

2021 Regional Plan
Programs and Policies

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

A climate action plan (CAP) is a comprehensive policy document that outlines the actions a local jurisdiction is taking or will take to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. By offering technical assistance to local cities, SANDAG has been instrumental in advancing climate action planning in San Diego County. Nearly all of the region's 19 local governments have adopted or are currently developing a CAP.

Transportation is the largest source of GHG emissions in the state of California, accounting for 41% of emissions statewide in 2017. Reducing transportation emissions requires state, regional, and local actions. The 5 Big Moves are the initiatives that SANDAG is pursuing to create a more efficient and low-emission transportation system. This bold new vision for the region's transportation system will help cities and other public agencies achieve their CAP goals.

How can we reduce GHG emissions and achieve carbon neutrality?

The California legislature has set aggressive targets to reduce GHG emissions, and Executive Order B-55-18 set an overall goal of achieving "carbon neutrality" by 2045. Carbon neutrality occurs when the GHG emissions emitted into the atmosphere statewide are completely offset by an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is removed from the atmosphere. Removal can occur when forests, other natural landscapes, and agricultural crops take up carbon dioxide as they grow. California, SANDAG, individual cities, and other local jurisdictions all have roles to play in implementing the strategies needed to achieve these goals.

What should I know about climate action planning?

Climate action planning includes efforts to both reduce GHG emissions and prepare communities for the impacts of climate change. CAPs typically focus on reducing GHG emissions. Climate adaptation planning is equally important and includes strategies to prepare for sea level rise, extreme heat, prolonged drought, and more destructive wildfires. Since 2010, SANDAG has provided resources to advance climate action planning in the region.

2010

SANDAG launches Roadmap Program with no-cost energy-management assistance for member agencies

2016

Roadmap Program expands with support for CAP development, monitoring, and implementation

2020+

SANDAG will refine the program to support CAP monitoring and implementation of regional GHG-reduction and climate adaptation programs

What does SANDAG do?

- Develops technical resources to support regionally consistent climate action planning, including the Regional Climate Action Planning (ReCAP) Framework
- Provides grants and templates and facilitates coordination among jurisdictions to enhance CAP implementation activities
- Explores opportunities to advance local CAP implementation through regional programs
- Prepares ReCAP Snapshots and develops a Climate Action Data Portal to help jurisdictions with CAP monitoring

Resources

Regional Climate Action Planning (ReCAP) Framework
sandag.org/climate

California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan
arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm

2035 State Goals for the San Diego Region

