system.



Food Security

Low-Income Household Food Insecurity



Food insecurity is a lack of access to enough food to live an active, healthy life because of limited money or other resources. In LA County, food insecurity is a complex and interconnected issue driven by the region's high cost of living, low wages, and limited availability of affordable and healthy food options.

The rate of food insecurity remains alarmingly high among low-income households. 25 percent of all households in LA County experienced food insecurity in the past year. Among low-income households, this rate is 41 percent.

The combination of poverty, low food security, and poor nutrition has serious consequences on the health and well-being of all residents. A lack of quality, nutritious food is closely linked to the incidences of chronic disease and behavioral health issues.

Data Source: USC Public Exchange



Strategy 10B: Support the fair and sustainable production of food

Agricultural environments and the people who produce food have historically been excluded from many federal protections, from wage laws to the Clean Water Act. Additionally, though many communities and policymakers across the world are working to prevent deforestation and its impact on climate, the increasingly global and resource-intensive food industry continues to incentivize the clearing of forest land for agricultural production.

LA County has an opportunity to counteract these trends by investing in local food production and value-based food procurement. Local farming, whether in urban gardens or on agricultural lands, creates a more diverse and resilient food supply. Similarly, value-based public food procurement can drive demand for locally and sustainably grown food, reducing local reliance on extractive global supply chains. Yet, scaling and expanding these operations can be challenging due to land access and limited infrastructure.

The County is committed to addressing these barriers by updating zoning policies to better support urban agriculture and creating pathways for small growers to distribute and sell local goods, including through food hubs and public procurement. In addition, the County will continue exploring ways to shift its own food purchasing toward more plant-based, lower-emission options to help model a healthier, more sustainable food system.

Action 139: Implement Good Food Purchasing Policy and/or other model policies that promote local, fair and sustainable production of agricultural products and seafood, prioritizing vendors with certifications for sustainable agricultural practices related to water, public health, energy use, pesticides, and workers' rights.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Land Use, Public Health

Action 140: Conduct a cost analysis of the local food system to inform the development of strategies for improving social and environmental impacts.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	OFS
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Public Health



Action 141: Promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings such as County facilities, hospitals, higher learning institutions, school districts, shelters, jails, and other food settings.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	DPR
Topic Tags	Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Public Health

Action 142: Establish a clear regulatory framework for farms in diverse environments.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DRP
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Land Use, Public Health

Action 143: Support the development of a food hub to aggregate products from small- to mid-size and disadvantaged farmers for sale and distribution to local consumers, at mid-scale.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	OFS
Partners	CEO, DEO, DPR
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce



Goal 11. Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that supports and encourages participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities



Equity in sustainability policies and programs can be achieved only if a diverse, representative mix of residents are involved in development, implementation, and management.

Methods like participatory decision-making help to equip and engage residents to advance sustainability, and efforts like the establishment of the LA County Youth Climate Commission and the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) reflect the strong interest in deeper, meaningful engagement and accountability. This can help ensure the inclusion of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented and limited from decision-making spaces due to institutional discrimination and other barriers such as language, transportation, and financial and time costs.

The County will act to create a more inclusive and accountable governance structure in order to build stronger communities and better-informed policy and programs.



Strategy 11A: Create an inclusive governance structure

There are multiple potential barriers to participating in government processes. These could include limited time and resources, lack of information, or systemic and bureaucratic barriers. Often, only well-resourced people can make their voices heard, and without representative input, programs and policies are less likely to successfully serve all residents. The County has launched a number of efforts to ensure more inclusive engagement such as the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative and the Youth Climate Commission. The County will continue to work to build trust and strengthen relationships so that residents can participate in government decision-making at all levels.

Action 144: Convene and engage stakeholders to oversee implementation of OurCounty by issuing annual reports on progress, hosting annual meetings, and soliciting community input on budget priorities.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 145: Develop a policy on stakeholder engagement incentives and best practices to encourage inclusive and consistent engagement with community members and community-based organizations.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	Arts & Culture, DPR, DRP, PW
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 146: Develop equity goals and metrics for individual OurCounty initiatives as projects are being developed.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency



Action 147: Implement new programs and policies, such as participatory budgeting, to enhance transparency and community engagement on County budgeting.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Funding & Financing

Action 148: Establish an Office of Tribal Affairs to advise and guide departments on interactions with and effective service delivery to AIAN community-serving organizations, and coordinate response to consultation and engagement requests from Tribes and the AIAN community.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	LANAIC
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 149: Implement the County Anti-Racist Policy Agenda and the Racial Equity Strategic Plan.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Economy & Workforce, Public Health, Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 150: Incorporate youth climate priorities into County plans, policies, and programs through the LA County Youth Climate Commission.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	All departments, YCC
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency



Action 151: Engage in formal government-to-government Tribal consultations with all California Native American Tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission's as Tribes whose ancestral homelands lie within the County, for sustainability-related projects or planning processes.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Land Use

Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative and the Racial Equity Strategic Plan

In July 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared racism a public health crisis and established the [Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) (ARDI) Initiative as the County's eighth Board-directed priority. Led by the Chief Executive Office, ARDI aims to advance equality, prevent discrimination, dismantle systemic racism, and address generational inequities for all residents. The initiative provides LA County departments and community members with training, policy analysis, data collection, and community engagement support. By embedding equity into LA County operations and decision-making, ARDI seeks to eliminate discrimination, reduce racial disparities in life outcomes, and ensure that public investments are distributed equitably across all communities.

Building on this commitment, the [Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#) serves as a comprehensive roadmap for embedding equity across all LA County operations. It outlines how departments can foster inclusivity, guides the development of equity-centered policies, and provides a framework for collaboration with cities and school districts. The plan not only highlights the deep-rooted racial inequities in Los Angeles County, but also sets clear goals, measurable targets, and strategies to hold the County accountable to progress. Focus areas include addressing biases and barriers in accessing healthcare, increasing job training opportunities, supporting diversion efforts, and reducing housing instability.



Climate Ready Communities and Infrastructure

The Climate Ready Communities (CRC) initiative, led by the LA County Department of Public Works and the Chief Sustainability Office, aims to strengthen resilience in unincorporated areas most vulnerable to climate change, as identified in the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The initiative focuses on preparing climate-vulnerable communities and populations for climate risks such as extreme heat, inland and coastal flooding, wildfires, and drought by identifying the most impactful and high-priority infrastructure projects and adaptation strategies to reduce impacts of climate risks and build long-term resilience. As part of this initiative, the County is developing a pilot Climate Capital Improvement Program to align climate-resilient projects across departments. In addition, Public Works is developing a Climate Ready Roadmap to embed sustainability, resilience, and climate equity into their infrastructure planning and operations. CRC also emphasizes collaboration with community-based organizations and tribal partners to ensure that resilience solutions reflect local needs, build trust, and promote equity in climate resilience.



Strategy 11B: Promote environmental stewardship and accessible education across different age, income, ethnicity, and language groups

OurCounty aims to educate and inspire residents so they may develop and share their knowledge base around environmental stewardship throughout the region. Empowering communities with accessible, localized climate and environmental data helps residents better understand the conditions in their neighborhoods.

Through increased awareness of environmental challenges and sustainability opportunities, all residents can participate effectively in environment-related government actions, protect themselves and their neighbors from climate-related risks, and make informed personal and civic decisions that positively influence the environment. Fostering this kind of transparency and shared knowledge can help build a culture of sustainability advocacy.

Numerous environmental stewardship efforts ranging from cutting-edge technologies to centuries-old Native American traditions come from this region. The County will support maintenance and revival of these efforts.

Action 152: Collaborate to create community-led programming in areas such as preparedness planning, environmental justice initiatives, and sustainability and resiliency education and outreach.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	CSO, DPR, LACoFD, LACSD, NHM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 153: Partner with non-governmental organizations to create strategic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate education and workforce training initiatives to support sustainable practices, ocean conservation, climate readiness, and environmental literacy.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO, DEO
Partners	Arts & Culture, DBH, DCBA, DPH, DPR, LACOE, Library, School Districts
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Economy & Workforce



Action 154: In collaboration with Tribes, develop a framework for inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into County sustainability projects and planning processes that ensures that knowledge and resources are recognized as intellectual property and appropriately protected and not appropriated.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPR, DRP, LANAIC, PW
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 155: Develop public-facing, online climate health data tools and resources, and host trainings, events and workshops to educate community members on how to access, interact with, interpret and use data.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	
Topic Tags	Public Health

Action 156: Collaborate with cities, nonprofits, academic and research institutions, and other partners to increase public participation in community science initiatives such as the City Nature Challenge, California King Tides Project, and others.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	NHM
Partners	Arts & Culture, CSO, DBH, DPR, Library
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action 157: Develop an accessible, centralized online hub for OurCounty climate and environmental data to support advocacy and implementation efforts across community partners, city and Tribal governments, County departments, and residents.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	CIO
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Greenhouse Gas Reduction



Action 158: Expand youth engagement and education on climate-related issues through the LA County Youth Climate Commission.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	YCC
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Equitable Engagement & Transparency, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

LA County Youth Climate Commission

Recognizing the vital role young people play in advancing climate action, LA County established the [Youth Climate Commission](#) in 2022 to ensure youth voices are represented in local climate policy. The Commission is composed of 25 young leaders who advise the Board of Supervisors and LA County departments on climate-related goals, plans, actions, and initiatives. Through outreach and engagement across the County, the Commission works to reflect the diverse perspectives of young residents and ensure that climate solutions are inclusive, forward-looking, and community-driven.



Goal 12. A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships



The OurCounty progress achieved to date is due to the many partners across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors who have supported this shared vision. Their ongoing participation will be crucial as we continue to drive this ambitious plan forward, and the County will seek to strengthen these partnerships, establish new funding techniques, and leverage its own purchasing power to advance OurCounty goals.

For the public sector in particular, our uniquely complex governance systems require coordinated effort toward identifying funding opportunities and implementing sustainability initiatives. Los Angeles County officials will reach across jurisdictions to fulfill this role, identifying and connecting funding opportunities with local partners and upholding our core values within LA County operations.

Working together on these goals, the County and our partners will make a concerted and collaborative effort toward realizing a more sustainable future.



Strategy 12A: Improve regional collaboration and coordination

Los Angeles is the most populous county in the United States, with 88 incorporated cities and nearly 120 unincorporated communities. Its complex governance includes subregional councils of government as well as regional partners such as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), LA Metro, and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), each of which has its own governance structure, mandates, and budget. Coordination and collaboration amongst public officials and agencies is essential to achieve regional sustainable outcomes.

The County will proactively seek partnerships with business, philanthropic, and nonprofit sector groups to implement OurCounty goals. At the same time, it is essential to acknowledge and reduce barriers to collaboration, particularly for community-based organizations that represent historically marginalized groups. This includes simplifying bureaucratic processes, increasing transparency, and ensuring equitable access to funding and decision-making spaces so all partners can meaningfully contribute to the region's collective resilience.

Action 159: Coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts to seek local, state, federal, and philanthropic funding to support OurCounty initiatives, and provide technical assistance for community-based organizations, smaller jurisdictions, and tribal governments.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DPH, DPR, LANAIC
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Funding & Financing, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 160: Develop a coordinated approach to attracting Opportunity Zones funding that includes articulating priorities, identifying potential projects and partners, convening stakeholders (CBOs, developers, philanthropy, investors), and identifying local and state incentives to streamline approval.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	DEO
Partners	
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing



Action 161: Disseminate community-specific, climate-related health messaging to healthcare and community partners.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	DPH
Partners	CEO, DPR
Topic Tags	Air Quality, Climate Resilience, Public Health

Action 162: Support leadership training programs to educate elected officials and government decision-makers on sustainability and climate resilience.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 163: Partner to identify and support actions to safeguard historic and cultural sites, landmarks, and resources and cultural practices against climate change impacts.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	Arts & Culture, DBH, DPR, DRP, LANAIC, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience

Action 164: Engage with state and regional, and private sector and community experts to address the impacts of climate change on the availability and affordability of insurance.

Horizon	Near-to-Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	DRP, ISD, OEM, PW
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Funding & Financing



Action 165: Partner with cultural institutions to develop and implement a sustainable programming toolkit inclusive of actions like free or reduced fees on extreme heat days, exhibitions and education around climate grief, using recycled materials, and other sustainable practices.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	Arts & Culture
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Public Health

Action 166: Revise and simplify County's contracting and granting mechanisms and procedures to lower barriers for CBO collaboration.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	ISD
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency

Action 167: Identify an artist-in-residence to advance sustainability goals, environment, and climate resilience.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	Arts & Culture
Partners	CSO
Topic Tags	Equitable Engagement & Transparency



Cities Engagement

CSO actively engages all 88 cities across Los Angeles County to support the implementation of a truly regional sustainability vision. Through the sharing of information and resources and policy guidance, CSO helps cities align with the County's sustainability goals while advancing their own local priorities. By convening elected officials, city staff, and other decision makers, CSO fosters collaboration, connects jurisdictions to grant opportunities and subject matter experts, and promotes the exchange of best practices. This regional approach ensures that cities are not working in isolation, but rather as part of a coordinated network committed to equitable, resilient, and sustainable outcomes for all communities.

Sustainable Events at Every Scale

Whether it is a community gathering at a County park, a County fair, a global event like the Olympic and Paralympic Games, or anything in between, every event is an opportunity to showcase Los Angeles County's sustainability values in action. These events—small, large, or otherwise—offer a chance for the County to make a lasting impact to mitigate climate impacts, advance equity, and leave a positive legacy for the region.

Through proactive planning and collaboration with event organizers, and community and local partners, the County works to ensure events are not only memorable but also aligned with the goals in existing County plans, including the Zero Waste Plan. This includes promoting zero waste practices like food recovery and sustainable purchasing while minimizing impacts to neighborhoods, businesses, and residents. By applying these principles across events of all sizes, the County is turning public celebrations, events, and gatherings into opportunities to advance OurCounty goals and deliver lasting improvements.

InfrastructureLA & Environmental, Sustainability, and Resiliency Subcommittee

[InfrastructureLA](#) is a collaborative partnership of local agencies in Los Angeles County, working across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions to align priorities, build support, and secure funding for resilient and equitable infrastructure projects. Within this framework, the Environmental, Sustainability, and Resiliency (ESR) Subcommittee, co-led by CSO and Public Works, focuses on supporting regional, multi-benefit, nature-based infrastructure solutions. By developing and implementing solutions that promote a healthier and more sustainable future, the ESR Subcommittee plays a crucial role in advancing the County's commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being.



Strategy 12B: Leverage the County’s purchasing power to support organizations achieving positive social and environmental impact

With an annual budget of nearly \$50 billion, the County has an immediate opportunity to lead the region toward a more sustainable future by leveraging its own considerable purchasing power. By integrating OurCounty priorities into budget decision-making, the County will advance sustainability in its own operations and public projects alike. Additionally, by developing and implementing contracting and purchasing policies that advance environmental, economic, and equity goals, the County will direct funds and projects toward institutions that embody sustainability themselves and have a positive impact on the region.

Action 168: Work with County departments to maximize existing and develop new dedicated and/or innovative financing mechanisms to implement OurCounty sustainability and climate resilience priorities.

Horizon	Ongoing
Lead County Entity	CEO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Climate Resilience, Funding & Financing, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 169: Develop and implement an LA County climate budgeting process to support carbon neutrality goals for County operations.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CEO, CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Action 170: Expand coordination to advance department budget requests that support OurCounty implementation.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing



Action 171: Modernize the County's purchasing and contracting policies, including its Green Purchasing Policy, to ensure that the County remains fiscally responsible while promoting environmentally friendly, non-toxic, and socially responsible practices, such as contracting with organizations that provide family-sustaining wage jobs in disadvantaged communities.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing

Action 172: Conduct a material health assessment for products widely used by the County, including pest control products and fire-fighting foam.

Horizon	Near Term
Lead County Entity	ISD
Partners	All departments
Topic Tags	Public Health, Waste & Resource Management

Action 173: Explore creation of a program to identify, support, and facilitate piloting of innovative solutions to sustainability.

Horizon	Medium Term
Lead County Entity	CSO
Partners	CEO
Topic Tags	Funding & Financing

Climate Budget

LA County is working to ensure its financial investments are aligned with its climate and resilience goals through an approach called climate budgeting. Climate budgeting integrates climate targets and considerations into the budget process by examining how each budget item impacts climate goals and needs. While the development of a full climate budget is a multi-year and iterative process, each step will help support strategic decision-making and improved spending transparency. Substantial resources are needed to achieve carbon neutrality and climate resiliency, and climate budgeting is an important tool to help LA County achieve these ambitious goals.



Appendix



Acknowledgements

The 2025 OurCounty plan would not have been possible without the hard work and support of a large number of people from the County of Los Angeles and throughout the community. In particular, we are grateful for the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, who have continued to make sustainability a priority in the County, and for the dedication and guidance of their staff. Thank you to LA County department staff for lending your expertise, and especially to the members of the County's Sustainability Council, composed of staff from every LA County department, for being dedicated partners in this process and fueling the engine of sustainability at the County. We appreciate the LA County Youth Climate Commission's extensive youth outreach efforts and their feedback throughout the process. Additionally, we are thankful to the members of over 150 organizations—community, environmental, academic, business, labor, cities and agencies, and Native Tribes—for sharing their knowledge and wisdom.

We are especially grateful to our team of CBO thought partners and pop-up partners: ACT-LA, Antelope Valley Partners for Health, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Day One, Heal the Bay, LACI, Move LA, Pacoima Beautiful, Union De Vecinos, and USGBC-CA. Thank you for your partnership in this project and your dedication to advancing equitable sustainability action across the Los Angeles County communities.

We would like to acknowledge the staff at the venues that hosted us, from the speakers who welcomed us to their spaces to the facilities staff who helped with the essential tasks that often go unnoticed.

We are grateful for the partnerships we have formed with cities and councils of government throughout the County who helped shape the plan and who will help bring our collaborative and coordinated vision to fruition.

Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Hilda Solis / Supervisor Holly Mitchell / Supervisor Lindsey Horvath / Supervisor Janice Hahn / Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Chief Sustainability Office Team

Rita Kampalath / Matthew Gonser / Victoria Simon / Raj Dhillon / Rebecca Ferdman / Ali Frazzini / Clement Lau / Andres Gonzalez / Jaida Nabayan / Julie Gomez / Martha Velasco



County Sustainability Council

Aging and Disabilities / Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures / Alternate Public Defender / Animal Care and Control / Arts and Culture / Assessor / Auditor-Controller / Beaches & Harbors* / Chief Executive Office / Child Support Services / Children and Family Services / Consumer and Business Affairs / County Counsel / District Attorney / Executive Office of the Board / Economic Opportunity / Fire* / Health Services / Human Resources / Internal Services* / Justice Care and Opportunities / Library / Los Angeles County Development Authority* / Los Angeles County Museum of Art / Medical Examiner / Mental Health / Military and Veterans Affairs / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County / Parks and Recreation* / Probation / Public Defender / Public Health / Public Social Services / Public Works* / Regional Planning* / Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk / Sheriff* / Treasurer & Tax Collector / Youth Development

*Indicates the Board's appointment of the department director to the Council's Leadership Committee

Consultant Team

Buro Happold / Climate Resolve / Estolano Advisors / Inner and Outer Engagement / MIG / tamika butler consulting

Community-Based Organizations

ACT-LA / Antelope Valley Partners for Health / Conservation Corps of Long Beach / Day One / Heal the Bay / LACI / Move LA / Pacoima Beautiful / Union De Vecinos / USGBC-CA

Event Hosts

Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area / Japanese American Cultural and Community Center / Los Angeles County Natural History Museum / Los Angeles Trade Technical College



Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACWM	Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
ARDI	Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative
Arts & Culture	Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resource Board
CEO	Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
CEP	Clean Energy Partnership
CFMP	Community Forest Management Plan
CIO	Los Angeles County Chief Information Office
CPA	Clean Power Alliance
CSO	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office
CWP	Los Angeles County Water Plan
DBH	Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
DCBA	Los Angeles County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs
DEO	Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity
DHS	Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
DPH	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
DPR	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
DPSS	Department of Public and Social Services
DRP	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
HI	Homeless Initiative
HRTTP	High Road Training Partnership
IFLA	InfrastructureLA
ISD	Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
JCOD	Los Angeles Justice Care and Opportunities Department
LAAD	Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department



LACAHS	Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency
LACDA	Los Angeles County Development Authority
LACI	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
LACOE	Los Angeles County Office of Education
LACoFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LACSD	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
LANAIC	Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
NHM	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
OEM	Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management
OFS	Los Angeles County Office of Food Systems
PNA	Parks Needs Assessment
PNA+	Parks Needs Assessment Plus
PW	Los Angeles County Public Works
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
RR/CC	Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SHLA	Stay Housed LA
SoCalREN	Southern California Regional Energy Network
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
TEP	Transportation Electrification Partnership
TTC	Los Angeles County Treasurer & Tax Collector
YCC	LA County Youth Climate Commission



Glossary

A	
Active Transportation	A mode of transportation that includes walking, running, biking, skateboarding, traveling by scooter and other human-powered forms of transportation. It can also include low-speed electrical devices such as motorized wheel chairs, e-scooters, and electric-assist bicycles.
Adaptation	The effort to adjust systems, behaviors, infrastructure, and institutions in response to climate change in order to lessen future impacts.
Affordable Housing Units	Housing which costs no more than 30% of a household's monthly income. Most affordable housing developments are intended for households making 60% or less than the area median income.
Anaerobic Digestion	A process by which organic matter, such as food waste or sewage, is broken down in the absence of oxygen to produce biogas and biofertilizer.
At-Risk Affordable Housing Units	Affordable housing properties that are nearing the end of their affordability restrictions and/or subsidies and may convert to market rate in the next five years.
Aquaculture	The practice of breeding, raising, and harvesting aquatic organisms, such as fish, shellfish, and seaweed, in controlled environments.
B	
Beneficial Reuse	The repurposing of material waste for new uses, instead of sending it to a landfill, in a way that is economically feasible and limits negative impacts. Examples may include using newspaper as insulation material, glass bottles as decorative tiling in homes, or food waste to create compost.
Biodiversity	The variety and variability of flora, fauna and ecosystems. Biodiversity can be observed on macro levels, micro levels and in between. Biodiversity is complex, fragile and increasingly threatened by urbanization and climate change. Rich biodiversity supports many aspects of human life from food and medicine to environmental quality.
Biodiversity Hotspots	Areas across the globe that are biologically rich and threatened by development, urbanization, pollution and disease. There are a total of 36 qualified world biodiversity hotspot areas of which the California Floristic Province, inclusive of LA County, is one.
Building Decarbonization	The process of reducing and ultimately eliminating greenhouse gas emissions associated with buildings.. Operationally, the building is energy efficient and uses renewable, zero-carbon energy sources for heating, cooling, and power. Additionally, a newly constructed building can incorporate reused, recycled, and other low carbon intensity materials.
C	



Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	A greenhouse gas made up of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms that is released primarily through the burning of fossil fuels, other hydrocarbons, solid waste, and trees and wood products. Changes in land use also have an impact. Deforestation and soil degradation add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, while forest regrowth takes it out of the atmosphere. While carbon dioxide is naturally occurring, the proportion of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is increasing due to human activities. Increasing concentration levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases contribute to climate change.
Carbon-Efficient	Contributing fewer carbon emissions compared to a conventional process while still providing the same service. A building, machine, or process is carbon-efficient if it can deliver more functions or services for the same amount of carbon emissions, or the same function or service for fewer carbon emissions, compared to a conventional alternative.
Carbon Neutral	A system or jurisdiction that has net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Strategies to achieve carbon neutrality include renewable energy supply, efficient buildings, low-carbon transportation, sustainable materials choices, and deep retrofits to existing buildings and infrastructure. Carbon neutrality may require carbon sequestration technologies to capture the remainder of GHG emissions.
Climate Vulnerability Assessment	An analysis of the extent to which a species, habitat, ecosystem or civilization is susceptible to harm from climate change impacts. Vulnerability assessments are an integral component of climate adaptation planning.
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. These skills may include fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Training in LA County is offered by the County Fire Department.
Community Land Trusts	Community-controlled nonprofits that purchase vacant land or existing property, construct housing, and sell or rent these housing units to low- to middle-income families. Land purchased remains in the permanent custody of community land trusts, effectively removing them from the speculative housing market, and thereby keeping housing prices at affordable levels.
Community Science	An approach to research that mobilizes volunteers to work alongside scientists to help answer questions about the world. The City Nature Challenge is an example of a community science initiative where residents can contribute images and information on their local flora and fauna, supporting the research into the biodiversity of the region.
Complete Neighborhood	A neighborhood that features necessary resources, such as grocery stores, banks, childcare, and medical services, all within a small geographic vicinity for easy access.
Compost	The product, rich in nutrients, resulting from the decomposition of organic material. Material used to make compost includes landscape trimmings, agricultural crop residues, paper pulp, food scrap, wood chips, manure, and biosolids. These are typically referred to as feedstock.



Concentrated Disadvantage	Census tracts characterized by high levels of socioeconomic hardship, as defined by a Los Angeles County analysis. The designation is based on a composite index of five standardized census indicators: percentage of individuals below the poverty line, receiving public assistance, in female-headed households, unemployed, and under age 18. These indicators are averaged to identify communities facing the greatest cumulative disadvantage.
Congestion Pricing	A transportation demand management strategy to reduce peak-period vehicle traffic, often in urban centers. Congestion pricing involves charging road users during set peak times or dynamically based on demand, acting essentially as variable road tolls. Funds raised can be used for transportation improvements.
Cool Surfaces	High albedo, or reflective, and pervious surfaces that reflect more light and trap less heat than conventional surfaces. These surfaces can help mitigate the heat island effect. Examples include cool roofs such as white roofs, green roofs, pervious pavement, and light colored pavement and roads.
Circular Economy	An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and keeping resources in use for as long as possible. It emphasizes designing products and systems that prioritize reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling, creating a closed-loop system where materials continuously flow back into the economy.
D	
Deep Energy Retrofit	Major changes to the structure or systems of an existing building for the purpose of achieving significant reductions in energy consumption (and operational costs) with the use of more efficient technologies, products, and designs. Deep energy retrofits may also reduce water consumption and improve occupant amenities.
Depaving	Removing paved areas such as asphalt and concrete and replacing them with soil and growing space for trees and plants.
Development	Construction of new buildings that substantially changes the intensity of the use of land. This general definition is distinct from regulatory definitions of development where, for example, construction for the purposes of existing building maintenance is defined as development.
Disadvantaged Communities	Communities that suffer most from a combination of economic, health and environmental burdens as defined by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. These burdens typically include poverty, unemployment, health conditions, air and water pollution, and hazardous waste.
Displacement	The process that occurs when the increasing property values brought about through gentrification drive out existing residents and business operators and attract a new and different demographic population to an area. Lower income residents may also become unable to access housing in certain areas due to increasing housing prices. See also Green Gentrification.
Distributed Energy Resources (DER)	Decentralized sources of energy that are smaller than utility-scale energy sources and can be aggregated to provide the power necessary to meet regular demand.



E	
Economic Opportunity	The potential of someone to realize economic success. Similar to economic mobility, economic opportunity can be influenced by many factors such as where one lives and goes to school or the availability of jobs.
Ecosystem Function	The natural processes, biological, chemical, or physical, that take place within an ecosystem. Ecosystem functions include decomposition, production of plant matter, and photosynthesis.
E-Scooters / Electric Scooters	Scooters with an electric motor that assist with user mobility. See also micromobility.
Electric Vehicles (EVs)	An umbrella term to describe a variety of vehicle types that use electricity as their primary fuel source for propulsion or as a means to improve the efficiency of conventional internal combustion engines. These include battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and fuel cell electric vehicles.
Energy Efficiency	The use of less energy to provide the same service. A process, building, machine, or other energy consuming object is more energy efficient if it delivers more functions or services for the same energy input, or the same function or service for less energy input, compared to a conventional process.
ENERGY STAR®	A program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that promotes energy efficiency and provides simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions.
ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager®	A no-cost, interactive energy management tool offered by ENERGY STAR® that allows building owners and operators to track and assess energy and water consumption across one or multiple buildings.
ENERGY STAR Rating	A measure of a building's energy performance compared to similar buildings nationwide. A score of 50 represents median energy performance while a score of 75 or better indicates the building is a top performer and may be eligible for ENERGY STAR® Certification.
Energy Storage System	Technologies that collect generated energy so it may be used at another time. Energy storage includes electric systems such as batteries as well as thermal systems such as hot and cold water storage tanks. Energy storage can enhance the technical and economic viability of a distributed generation system and can operate critical systems during grid outages or in the case of emergency.
Energy Use Intensity (EUI)	The amount of energy consumed by a building over a period of time and normalized by another factor, such as per square foot or per person. EUI is most often represented as the total energy consumption of one building in one year (typically presented in kBtu) divided by the total gross floor area of the building. These factors allow for the comparison of building performance across buildings of different types and sizes.
Environmental Justice (EJ)	Defined by California state law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”



Exurban Sprawl	Urban sprawl beyond existing communities. See also Urban Sprawl.
F	
Fire Hazard Severity Zone	CAL FIRE areas that have a high probability of fire hazards. These zones are determined based on factors such as fuel, slope, terrain conditions and weather patterns. Degrees of fire hazard can range from moderate to high to very high. While these designations do not specifically identify areas where wildfires will occur, they represent areas where wildfire hazards could be more severe and are of greater concern.
Floodplain	An area of low-lying land near a stream or river which is subject to flooding during periods of high flow, such as heavy rains. These landscapes provide vital benefits, including natural flood and erosion control, improved water quality, groundwater recharge, rich biological productivity, critical wildlife habitat, and opportunities for recreation and scenic open space.
Flora and Fauna	The collection of plant and animal species, respectively, in a certain geographic location.
Fossil Fuels	Hydrocarbon fuels formed over millions of years by natural processes such as the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter. Typical fossil fuels include coal, oil and natural gas.
Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle	A type of electric vehicle that generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, with water vapor as the only emission.
G	
Green Economy	An economy powered by renewable energy sources, where net economic production minimizes waste and hazardous byproducts and ecological restoration is essential.
Green Gentrification	A process in which cleaning polluted areas or providing environmentally-beneficial amenities increases local property values and causes displacement of current residents. See also Displacement.
Green Goods Movement	The transportation of goods in a sustainable fashion utilizing alternative fuels and freight and shipping innovations.
Green Infrastructure	A method for naturally managing rain and storm waters. Green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater runoff while also improving the local environment by mimicking natural processes. Green infrastructure includes strategies such as green roofs, bioswales, and permeable pavements.
Green Purchasing Policy	A policy for procuring goods and services that are more environmentally-friendly and cause minimal damage to the environment, compared to conventional products. This may include purchasing materials with recycled content or procuring caterers that use reusable serviceware.



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere by absorbing and emitting solar radiation within the atmosphere, causing a greenhouse effect that warms the atmosphere and leads to global climate change. The main human-made GHGs are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons, and perfluorocarbons.
Greywater	Waste water generated in homes and offices, sourced from baths, sinks, washing machines, or kitchen appliances. Greywater may contain amounts of dirt, food, grease, or cleaning products, but does not have fecal contamination.
H	
Habitat Connectivity	The degree to which patches of land used as habitat by local plants and animals are connected to each other. Habitat connectivity ensures that species are able to move around freely to mate, hunt, forage, or reproduce. Habitat connectivity also allows species the ability to migrate to preferable areas in the case of habitat loss or climate event.
Habitat Linkages	Natural areas that connect patches of habitat to each other so that local species can travel between otherwise isolated patches of habitat.
Heat Island Effect	A measurable increase in ambient urban air temperatures resulting primarily from the replacement of vegetation with buildings, roads, and other heat-absorbing infrastructure. The heat island effect can result in significant temperature differences between rural and urban areas.
High Heat Days	The days during which temperatures exceed 95°F. High-heat days are projected for future years to assess the threat of extreme temperatures in an area.
I	
Impermeable Surfaces	Solid surfaces, such as paved roads and parking lots, which do not allow water to penetrate into the ground below.
Inclusionary Housing	A planning ordinance that requires a given share of new residential construction to be affordable to people with low to moderate incomes.
Infill Housing	The development of new residential units on vacant or underused parcels of land within existing urban areas.
L	
Lifecycle Approach	An approach to material production and consumption that evaluates all stages of a material's life including production, use and disposal.
Lifeline Rates	Utility pricing structure where low-income households are charged lower rates on non-discretionary water and/or electricity consumption and higher rates on water and/or electricity consumed beyond that amount.
Living Streets	Streets which combine elements of bicycle and pedestrian accessibility with landscaping and green infrastructure to lower temperatures and provide ecological benefits.



M	
Managed Land Buffer	A designated area of land used to separate or mitigate the impacts between different land uses, typically between industrial or high-impact activities and more sensitive uses like residential areas, schools, or natural habitats.
Marginalized Community	Different groups of people, or populations, within a given culture, context and history at risk of being subjected to multiple forms of discrimination due to the interplay of different personal characteristics or grounds, such as sex, gender, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, education or income, or living in various geographic localities.
Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)	Thresholds for drinking water systems set by the EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act to monitor water quality. MCLs are measured at the water treatment plant before drinking water is distributed, and any violations trigger notifications to billed customers.
Measure A (2016)	A measure that introduces an annual one-and-a-half-cent parcel tax per square foot of building floor area on taxable real property in LA County. Measure A, or the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016, authorizes dedicated local funding for park, recreation, and open space projects and their maintenance.
Methane (CH ₄)	A gas made up of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms. Methane is the main component of natural gas, commonly used as a fuel for heating. Methane is released during the production and distribution of natural gas but also through livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in landfills. Like carbon dioxide, methane is a greenhouse gas and exacerbates climate change. However, methane has a much higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide meaning methane has a much larger effect than the same amount of CO ₂ .
Microgrid	An electrical distribution network that is connected to two or more buildings in a local area that can enter into “island mode” (i.e., operate in isolation from the central or local electricity distribution network) and provide power to buildings without using the central grid.
Micromobility	Transportation options that include personal vehicles meant to carry one or two passengers such as bicycles, small electric cars, or scooters.
Missing Middle Housing	A range of multi-unit or clustered housing types, such as duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhomes, and courtyard apartments, that fall between single-family homes and large apartment buildings. These housing types are considered “missing” because they have been largely absent from new development in many communities, despite offering more affordable and flexible living options.
Mode Shift	The transition from one form of transportation to another, typically from higher-emission modes like single-occupancy vehicles to more sustainable options such as walking, biking, public transit, or shared mobility.



O	
Opportunity Zones	Designated census tracts where tax incentives are offered for investment. These zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds. Opportunity Zones are intended to spur growth in low-income and disinvested communities.
Ordinance	A piece of legislation enacted by a municipal authority.
Organic Waste	Biodegradable waste containing materials from living organisms. Organic waste may include food waste, green waste, landscaping and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, or foodsoiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. Organic waste can be processed through composting or anaerobic digestion.
P	
Particulate Matter (PM)	A combination of solid and liquid droplets found in the air. Particulate matter can include dust, dirt, soot, or smoke. Some PM is large enough to be seen but other types are microscopic (fine particulate matter). Fine particulate matter can travel deeply into the human respiratory tract and can cause health effects such as throat irritation, coughing, or asthma.
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles	A type of electric vehicle that combines a traditional internal combustion engine with an electric motor and a rechargeable battery.
Priority Ecological Sites	See Significant Ecological Areas.
Producer and Manufacturer Responsibility	A shared responsibility between the user and producer or manufacturer for end-of-life management of products. This level of responsibility encourages producers and manufacturers to create products that minimize negative impacts and waste.
Public-Private Partnership	A collaborative arrangement between public agencies and private-sector companies. These partnerships allow large-scale government projects to be completed with private funding, where the private entities are able to receive operating profits.
R	
Reach Code	A local ordinance that requires projects to exceed minimum energy, water, or other sustainability requirements established in applicable building codes. Reach codes allow the opportunity to aggressively pursue local sustainability goals while also aligning with mandatory requirements.
Recovery	Processes that divert waste from landfills by extracting value from materials through recycling, composting, and energy generation. It includes both material recovery (like recycling and composting) and energy recovery (such as converting waste to energy through controlled combustion or anaerobic digestion).



Recycle	To process used materials into new products, diverting them from landfills and conserving natural resources. Recycling helps reduce the need for raw materials and lowers greenhouse gas emissions associated with production.
Reduce	To minimize the amount of waste generated in the first place. This involves choosing products with less packaging, avoiding single-use items, and making thoughtful consumption choices to prevent unnecessary waste.
Redlining	A government-sponsored practice that exacerbated inequality by prioritizing home loans in desirable areas for White homeowners, driving away low-income people and people of color, and leaving them with fewer pathways to home ownership, reduced economic security, and a decreased ability to adapt to shocks and stresses such as impacts from climate change.
Regenerative Agricultural Practices	A set of holistic land management and agriculture practices that reverses the effects of climate change through rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. Practices that make up regenerative agriculture include well-managed grazing, the use of compost, or minimal tillage.
Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)	State housing law requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development to determine the total number of new homes a region needs to build—and how affordable those homes need to be—in order to meet the housing needs of people at all income levels. The region then distributes a share of the housing need to each local government in the region. Each local government must then update the Housing Element of its general plan to show the locations where housing can be built and the policies and strategies necessary to meet the community's housing needs.
Renewable Energy	Energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, tides, waves, bioenergy, hydrogen and geothermal.
Resilience	The capacity to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks and to even transform as conditions require. See also Shocks and Stresses.
Retro-Commissioning	The process of improving the efficiency of existing building systems and equipment by ensuring that the equipment is operating appropriately and that setpoints and maintenance are sufficient. Retro-commissioning measures are typically low-cost and may include installing pipe insulation, reducing temperature setpoints during the nighttime, or ensuring that lights are turned off when they should be (through lighting controls or timers).
Reuse	To extend the life of products and materials by using them again instead of discarding them. This can include repairing items, repurposing materials, or donating goods so they can be used by others.
Right-Sized Parking	An effort to reduce the parking footprint and ensure that parking lots and other infrastructure are not oversized for the local demand. Right-Sized parking can incentivize public transportation use and active transportation modes.



S	
Safe Clean Water Program (Measure W)	A countywide measure approved by a majority of voters in the November 2018 election. Measure W is funded by a parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable areas (like concrete driveways and sidewalks) within the County. The funds from the parcel tax will be used to support an integrated and holistic approach to stormwater management, including increasing the countywide rainwater collection capacity.
Sensitive Uses	Land uses that are occupied by vulnerable populations, such as children, older populations and populations with chronic illnesses that are particularly sensitive to high levels of air pollution. Sensitive uses may include playgrounds, daycare centers, schools, residences, or medical facilities.
Shocks and Stresses	Shocks are sudden events that threaten or impact the County's immediate well-being. These can include earthquakes, fires, landslides, public health emergencies, civil unrest, terrorism, chemical emergencies, financial crises, extreme heat, flooding, infrastructure outages or disruptions, or building failures. Stresses are longer-term, chronic challenges that weaken natural, built and economic or human resources. These can include inequity, disparities in employment, health and education, crime and violence, homelessness, economic recession, lack of affordable housing, food insecurity, climate change, air pollution and heat island effect.
Signal Prioritization	Techniques for prioritizing bus travel in roadways. Signal prioritization aims to improve service reliability and reduce delays for mass transit vehicles at lighted intersections by programming traffic signals to shorten stop times for buses.
Significant Ecological Areas (SEA)	Officially designated areas within LA County with irreplaceable biological resources. These areas are identified through the SEA Program, intended to conserve the genetic and physical diversity within LA County. Development on any SEA is overseen through the LA County SEA Ordinance to balance preservation of the County's natural biodiversity with private property rights.
Single-Occupancy Vehicle	Privately operated vehicle that contains only one driver or occupant.
Smart Meters	Digital meters that record energy or water consumption and communicate the information to the supplier for monitoring and billing.
Source Separation	The proper separation of different waste streams for waste collection and treatment. For instance, properly separating and disposing of paper recycling from organic waste.
Source Reduction	The practice of minimizing the amount and toxicity of waste generated at its origin, before it enters the waste stream. This means designing, producing, and consuming products in ways that reduce waste and environmental impact from the outset.



Sub-Metering	Individually metering and billing units based on consumption in a traditionally master-metered building (or one where a single meter measures the entire building's consumption). These systems give residents more visibility and control over their consumption. Sub-metering can also refer to separately metering different energy or water end uses, such as lighting separately from conditioning, to better understand building energy use and identify potential maintenance issues or efficiency opportunities.
Sunset Strategy	A strategy to manage declining industries, such as the oil and gas industry, and phase them out.
T	
Toxicity-Weighted Concentrations of Emissions	Emissions concentrations scaled based on a toxicity factor. This means that emissions that are more toxic to human health have a higher weight than less toxic emissions. The primary source for toxicity data is EPA's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model.
Transformation / Waste-to-Energy	the process of converting non-recyclable waste materials into usable forms of energy (such as electricity, heat, or fuel) through methods like combustion, gasification, or anaerobic digestion.
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	A planning strategy that explicitly links land-use and transportation by focusing mixed housing, employment and commercial growth around bus and rail stations (usually within ½ mile). TODs can reduce the number and length of vehicle trips by encouraging more bicycle/pedestrian and transit use and can support transit investments by creating the density around stations to boost ridership.
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	Strategies to change travel behavior in order to reduce traffic congestion, increase safety and mobility, and conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These strategies are intended to reduce the demand for roadway travel and increase the overall efficiency of a local or regional transportation system. Strategies may include ridesharing, telecommuting, park and-ride programs, pedestrian improvements and alternative work schedules.
U	
Unincorporated Areas	More than 65% of the County (or 2,654 square miles) is unincorporated, meaning not within a city boundary. For the population of nearly 1 million people living in these areas, the County Board of Supervisors acts as their city council and the supervisor representing a specific area acts as the city mayor. County departments provide the municipal services for these areas. There are nearly 150 unincorporated areas in LA County.
Upcycle	The process of transforming by-products, waste materials, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality and environmental value.
Urban Agriculture	Agriculture practices in urban areas that take the form of backyard, rooftop, or balcony gardening, community gardening in vacant lots or parks, or roadside agriculture and livestock grazing in available open space.



Urban Greening	Public landscaping and urban forestry projects that benefit both residents and their environments.
Urban Sprawl	The unrestricted growth of urban areas into surrounding areas with low density development and high car dependence.
V	
Vision Zero	The commitment to eliminate traffic-related deaths and severe injuries by a certain date.
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	A measurement of miles traveled by vehicles within a specified region for a specified time period.
Vulnerable Populations	The population of LA County including, but not limited to, older adults, people with disabilities, children, Native American groups, people of color, and people with chronic medical conditions that are at elevated risk of climate change impacts such as extreme heat, fire, and flooding. These communities typically lack the resources to protect themselves from climate events or recover quickly from damage or illness.
W	
Walk Score	A measurement of walkability of a location. The Walk Score considers the walking commute between amenities, road metrics such as block length and intersection density and population density. Walk Scores can range from 1 – 100 where a Walk Score between 90 and 100 is considered to be a “Walker’s Paradise.”
Waste Characterization Studies	Studies to determine the mix of waste types in the disposed waste of an area by collecting waste data and taking samples (i.e., waste audit). Waste characterization can determine how much of the disposed waste is recyclable, how much is organic, or how much is hazardous. This information is very important for setting up recycling and reuse programs and developing strategies to reduce waste generation.
Waste Diversion	The process of managing a waste stream such that waste products do not end up in landfills. Waste can be diverted through strategies such as reuse, recycling, or composting.
Waste Generation	The total amount of waste created within a jurisdiction (or by a business or residence), both that which is disposed and that which is diverted.
Watershed	An area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel.
Watershed Approach	A holistic approach to water management that engages multiple stakeholders (public sector, private sector and communities) and is focused on maintaining a watershed that provides drinking water, recreation and sustains life for the area. A watershed approach addresses the highest priority problems within certain geographic areas taking into consideration both ground and surface water flow.



Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)	A zone of transition between unoccupied wildland, and urban or suburban development.
Working Lands	Farms, ranches, forests, other extractive land uses, and managed natural areas that support economic activity and land-based livelihoods. These areas supply life-sustaining resources including clean water, air, and food.
Z	
Zero Emission Energy	Energy resources that emit no greenhouse gases. This includes all renewable energy sources, as well as non-emitting energy resources such as large hydroelectric power and nuclear.
Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV)	Vehicles that produce no tailpipe emissions. Generally, ZEVs feature electric powertrains. Technically, ZEVs are still responsible for some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, if the GHG content from the electricity generation comes from fossil fuel sources.