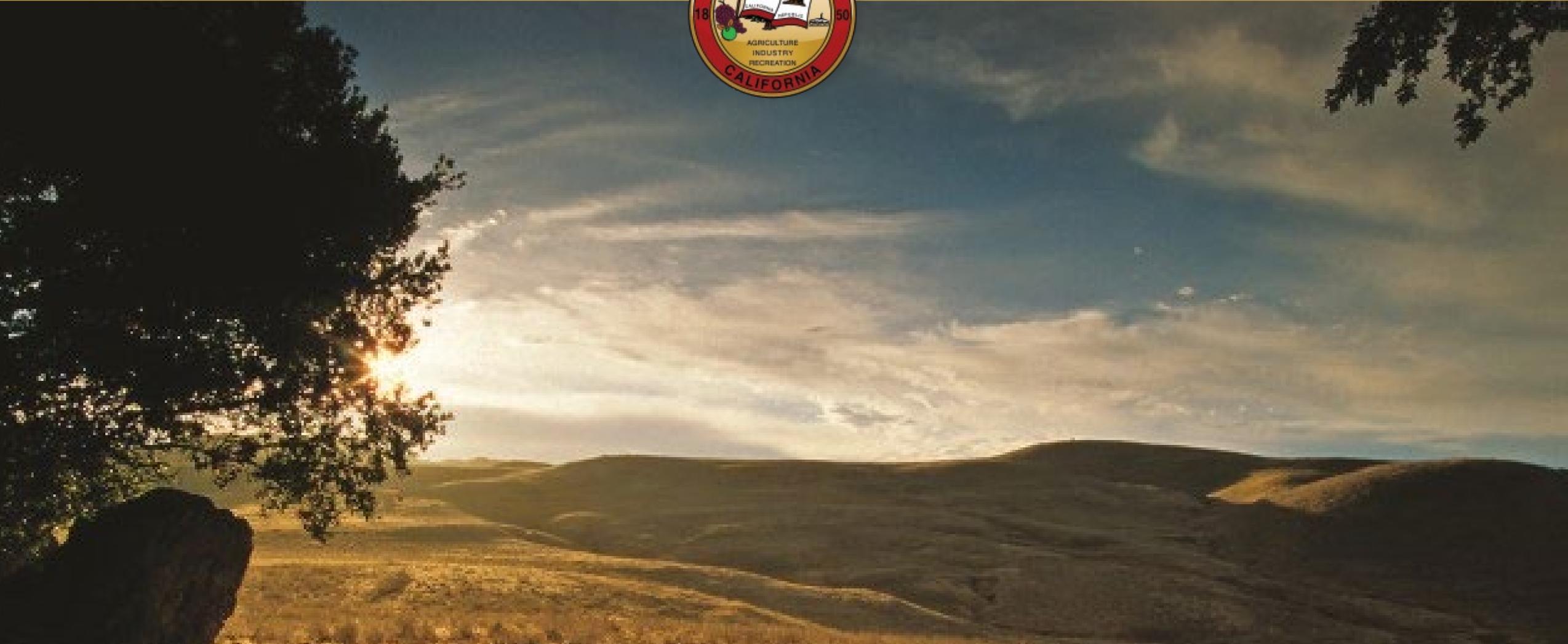


# Climate Action and Resiliency Workshop

August 29, 2023



# Workshop Agenda

## Introduction & Framing

### Part 1: Strategic Plan – Climate Action & Resilience Pillar Progress Update

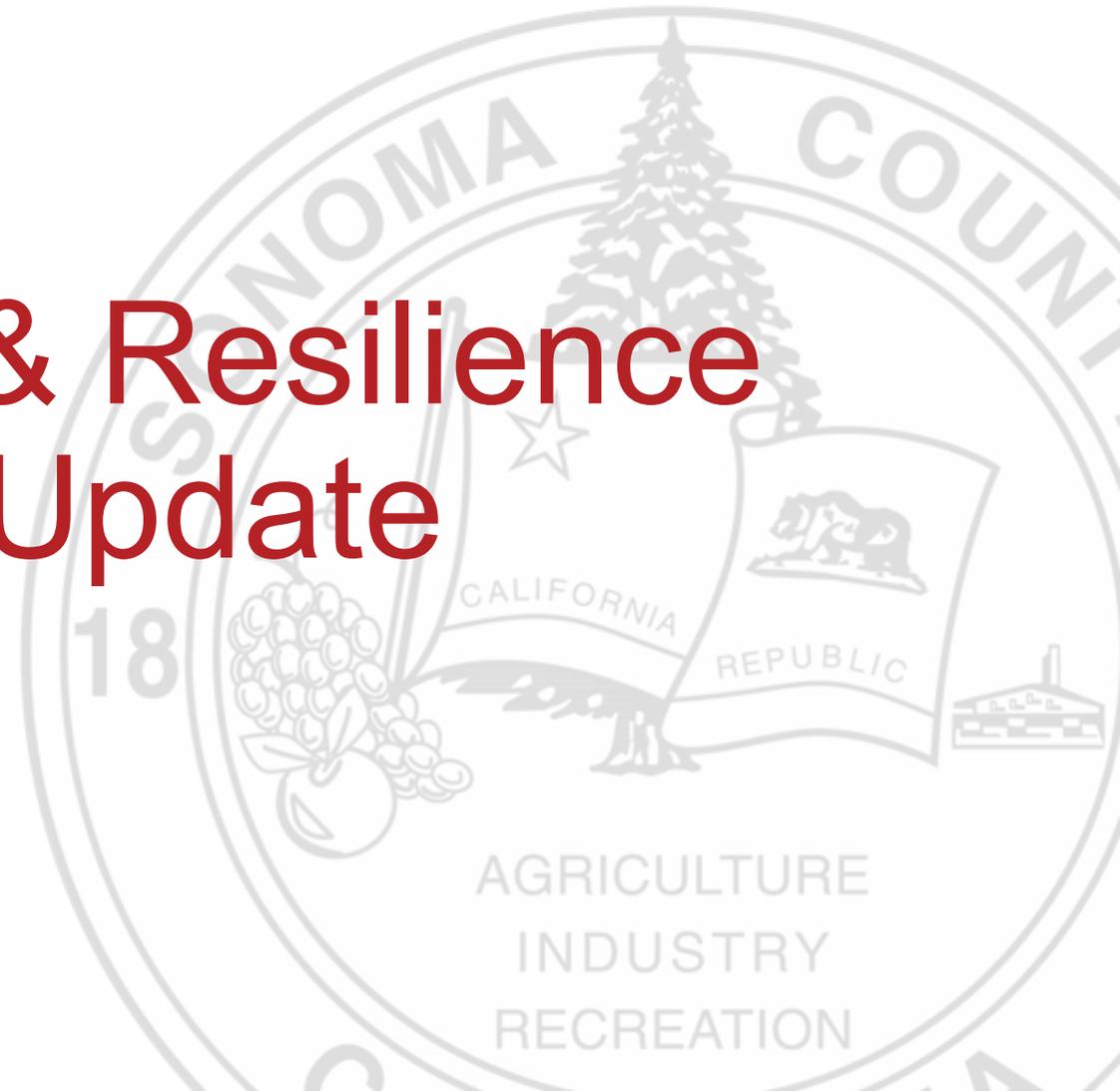
#### *Board Discussion*

### Part 2: Building a Climate Resilience Master Action Plan – Carbon Neutral, Zero Waste, & Resilient by 2030

- Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory
  - Board Discussion & Consideration of Inventory (vote after public comment on the Inventory only)*
- Municipal Waste Audit (progress & findings to date)
- Carbon Sequestration Study (progress & findings to date)
- Master Energy Plan (progress & findings to date)
- Pulling it all together
  - Board Discussion*
- Incorporating Costs, Impacts, and Public Engagement
  - Board Discussion*
  - Public Comment*
  - Board direction to staff*



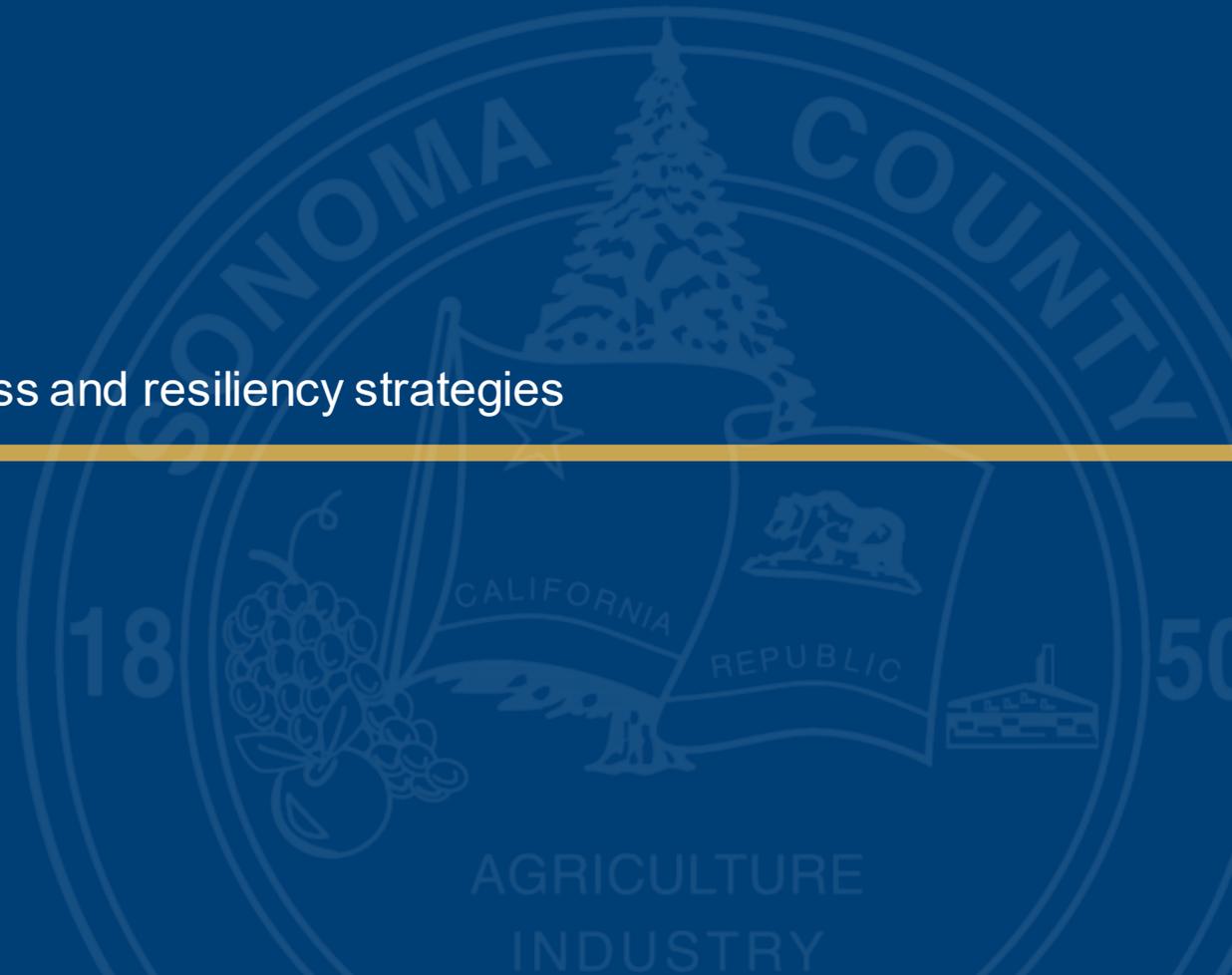
# Part 1: Strategic Plan Climate Action & Resilience Pillar Progress Update



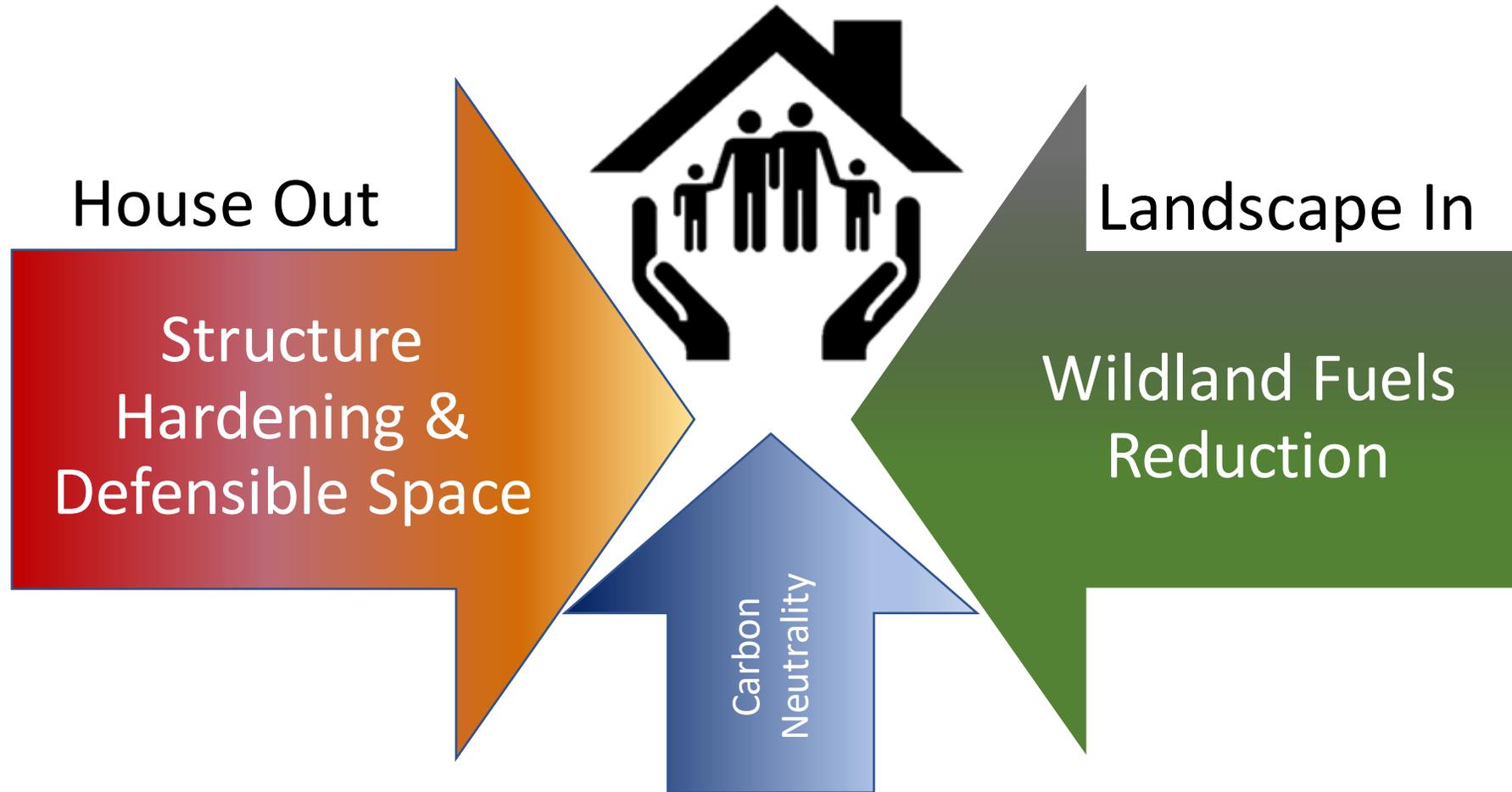


# GOAL 1

Continue to invest in wildfire preparedness and resiliency strategies



# 1.1 – 1.3 Continue to Invest in Wildfire Preparedness & Resiliency Strategies



# 1.1 – 1.3 Continue to Invest in Wildfire Preparedness & Resiliency Strategies

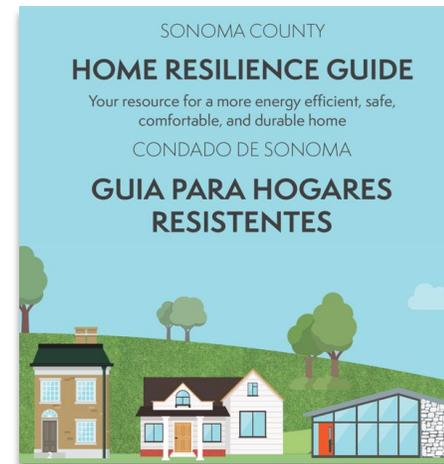
- **Whole Community Approach**
  - **Fire Adapted Communities**
    - Assessments & Rebates - home and defensible Space
    - Foster FireWise®, Fire Safe Councils, etc.
  - **Resilient Landscapes**
    - Collaboratively develop strategic fuels reduction to reduce fire intensity near communities and improve forest health
  - **Safe, Effective Response**
  - **Best available science**
    - What can we do to reduce risk on community and county-wide scales? How do we best motivate residents to action?



**National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy**

# 1.1 Provide Educational Resources to the Community that *Promote* Carbon Neutral & Fire Hardened Construction

- The Home Resilience Guide
  - a comprehensive tool covering improvements that can be made for a more resilient home. The guide is available in print and digital in both English and Spanish languages.
- Educational webinar series
  - 35 online webinars with 1,987 participants
  - 7 in-person events with 258 attendees
- Looking ahead...
  - Curriculum focused on understanding climate change, decarbonization, and wildfire resiliency to be taught at adult English as a second language
  - In-person workshop series focusing on Home Resilience in partnership with the Sonoma County Library
  - Continuation of the outreach efforts - social media campaigns, online webinar series, tabling community events, and partner coordination



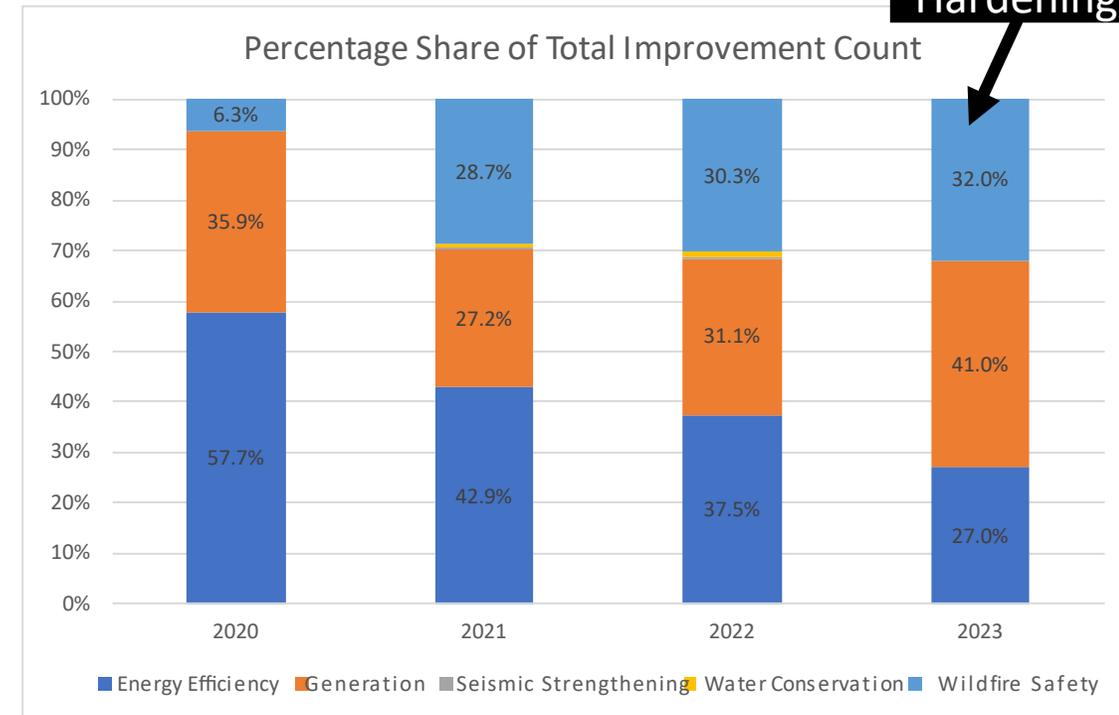
Los Cien Environmental Justice Forum



Saving Energy at Home – Santa Rosa

# 1.1 Provide Educational Resources to the Community that *Promote & Facilitate* Carbon Neutral & Fire Hardened Construction

- The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP)
  - Offers financing from County Treasury repaid through voluntary supplemental assessment
  - For energy efficiency, renewable energy, drought resilience, earthquake safety, and fire hardening.
- Allowed by statute, established by Board of Supervisors and authorized in all 10 jurisdictions
- Disbursed ~ \$100M in financing over 14 years without any defaults
- In 2023 more than 30% of projects were wildfire hardening
- Partnering with Permit Sonoma for Grant Rebate Programs



# 1.1 Provide Educational Resources to the Community that *Promote & Facilitate* Carbon Neutral & Fire Hardened Construction

## SoCoAdapts

- 2 Phased projects
- 14 project areas

### Phase 1: Assessments & Planning

- All Improved parcels receive education, and the opportunity to opt in for a full assessment. Basic Curbside Assessments on 1,900 Structures.

## Wildfire Resilient Sonoma County (BRIC)

- Early Implementation. Similar approach.
- Approximately 5,000 structure assessments
- Rebates available in Phase 2.

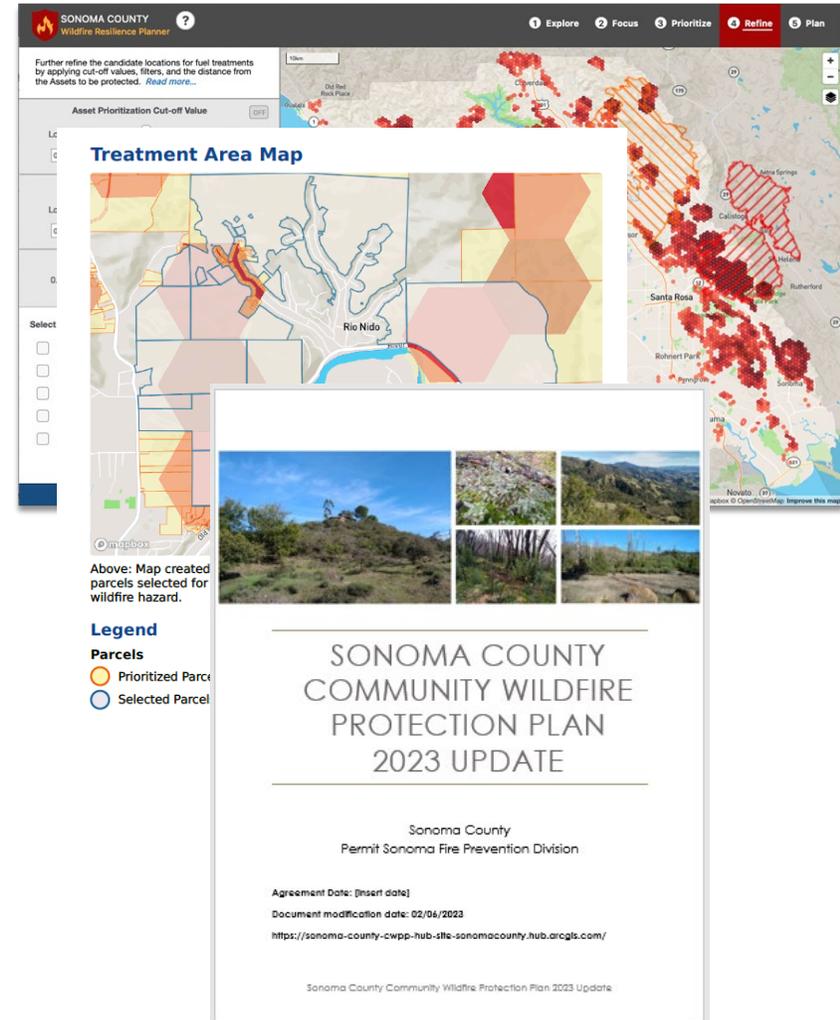
### Phase 2: Rebate Incentives

- SoCoAdapts \$10,000 Defensible Space and/or Structure Hardening Rebate Program. 2024/2025.
- Coordination with SCEIP, DOI and IBHS insurance recommends.



# 1.2 Expand Outreach & Education on Vegetation Management and Provide Resources to Landowners to Help Mitigate Fire Risk

- **Sonoma Wildfire Resilience Planner**
  - Landscape-scale planning – Prioritize where to invest funding & conduct outreach
- **Sonoma Wildfire Fuel Mapper**
  - Parcel-scale planning - Decide what to do on a property & how to do it
- **Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and CWPP Hubsite**
  - Education and planning tools for Structure Hardening, Defensible Space, landscape fuels management



# 1.2 Expand Outreach & Education on Vegetation Management and Provide Resources to Landowners to Help Mitigate Fire Risk

- Free Chipper Program From April 2023 to present
  - 310 Applications, 226 projects completed, 14 waiting for chipper, 157 re-chip asks
  - Four Community Projects Completed, 157 properties served
  - \$485,000 Current and expected continuing budget estimate
- Defensible Space Inspection Program – Partnering with Fire Districts
  - 2,754 Inspections (2,400 compliant, 217 in violation)
  - 2,330 in process
  - \$600,000 Current and expected continuing budget estimate



# 1.2 Expand Outreach & Education on Vegetation Management and Provide Resources to Landowners to Help Mitigate Fire Risk

- 2023 Living with Fire: Sonoma County Forest Conservation Conference
  - Two-day gathering focused on managing forestland
  - \$100,000 was invested
  - Brought together multiple agencies (state and local), funders, technical services and experts
  - Provided a wide range of training for landowners and communities on how to become more wildfire resilient.



**AG +  
OPEN  
SPACE**  
SONOMA COUNTY



**GOLD RIDGE**  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**S O N O M A**  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**SONOMA COUNTY FOREST  
CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**

**UC  
CE**

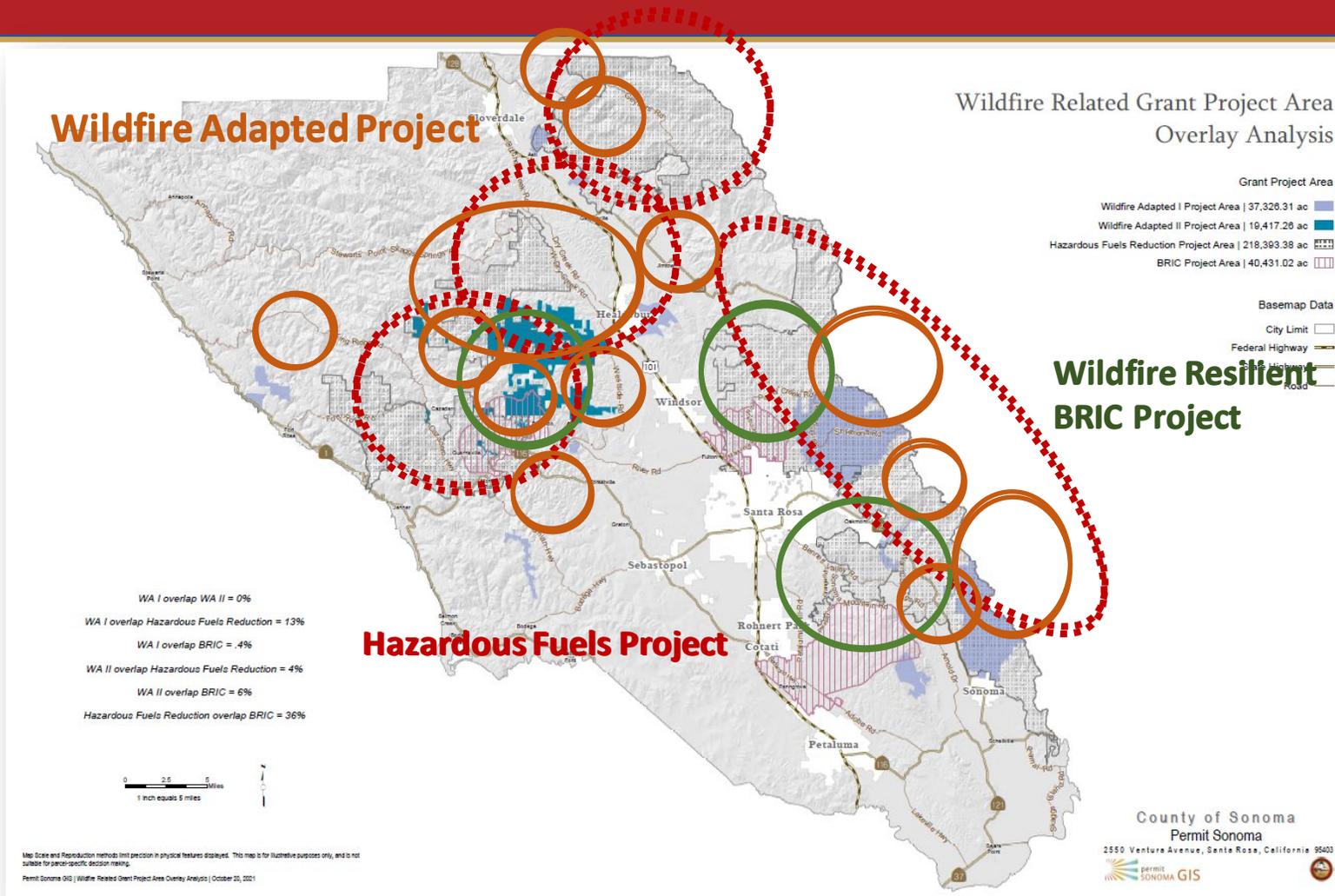


# 1.3 Leverage Grant Funding to Support Sustainable Vegetation Management Program.

- County Board allocated \$25 million for vegetation management work in October 2020
- Over \$11 million awarded to community partners 2021-2023
- Wildfire Adapted Sonoma County - FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant (HMGP) #1
  - ~\$9.3 Million for Structure Hardening and Defensible Space Assessments and Education and Rebate Incentive for Property Owners
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project - FEMA HMGP #2
  - ~\$6 Million for Wildland Fuels Reduction, site identification, outreach, education, coordination, CEQA/NEPA, planning for shaded fuel breaks, roadside fuels reduction, and implementation by end of FY 24/25
- Wildfire Resilient Sonoma County - FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities Program (BRIC)
  - ~ \$47 Million for Structure Hardening and Defensible Space Assessments and Education and Wildland-scale fuels management near selected community areas; Rebate Incentive for Property Owners in FY 26/27



# 1.3 Permit Sonoma Wildfire Mitigation Grants



- Wildfire Adapted Part 1
- Wildfire Adapted Part 2
- Wildfire Resilient Sonoma County, BRIC
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
- County-wide
  - CWPP Update



# Vegetation Management Grant Program Projects 2021 - 2023

- | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Project Type                                |
|------|------|------|---|
|      |      |      | Access & Egress                             |
|      |      |      | Community Education & Outreach              |
|      |      |      | Defensible Space & Community Risk Reduction |
|      |      |      | Multiple Treatments                         |
|      |      |      | Wildlands Fuel Treatment                    |
|      |      |      | Environmental Compliance / CAL-VTP          |

### Countywide Projects



### Protected Lands

- Ag + Open Space Protected Land
- Other Protected Land

### Fire Perimeter

- 2020 Glass Fire
- 2019 Kincadee Fire
- 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires
- 2020 Walbridge & Myers Fires

### Political Boundaries

- Incorporated City Area & Urban Growth Boundary
- Supervisorial District

| Type of Treatment Funded                    | 2021               | 2022               | 2023               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Access & Egress                             | \$673,000          | \$464,255          | \$175,000          |
| Community Education & Outreach              | \$269,417          | \$113,321          | \$574,680          |
| Defensible Space & Community Risk Reduction | \$1,205,623        | \$171,013          | \$0                |
| Environmental Compliance                    | \$678,075          | \$100,000          | \$150,000          |
| Multiple Treatments                         | \$504,700          | \$1,067,705        | \$455,000          |
| Wildlands Fuel Treatment                    | \$1,806,039        | \$1,273,807        | \$1,806,822        |
| <b>Total Funding</b>                        | <b>\$5,136,854</b> | <b>\$3,190,101</b> | <b>\$3,161,502</b> |
| <b>Number of Projects Funded</b>            | <b>28</b>          | <b>18</b>          | <b>19</b>          |
| <b>Proposed Treatment Area (acres)</b>      | <b>1,041</b>       | <b>1,178</b>       | <b>3,207</b>       |



# 1.3 Leverage grant funding to support sustainable vegetation management program.

- Outcome Goal
  - Produce an incentive ecosystem that will effectively encourage property owners and neighborhoods in vulnerable areas to reduce wildfire risk on their properties and in their communities.
- Development Goal
  - Develop a holistic, assessment-based, incentive program for property owners that complete verified wildfire mitigation actions that would carry an insurance benefit.
- Pilot Project Goal
  - Implement the initial agreed-upon incentive program and monitor the outcomes within a limited area of the county, which we and our partners can use to inform the future of these efforts.





# GOAL 2

Invest in the community to enhance resiliency and become carbon neutral by 2030

# 2.1 Support Microgrid Technology & Energy Grid Resilience: Education, Advocacy & Infrastructure

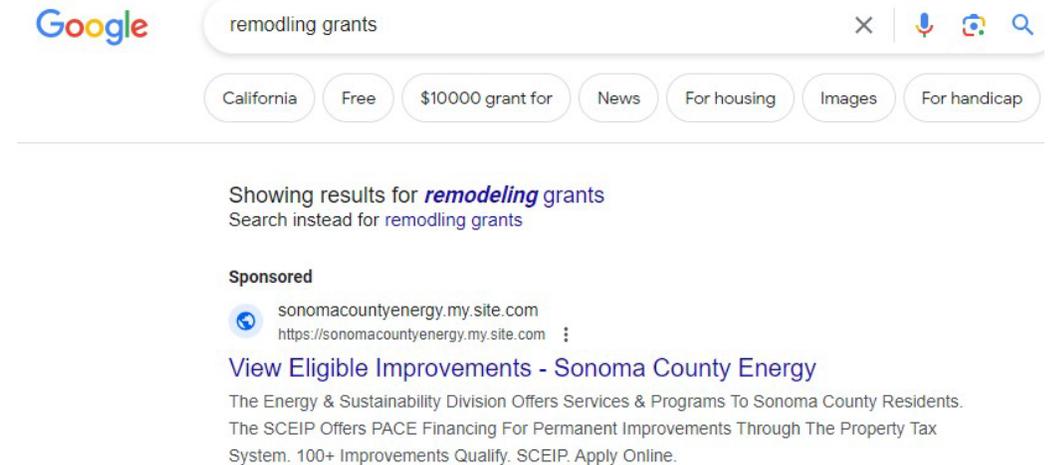
- CRF awards for projects
  - Deployable solar EV chargers at Andy's Unity Park and other locations (\$941,760)
  - Public-private partnership to put EV chargers at Park'n'Ride lots (\$100,000)
- Partnership with the County's Community Choice Aggregation utility - Sonoma Clean Power
  - Aligned legislative advocacy & coordinated outreach
- Congressional Appropriations
- National League of Cities & National Association of Counties Support for SCEIP
- Working Group Participation:
  - Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
  - PG&E's Community Microgrid Enablement Program



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
**SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY COALITION**

## 2.2 Provide \$20 Million in Financing by 2026 that Incentivizes Retrofits of Existing Multi-Family Housing

- The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) offers financing to allow property owners to retrofit existing multi-family properties
- SCEIP works with partners and County resources to identify viable multi-family housing owners and property managers
- \$132,000 from the 2021 thru 2022 strategic plan funds were spent on a marketing campaign to inform property owners in Sonoma County of this program
- 1,107,537 ads have been released to a target audience since January 2021



## 2.3 With Local Partners, Establish Workforce Development Programs that Focus on Carbon Neutral/Resilient Building Technologies by 2023.

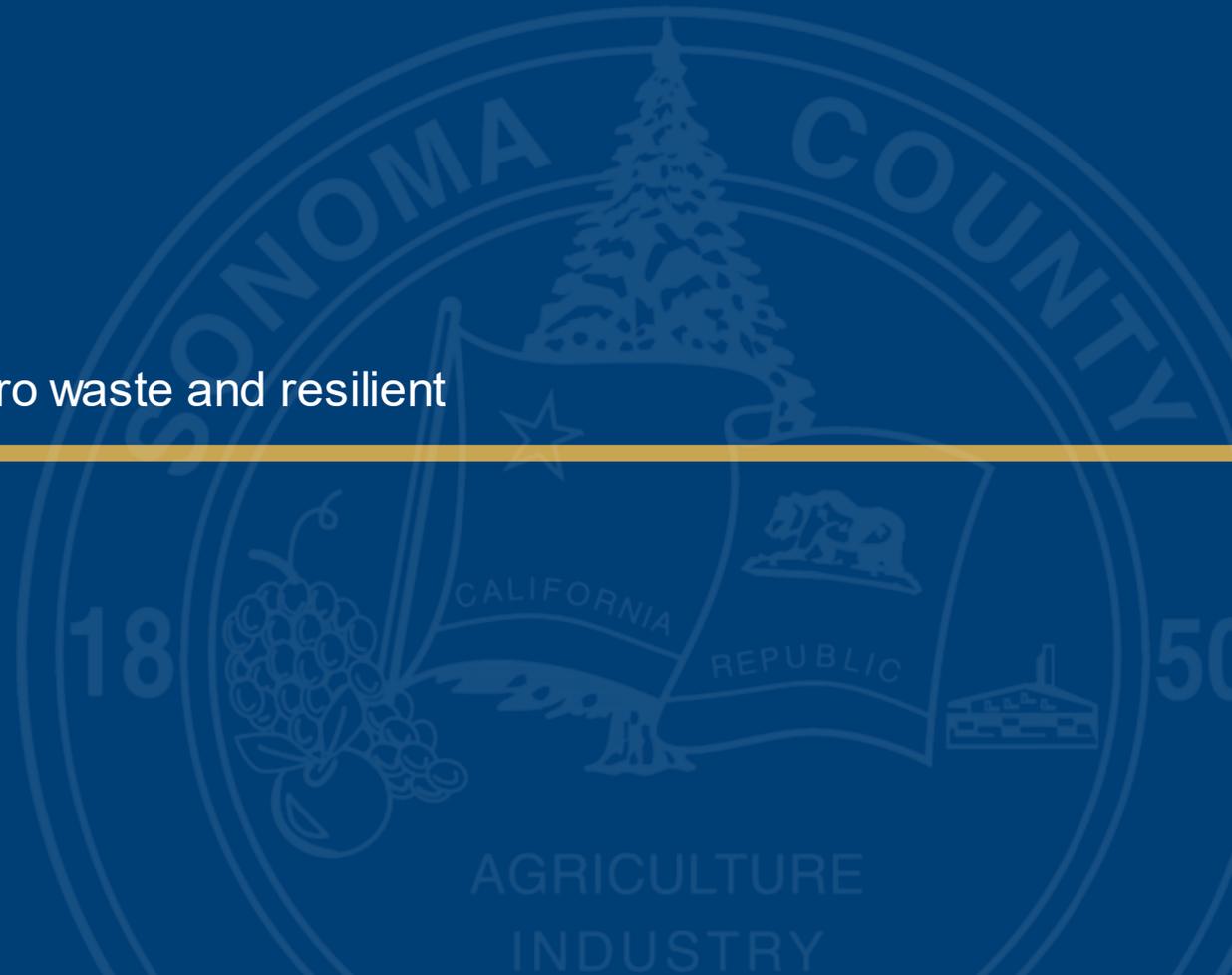
- All new, County-funded electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be installed by electricians certified by the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP)
- The EVITP program was designed to provide qualified electricians with the most comprehensive training available in the market today
- All EVITP Certified Electricians must pass a certification exam for proof of knowledge and skill (\$275/exam)
- CARD and HSD are partnering with the Economic Development Board and Sonoma County Job Link to develop this workforce development program
- Staff is seeking grant funds and partnerships to provide access to EVITP certification to electricians from underserved communities





# GOAL 3

Make all County facilities carbon free, zero waste and resilient



# 3.1 Design/Retrofit County Facilities to be Carbon Neutral, Zero-Waste and Incorporate Resilient Construction

- Achievements
  - Adoption of the 170 SF/person space standard
  - Partnering with Sonoma Waste in landfill diversion programs for construction and operations
  - Participation in the PG&E Sustainable Solutions Turnkey Program
- Opportunities/Facility Upgrades
  - County Government Center
    - Incorporate microgrid
    - Explore mass timber construction
    - Change management during design
    - Increasing share uses
    - Identify transit opportunities
  - Morgue/Public Health Lab
  - Proposed Juvenile Crisis Stabilization Facility
  - Santa Rosa Veterans Building Upgrades
  - Investment grade audits of existing County facilities



# 3.2 Design/Retrofit County Facilities that Promote and Maximize Telework to Decrease GHG Emissions

- Achievements
  - Board approval of the 170 SF per person space standard
  - Collaboration between ISD and SPI in integrating workspace design and technology
    - Maximize technology opportunities
    - Hot Desk concept
    - Smart Conference rooms
  - Pilot programs
    - Expanding satellite centers for ease of access to County facilities
      - Guerneville B of A Building purchase
      - Sonoma, lease at Lomitas
      - Cloverdale, lease opportunity in new private development
    - Exploring Non-traditional workstations that maximize productivity, collaboration, comfort



# 3.3 Establish Carbon Eliminating Microgrid Technology and Improve Energy Grid Resilience

- Achievements:
  - Leverage Strategic Planning funds with SST program for microgrid at Santa Rosa Vets
  - Small microgrid
  - Replace gas water heaters with electric
  - Comprehensive lighting replacement
- Ongoing planning to incorporate solar parking canopy microgrid in program for County Government Center
- Opportunity to consolidate solar PV assets for microgrid at Los Guilicos
- Master Energy Plan in development





# GOAL 4

Maximize sustainability and emissions reductions in all County Fleet vehicles

# 4.1 Achieve a 30% Zero-Emission Vehicle Light-Duty Fleet by 2026

- For fiscal year 2023 thru 2024: 50 vehicles are due for replacement.
  - 30% to be replaced with zero-emission options
  - This brings the percentage of Fleet to 10%.

|                                    | <b>Total Light Duty Fleet</b> | <b>Total EVs</b> | <b>% of Fleet</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>July 1, 2021 -<br/>Baseline</b> | 811                           | 36               | 4.4%              |
| <b>July 1, 2022</b>                | 853                           | 48               | 5.6%              |
| <b>July 1, 2023</b>                | 908                           | 78               | 8.6%              |
| <b>Projected July 1, 2024</b>      | 908                           | 93               | 10%               |

# 4.1 Achieve a 30% Zero-Emission Vehicle Light-Duty Fleet by 2026



Toyota Prius Prime  
Photo Credit: Vincent Mulligan



Toyota RAV4 Prime



Ford F150 Lightning  
Photo Credit: Vincent Mulligan

# 4.2 Invest in the County's Employee Clean Commute Program

- Clean Commute Incentive Program
  - Launched January 2023
  - \$150,000 Strategic Plan Round 1 funding
  - Incentives of \$40 per month for permanent employees who ride the train, bus, carpool, bike or walk to work a certain number days in a six-month period.
- 60 employees qualified for the incentive earning a total of \$14,400 in incentives – For the 1st reporting period

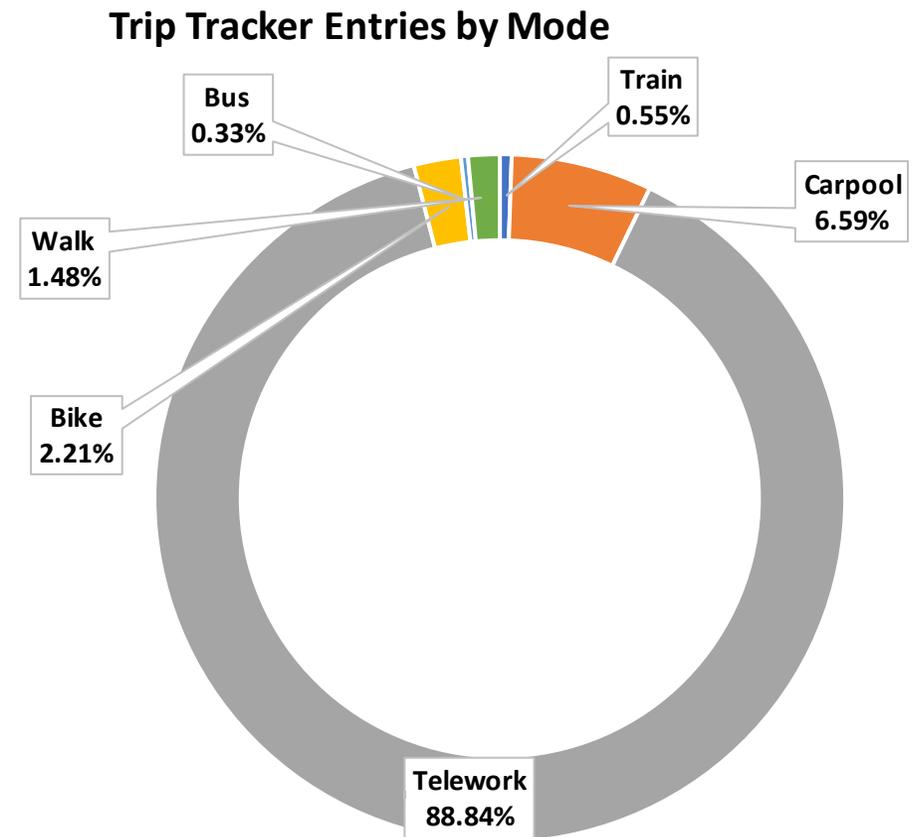


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EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF A SMARTER COMMUTE

# 4.2 Promote Use of Alternate Modes of Transportation

- Online Trip Tracker
  - Launched May 2022
  - Employees log their telework and alternate commute days, sign up for pre-tax benefits, and find a carpool
  - 145,332 trips logged and 745 metric tons of CO2 saved May 2022 - July 2023
- In the coming year, we will be working with our local transit partners to improve bus connections and make it easier for employees to ride.



# 4.3 Upgrade Existing County-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure by 2023.

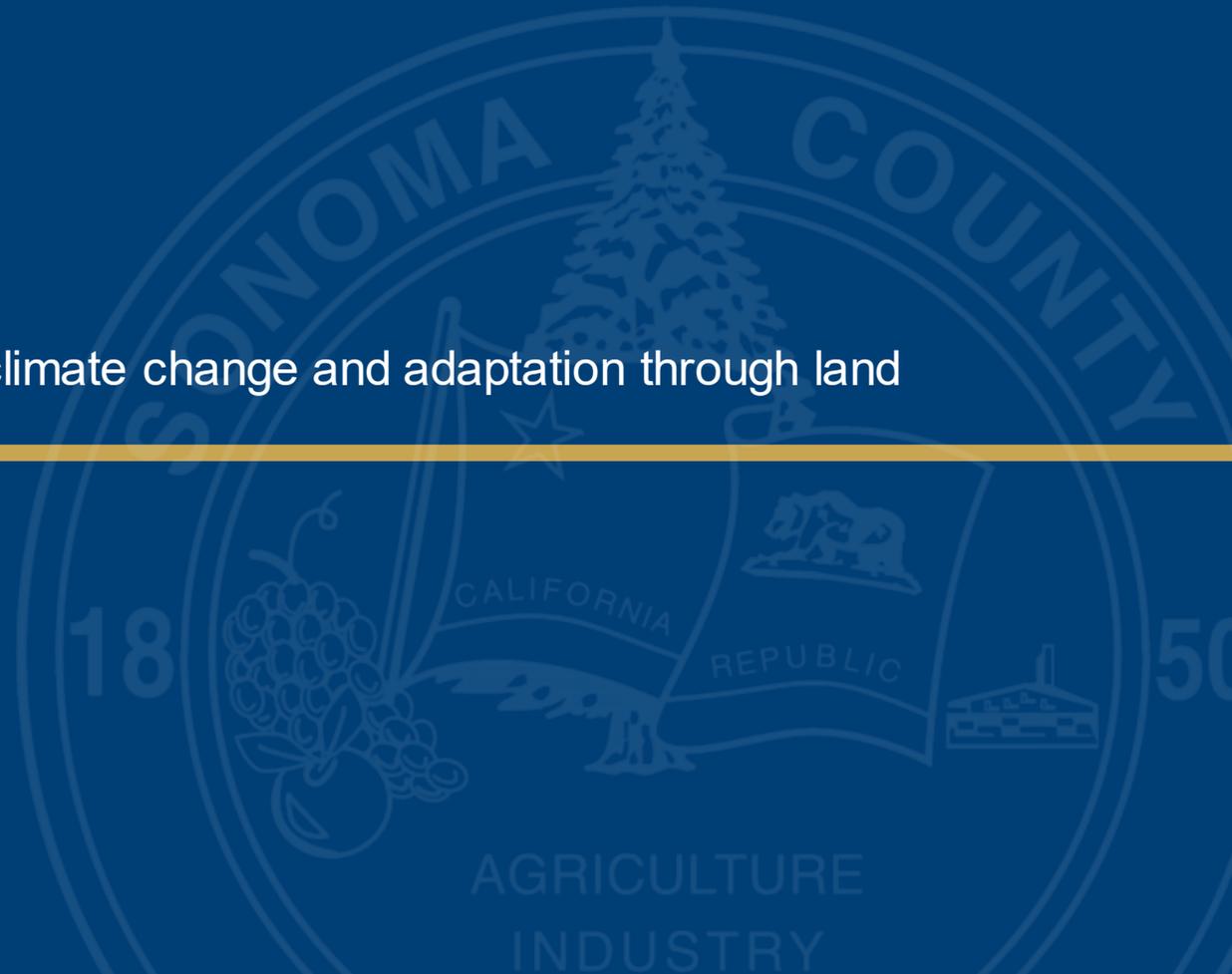
- Replaced and upgraded sites:
  - 2300 County Center Dr (6 ports)
  - 1202 Apollo Way (4 ports)
  - 2550 Ventura Ave (2 ports)
  - 1351 Maple Ave (4 ports)
- New sites:
  - 300 Fiscal Dr (6 ports)
  - 1375 N Dutton Ave (4 ports)
- Future sites
  - Regional Parks
    - Ragle Ranch
    - Taylor Mountain
    - North Sonoma Mountain
    - Maxwell Park
  - Sheriff's Office - 2796 Ventura Ave
  - ISD - 2680 Ventura Ave

|                                | Total County Ports | Total Active Ports | Total Out of Service Ports | % Active to Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>July 1, 2021 - Baseline</b> | 84                 | 66                 | 18                         | 78%               |
| <b>July 1, 2022</b>            | 90                 | 72                 | 18                         | 80%               |
| <b>July 1, 2023</b>            | 98                 | 96                 | 2                          | 98%               |



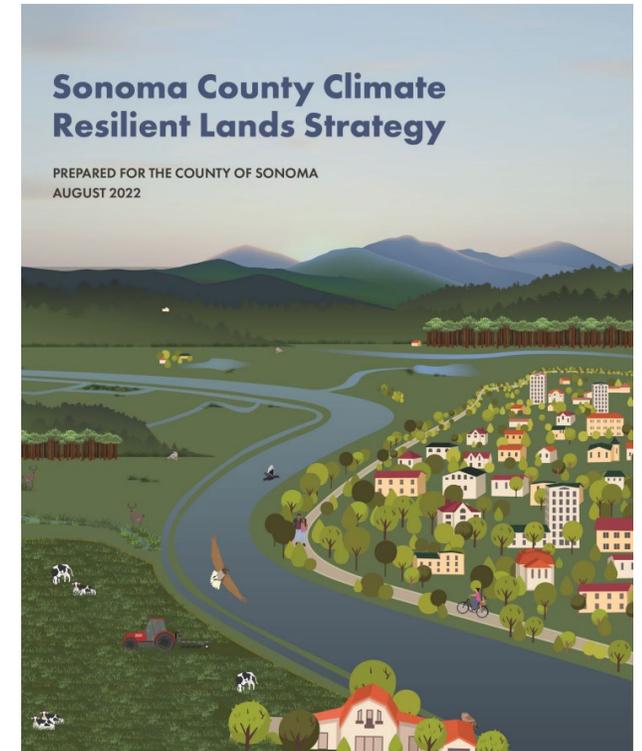
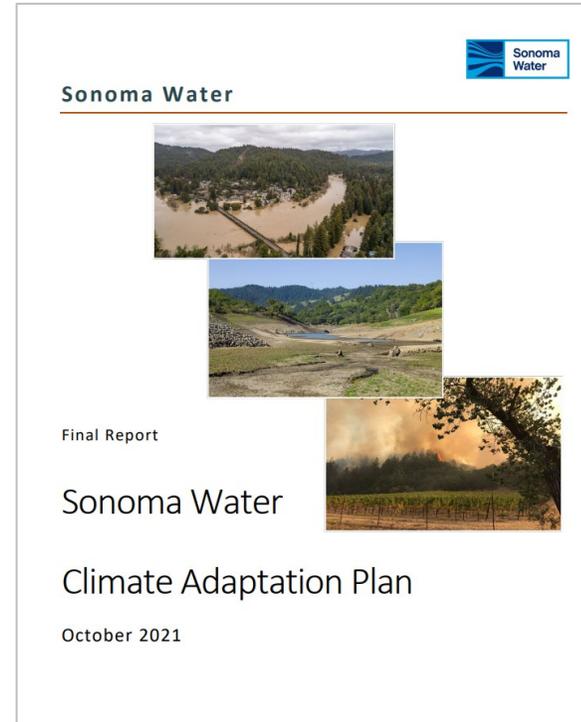
# GOAL 5

Maximize opportunities for mitigation of climate change and adaptation through land conservation work and land use policies



# 5.1 Update County & Special District Planning Documents by 2025 to Maximize Carbon Sequestration and Provide Opportunities for Adaptation

- **2021 Sonoma Water Climate Adaptation Plan**
  - Strategies to mitigate climate risks or improve system resiliency related to water supply, flood management, wastewater systems infrastructure and operations
- **2022 Sonoma County Climate Resilient Lands Strategy**
  - Guidance for climate-related efforts throughout the county with a focus on natural and working lands
- **2023 Sonoma Water Energy and Climate Resiliency Policy**
  - Directs Sonoma Water to maintain its energy program in addition to developing and implementing climate resiliency strategies, investing in climate science and innovation, and pursuing energy and climate resiliency projects of regional benefit



# 5.1 Update County and Special District Planning Documents – In Progress

- Regional Parks Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan
  - Opportunities to mitigate effects of climate change and park facilities while prioritizing economic opportunities for clean energy, water retention and storage, and infrastructure adaptation
- Carbon Sequestration Study
  - Quantitative estimate of existing carbon stocks, carbon sequestration potential, and an evaluation of carbon stock change and stability under different land use change scenarios



# 5.2 Develop Policies to Maximize Carbon Sequestration and Minimize Loss of Natural Carbon Sinks

- Ag + Open Space Vital Lands Initiative (2021)
  - Long-range plan for land conservation
  - Calls for the protection of areas important for climate change and extreme event resiliency and adaption, including projects that promote carbon sequestration and avoided emissions
  - Investigating funding sources to facilitate enhanced land stewardship to meet Vital Lands goals



## 5.2 Develop a framework and policies to incentivize collaboration with private and public landowners.

- **Compost Application Pilot Project**
  - Funds awarded through Climate Resilience Fund to Gold Ridge and Sonoma Resource Conservation Districts
  - Goal of increasing carbon sequestration through application of compost in agricultural and community settings
- **Sonoma-Marín Ag and County Climate Coalition**
  - \$10 million Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant through USDA NRCS
  - Carbon farming support for up to 73 producers
  - Voluntary incentive to producers and landowners to implement climate-smart ag production practices on working lands
  - Catalyze development of a regional carbon finance program to sustain the and scale implementation over long term





# Discussion

