



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

The Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment is hosting a series of public meetings starting July 31 to help inform the community of the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) goals.

Led by the Office of Response, Recovery and Resiliency and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the CAAP is a response plan outlining actionable steps to reduce global warming and adapt local communities to withstand the impacts of climate change. Discussion topics include carbon-emission reduction strategies, natural resource protection and climate change hazard mitigation.

The overall purpose of the CAAP is to achieve a 40 percent emissions reduction from 1990 levels by 2030, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, and actions to make our communities more resilient. Specific CAAP goals to be discussed include a 15 percent increase in the use of public transportation, walking or cycling for commute trips by 2040 as well reducing the carbon footprint of the food system through waste reduction and climate friendly foods, among other topics.

"This is an opportunity for the community to learn more detail about the County's updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and track the progress the County is making on reaching our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals," Commission on the Environment Chair Kris Damhorst noted.

"In the decade since the first the first Climate Action Strategy was approved by the Board of Supervisors, we have experienced the direct impacts of climate change with more intense winter storm events, extreme heat, poor air quality and wildfires," said Tatiana Brennan, senior administrative analyst with the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience. "The CAAP recognizes the increasing need to prioritize protecting our environment in order to meet the challenges ahead."

Community members wishing to learn more about the County's plan to reach carbon neutrality by 2045 are invited to attend the first meeting in a series, to be held July 31 from 5-7 p.m. at the County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St., 5th Floor.

For more on the CAAP including an interactive storymap, visit

<https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3/Resilience/ClimateChange.aspx>.