

Project Charter: Board Objective: Climate Resiliency

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BACKGROUND AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Board of Supervisors established Climate Resiliency as one of their priority objectives in 2023 and the objective was renewed again in both 2024 and 2025. The work seeks to meet the objective goal of: "Safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions while maintaining our rural quality of life."

PROJECT SCOPE AND TIMELINE

The Climate Resilience project scope is outlined by the 7 initiatives presented at the Board Workshop.

1. Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure:
 - a. Leverage opportunities available as a member of Pioneer Community Energy
 - b. Explore partnerships, such as NID, to safeguard water infrastructure and maintain healthy water supply
 - c. Guided by Nevada County's Drought Resiliency Advisory Group, establish drought resiliency plan per SB 552.
 - d. Implement Board-approved Nevada County Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Plan
 - e. Improve waste management through SB1383 Food Waste Collection Program
2. Healthy Natural and Working Lands:
 - a. Track measurable resiliency outcomes, such as carbon sequestration and avoided emissions, resulting from fuel mitigation and biomass projects being pursued and implemented by OES and project partners.
 - b. Leverage sustainable recreation in alignment with RRMP.
 - c. Utilizing grant funding awarded by the Sustainable Agricultural Lands and Conservation Program, develop Agricultural and Working Landscape Conservation Plan in partnership with Nevada County Resource Conservation District.
 - d. Explore strategies to support farmers and ranchers with local food production.
 - e. In partnership with Economic Development, expand workforce development opportunities within forest health.
 - f. Community education on forest health and forest management initiatives

3. Public Health:
 - a. Community education related to the impacts of climate events:
 - i. Air pollution / air quality
 - ii. Extreme heat events
 - iii. Fire / smoke impacts
4. Promote Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Storage Capacities
 - a. Identify and track efficiency and electrification opportunities for both County-owned buildings and properties as well as opportunities for private owners throughout the County.
 - b. Enhance access to existing energy efficiency resources for income-eligible County residents.
 - c. Utilize CAAP process and GHG inventory to inform building decarbonization opportunities and priorities.
 - d. Promote workforce development through energy auditors and contractors
5. Develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
 - a. In partnership with Rincon Consultants, develop the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) using funding awarded by RRGP grant award. Plan development takes 18-24 months.
 - b. Engage community stakeholders in CAAP development
6. Enhance Community Collaboration
 - a. Utilize RRGP funding to develop a Western Nevada County Climate Collaborative and evaluate and implement where appropriate the incorporation of the Energy Action Plan group and Solid & Hazardous Waste Commission into the Collaborative.
 - b. Capitalize on collaboration opportunities through our participation in the Climate Transformation Alliance
 - c. Leverage RRGP funding to expand tribal capacity.
 - d. Host 2025 Sustainability Summit in October.
 - e. Host community engagement events such as Earth Day, Dark Skies photography contest, and Plastic Free July.
7. Pursue Funding and Advocacy
 - a. Engage in advocacy opportunities which align with County priorities
 - b. Position County priority projects to align with funding opportunities included in Proposition 4
 - c. Identify State and Federal funding opportunities and submit grant applications where opportunities align with the goals and objectives.

High Level Risks and Assumptions:

Successful implementation of effective resilience strategies requires significant coordination between County departments and external partners. Achieving alignment on the goals and priorities, as well as the methodology for implementing and achieving said goals, will create efficiency. Capacity constraints could influence the timeline by which various projects and initiatives are undertaken.

The potential exists for community sensitivity around how these initiatives could impact economic development or individuals. Consideration will be given to prioritizing community values and mitigating any negative unintended consequences such as increases in consumer business costs, reach codes, or other economic impacts.

Considerable state and federal funding have been allocated towards climate resiliency work in recent years. Voters in California recently passed Proposition 4 which will allocate a total of \$10 billion in funding towards resiliency projects focused on safeguarding drinking water, combatting wildfires, protecting natural lands, and improving resilience against extreme heat. While priority projects for Nevada County align with these funding priorities, we will be competing with numerous agencies across the state for these dollars and thus, we will need to be strategic in our pursuit of these dollars.

Additionally, given the change in administration at the federal level, the availability of previously directed funding opportunities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, may be curtailed, so it is imperative that we act fast on existing opportunities to secure federal dollars.

Communications Plan:

Providing community education, sharing information, and messaging the work that Nevada County and partners is doing in the space of Climate Resiliency is a critical component in the success of this initiative. In partnership with the PIO team, the CAAP consultant, the Ad Hoc subcommittee, and community partners, we will identify opportunities to share information, particularly as we engage the community in the development of the CAAP.

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Summary Budget:

The largest initiatives for the FY26 Climate Resilience Objective include the development of the County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and the development of the Western Nevada County Climate Collaborative (WNCCC). The majority of the costs associated with these two priority initiatives will be funded with our grant award from the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP). The balance of the Climate Budget includes reoccurring initiatives aimed at building capacity, community engagement, and strategic partnerships which can then be leveraged for future funding opportunities. The ongoing initiative support will require allocation of General Fund dollars.

Board Priority Ask: \$119,000

Charter Budget Climate Resiliency					
Initiative/Project	Board Workshop \$ (Board Priority Assign. GF)	Costs			Revenue Note
		Other Funded Costs	Unfunded Costs (e.g. grant or other future opportunity?)	Total Cost	
CAAP Development		\$409,941		\$409,941	RRGP and FY25 Allocation
WNCCC	\$20,000	\$60,000		\$80,000	RRGP funds through initial kick-off / ongoing operations to come from GF allocation
Sustainability Summit	\$10,000			\$10,000	
CivicSpark Fellow	\$40,000			\$40,000	Required partner match
Litter Abatement East County	\$15,590			\$15,590	
Education and Advocacy	\$13,000			\$13,000	
Community Outreach / Engagement	\$13,000			\$13,000	
TOTAL	\$111,590	\$469,441	\$	\$581,031	

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WORKGROUP MEMBERS – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Team Member Name	Department	Roles/Responsibility
Core Working Group:		
Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II	CEO / COB	Project Lead
Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director	CDA	Objective Sponsor
Ariel Lovett, CFAO, HHSA	HHSA	RRGP State Contact, Project Support
Brian Foss, Director of Planning	CDA	CAAP Development
Taylor Wolfe, Public Information Officer	CEO	Communications Representative
Kimberly Parker, Program Manager, Economic Development	CDA	Economic Development Program Manager / Grant Writing
Beth Taylor, CivicSpark Fellow	COB	Project Support, Community Engagement
Ad-Hoc Members		
Supervisor Bullock	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy
Supervisor Hoek	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy

Objective Stakeholders / Engage and Partner (as needed)		
Craig Griesbach, Interim IGS Agency Director	IGS	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
David Garcia, Director Public Works	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
George Schureck, Director of Building		Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure and Community Engagement
Ryan Gruver, Director Health and Human Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure, Public Health
Robin Vanvalkenburgh, Manager Transit Services	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Josh Hylinski, Fleet Operations Manager	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure

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Chris De Nijs, Agricultural Commissioner	CDA	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
Amy Irani, Environmental Health Director	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Kathy Cahill, Director of Public Health	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Public Health
Alex Keeble-Toll, Interim Director, OES	OES	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration, Forest Management (Biomass)
Justin Drinkwater, Director of Facilities	IGS	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency
Rachel Pena, Director Social Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity
Steve Frisch/Kristin York/Sherry Hao	SBC	Support of CAP Development / SNEW program, Advocacy, Collaboration, Funding Pursuits, Project Support, Development of WNCCC

The Climate Resiliency Objective Working Group will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. Prior to each monthly meeting, a specific agenda will be developed with a clear objective, and members of the Core Working Group as well as Objective Stakeholders can self-select their attendance based on the relevancy of the agenda objective. For any members deemed essential for the given meeting, we will proactively follow-up to ensure their attendance. While the specific content will change across the meetings, the overall goal of the larger working group meetings is to engage in dialogue, develop strategy, and move Year 3 Goals forward.

In addition, the Ad-Hoc Climate Resiliency subcommittee, comprised of Supervisor Bullock, Supervisor Hoek, Trisha Tillotson, Mandy Stewart, Ariel Lovett, and Beth Taylor, will meet the second Wednesday of every other month from 9am -10am. Ad Hoc subcommittee meetings will focus on the progress and overall development of the climate objective.

Climate Resiliency is closely related to multiple other board objectives, specifically Emergency Preparedness, Economic Development, and Recreation. As such, the ultimate stakeholder group is expansive, and it is imperative that we continue to align and collaborate with key representatives as the work evolves.

HIGH LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:

Major Stakeholders:

- Nevada County Board of Supervisors (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Nevada County CEO Team (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Sierra Nevada Energy Watch (SNEW / CAAP development and support)
- Nevada County Community Development Agency (leadership, workforce development, business recovery and resilience, impacts to agricultural economy, viable outdoor economy)
- Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency (supportive services, addressing public health impacts, emergency response during a climate event, support for most at-risk individuals)
- Solid & Hazardous Waste Commission (community and jurisdictional collaboration)
Climate Transformation Alliance (community collaboration, leveraging partnership opportunities)
- Incorporated Cities and Town (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- Nongovernmental Organizations (outreach, education, projects, collaboration, grants)
- Sierra Business Council (RRGP partner, member of the CTA, policy, grants, projects)
- Cal OES, BLM, and National Forest Service (impact mitigation/prevention, managing healthy forests, workforce, education, emergency response during a climate event)
- CAL FIRE (impact mitigation/prevention, managing healthy forests, workforce, grants, emergency response during a climate event, advocacy for fire insurance and resources)
- Air Quality Management District (alignment with funding and policy)
- Nevada County Contractors Association (workforce development and energy efficiency strategies)
- Western Nevada County Climate Collaborative (community engagement and collaboration)
- Sierra Energy Reimagined (SERi) and the Energy Action Plan working group (community collaboration)