



## Climate Action and Resiliency Division

### Division Mission

The Climate Action and Resiliency Division (CARD) was established in the County Administrators Office by the 2021-2022 Budget with the primary responsibility to oversee, guide and provide subject matter technical and policy support to achieve the goals of the Climate Action and Resiliency Pillar of the Strategic Plan. In 2022, CARD welcomed the General Services Energy and Sustainability Division, integrating core climate resilience expertise and enhancing reach and impact. CARD also embraced a centralized clean water policy and ombudsman function, and key wildfire resilience coordination. CARD provides leadership, coordination, and technical expertise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resiliency in County facilities and operations, and in communities across Sonoma County.

Primary Responsibilities	
Implement the Climate Action and Resiliency Pillar of the County's Strategic Plan	Finance energy and water conservation, renewable energy, earthquake retrofits, and wildfire hardening
Integrate climate resiliency into County-wide planning and align climate data and approaches	Promote climate equity and justice in County programs and funding
Educate on energy efficiency, renewable energy, zero emission transportation, and water conservation	Secure climate, energy, transportation, water & wildfire resiliency funding
Support residents and businesses to understand and comply with clean water regulations	Implement, coordinate, monitor, and track climate resiliency grant awards
Lead & coordinate climate action and resiliency efforts County-wide and prioritize cost-effective solutions	Develop long- and short-range energy and green procurement strategies
Promote efficient energy use & sustainability practices	Plan & promote County employee commute reduction

### Making Sonoma County Carbon Neutral by 2030

CARD applies its broad policy and technical expertise to develop and guide studies of energy and water solutions, prepare and analyze carbon inventories, and create rigorous strategies, plans and policies. In 2023 - 2024 the team prepared a Climate Resilience Comprehensive Action Plan to guide, promote, and measure carbon neutrality progress.

### Programs and Projects

- 1. Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) Programs:** Single Family, Multifamily & Commercial energy solutions, Green Labeling, Water Upgrade Saves, Codes & Standards, education, technical assistance, rebates & financing.
- 2. Better Building Consultations:** No-cost consultations started after the Sonoma Complex Fires to aid rebuilding. Funded by BayREN, they provide guidance on green building upgrades, code compliance, and technical bid reviews.
- 3. Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant:** Through CARD, the County received \$250,000 for a collaborative project with RCPA and Latino Service Providers to develop a countywide electric vehicle charging infrastructure plan.
- 4. Clean Commute Program:** CARD develops incentives and promotions to reduce employee commute emissions and tracks outcomes. Employees reduced 163,426 trips and 833 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in one year.
- 5. Climate Resilience Fund:** In 2021, the Board established the Climate Resilience Fund from the 2017 PG&E wildfire settlement. CARD solicits and evaluates projects for funding and tracks performance of approved projects.
- 6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant:** Through CARD, the County received \$233,790 to purchase electrical vehicle charging equipment for its municipal fleet, and CARD manages the grant with Public Infrastructure.
- 7. Green Business Certification Program:** Offers no-cost technical, funding & financing assistance to help Sonoma County businesses secure California Green Business certification and promotes local certificate recipients.
- 8. Local Government Partnership:** Provides resources, financing, & high-level "Energy Efficiency Roadmaps" to public entities, K-12 schools, special districts, and small-medium businesses, and has reduced 42.5 million kWh of energy use.

**9. Monte Rio-Villa Grande Wastewater Treatment Project:** Assists the Monte Rio and Villa Grande communities, which rely on septic systems, in developing and implementing improved wastewater solutions.

**10. Onsite Water Treatment System Mapping Study and Analysis:** Maps & evaluates septic systems countywide, especially in pathogen-impaired river stretches including the Russian River, Petaluma River, and Sonoma Creek.

**11. Russian River Pathogen Reduction Planning Project:** Engages communities & stakeholders to identify & prioritize solutions to Russian River pathogen pollution from recreation, grazing, septic systems, and homeless encampments.

**12. Solar + Storage Consultations:** Provides expert guidance on solar electric systems and energy storage to Sonoma County residents, businesses, and public agencies, including free technical and funding/financing consultations.

**13. Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP):** Provides financing for energy, water conservation, seismic, and wildfire hardening improvements through voluntary property assessments – a recognized national leader.

**14. Sonoma-Marin Ag and County Climate Coalition (SMACCC) Project:** A \$12.3 million grant project to increase the pace and scale of climate-smart agriculture and create a regional supply chain for local, climate-smart commodities.

**15. Sustainable Solutions Turnkey Energy Upgrade Project:** CARD leads this project, launched in 2021, to audit energy systems & use at County facilities, and prepare phased plans to achieve the Board’s goal of carbon free facilities.

**16. Tool Lending Library:** Established in 2010, the Library supports clean energy workforce development by providing access to costly, specialized building testing equipment, overcoming a barrier to entry for disadvantaged contractors. The “Do-it-Yourself” energy & water upgrade kit helps renters & low-income homeowners achieve efficiency savings.

**17. Wildfire Insurance Pilot:** CARD leads & coordinates County collaboration with the CA Department of Insurance & stakeholders on a pilot program to help property owners harden properties and improve wildfire insurance coverage.

**18. Wildfire Resilience Program:** CARD leads & coordinates County departments and agencies to develop, with external technical advisory committees, recommendations for a long term, sustainable wildfire resilience program.

