

County of San Mateo

Government Operations Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

Background

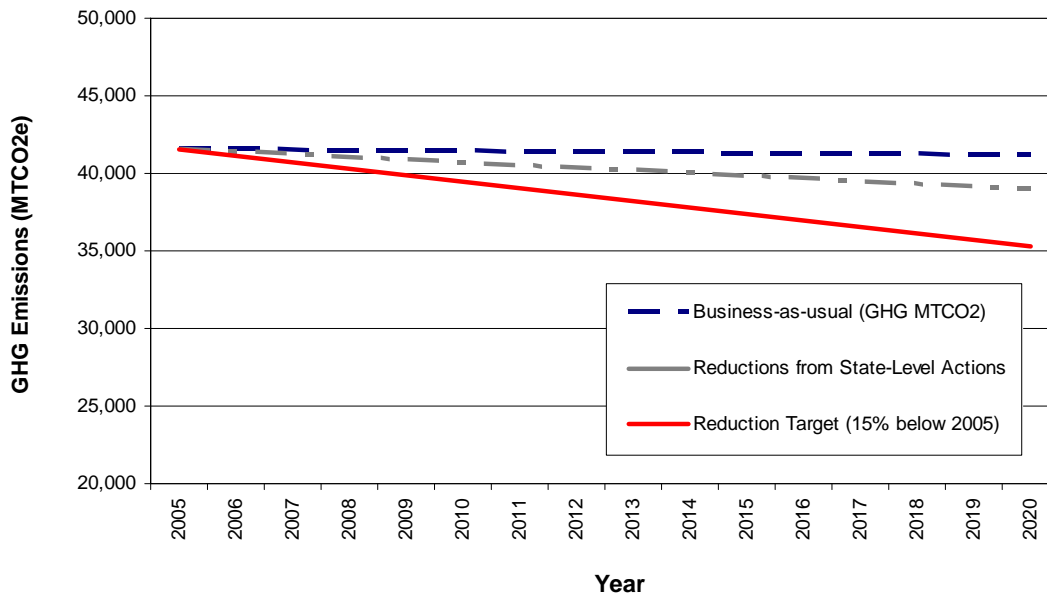
The San Mateo County Government Operations Climate Action Plan guides County efforts to continue to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Plan is based on the 2005 Inventory baseline, and identifies how the County will meet established reduction targets by 2020 and 2050 as required by AB 32 and the Cool Counties Declaration.

Cool Counties Commitment

On October 16, 2007, San Mateo County adopted Resolution No 069053, which supported the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. As part of this declaration, San Mateo County committed to three major goals: create an inventory of operational county government greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and implement policies to target the reduction of these emissions; reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, with flat emissions by 2010; and to urge Congress and the Administration to take action toward reducing GHG emissions.

Findings

The current forecast for the County is shown in the graph below. This forecast projects a flat rate of emissions from 2005 onwards, mostly due to current and projected economic conditions.



The Plan

In order to reach the reduction targets under AB 32, the County will need to reduce its emissions by 5,867 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Reductions resulting from state level legislation such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard are estimated to reduce emissions by 2,600 MT CO₂e. This lowers the amount of emissions that the County needs to reduce to 3,300 MT CO₂e. To meet

this goal, the County has developed a Climate Action Plan for Government Operations which outlines GHG reduction measures to be taken in the areas of energy, transportation, and solid waste. The specific measures are outlined in the table below:

Measure Category	Description of Measure	Annual Emission Reductions (MTCO ₂ E)	Measure Priority Score	Short Term/ Medium Term/ Long Term
Energy	Energy Efficient Street Lighting and Traffic Signals	25	3.25	Short Term
	Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy – Energy	78	4.03	Short Term
	Renewable Energy Technology	130	3.55	Short Term
	Increase Energy Efficiency in County Buildings	667	3.22	Short Term
Transportation and Land Use	Purchase Fuel Efficient, Low Emission Vehicles	320	3.22	Medium Term
	Alternative Work Schedules	484	3.35	Short Term
	Commute Alternatives Program	1,308	2.93	Medium Term
Solid Waste	Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy – Waste	N/A	2.53	Long Term
	75% waste diversion rate	39	2.90	Short Term

These measures will result in a total of 3,051 MT CO₂e of emission reductions, which is roughly equivalent to the targeted level of emission reductions in order to reach the AB 32 goal of 1990 emission levels by 2020. Many of the measures are low or no-cost, some are tied to behavior change, and most generate savings over time. Other GHG reduction measures require larger investments, which will be incorporated into budget recommendations as funding is available.

Through the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the County of San Mateo will reduce its carbon footprint, improve the public health, and create a healthier, more sustainable environment for the County’s employees and residents.