



**A Healthy Western Riverside County**

# How does reducing greenhouse gas emissions improve communities in Western Riverside County?

The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) CAP is a regional effort to foster more livable, equitable, and economically vibrant communities in Western Riverside County by implementing strategies and programs that reduce GHGs in our atmosphere.

## 1 WHAT IS A CAP?

A Climate Action Plan (CAP) takes inventory of the greatest sources of GHGs and identifies prospective solutions.

## 2 WHY PREPARE A REGIONAL CAP?

A regional CAP gives local governments a process through which they can collaborate, share ideas, and develop a customized local CAP. A regional CAP can help member cities streamline environmental review and gain access to new sources of state funding.

Climate change, and resulting extreme weather effects, have been scientifically proven to result from the greenhouse gases (GHGs) originating from human activity. Mitigating emissions has positive impacts on our health, environment, and economy.



### Public Health Benefits

Reducing emissions improves quality of life, decreases air pollution, and lowers the prevalence of chronic health issues.



### Environmental Benefits

CAP strategies, like waste reduction and water conservation, often reduce both emissions and pollution.



### Economic Benefits

Potential economic benefits include: employment growth, especially in green sector jobs, and cost savings in energy and water utilities, transportation, and public health.



### How will WRCOG help the region reduce GHGs?

From August 2019 to March 2021, WRCOG will work with agency staff and the community to gather input and develop the CAP.

The CAP is an update to an existing regional strategy playbook—so we have a good foundation to start from!

WRCOG needs your help to identify specific strategies that will foster a more livable, equitable, and economically vibrant Western Riverside County. These strategies include:



### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Buildings are large consumers of electricity and a major source of GHGs. Implementing energy-efficiency measures is a cost-effective means to reduce energy costs and GHGs; not to mention these retrofits will provide community benefits for decades!



### **URBAN FORESTRY + GREENING**

Trees play an important role in naturally capturing GHGs. Healthy urban forests provide shade and habitat for urban-dwelling animal species. Healthy canopies also increase comfort for pedestrians, enhance the visual aesthetic, and improve stormwater management capabilities.



### **SOLAR + RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Renewable energy helps reduce GHGs, improve energy security, boost the local economy, and pave the way to a sustainable energy future.



### **INCREASING ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE**

Vehicles account for over half of the GHG emissions in the region. In order to meet California's health-based air quality standards and GHG reduction goals, the cars we drive must transition away from petroleum-based fuels to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) powered by clean electricity.



### **GREEN JOBS TRAINING**

As we explore strategies to promote cleaner energy, employment opportunities will emerge in the green economy, related to retrofitting buildings, urban greening, clean energy, transportation, and more.

### **WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS?**

The primary goal of public engagement is to listen to community stakeholders who will actively inform the CAP and shape its implementation. WRCOG alone cannot plan what is best for each jurisdiction.

### **HOW CAN CITY STAFF GET INVOLVED?**

City staff are critical partners in the identification, selection, and implementation of strategies by completing surveys, attending outreach events, and relaying information to constituents to inform the plan document.

### **CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALSO GET INVOLVED?**

One of the most important aspects of the CAP update is inclusion of community members in decision-making to maximize benefits for all residents, especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of GHG emissions.



### **For information, questions, and comments:**

- Follow @WRCOG on social media and use #wrcogCAP; or
- Contact staff at [wrcogCAP@wrcog.us](mailto:wrcogCAP@wrcog.us).