

Project Charter: Climate Resiliency

Prepared by/project manager: Ariel Lovett, Jeffrey Thorsby

Project Sponsor: Alison Lehman

1. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

To execute the Board of Supervisors 2023 objective for Climate Resilience:

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.

2. PROJECT SCOPE

The Climate Resilience project scope is outlined by the 5 initiatives presented at the Board Workshop.

1. Develop Climate Strategic Plan
2. Enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate goals.
 - a. This includes supporting regional partnerships, coordinating collaboratives, and hosting the Sustainability Summit.
3. Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration through natural and working lands management.
 - a. This includes leveraging sustainable recreation, increasing forest health to reduce GHG and sequester carbon, explore biomass/biochar solutions, support organic waste management, including SB1383 implementation, and explore strategies to support local farmers and ranchers and promote local food production and beneficial cropland management.
4. Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
 - a. Implement Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)
 - b. Explore strategies and partnerships on water infrastructure. Coordinate and support existing work.
 - i. Further Organic waste reduction compliance.
 - ii. Develop Fleet and ZEV infrastructure.
 - iii. Promote community hardening and workforce capacity.
 - iv. Support County Energy Action plan.
 - v. Leverage wildfire prevention funding.
 - vi. Further work on telecommunications.
5. Pursue funding and advocacy opportunities to secure resources for Nevada County.
 - a. This includes submitting grants, identifying opportunities in State and Federal budgets, engaging in advocacy opportunities, and engaging in/supporting the CERF process.

3. WORKGROUP MEMBERS – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Team Member Name	Department	Roles/Responsibility
Core Working Group:		
Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator	CEO	Project Co-Manager

PROJECT CHARTER

Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst	COB	Project Co-Manager
Taylor Wolfe, Public Information Officer	CEO	Communications Representative
Barry Anderson, Senior Management Analyst	CEO	Sr. Management Analyst, CEO Office
Kimberly Parker, Program Manager, Economic Development	CDA	Economic Development Program Manager
Erika Seward, Senior Administrative Analyst	CDA	Sr. Admin Analyst, Recreation
Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II	CEO	Administrative Analyst II / Project Support
Amy Cobden, Administrative Analyst II	CEO	Administrative Analyst II/Grants
Steve Frisch/Kristin York	SBC	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration, Funding Pursuits, Project Support
Ad-Hoc Members		
Supervisor Bullock	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy
Supervisor Hall	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy
Objective Members		
Heba El-Guindy, Director Public Works	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Trisha Tillotson, Director CDA	CDA	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure
Steve Monaghan, Director IGS	CEO	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure
Craig Griesbach, Director OES	OES	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
Brian Foss, Planning Director	CDA	Initiative Support: Develop Climate Strategic Plan
David Garcia, Program Manager Solid Waste	CDA	Initiative Support: SB1383 Implementation
Ryan Gruver, Director Health and Human Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure
Robin Vanvalkenburgh, Manager Transit Services	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Chris De Nijs, Agricultural Commissioner	CDA	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
Erin Mettler, Interim Public Health Director		Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure
Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Analyst OES	OES	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration, Forest Management
Caleb Dardick, Assistant CEO	CEO	Initiative Support: CCA, Communications
George Schureck, Director of Building	CDA	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure

Justin Drinkwater, Director of Facilities	IGS	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure
Rachel Pena, Director Social Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure

The Climate Resiliency Objective Working Group will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month from 3:00pm – 4:00. The first meeting will be held May 4, 2023. 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 Members 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 1 Goals forward.

In addition, the Ad-Hoc Climate Resiliency subcommittee, comprised of Supervisor Bullock, Supervisor Hall, Ariel Lovett, Jeffrey Thorsby, and Mandy Stewart, will meet the 4th Tuesday of every other month. The first meeting will be held on May 4, 2023. Ad Hoc subcommittee meetings will focus on the progress and overall development of the climate objective. Additionally, time will be allocated towards the development of content and key objectives for the 2nd Annual Sustainability Summit to be held in Fall 2023.

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.

4. HIGH LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:

Draft Year one Goals:

Initiative 1: Develop Climate Strategic Plan

- Policy gap analysis on existing county plans
- Internal strategy plan (metric: develop a logic model) that defines implementation strategies, linkages and opportunities

Initiative 2: Community collaboration:

- Consolidate EAP work groups
- Develop Western County Climate Collaborative
- Support aligned community initiatives
 - Battery Event, Rotary Plastics Recycling
- Sustainability Summit

Initiative 3: Carbon Storage and Sequestration:

- SB 1383 – supporting the work group

- Further initiatives Forest Management
 - Funding for fuels reduction
 - Community education
 - Capacity building, inc. Workforce development

Initiative 4: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure

- Further planning and funding for ZEV infrastructure
- Further planning and funding for community energy efficiency
- Support Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Workgroup

Initiative 5: Pursue funding and advocacy opportunities to secure resources for Nevada County.

- a. Apply for 2-4 Grants
- b. RAISE Grant
- c. APG
- d. RCC Grant
- Advocate for climate adaptation and mitigation policy and funding that aligns with County priorities

Major Stakeholders:

- Nevada County Board of Supervisors (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Nevada County CEO Team (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Nevada County Community Development Agency (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)
- Climate Transformation Alliance (policy and budget support)
- Town of Truckee (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- City of Nevada City (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- City of Grass Valley (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- Sierra Business Council (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)
- Energy Action Plan Community Workgroup (policy and community engagement)
- Air Quality Management District (alignment with funding and policy)
- Nevada County Contractors Association (workforce development and energy efficiency strategies)

5. MESSAGING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Messaging the work that Nevada County is doing in the space of Climate Resiliency is a critical component in the success of this initiative. In partnership with the PIO team and *ad hoc*, we will

thoughtfully and consistently provide updates on the various initiatives and work the County is doing. We believe that even the small changes and efforts undertaken by the Nevada County team members contribute to the momentum of the work as well as to branding Nevada County as leaders in this space.

High Level Risks and Assumptions:

The successful deployment and implementation of the Climate Resilience Project will require coordination between and amongst County departments and external partners. Achieving alignment on the goals and priorities, as well as the methodology for implementing and achieving said goals, will be critical for maximizing efficiency and intra-agency coordination. In addition, 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. Consideration will be given to prioritizing community values and mitigating any unintended consequences such as increases in consumer business costs or other economic impacts.

Considerable state and federal funding has been allocated towards climate resiliency work over recent years. Some of the funding is derived from tax revenues which are sensitive to economic vitality, and given the uncertainty surrounding an upcoming economic slowdown, we need to be thoughtful and take advantage of current opportunities that have the capacity to move forward, but not commit to efforts that rely on funding which may not be available over the coming years. Additionally, with 3,033 counties nationally, the available dollars will quickly be oversubscribed for, thus amplifying our need to act fast.

Summary Budget:

\$200,000 Identified by BOS in February 2023.

Identified Expenses:

- \$39,500 CivicSpark Fellow
- \$10,000 Education and Advocacy
- \$5,500 Sustainability Summit
- \$65,000 Service Contracts: Climate Resilience Plan Development
- \$40,000 Initiative Implementation – Professional Services
- \$40,000 Community Capacity and Coordination

Approved by (Project Sponsor): _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by CFO: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by CEO: _____ **Date:** _____