



Energy Blog

Orange County's Climate Action Plan: What it entails for residents (Page 1 of 3)

Over the past year, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has been committed to sharing information on climate change and environmental issues. This is because CAP OC recognizes climate change is indiscriminate and will affect all of us, regardless of sex, race, class, gender, and age. CAP OC is committed to providing readers with information on how our various programs can help mitigate the worst effects of climate change, such as extreme heat and weather patterns.

CAP OC also recognizes that this information can be bleak, which is why we are taking this month to celebrate climate positives. This month's series will highlight climate victories, innovative approaches to building sustainable communities and other amazing things climate activists are doing to fight against climate change. We hope that this blog series will close out an eventful year and bring a bit of hope into your lives.

Earlier this year, Orange County supervisor Katrina Foley announced the County's preliminary draft of its Climate Action plan. The Fullerton Observer noted that Supervisor Foley announced that the draft outlines measures for a resilient future through waste reduction, improved air quality, accessible and clean water, and expanded tree canopies countywide. Currently, only eight out of thirty-four cities have drafted climate action plans; The county taking lead on this will hopefully kickstart the rest of the county in drafting their own individual action plan.

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Why does this matter?

According to the LAist, Orange County, despite being the sixth most populous county in the US, has lagged far behind in taking action against climate change. A climate action plan (CAP) are plans that include targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and detailed steps for meeting and tracking those targets, though often times they also include energy and resiliency plans as well. A climate action plan is only effective when it is legally binding and is continually followed.

What is in the plan?

Orange County's Climate Action Plan draft wishes to do five things:

1. Conduct an inventory and forecast of local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. Establish GHG reduction targets.
3. Develop an action plan for achieving emissions reduction targets.
4. Implement the emissions reduction action plan.
5. Monitor and report on progress.

The plan lists out six priority sectors, selecting each sector based on its potential to reduce emissions, co-benefits, available grant opportunities or funding, and alignment with the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and jurisdictional authority. The six sectors are Energy, Mobility, Resource Recovery and waste, Environmental Justice, Natural Resources and Resilience.

CAP OC applauds the County of Orange for taking the initiative to prioritize vulnerable populations in its climate action plan. Within its plan, the county identified areas of high economic disparities, dubbed red zones.

“Red Zones are defined as census tracts where unemployment rates are at least 2.0 percent higher than the national average and average per capita income is less than 80 percent of the national average. [...] Overall, 289,752 Orange County residents (9 percent of the county population) reside in Red Zones.”

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Additionally, the plan recognizes the other benefits it creates, such as improved public health and health equity and economic growth through the creation of new green jobs. To learn more about Orange County's Climate Action Plan, check out the plan PDF, available online.

Sources:

(1) [OC Supervisor Katrina Foley Announces Publication of the DRAFT Climate Action Plan for the County of Orange](#)

(2) [OC Climate Plans](#)