

Napa County

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559



Agenda - Final

Friday, February 27, 2026

9:30 AM

Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Third Floor

Climate Action Committee

AMERICAN CANYON Melissa Lamattina, Mark Joseph, Pierre Washington (Alternate)

CALISTOGA Kevin Eisenberg(Chair), Lisa Gift, Irais Lopez-Ortega (Alternate)

NAPA Beth Painter, Bernie Narvaez(Vice-Chair), Christopher DeNatale (Alternate)

NAPA COUNTY Liz Alessio, Joelle Gallagher, Amber Manfree (Alternate)

ST. HELENA Billy Summers, Michelle Deasy, Vacant (Alternate)

YOUNTVILLE Hillery Bolt Trippe, Pamela Reeves, Eric Knight (Alternate)

Brian D. Bordona, Director, McKayla McMahon, County Counsel, Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager, Jesse Gutierrez, Principal Planner, Ryan Melendez, Planner II, Alexandria Quackenbush Meeting Clerk, Angie Ramirez, Meeting Clerk, Aime Ramos, Meeting Clerk

How to Watch or Listen to the Napa County Climate Action Committee Meetings

The Climate Action Committee will continue to meet at 9:30 AM on the 4th Friday of each month. December 11, 2026 CAC meeting adopted in place of the Regular November and December meetings.

The Climate Action Committee meets as specified in its adopted annual calendar at 1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Napa California 94559. The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Assistive listening devices and interpreters are available through the clerk of the Climate Action Committee. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made to the Clerk of the Climate Action Committee's office no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting (707) 253-4417 or meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org.

The Climate Action Committee realizes that not all County residents have the same ways to stay engaged, so several alternatives are offered. Remote Zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the Climate Action Committee reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

Please watch or listen to the Climate Action Committee meeting in one of the following ways:

1. Attend in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Napa Suite 305.
2. Watch on Zoom using the attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/82901122471>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date.
3. Listen on Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 829-0112-2471).

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person and wish to submit a general public comment or a comment on a specific agenda item, please do the following:

1. Email your comment to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org. Emails received will not be read aloud but will still become part of the public record and shared with the Committee Members.
2. Use the Zoom attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/82901122471>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date. When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click "raise hand." Please limit your remarks to three minutes.
3. Call the Zoom phone number 1-669-900-6833 Enter Meeting ID 829-0112-2471 When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise hand. Please limit your remarks to three minutes.

****Please note that phone numbers in their entirety will be visible online while speakers are speaking****

For more information, please contact us via telephone at (707) 253-4417 or send an email to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org.

ANY MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE:

ON A MATTER ON THE AGENDA

Please proceed to the podium when the matter is called and, after receiving recognition from the Chair, give your name and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair or Committee, but is generally limited to three minutes.

ON A MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker, subject to the discretion of the Chair. Comments should be brief and focused, and speakers should be respectful of one another who may have different opinions. Please remember this meeting is being recorded and broadcasted live via ZOOM. The County will not tolerate profanity, hate speech, abusive language, or threats. Also, while public input is appreciated, the Brown Act prohibits the Committee from taking any action on matters raised during public comment that are not on the agenda.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**
- 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

In this time period, anyone may address the Climate Action Committee regarding any subject over which the Committee has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 23, 2026. [26-292](#)

Attachments: [1-23-26 Draft Minutes](#)

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A. Receive an update on the status of the draft Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and related CEQA document. 26-339

Attachments: [RCAAP Update_February 27.pdf](#)
[1. Public Comment_Jan 29 & Feb 2_Chris Warner_RCAAP.pdf](#)
[2. Public Comment_Chris Warner_Heat Pump Costs Harvard Center for the Environment.pdf](#)
[3. Public Comment_Chris Warner_Energy Policy Decarbonizing with Heat Pumps Study.pdf](#)
[5A_Presentation RCAAP ISMND Update_Feb 27\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)
[5A_Public Comment_Chris Warner_RCAAP and Napa County Sustainability Updates\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)

- B. Receive a presentation from staff and discuss the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26/27) of \$144,455 for program administration of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) and support for related projects, such as the Napa Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP). 26-327

Attachments: [Napa County Staff Time - Hours Breakdown_color Proposed CAC Budget_FY26-27_Feb 27](#)
[5B_Presentation Proposed CAC Budget_Updated Feb 27\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)
[5B_Public Comments on Proposed CAC Budget\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)

- C. PRESENTATION: Napa County staff will update the CAC on the progress of climate action and sustainability activities for the unincorporated Napa County jurisdiction. 26-299

Attachments: [Presentation - Item 5C](#)
[5C_Public Comment_Chris Warner_Napa County Sustainability Updates\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)

6. **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE ABOVE STATED MEETING WAS POSTED AT A LOCATION FREELY ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE NAPA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 1195 THIRD STREET, NAPA, CALIFORNIA ON FEBRUARY 24, 2026 BY 9:00AM. A HARDCOPY SIGNED VERSION OF THE CERTIFICATE IS ON FILE WITH THE COMMITTEE CLERK AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

AIME RAMOS (by e-signature)

Aime Ramos, Clerk of the Commission



Napa County
Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559
www.napacounty.gov
Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/27/2026

File ID #: 26-292

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director, Napa County Planning, Building, & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Ryan Melendez, Planner II - Sustainability
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 23, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clerk requests approval of minutes from the Special Meeting on January 23, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Only committee members who attended the January 23, 2026, Special Meeting of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) may vote on the minutes. All other CAC members should abstain from the vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.



Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Committee

Committee Members

American Canyon	Melissa Lamattina	Mark Joseph
Calistoga	Lisa Gift	Kevin Eisenberg (<i>Chair</i>)
Napa	Beth Painter	Bernie Narvaez (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)
Napa County	Liz Alessio	Joelle Gallagher
St. Helena	Michelle Deasy	Billy Summers
Yountville	Hillery Bolt Trippe	Pamela Reeves

County Staff

Brian D. Bordona, Director
McKayla McMahon, Committee Counsel
Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Cons. Mgr
Jesse Gutierrez, Principal Planner
Ryan Melendez, Planner II
Alexandria Quackenbush, Meeting Clerk
Angie Ramirez Vega, Meeting Clerk
Aime Ramos, Meeting Clerk

Alternates

American Canyon	Pierre Washington
Calistoga	Irais Lopez Ortega
Napa	Christopher DeNatale
Napa County	Amber Manfree
St. Helena	Vacant
Yountville	Eric Knight

Friday, January 23, 2026

9:30 AM

Board of Supervisors Chambers
1195 Third Street, Third Floor

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Mark Joseph, Melissa Lamattina, Pamela Reeves, Kevin Eisenberg, Joelle Gallagher, Michelle Deasy, Beth Painter, Hillery Trippe, Bernie Narvaez, Liz Alessio
Committee Members Absent: Billy Summers, Lisa Gift

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Two (2) public comments were heard

4. CONSENT ITEMS

A. The Clerk of the Committee requests approval of minutes from the Special meeting held on: November 21, 2025

Motion by Member Joseph to approve Consent Item, seconded by Member Alessio

Vote: Carried 10-0

Yes: Lamattina, Joseph, Eisenberg, Narvaez, Painter, Alessio, Gallagher, Deasy, Trippe, Reeves

No: None

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2026 CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE.

STAFF REQUEST: Accept nominations and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026 Climate Action Committee.

Chair Gallagher opened public comment; no public comments were heard

Motion by Chair Gallagher to elect Vice-Chair Eisenberg as Chair and Member Narvaez as Vice-Chair for the 2026 Climate Action Committee, seconded by Member Joseph

Vote: Carried 10-0

Yes: Lamattina, Joseph, Eisenberg, Painter, Narvaez, Alessio, Gallagher, Deasy, Trippe, Reeves

No: None

B. DISCUSS AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2026 CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR

STAFF REQUEST: Discuss and adopt the proposed 2026 Climate Action Committee regular meeting calendar.

Ryan Melendez presented the item

A discussion was initiated by Member Gallagher with the members and staff

Chair Eisenberg opened public comment; no public comments were heard

Motion by Member Alessio to adopt the proposed 2026 regular meeting calendar, seconded by Member Narvaez

Vote: Carried 10-0

Yes: Lamattina, Joseph, Eisenberg, Painter, Narvaez, Alessio, Gallagher, Deasy, Trippe, Reeves

No: None

C. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON SB1383 BY AMANDA GRIFFIS

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation on SB 1383 by Amanda Griffis, Supervising Environmental Resource Specialist for Napa County Public Works and Staff to the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency.

Amanda Griffis presented the item

Chair Eisenberg opened public comment; no public comments were heard

Chair Eisenberg initiated a discussion with the members

No action was taken

D. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE CAC'S 2026 WORKPLAN AND RELATED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAC MEMBERS AND STAFF

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation on the CAC'S 2026 Workplan and related roles and responsibilities of CAC members and staff. Staff will describe the budget process for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and request the CAC's direction on priorities for FY 26/27.

Jesse Gutierrez presented the item

Chair Eisenberg initiated a discussion with the members and staff

Chair Eisenberg opened public comment; no public comments were heard

No action was taken

E. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

STAFF REQUEST: Accept public comment received via email.
Chair Eisenberg presented the item
Chair Eisenberg initiated a discussion with the members and staff
Chair Eisenberg opened public comment; one public comment was heard
No action was taken

6. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Alessio reported that she has received feedback from constituents requesting additional EV chargers and that she has been informed that many existing chargers are not functioning
Member Joseph announced that the City of American Canyon has received funding for a part-time Sustainability Analyst position and the posting for the position is now open
Member Painter announced that the 4th Annual Climate Summit will be held on March 26th, from 3pm-5pm at Napa Valley College
Ryan Melendez made the following reports and announcements:

- All the site visits, reports and cost estimates have been completed for the initial selected sites for the MCE EV Technical Assistance Joint Application
- The City of St. Helena has signed on to participate in the BayREN Public Program Energy Road mapping Program
- The Staff and stakeholders from various jurisdictions within the Bay Area have begun to meet as an implementation working group to discuss and prepare for the Bay Area Air’s District Rules 9-6
- The counties of Marin, Sonoma and Napa will be hosting a Bay Area, North Bay Contractor Forum and Training on Friday, January 30, from 7:30 – 11:30AM at the Petaluma Veterans Building

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Deasy requested that a presentation by the St. Helena Community Forest be brought before the CAC

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.

AIME RAMOS, Meeting Clerk



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559
www.napacounty.gov
Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/27/2026

File ID #: 26-339

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Staff update: Napa Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP).

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an update on the status of the draft Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and related CEQA document.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Last fall, the draft RCAAP was released for a 60-day public comment period (August 1-September 30, 2025). The document was subsequently revised to incorporate feedback received during that period, along with additional refinements resulting from review by project staff, the All Staff Working Group, agency partners, and internal stakeholders.

Over the past several months, staff and consultants have been preparing the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to support the project. As part of this process, staff conducted formal consultation with designated representatives of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on February 12, 2026. Formal consultation is required pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) prior to circulation of the IS/MND. At the time of this staff report, formal comments from the tribal representatives have not yet been received. Upon completion of consultation, the draft IS/MND will be released together with a Notice of Intent (NOI), which formally announces that the document is available for public review and comment for a 30-day period.

The NOI and draft IS/MND will be distributed to the RCAAP interested parties list and to potentially affected

agencies. The NOI will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation and filed with the County Clerk. A hard copy will be available at the public counter of the Napa County Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department and posted on the Department's website.

Following the close of the 30-day review period, staff and the consultant will review and consider all comments received. Depending on the substance of those comments, additional revisions to the IS/MND and draft RCAAP may be warranted. Staff anticipate providing the CAC with an update in April, including next steps for completing the CEQA process and advancing the RCAAP for final review and action.

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

Climate Action Committee (CAC)



Jesse Gutierrez & Ryan Melendez

February 27, 2026



RCAAP Update

- Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- RCAAP
- Adoption Hearings



Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)



Photo Credit: City of Calistoga

- Consultation with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Public draft IS/MND 30-day comment period



RCAAP



Photo Credit: City of American Canyon

- Final RCAAP will be released concurrently with public draft IS/MND
- Final RCAAP incorporates feedback and comments received during public comment period.
- Thematic and technical responses to comments will be shared with the public.



Adoption Hearings

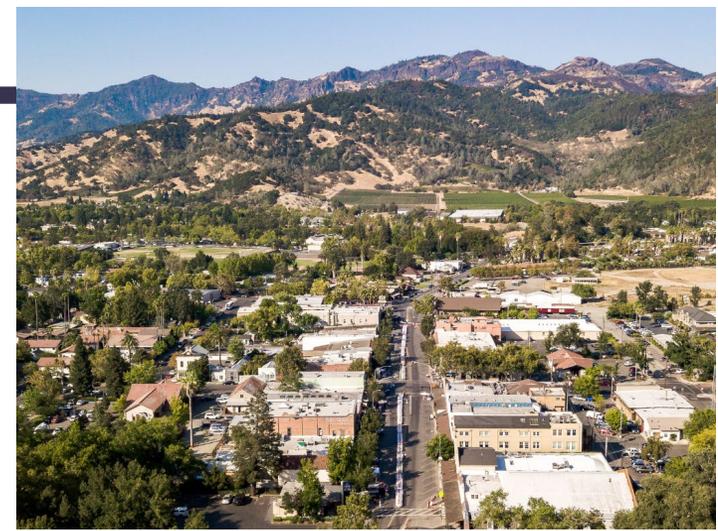


Photo Credit: City of Calistoga

- Final RCAAP will be presented to the CAC first for approval and endorsement.
- Considering June 2026 for Board of Supervisors.
- Each of the jurisdictions will hold their own adoption hearings for the RCAAP.



Thank you

Jesse Gutierrez - Principal Planner

Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org

707-299-1362

Ryan Melendez - Planner II

Ryan.Melendez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-5969



@countyofnapa



From: [Christopher J Warner](#)
To: [Gutierrez, Jesse](#)
Cc: [Crosby, Jamison](#); [Maya DeRosa](#); [Michelle Deasy](#)
Subject: Re: On-Line Availability of Public Comments on Draft RCAAP
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:14:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Energy Policy Decarbonizing with Heat Pumps Study.pdf](#)
[Heat Pump Costs Harvard Center for the Environment.pdf](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Jesse, further to the consideration of public comments on the Draft RCAAP, and in particular my prior comments requesting that key measures in the Draft RCAAP relating to electrification and bans on gas appliances include factual benefit and cost data, here is a recent Harvard Center for the Environment Energy Policy study on the capital, installation and operating costs of electric heat pumps. Please include this in the public comments record on the Draft RCAAP and also provide to CAC members and to the CAC staff and consultants for consideration in the additional analysis of benefits and costs of the Draft RCAAP measures and funding needs for reducing the costs of electrification under the Draft RCAAP.

Thx!

Chris Warner
St. Helena
chrisjwarner52@gmail.com

On Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:53 PM Christopher J Warner <chrisjwarner52@gmail.com> wrote:
That sounds fine Jesse - I just think planning for implementation and funding needs before you actually know what you are implementing (including what your plan is that is subject to the CEQA review) seems premature and a waste of staff effort—if the mandatory measures in the draft RCAAP are significantly modified, it would appear logical to conclude that the implementation plan, funding needs, and CEQA review would be far different...

Chris

On Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 4:33 PM Gutierrez, Jesse <Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org> wrote:

Hi Chris,

The CAC workplan conversation was more of a high-level planning discussion of what would happen after the RCAAP is adopted. The RCAAP Initial Study CEQA document still needs to go out for public review and comment. We are hoping to have that ready in mid- to late-February.

Thank you for your comment and I will include it as public comment on the RCAAP for the

next CAC meeting.

Thanks,

Jesse

From: Christopher J Warner <chrisjwarner52@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:50 AM
To: Gutierrez, Jesse <Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: Re: On-Line Availability of Public Comments on Draft RCAAP

[External Email - Use Caution]

Jesse, never mind, I accessed the video directly on Granicus.

However, in a quick review of the meeting, it appears the Committee is putting the "cart before the horse" both in an administrative sense and a legal sense, potentially conflicting with the requirements for adopting a plan based on substantial evidence in the record from the public as well as public comments. The transcript appears to include a CAC decision to move forward with "implementation" of the draft RCAAP BEFORE IT HAS BEEN ADOPTED BASED ON PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE RECORD. This would seem to violate administrative due process e.g. rulemaking requirements, as well as the CAC's own direction that staff come back to the CAC with recommended changes to the draft RCAAP based on the public comments.

I think "implementation" of the draft RCAAP is premature and legally questionable, particularly under CEQA and the CAC's charter, unless and until the CAC actually adopts the final RCAAP based on the record and public comments.

Hopefully I am misinterpreting the CAC's direction to staff, but please include this comment as part of the public record and transmit it to CAC members.

Thank you!

Christopher Warner



Workers install an air-source heat pump at a home in Charlotte, Vt. Robert Nickelsberg/Getty Images

Americans want heat pumps – but high electricity prices may get in the way

Published: January 29, 2026 8:19am EST

Roxana Shafiee

Environmental Fellow, Center for the Environment, Harvard University; Harvard Kennedy School

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.64628/AAl.aq4f63jdu>

<https://theconversation.com/americans-want-heat-pumps-but-high-electricity-prices-may-get-in-the-way-273981>

Heat pumps can reduce carbon emissions associated with heating buildings, and many states have set aggressive targets to increase their use in the coming decades. But while heat pumps are often cheaper choices for new buildings, getting homeowners to install them in existing homes isn't so easy.

Current energy prices, including the rising cost of electricity, mean that homeowners may experience higher heating bills by replacing their current heating systems with heat pumps – at least in some regions of the country.

Heat pumps, which use electricity to move heat from the outside in, are used in only 14% of U.S. households. They are common primarily in warm southern states such as Florida where winter heating needs are relatively low. In the Northeast, where winters are colder and longer, only about 5% of households use a heat pump.

In our new study, my co-author Dan Schrag and I examined how heat pump adoption would change annual heating bills for the average-size household in each county across the U.S. We wanted to understand where heat pumps may already be cost-effective and where other factors may be preventing households from making the switch.

Wide variation in home heating

Across the U.S., people heat their homes with a range of fuels, mainly because of differences in climate, pricing and infrastructure. In colder regions – northern states and states across the Rocky Mountains – most people use natural gas or propane to provide reliable winter heating. In California, most households also use natural gas for heating.

In warmer, southern states, including Florida and Texas, where electricity prices are cheaper, most households use electricity for heating – either in electric furnaces, baseboard resistance heating or to run heat pumps. In the Pacific northwest, where electricity prices are low due to abundant hydropower, electricity is also a dominant heating fuel.

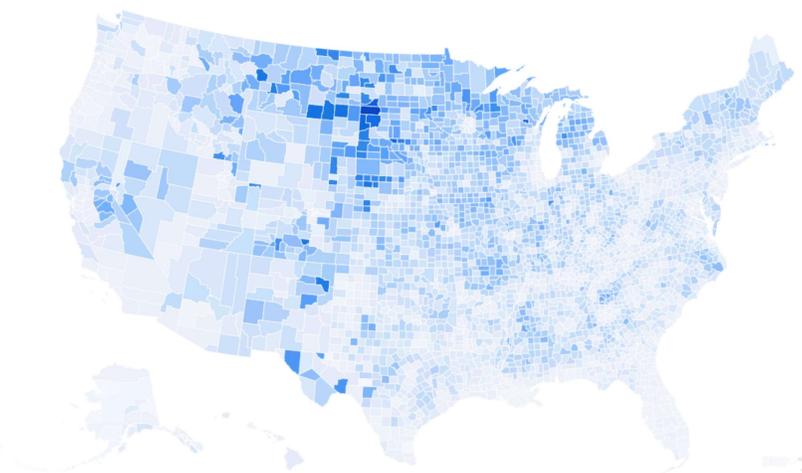
The type of community also affects homes’ fuel choices. Homes in cities are more likely to use natural gas relative to rural areas, where natural gas distribution networks are not as well developed. In rural areas, homes are more likely to use heating oil and propane, which can be stored on property in tanks. Oil is also more commonly used in the Northeast, where properties are older – particularly in New England, where a third of households still rely on oil for heating.

In different regions of the US, people use different energy sources to heat their homes

Click on a fuel type in the drop-down menu below to see what percentage of homes in each U.S. county use each type of heating energy.

Propane ▼

0.01  96.83 %



Sources: Heating source: Shafiee and Schrag, 2025, county boundaries: US Census 2024. • The Conversation, CC-BY-ND

Why heat pumps?

Instead of generating heat by burning fuels such as natural gas that directly emit carbon, heat pumps use electricity to move heat from one place to another. Air-source heat pumps extract the heat of outside air, and ground-source heat pumps, sometimes called geothermal heat pumps, extract heat stored in the ground.

Heat pump efficiency depends on the local climate: A heat pump operated in Florida will provide more heat per unit of electricity used than one in colder northern states such as Minnesota or Massachusetts.

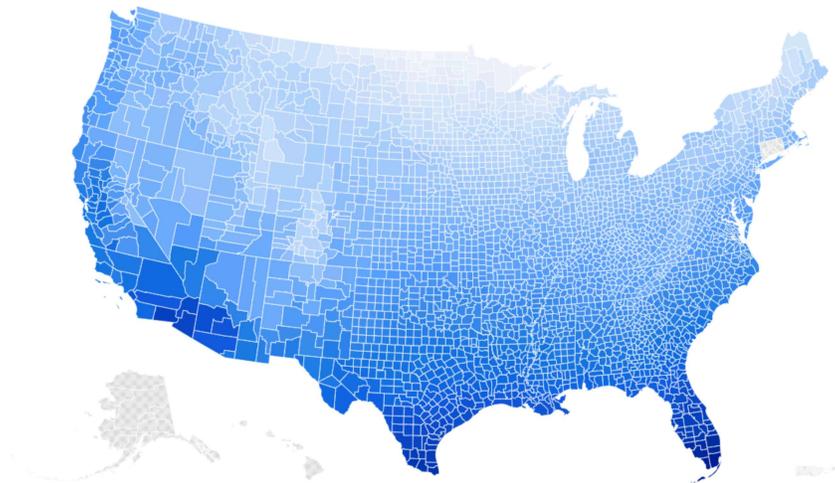
But they are highly efficient: An air-source heat pump can reduce household heating energy use by roughly 30% to 50% relative to existing fossil-based systems and up to 75% relative to inefficient electric systems such as baseboard heaters.

Heat pumps can also reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, although that depends on how their electricity is generated – whether from fossil fuels or cleaner energy, such as wind and solar.

Air-source heat pumps are better at heating in warmer areas

Heat pumps that move heat from the outside air to warm the indoor air generate more heat per unit of electricity in warmer parts of the country than in colder areas. The numbers are the units of heat per kilowatt-hour of electricity.

2.19  4.22



Sources: [Heating source: Shafiee and Schrag, 2025](#), [county boundaries: US Census 2024](#). • The Conversation, CC-BY-ND

Gray areas have no data for that geographical designation.

Made with Flourish • Create a map

Heat pumps can lower heating bills

We found that for households currently using oil, propane or non-heat pump forms of electric heating – such as electric furnaces or baseboard resistive heaters – installing a heat pump would reduce heating bills across all parts of the country.

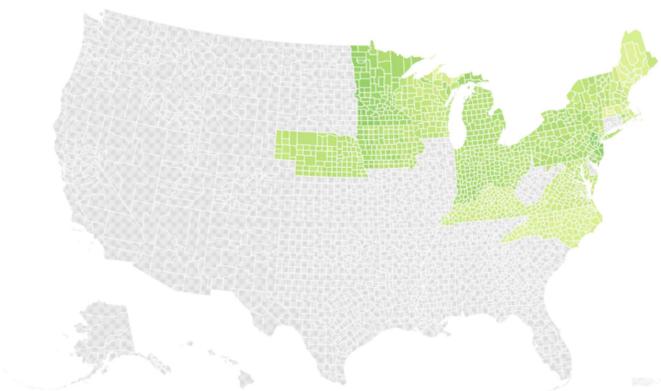
The amount a household can save on energy costs with a heat pump depends on region and heating type, averaging between \$200 and \$500 a year for the average-size household currently using propane or oil.

However, savings can be significantly greater: We found the greatest opportunity for savings in households using inefficient forms of electric heating in northern regions. [High electricity prices](#) in the Northeast, for example, mean that heat pumps can save consumers up to \$3,000 a year over what they would pay to heat with an electric furnace or to use baseboard heating.

Switching to air-source heat pumps can cut heating bills

People who use many common heating fuels would see savings – but not people who heat with natural gas, who could see their annual heating bills climb after the switch. Click on a fuel type in the drop-down menu below to see the details for each U.S. county.

From heating oil to air-source heat pump ▾



Sources: [Heating source: Shafiee and Schrag, 2025](#), [county boundaries: US Census 2024](#). • The Conversation, CC-BY-ND
Gray areas have no data for that geographical designation.

A challenge in converting homes using natural gas

Unfortunately for the households that use natural gas in colder, northern regions – making up around half of the country’s annual heating needs – installing a heat pump could raise their annual heating bills. Our analysis shows that bills could increase by as much as \$1,200 per year in northern regions, where electricity costs are as much as five times greater than natural gas per kilowatt-hour.

Even households that install ground-source heat pumps, the most efficient type of heat pump, would still see bill increases in regions with the highest electricity prices relative to natural gas.

Installation costs

In parts of the country where households would see their energy costs drop after installing a heat pump, the savings would eventually offset the upfront costs. But those costs can be significant and discourage people from buying.

On average, it costs \$17,000 to install an air-source heat pump and typically at least \$30,000 to install a ground-source heat pump.

Some homes may also need upgrades to their electrical systems, which can increase the total installation price even more, by tens of thousands of dollars in some cases, if costly service upgrades are required.

In places where air conditioning is typical, homes may be able to offset some costs by using heat pumps to replace their air conditioning units as well as their heating systems. For instance, a new program in California aims to encourage homeowners who are installing central air conditioning or replacing broken AC systems to get energy-efficient heat pumps that provide both heating and cooling.

Rising costs of electricity

A main finding of our analysis was that the cost of electricity is key to encouraging people to install heat pumps.

Electricity prices have risen sharply across the U.S. in recent years, driven by factors such as extreme weather, aging infrastructure and increasing demand for electric power. New data center demand has added further pressure and raised questions about who bears these costs.

Heat pump installations will also increase electricity demand on the grid: The full electrification of home heating across the country would increase peak electricity demand by about 70%. But heat pumps – when used in concert with other technologies such as hot-water storage – can provide opportunities for grid balancing and be paired with discounted or time-of-use rate structures to reduce overall operating costs. In some states, regulators have ordered utilities to discount electricity costs for homes that use heat pumps.

But ultimately, encouraging households to embrace heat pumps and broader economy-wide electrification, including electric vehicles, will require more than just technological fixes and a lot more electricity – it will require lower power prices.



Decarbonizing residential space heating with heat pumps in the United States

Roxana T. Shafiee ^{a b}  , Daniel P. Schrag ^{a b c d}

Show more 

 Share  Cite

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2025.114997> 

[Get rights and content](#) 

Highlights

- We examine policies to promote heat pump adoption using national bill and usage analysis.
- Heat pump adoption would reduce bills for electric, propane, or oil users by up to \$3000.
- Where bills fall, policies should focus on financing and incentives for multi-unit homes.
- For most natural gas users, about half of U.S. heating demand, bills would rise by up to \$1500.
- Electricity price reform and solutions like time-of-use rates and thermal storage are needed.

Abstract

Heat pumps are a critical technology for decarbonizing the buildings sector, but adoption rates remain low in the United States. Here, we examine policies to promote widespread heat pump uptake based on a national-scale analysis of the impact of heat pump adoption on consumer heating bills and patterns of heating usage across the contiguous United States. At current fuel prices, we show that heat pump adoption would widely reduce heating bills in households using electric resistance, propane, or oil. Drawing on residential energy consumption data, we highlight that for these households, policy interventions should focus on overcoming barriers associated with financing and include incentives for landlords to implement heat pump upgrades in multi-unit dwellings reliant on electric heating. However, for approximately half of U.S. residential heating energy demand—households using natural gas in northern regions with cold winters—our analysis shows that heat pump adoption would significantly raise annual heating bills. In these regions and households, policies should prioritize lowering the price of electricity, such as through time-of-use pricing structures, paired with technologies like thermal storage that allow households to shift heating to lower-cost periods. More generally, targeting high electricity prices will be essential to promoting electrification across all sectors in these regions.

Introduction

Electrification of space heating using heat pumps is likely to be the most technologically scalable and cost-effective solution for decarbonizing the buildings sector, relative to other options such as hydrogen or biogas. As heat pumps use electricity to move heat at high efficiencies, they can offer greater energy efficiencies than fossil-based systems (natural gas, oil, or propane) and conventional electric resistance heating. Despite a steady increase in heat pump sales—including surpassing gas furnace sales in recent years (Rosenow et al., 2022; AHRI, 2025)—overall market penetration remains low, averaging only 14% of U.S. households, with substantial regional variability (EIA, 2024a; EIA, 2024b). Low adoption rates in colder northern states, which account for roughly half of U.S. energy demand for space heating (EIA, 2024c), may be a result of high electricity prices relative to other heating fuels like natural gas, creating an economic disincentive for switching (Davis, 2024).

Here we conduct a high-resolution analysis of the impact of heat pump adoption on space heating operating costs (i.e. consumer bills). Specifically, we determine how air- and ground-source heat pump retrofits would change heating bills for the average-sized household across different climates, fuel types, and energy prices in the contiguous United States. Additionally, we draw on data from the EIA Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) to analyze broader trends in heating fuel use, energy demand, and household characteristics, highlighting economic barriers and opportunities—particularly where subsidization should be prioritized. We also discuss the implications of our results in the context of overall cost-effectiveness of investments, but do not perform detailed calculations of net present value or payback times, given the extreme variability in upfront costs of heat pumps. Finally, we examine proposed technologies and policies for enhancing

the cost-effectiveness of heat pumps, such as heat pump water heaters, time-of-use electricity pricing, and carbon pricing.

Access through your organization

Check access to the full text by signing in through your organization.

Access through your organization

Section snippets

Change in annual household heating bills

To examine the impact of heat pump adoption on annual household heating bills across the United States, we calculated the change in annual heating costs for the average-sized household by primary heating fuel (eq. (1)), mapping the annual cost difference (ΔC_{annual}) relative to the baseline fossil system. All data variables are shown in Table 1.
$$\Delta C_{\text{annual}} = \left(\frac{E_{\text{heat}}}{\text{SCOP}} \cdot C_e \right) - \left(\frac{E_{\text{heat}}}{\eta_{\text{ff}}} \cdot C_{\text{ff}} \right)$$

Although our analysis focuses on the change in heating bills for the average-sized household (by state), household ...

Trends in space heating usage and fuel types

In 2020, approximately 1,180 TWh of energy was consumed for space heating in the United States (EIA, 2024g), representing about 40% of total household energy consumption, although this varies regionally. Energy consumption for space heating is greatest across northern states, where winters are colder and longer, as illustrated by the greater number of heating degree days (Fig. 1). In these regions, up to 60% of annual household energy consumption is used for space heating. To a lesser extent, ...

Policy implications

Current state- and national level policies to promote heat pump adoption focus overwhelmingly on overcoming the high upfront costs associated with their purchase and installation, typically through tax rebates or direct subsidies (Mass Save, 2025; NYSEG, 2025). However, as shown in this analysis and others (Wilson et al., 2024), heat pump uptake also impacts operating costs, with the effect on consumer bills varying across the diversity of climate, fuel costs, and heating types of the United ...

Conclusions

The economic impact of heat pump adoption varies across the United States based on existing heating systems, climate, and, most importantly, the price of electricity relative to other heating fuels. Here we show that based on current fuel prices, heat pump adoption would reduce heating bills in households using electric resistance, propane, or oil across many parts of the country. However, in these households, the time to repay the upfront costs of installation with savings in utility bills may ...

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Roxana T. Shafiee: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Supervision, Software, Resources, Project administration, Methodology, Investigation, Funding acquisition, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Daniel P. Schrag:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Supervision, Software, Resources, Project administration, Methodology, Investigation, Funding acquisition, Formal analysis, Data curation, ...

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper. ...

[Recommended articles](#)

References (44)

C. Ermel *et al.*

[Thermal storage integrated into air-source heat pumps to leverage building electrification: a systematic literature review](#)

Appl. Therm. Eng. (2022)

P. Fitzpatrick *et al.*

[Influence of electricity prices on energy flexibility of integrated hybrid heat pump and thermal storage systems in a residential building](#)

Energy Build. (2020)

D. Gibb *et al.*

[Coming in from the cold: heat pump efficiency at low temperatures](#)

Joule (2023)

C. Han *et al.*

Performance of a residential ground source heat pump system in sedimentary rock formation

Appl. Energy (2016)

A.V. Olympios *et al.*

On the value of combined heat and power (CHP) systems and heat pumps in centralized and distributed heating systems: lessons from multi-fidelity modelling approaches

Appl. Energy (2020)

I.S. Walker *et al.*

Carbon and energy cost impacts of electrification of space heating with heat pumps in the US

Energy Build. (2022)

E.J. Wilson *et al.*

Heat pumps for all? Distributions of the costs and benefits of residential air-source heat pumps in the United States

Joule (2024)

P. Yin *et al.*

In-field performance evaluation and economic analysis of residential ground source heat pumps in heating operation

J. Build. Eng. (2019)

Monthly shipments

L.W. Davis

The economic determinants of heat pump adoption

Environ. Energy Policy Econ. (2024)



View more references

Cited by (0)

[View full text](#)



All content on this site: Copyright © 2026 Elsevier B.V., its licensors, and contributors. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies. For all open access content, the relevant licensing terms apply.



RCAAP and IS/MND Updates



Climate Action Committee

February 27, 2026



Updates

- Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- RCAAP
- Adoption Hearings



Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)



Photo Credit: City of Calistoga

- Consultation with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Public draft IS/MND 30-day comment period
- Presentation to CAC of IS/MND
- Review and response to received comments
- Final IS/MND



RCAAP



Photo Credit: City of American Canyon

- Final RCAAP incorporates feedback and comments received during public comment period.
- A comments response sheet will be released to the public.
- Final RCAAP will be released concurrently with public draft IS/MND



Adoption Hearings

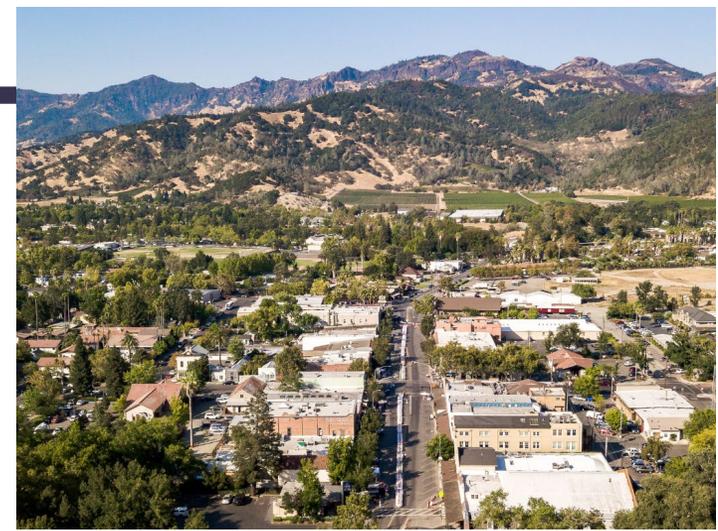


Photo Credit: City of Calistoga

- Final RCAAP and Final IS/MND will be presented to the CAC for approval and endorsement before going to BOS and JPA jurisdictions.
- Each of the jurisdictions is expected to hold their own adoption hearing for the RCAAP and IS/MND.



Thank you

Jesse Gutierrez - Principal Planner

Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org

707-299-1362

Ryan Melendez - Planner II

Ryan.Melendez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-5969



@countyofnapa



From: [Christopher J Warner](#)
To: [MeetingClerk](#); [Gutierrez, Jesse](#)
Cc: [Michelle Deasy](#)
Subject: Re: Additional Preliminary Comments on Draft Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and Schedule, Building Electrification Measures, and Agenda Item 5.A, Napa Climate Action Committee Meeting, September 26, 2025
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 11:09:41 AM
Attachments: [CAC Agenda Item Feb 26 2026 Exemption for AB 130 re. REACH Code Restrictions on New and Renovated Housing.pdf](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Comments - CAC February 27, 2026 - Agenda Item "Unincorporated Napa County Sustainability Activities Update" - Proposal to Seek Exemption from AB 130 New Housing Protections in order to Impose Stricter "REACH Code" Building Standards on New and Affordable Housing

I have reviewed the CAC's staff's proposal in the above-referenced CAC agenda item to seek a Napa County exemption from the state's AB 130 new and affordable housing goals and incentives, in order to impose stricter "green building" standards that bypass and nullify the AB 130 prohibition on local building code changes that make affordable and new housing more difficult, expensive and less economic for developers, residents and families in Napa County.

I recommend that the CAC and Napa County defer any consideration of this attempt to bypass AB 130 until and unless any building code changes and exemptions from AB 130 are demonstrated by substantial and credible evidence in the record that the changes are justified by extensive benefit-cost evaluation, similar to that which I have requested in my prior comments on the draft RCAAP, and developers and advocates of new and affordable housing in Napa County have reviewed and approved any such changes or exemptions from AB 130 as not imposing significant additional costs and disincentives on new and affordable housing projects.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments at your February 27, 2026 CAC meeting. I also request these comments be included in the draft RCAAP docket as well because significantly related to similar proposed building code measures in the draft RCAAP. These comments are solely my personal comments, and not in any official or representative capacity.

Christopher J. Warner
1434 Grayson Avenue
St. Helena, CA 94574

On Thu, Oct 2, 2025 at 4:44 PM RCAAP <rcaap@countyofnapa.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Warner,

Thank you for your additional preliminary comments on the draft RCAAP.



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559
www.napacounty.gov
Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/27/2026

File ID #: 26-327

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee

FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services

REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner, Sustainability

SUBJECT: Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget for Program Administration of the Climate Action Committee and support for related projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation from staff and discuss the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26/27) of \$144,455 for program administration of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) and support for related projects, such as the Napa Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On January 23, 2026, the CAC discussed priorities for FY26/27 and supported staff's recommendations to complete and adopt the RCAAP, develop a regional implementation approach, begin strategizing for implementation, and consider options for updates to the CAC Joint Powers Agreement.

Napa County Staff Time and Resources

The proposed FY26/27 budget includes an estimate of staff time needed to:

- Support and administer the completion of the RCAAP,
- Support and administer the completion of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND),
- Facilitate and support the adoption of the RCAAP and the IS/MND by individual municipalities,
- Continue coordination of the All Staff Working Group,
- Develop and coordinate a regional implementation strategy,
- Support municipalities with implementation,
- Lead with the development of model actions, programs, and policies,
- Monitor the status of RCAAP strategies and measures,

- Provide administrative support to the CAC by preparing agendas, developing staff reports and sharing information, preparing an annual budget, and providing staff support for associated tasks and requests.

The estimated staff time total for FY26/27 is \$134,455, which is an 18% decrease from FY25/26. This decrease is due to work on the RCAAP and IS/MND documents winding down. FY25/26 called for intensive reviews of the administrative, public, and final drafts of the RCAAP, coordination of staff reviews of these drafts, public engagement for the public draft RCAAP, the review of public comments, the development of staff and consultant responses to comments, coordination of staff reviews of the administrative draft of the IS/MND, AB 52 tribal consultations, and the expected release of the IS/MND, final RCAAP, and public comment responses.

Staff time for FY26/27 will shift the workload to developing an approach for implementation once the RCAAP has been adopted. This will include collaboration and coordination amongst municipalities and relying on the All Staff Working Group to facilitate the prioritization of RCAAP measures, cost and funding analysis, and community engagement and outreach.

County staff time has been broken down by task and subtask in the attachment document, *Napa County Staff Time - Hours Breakdown*. The quoted staff hourly rates are weighted labor rates provided by the County Auditor for FY26/27. Rates may change depending on contract negotiations.

Table 1: Napa County Staff Time and Cost

Napa County Staff hours and cost to administer CAC and coordinate RCAAP activities for FY 26/27				
Position	% Time	# Hours	Labor Rate	Total
Planner II – Sustainability	15%	319	\$105.90	\$33,782
Principal Planner – Sustainability	26%	535	\$125.24	\$67,003
Natural Resources Conservation Manager	5%	104	\$159.76	\$16,615
Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	2%	40	\$252.37	\$10,095
Deputy County Counsel I	1%	29	\$240.00	\$6,960
Total	49%	1027		\$134,455

*total costs have been rounded to whole numbers

RCAAP and IS/MND

The IS/MND will require a 30-day public review. The public draft IS/MND and the final RCAAP are expected to be completed and released to the public together in mid-March. Depending on the level of response needed for public comments received on the public draft IS/MND, a final version of the document could be ready by early May. The final version of the IS/MND and the RCAAP would then be taken to the CAC for their endorsement followed by the Napa County Board of Supervisors and the individual municipalities.

Proposed FY26/27 Budget

The proposed CAC budget for FY26/27 is \$144,455 and includes \$134,455 in County staff costs and \$10,000 for continued support by Ari Ball-Burack for the EV Charging Equity Tool. The budget for support of the EV Charging Tool in the current fiscal year has not been used.

Regarding the Napa Climate Challenge platform, staff propose a pause on renewing the platform while the RCAAP is adopted and municipal priorities are set.

Table 2: Climate Action Committee FY26/27 Proposed Budget

Climate Action Committee FY 26/27 Proposed Budget (Shared Costs)		
Task	Cost	Status
County Staff Time	\$134,455	Ongoing administrative services. See attached document for the proposed staff budget breakdown.
EV Charging Tool	\$10,000	Updates and continued support for the EV Charging Tool from Ari Ball-Burack.
Total County Staff & RCAAP shared costs	\$144,455	

Cost-Share

Under the Joint Powers Agreement, the Unincorporated County contributes 33.0% of the actual costs of the CAC Program Administration costs, from the PBES budget. The cities and town each reimburse the County for the remaining Program Administration, according to a formula that allocates costs based on fifty percent (50%) equal shares and fifty percent (50%) proportional share of population exclusive of the unincorporated area population, more specifically as follows:

American Canyon: 12.8%

Calistoga: 8.3%

Napa: 29.9%

St. Helena: 8.5%

Yountville: 7.5%

The cost sharing allocation among the member jurisdictions for FY26/27 would be as follows:

Table 3: Climate Action Committee FY26/27 Proposed Budget Breakdown by Jurisdiction

FY26/27 Proposed Budget Breakdown by Jurisdiction (shared costs)		
Jurisdiction	Percentage	Total
Napa County	33.00%	\$47,670
American Canyon	12.80%	\$18,490
Calistoga	8.30%	\$11,990
Napa	29.90%	\$43,192
St. Helena	8.50%	\$12,279
Yountville	7.50%	\$10,834
Total	100%	\$144,455

*total costs have been rounded to whole numbers

Implementation Plans and Optional Tasks

As municipalities move towards adoption of the RCAAP and the IS/MND and as part of developing an implementation approach, optional tasks should be considered.

Table 4: Implementation Plans Anticipated Costs

Implementation Plans FY 26/27 (anticipated costs)		
RCAAP Implementation Plan for the Unincorporated County	\$144,000.00	Estimated cost based on Ascent scope of work; cost borne only by Napa County
RCAAP Implementation Plan for Additional Single Municipality	\$60,000.00	Each municipality can opt in to create their own individualized implementation plan.

Unincorporated Napa County plans to work with Ascent to develop an implementation plan catered to its needs. The City of Napa has also indicated the need for an individualized implementation plan and is working directly with Ascent to develop one. County staff requested a scope of work from Ascent for an implementation plan and related services specifically for the unincorporated County. The scope of work has a provision for optional individual implementation plan for each of the four municipalities. Each municipality would need to opt-in and decide for themselves if this is option is desired. Napa County staff would manage these optional task orders for individual municipalities, if desired.

Table 5: Grand Totals for each municipality: Shared Costs + Optional Tasks

Grand Totals Per Municipality: Shared CAC Costs + Optional Tasks		
American Canyon		
American Canyon shared CAC	\$18,490	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: American Canyon single municipality implementation plan	\$60,000	Optional: Each municipality can opt-in to create their own individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and estimated cost
Optional: Additional Napa County staff support	\$15,891	Optional: Additional support from Napa County staff
Grand Total - American Canyon	\$94,381	

Calistoga		
Calistoga shared CAC	\$11,990	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Calistoga single municipality implementation plan	\$60,000	Optional: Each municipality can opt-in to create their own individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and estimated cost
Optional: Additional Napa County staff support	\$15,891	Optional: Additional support from Napa County staff
Grand Total - Calistoga	\$87,881	

St. Helena		
St. Helena shared CAC	\$12,279	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: St. Helena single municipality implementation plan	\$60,000	Optional: Each municipality can opt-in to create their own individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and estimated cost
Optional: Additional Napa County staff support	\$15,891	Optional: Additional support from Napa County staff
Grand Total - St. Helena	\$88,170	

Yountville		
Yountville shared CAC	\$10,834	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Yountville single municipality implementation plan	\$60,000	Optional: Each municipality can opt-in to create their own individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and estimated cost
Optional: Additional Napa County staff support	\$15,891	Optional: Additional support from Napa County staff
Grand Total - Yountville	\$86,725	

County staff time for the implementation of actions in the RCAAP affecting only unincorporated Napa County will not be billed to the member jurisdictions. If the CAC directs additional actions or efforts beyond the scope of the proposed budget, the budget may be amended with the approval of all Parties.

Staff request CAC members:

- Review the proposed draft budget,
- Facilitate approval of the proposed budget by municipal city management and/or council,
- Vote to adopt a final budget at the March 2026 CAC meeting.

Napa County Staff Time - Hours Breakdown by 3 Major Tasks						Planner II	Planner Principal	Natural Resources Conservation Manager	Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	Deputy County Counsel IV	
---	--	--	--	--	--	------------	-------------------	--	---	--------------------------	--

1. RCAAP document & Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (completion and jurisdictions adoption)											
Bi-weekly Coordination with Ascent (City and County staff incl.) 2 meetings per month 30-45mins each, meeting follow up						2	3	1	0	0	0
County and City staff coordination						1	2	0	0	0	0
RCAAP Adoption hearings (support at council meetings, public comment response)						2	4	1	1	1	1
Ascent Contract Admin (review invoices and communications)						0	1	0	0	0	0
Total Hours (Monthly)						5	10	2	1	1	1
Total Hours (6 months)						30	60	12	6	6	6
Task 1 -- RCAAP Complete & Adopt -- Total (FY 26-27)						\$ 3,177.00	\$ 7,514.40	\$ 1,917.12	\$ 1,514.22	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 15,562.74

2. RCAAP Implementation (planning, coordination, working group)											
Bi-weekly Coordination with Ascent (City and County staff incl.) 2 meetings a month 30-45mins,						2	3	1	1	0	0
Working Group Bi-monthly Meetings (staff level) current meet every 2 months for 60 minutes - can increase to monthly depending on coordination needs						1	1	1	0	0	0
Working Group Coordination (agenda prep, meeting follow up)						0	2	0	0	0	0
Implementation Planning (identify and categorize measures for individual and regional applicability, coordination)						2	4	0	0	0	0
Implementation Planning (detail and identify lead and supporting departments, partner agencies, organizations, timing and sequencing, grouping actions)						2	4	0	0	0	0
Implementation Planning (identify funding sources and financing opportunities, prioritize actions, map out sequencing, review responsibilities and needs)						2	4	1	0	0	0
Implementation Planning (support municipalities, develop model actions, programs, and policies; monitor and report performance)						3	4	1	0	0	1
Implementation Community Engagement (education campaigns, marketing strategy, partnership development with community based organizations)						2	2	0	0	0	0
Total Hours (Monthly)						14	24	4	1	1	1
Total Hours (12 months)						168	288	48	12	12	12
Task 2 -- RCAAP Implementation -- Total (FY 26-27)						\$ 17,791.20	\$ 36,069.12	\$ 7,668.48	\$ 3,028.44	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 67,437.24

3. CAC Administration (Monthly Hours x 11 meetings)											
Agenda Prep (monthly meetings w/ Chair & Vice Chair)						1	1	0	0	0	0
CAC Communications (logistics, quorum monitoring, public comments)						1	1	0	0	0	0
Staff Report Prep, research, revision & Legistar entry and approval; annual budget proposal						5	12	2	2	1	1
CAC Meeting participation (setup/breakdown, clerking and meeting time, minute prep)						3	3	2	0	0	0
EV Charging Tool (updates, coordination)						1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Hours (Monthly)						11	17	4	2	1	1
Total Hours (11 meetings)						121	187	44	22	11	11
Task 4 -- CAC Administration -- Total (FY 26-27)						\$ 12,813.90	\$ 23,419.88	\$ 7,029.44	\$ 5,552.14	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 51,455.36

	Planner II	Planner Principal	Natural Resources Conservation Manager	Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	Deputy County Counsel IV	Total Cost
Year All Total Hours	319	535	104	40	29	
Percentage of FTE	15%	26%	5%	2%	1%	
Cost	\$ 33,782.10	\$ 67,003.40	\$ 16,615.04	\$ 10,094.80	\$ 6,960.00	\$ 134,455.34

4. Optional Tasks											
Individual Municipality Implementation Plan (administration, monthly meetings with Ascent)						1	1	1	0	0	0
Implementation Plan (single municipal priority setting, agency coordination)						1	1	0	0	0	0
Implementation Plan (support, model actions, monitoring)						2	2	0	0	0	1
Total Hours (Monthly)						4	4	1	0	0	1
Total Hours (12 months)						48	48	12	0	0	12
Task 4 -- CAC Administration -- Total (FY 26-27)						\$ 5,083.20	\$ 6,011.52	\$ 1,917.12	\$ -	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 15,891.84

	Planner II	Planner Principal	Natural Resources Conservation Manager	Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	Deputy County Counsel IV	
Year All Total Hours	48	48	12	0	12	120
Percentage of FTE	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	6%

CAC Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2026-2027



Climate Action Committee

February 27, 2026



Presentation and Discussion

- County staff time, hours, and rates
- Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Proposed CAC Budget
- CAC shared costs
- Optional tasks



County Staff Time, Hours, and Rates

Position	% Time	# Hours	Labor Rate	Total
Planner II – Sustainability	15%	319	\$105.90	\$33,782
Principal Planner – Sustainability	26%	535	\$125.24	\$67,003
Natural Resources Conservation Manager	5%	104	\$159.76	\$16,615
Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	2%	40	\$252.37	\$10,095
Deputy County Counsel I	1%	29	\$240.00	\$6,960
	49%	1,027		\$134,455

FY26/27 Proposed Budget

Task	Cost	Status
County Staff Time	\$134,455	18% decrease from last fiscal year
EV Charging Tool	\$10,000	For continued consultant support and data updates
Subtotal	\$144,455	

CAC shared costs breakdown

Jurisdiction	Percentage	Total
Napa County	33.0%	\$47,670
American Canyon	12.8%	\$18,490
Calistoga	8.3%	\$11,990
Napa	29.9%	\$43,192
St. Helena	8.5%	\$12,279
Yountville	7.5%	\$10,834
Total	100%	\$144,455

Base Cost + Optional tasks:

Task	Cost	Status
Shared Costs	As per JPA cost allocation	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plans. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff or individualized implementation planning.
Additional Budget	\$75,891	

American Canyon

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
American Canyon Shared Costs	\$18,490	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff or individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$94,381	

Calistoga

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
Calistoga Shared Costs	\$11,990	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff or individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$87,881	

St. Helena

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
St. Helena Shared Costs	\$12,279	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff or individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$88,170	

Yountville

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
Yountville Shared Costs	\$10,834	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff or individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$86,725	

Thank you

Jesse Gutierrez - Principal Planner

Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org

707-299-1362

Ryan Melendez - Planner II

Ryan.Melendez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-5969



@countyofnapa



CAC Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2026-2027



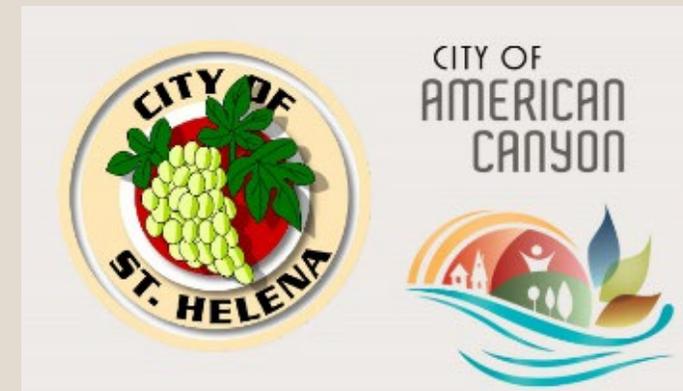
Climate Action Committee

February 27, 2026



Presentation and Discussion

- County staff time, hours, and rates
- Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Proposed CAC Budget
- CAC shared costs
- Optional Tasks: Implementation plans and additional staff support



County Staff Time, Hours, and Rates

Position	% Time	# Hours	Labor Rate	Total
Planner II – Sustainability	15%	319	\$105.90	\$33,782
Principal Planner – Sustainability	26%	535	\$125.24	\$67,003
Natural Resources Conservation Manager	5%	104	\$159.76	\$16,615
Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	2%	40	\$252.37	\$10,095
Deputy County Counsel I	1%	29	\$240.00	\$6,960
	49%	1,027		\$134,455

FY26/27 Proposed Budget

Task	Cost	Status
County Staff Time	\$134,455	18% decrease from last fiscal year
EV Charging Tool	\$10,000	For continued consultant support and data updates
Subtotal	\$144,455	

CAC shared costs breakdown per the JPA cost allocation

Jurisdiction	Percentage	Total
Napa County	33.0%	\$47,670
American Canyon	12.8%	\$18,490
Calistoga	8.3%	\$11,990
Napa	29.9%	\$43,192
St. Helena	8.5%	\$12,279
Yountville	7.5%	\$10,834
Total	100%	\$144,455

Base Cost + Optional tasks:

Task	Cost	Status
Shared Costs	As per JPA cost allocation	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plans. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff for individualized implementation planning.
Additional Budget	\$75,891	

What can an individualized single municipality implementation plan look like?

- Provide a tailored strategy and guidance document
- Focus on GHG reduction and climate adaptation measures that are applicable to the jurisdiction
- Define roles and responsibilities
- Clarify coordination needs
- Align implementation with budgetary decisions
- Inform department level work plans

American Canyon

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
American Canyon Shared Costs	\$18,490	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff for individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$94,381	

Calistoga

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
Calistoga Shared Costs	\$11,990	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff for individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$87,881	

St. Helena

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
St. Helena Shared Costs	\$12,279	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff for individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$88,170	

Yountville

Total Budget: Base Cost + Optional tasks

Task	Cost	
Yountville Shared Costs	\$10,834	Shared costs for Napa County staff administration and EV charging tool support and updates
Optional: Single Municipality Implementation Plan	\$60,000	Optional – opt-in to create individualized implementation plan. Based on Ascent scope of work and cost estimate.
Optional: Additional County Staff Support	\$15,891	Optional – Additional support from Napa County staff for individualized implementation planning.
Total Budget	\$86,725	

Staff Request for CAC members

- Review the proposed budget.
- Facilitate conversations with municipal city management and council on the proposed budget.
- Facilitate conversations with municipal city management and council on the optional implementation tasks - the direction your jurisdiction wants to move towards.
- Communicate with staff before the March 27 CAC meeting on implementation options.
- Return in March to vote and adopt a revised final budget.

Thank you

Jesse Gutierrez - Principal Planner

Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org

707-299-1362

Ryan Melendez - Planner II

Ryan.Melendez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-5969



@countyofnapa



From: [Napa Sierra Club](#)
To: [MeetingClerk](#)
Cc: [Melendez, Ryan](#); [Crosby, Jamison](#); delliott@cityofnapa.org; [Scott Thomason](#)
Subject: Support for Continuing and Strengthening the Napa County Climate Challenge
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:38:47 PM
Attachments: [260225 Support for Napa County Climate Challenge.docx](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Greetings. I am submitting public comment to the members of the County Climate Action Committee and staff for Friday's meeting. Please see attached.

--

Best,
Nick Cheranich
Chair, Napa Sierra Club Group ExCom





Thursday, February 26, 2026

Subject: Support for Continuing and Strengthening the Napa County Climate Challenge

Greetings Climate Action Committee Members and Staff,

On behalf of our 2,000+ members and supporters in Napa County, I write to express strong support for continuing the Napa County Climate Challenge platform, developed by Bright Action Communities. I also encourage the County to strengthen its promotion and use.

Many residents care deeply about climate change but are uncertain where to begin. This platform translates concern into concrete action. It helps individuals understand where household emissions come from and provides specific, trackable steps to reduce them. Research suggests that household-level action could reduce U.S. carbon emissions by as much as 40% if broadly adopted. That is not a marginal contribution — it is transformative.

We have regularly encouraged our members to participate through newsletters, and the response has been positive. Participants appreciate having a structured, accessible way to measure progress and stay engaged. I have also written about the platform [on our website](#) to further raise awareness. (You are more than welcome to read it and use it.)

The platform is particularly valuable for local schools. Many educators want meaningful climate curriculum but lack practical tools. The Climate Challenge allows teachers to organize students into teams, track actions, and incorporate a gamified structure that increases engagement. It connects learning with real-world impact.

The addition of new features, such as fire-wise safety measures, expands the platform's relevance. In a county increasingly affected by wildfire risk, this integration makes the tool even more practical and locally grounded.

That said, participation will remain limited without stronger outreach. If the County and municipalities more actively promoted the platform, usage would likely grow substantially. Given the scale of the climate challenge we face, it is worth asking: are we fully leveraging one of the few tools that empowers residents directly?

I urge you not only to continue supporting the Climate Challenge, but to invest in making it more visible and effective. With stronger promotion and institutional backing, it can play a meaningful role in reducing emissions and building climate resilience in Napa County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Cheranich
Chair, Napa Sierra Club Group

From: tjsg@comcast.net
To: "Napa Sierra Club"; [MeetingClerk](#)
Cc: [Melendez, Ryan](#); [Crosby, Jamison](#); delliott@cityofnapa.org
Subject: RE: Support for Continuing and Strengthening the Napa County Climate Challenge
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 8:39:27 PM

[External Email - Use Caution]

Excellent letter.

From: Napa Sierra Club <napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:34 PM
To: meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org
Cc: ryan.melendez@countyofnapa.org; Jamison.Crosby@countyofnapa.org; delliott@cityofnapa.org; Scott Thomason <tjsg@comcast.net>
Subject: Support for Continuing and Strengthening the Napa County Climate Challenge

Greetings. I am submitting public comment to the members of the County Climate Action Committee and staff for Friday's meeting. Please see attached.

--

Best,
Nick Cheranich
Chair, Napa Sierra Club Group ExCom





Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559
www.napacounty.gov
Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/27/2026

File ID #: 26-299

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Ryan Melendez, Planner II, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Municipal Updates on Climate Action and Sustainability Activities:
Unincorporated Napa County

RECOMMENDATION

PRESENTATION: Napa County staff will update the CAC on the progress of climate action and sustainability activities for the unincorporated Napa County jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In 2021 and 2022, Napa County jurisdictions unanimously adopted resolutions or proclamations, declaring the existence of a Climate Emergency and calls for taking immediate action to mitigate climate impacts and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

While the CAC is a forum for regional coordination on climate action, the CAC is an advisory body to the individual member jurisdictions. CAC actions must then be considered and approved by the respective municipal hearing bodies for adoption, budgeting, and implementation. CAC staff would like to begin including a standing item on the CAC agenda item during which municipal staff from the CAC member agencies will be invited provide updates on recent climate action and sustainability activities in their specific jurisdiction. This presentation item is designed to allow each member jurisdiction to highlight the progress they have made on CAC priorities and other climate action and sustainability activities.

During this February 2026 meeting, County staff will provide an update on the activities they are working on for the unincorporated county, which are described below.

For the purposes of this staff report and presentation, staff will omit RCAAP updates. RCAAP updates will be presented in other presentation items.

Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance:

- February and March 2024: the CAC considered and approved their recommendation of a model Single-Use Plastic Bag Reduction and Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance.
- Napa County staff further refined the ordinance to account for county-specific
- November 2024: Napa County staff introduced the Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance to the Napa County Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- December 2024: Ordinance was adopted by Napa County BOS with an effective date of January 1, 2026, allowing for a full year to develop educational materials and conduct outreach to stakeholders throughout the unincorporated county.
- After adoption, staff began developing educational materials, including an Ordinance Overview “toolkit” to be used by employers and their staff in understanding the regulations, finding helpful resources, and implementing the rules.
- Throughout development of education and outreach materials, staff discovered several areas of potential confusion for businesses. To address these points confusion, staff preemptively amended the ordinance to clarify several sections including:
 - Consolidating and clarifying several key terms and definitions,
 - Addressing loopholes in the regulations which could allow for the continued use of polystyrene materials in foodware,
 - Simplifying convoluted rules for on-site versus off-site dining,
 - Implementing a two-year time limit for approved waivers,
 - Specified two distinct pathways to apply for a temporary waiver
 - Environmental or public health constraints (e.g. well and onsite wastewater at capacity)
 - Space or staffing constraints for onsite dishwashing,
 - Added a section requiring employers to provide annual training to their employees on these regulations,
 - Added a section requiring businesses to maintain records of foodware items purchased and employee training completed for a minimum of three years,
 - Removed regulations restricting the sale and distribution of disposable plastic bottled beverages on County property (this restriction will be implemented as a County policy),
 - Updated the list of exemptions to the on-site (reusable) foodware regulations.
- October 2025: The Napa County BOS adopted the amendments to the ordinance.

- Since BOS adoption of the amendments, County staff:
 - Updated County website to reflect updates,
 - Updated the Ordinance Overview toolkit,
 - Created an “accessible” version of the toolkit to be compatible with assistive technology,
 - Distributed a letter and a one-page informational sheet to a list of businesses in the unincorporated county which may provide prepared food and beverages to alert them of the upcoming regulations Are in the process of creating a Spanish version of the toolkit
 - Are in the process of creating English and Spanish versions of a brief training video that County staff and employers can use to help prepare employees to implement these regulations.
- Staff have received several clarifying questions, compliance questions, and requests for training material from businesses and members of the public.
- Staff will continue to work to help educate businesses and members of the public to prepare for compliance with these regulations.
- While the ordinance is in effect as of January 1, 2026, County staff plan to begin enforcement on July 1, 2026, allowing for several months of education and outreach efforts.

Electric Vehicle Charging Implementation:

Since the CAC set EV Charging as a priority in April 2024, the number of EV chargers countywide:

	April 2024	November 2025	Percent Change
Level 2	419	561	+ 34%
DC Fast	57	72	+ 26%

- February 2025: Ari Ball-Burack - a PhD candidate in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley - presented to the CAC on his work designing an EV Equity Roadmap tool.
- In 2024 and 2025, Ball-Burack worked directly with Napa County and CAC member jurisdictions to develop county-specific data and insights which expedited the publicly-available tool to help inform equitable EV charger site selection and prioritization in the Napa region.
- Throughout 2025: Napa County staff conducted an exercise to find several initial publicly-owned sites that may be serve as good candidates for equitable EV Charging development.
- County staff worked with Department of Public Works (DPW) staff at each municipality to identify 11 initial sites to include in a joint application to the MCE EV Technical Assistance program
 - Six are in the City of American Canyon,
 - Two are in Calistoga, and
 - Three are owned by the County of Napa.

- *Note: staff at the cities of Napa and St. Helena have already completed MCE program applications for other municipal-owned sites, so for this exercise, County staff did not investigate sites in these jurisdictions. Additionally, sites located within Yountville did not fit the criteria which staff used to determine this initial list of priority sites; however, staff would like to ensure Yountville and other sites are prioritized for future EV charging planning efforts.
- County staff then led the application process for the 11 sites.
- Municipal DPW staff completed “Building and Electrical Questionnaires” for each site.
- MCE program staff scheduled site visits for each selected site.
- Site visits involved gathering information to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the sites’ suitability for EV charging including:
 - Electrical capacity and equipment at each site,
 - Parking spaces most suitable for EV charging,
 - Proximity of electrical infrastructure to the parking spaces, and
 - Any other information needed for developing site plans and cost estimates for EV chargers.
- After site visits were completed, MCE program staff provided EV Charging Site Reports and Cost Estimates for each site.
- All site reports and cost estimates have been completed and are now in the hands of municipal DPW staff to implement EV charging solutions at their discretion.
- County staff plan to work with County DPW staff to identify funding and other programmatic opportunities to implement these charging solutions.

Building Energy Reach Codes:

- October 2023: the CAC voted to recommend a Flex Path Building Energy Reach Code for adoption by the member jurisdictions.
 - To be consistent with state law, each jurisdiction needed to make findings that the proposed building code amendments related to building energy performance are cost effective and use less energy than the standard State Code. In addition, the California Energy Commission (CEC) would have to agree with the jurisdiction’s analysis before the local amendments to the California Energy Code can go into effect.
- A summary of the changes included in the building reach code approved for recommendation by the CAC is as follows:
 - Disincentivizes the use of natural gas in new residential construction by requiring buildings to achieve a certain “energy score” which is easier to do by not installing natural gas equipment,
 - Only requires non-residential construction to be electric-ready (designed to use electric

equipment). According to the CEC at the time, standards for non-residential electric construction are not yet available.

- Exempts any remodels or remodels for the first three years after the construction of a new single-family residence.
 - Exemption for free-standing accessory dwelling units. Junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) that are incorporated into the main dwelling would not be exempt. Staff believed that placing additional requirements on free-standing ADUs may be considered a barrier to affordable housing, as well as affect the cost-effectiveness study.
 - Requires new single-family buildings to reduce overall energy use by at least 13 percent lower than a standard design.
 - Multi-family buildings need to reduce overall energy use by at least 10 percent, as recommended in the most recent draft study issued by the CEC for Climate Zone 2 conditions. (Napa County is classified as Climate Zone 2.)
 - Applicants are allowed to submit a Certificate of Compliance signed by a Certified Energy Analyst, which may reduce the compliance margin by 1 percent.
 - Does not require the installation of batteries for solar array systems in new homes. All new residential units already require solar panels and must be battery ready. Solar batteries are required to be installed in new commercial buildings and multi-family homes. Requiring them in new single-family homes would add \$10,000 to development costs and may be considered a barrier to affordable housing, as well as affect the cost-effectiveness study.
 - Does not address the installation of electric vehicle chargers in new homes, as that is a separate issue being considered by the CAC.
- April 2024: Napa County staff introduced the draft ordinance to Napa County BOS.
 - Staff utilized the 2022 Cost Effectiveness Study for Single Family New Construction developed by the California Statewide Reach Codes team to ensure that the proposed ordinance would meet cost effectiveness requirements for reach code ordinances.
 - July 2024: Napa County BOS adopted the Reach Code.

Building Energy Reach Code considerations and California AB 130 legislature:

The California Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6) is the state's Building Energy Efficiency Standards for new and altered residential and nonresidential buildings. The Energy Code is updated on a triennial cadence. Usually, jurisdictions which have passed Building Energy Reach Code Ordinances will need to reevaluate their reach codes to incorporate the changes made to the statewide Energy Code. The most recent statewide code is the 2025 California Energy Code, effective January 1, 2026.

However, regarding the 2025 Building Energy Code, legislation from AB 130 prohibits the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) from considering, approving, and adopting residential building standards from October 1, 2025, through June 1, 2031, unless a given exception is met (H&S Code 18930 (g); 18929.1 (c)). The 2025 triennial Title 24 Code was adopted on July 1, 2025, but this would eliminate updates to the 2028

residential code. The applicable exception pathways to adopt Reach Codes are:

1. Change or Modification is “substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed by the governing body and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.
2. CBD deems those changes or modifications necessary as emergency standards to protect health and safety.
3. Changes or modifications relate to home hardening.
4. Building standards relate to home hardening and are proposed for adoption by a fire protection district pursuant to Section 13869.7.
5. Change or Modification “are necessary to implement local code amendment that is adopted to align with a general plan approved on or before June 10, 2025, and that permits mixed-fuel residential construction consistent with federal law while also incentivizing all-electric construction as part of an adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.”
6. Changes or modifications are related to administrative practices.

Given these exception options, Napa County staff plan to pursue exemption pathway #5 towards the goal of adopting a Residential Building Energy Reach Code ordinance. For now, it is uncertain the method by which staff will pursue more stringent energy requirements for residential buildings, but staff are considering pursuing Flex Path Reach Code options (similar to previous Napa County Reach Code) or the CalGreen Tier I or II code.

Additionally, in 2026, staff plan to pursue other Reach Code opportunities, such as non-residential flex path, electric vehicle (EV) charging reach codes, water efficiency, and low embodied carbon or low-carbon concrete reach codes.

Next Steps:

At the March CAC meeting, City of Napa staff will make a presentation on implementation activities in their jurisdiction. Other municipalities are invited to present in April, May, and subsequent meetings.

Unincorporated Napa County Sustainability Activities Update

Climate Action Committee – February 27, 2026

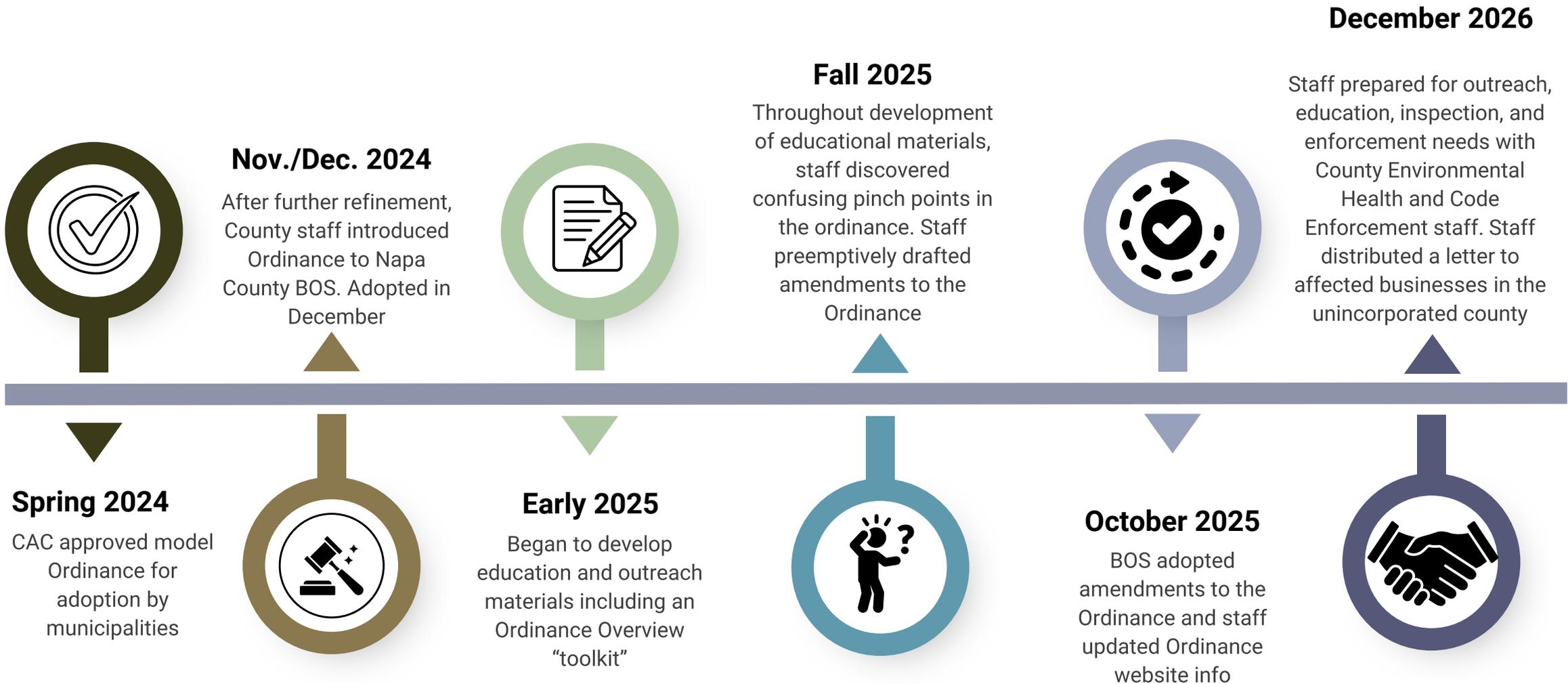


Outline

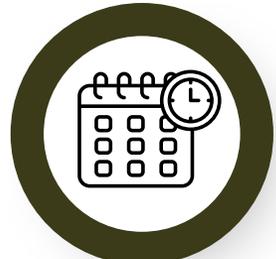
- Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging
- Building Energy Reach Code
 - Reach Code considerations and California AB 130



REUSABLE FOODWARE & WASTE REDUCTION ORDINANCE



REUSABLE FOODWARE & WASTE REDUCTION ORDINANCE



January 2026

Ordinance goes into effect Jan. 1, 2026.

Jan. - June 2026

Staff are working with businesses, employees, waste disposal services, and other stakeholders to prepare for the implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance.



July 2026

Enforcement of the ordinance will begin July 1, 2026.

Ongoing

Outreach and education efforts will continue to rollout and evolve



Ordinance Requirements

The specific requirements of the unincorporated County's ordinance can be found on the Ordinance Website:

<https://www.napacounty.gov/3769/Reusable-Foodware-and-Waste-Reduction-Or>



Ordinance Outreach

1. Updated County website to reflect new regulations
2. Updated an Ordinance Overview toolkit for businesses
3. Created an ADA Accessible version of the toolkit to be compatible with assistive reading technology
4. Distributed a letter and one-page informational sheet to 500+ businesses in the unincorporated county
5. In the process of creating English and Spanish versions of a brief training video that businesses can use to help train their employees to implement these requirements



Ordinance Next Steps

1. Continue to work to help educate businesses and members of the public to prepare for compliance
2. Ordinance in effect on January 1, 2026, and County to begin enforcement on July 1, 2026, allowing for several months of education and outreach efforts





EV Charging Implementation



Total number of EV Chargers

	April 2024	November 2025	Percent Change
Level 2	419	561	+ 34%
DC Fast	57	72	+ 26%

NAPA COUNTY EV CHARGING IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Spring/Summer 2025

County staff worked with Ball-Burack to develop county-specific data and insights to assist with EV charging program application



February 2025

Ari Ball-Burack presented to CAC on the UC Berkeley EV Equity Roadmap tool



Summer 2025

County staff used the tool to find several initial publicly-owned sites



Fall 2025

County staff coordinated with Public Works staff at each municipality to finalize 11 initial sites to include in a joint application

County staff then led application process



Fall/Winter 2025

Municipal DPW staff completed site questionnaires to prep for site visits

Program staff, DPW, and County staff conducted site visits

Winter '25/'26

All site visits complete

All site reports and cost estimates complete

Municipal DPW staff can use site reports, cost estimates, and template RFP documents at their discretion for EV Charging Implementation





Building Energy Reach Code



NAPA COUNTY BUILDING ENERGY REACH CODE TIMELINE



April 2024

County staff introduced Ordinance to Napa County Board of Supervisors



June 2025

Governor Newsom signed AB 130 into law, effectively banning new residential reach codes by cities or counties from October 1, 2025, through June 1, 2031



Jan 2026

2025 Building Energy Code is in effect for projects, superseding previous reach codes

October 2023

CAC recommended a model Flex Path Building Energy Reach Code Ordinance for adoption by member jurisdictions



July 2024

County BOS adopted the Reach Code Ordinance



July 2025

2025 Title 24 Part 6 (Building Energy) Code adopted by the California Building Standards Commission and the California Energy Commission



NAPA COUNTY REACH CODES AND AB 130

1. Historically, cities and counties act with authority to modify or change the building code for local conditions that are: Climatic, Geological, or Topographical
 - a) Requires filing with the California Building Standards Commission and meeting statutory finding requirements

2. Cities and counties act with authority to adopt more stringent energy efficiency and conservation measures for new construction by modifying existing building energy code
 - a) Reach Code: must be cost-effective and result in reduction of energy consumption levels
 - b) Must file with the California Energy Commission for approval



NAPA COUNTY REACH CODES AND AB 130

3. AB 130 was passed as part of a major housing package of bills to accelerate development of residential buildings by easing CEQA requirements, restricting local building code amendments, restricting Homeowners Association overreach, and more
4. AB 130 legislation prohibits the CA Building Standards Commission (CBSC) from considering, approving, and adopting residential new construction building standards from October 1, 2025, through June 1, 2031, unless a given exception is met.
 - a) 2025 Triennial Building Energy Code was adopted July 1, 2025 (effective Jan. 1, 2026)
 - b) Eliminates 2028 Triennial Code Update
5. New filings to CBSC for modification/change because of local climatic, geological, or topographical condition:
 - a) CBSC shall reject modification to building code affecting new residential units unless exception is met
 - b) CBSC may rely on statement by local agency that exception is met



NAPA COUNTY REACH CODES AND AB 130

The pathways for exemption are:

1. **Change or Modification is “substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed by the governing body and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.”**
2. CBSC deems those changes or modifications necessary as emergency standards to protect health and safety.
3. Changes or modifications relate to home hardening.
4. Building standards relate to home hardening and are proposed for adoption by a fire protection district pursuant to Section 13869.7.
5. **Change or Modification “are necessary to implement local code amendment that is adopted to align with a general plan approved on or before June 10, 2025, and that permits mixed-fuel residential construction consistent with federal law while also incentivizing all-electric construction as part of an adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.”**
6. Changes or modifications are related to administrative practices

NAPA COUNTY REACH CODES AND AB 130

- Napa County staff plan to pursue **exemption pathway #5** by citing goals and policies from the 2005 General Plan which call for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- For now, staff are uncertain which method to pursue more stringent energy requirements for residential buildings but are considering pursuing a **Flex Path Reach Code** option (like the previous model reach code by the CAC) or adopting the **CalGreen Tier I or II code**.
- In addition to a residential new construction reach code, Napa County staff will consider pursuing **other Reach Code opportunities** including:
 - Non-Residential flex path
 - Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging
 - Non-Residential Water efficiency
 - Low embodied carbon or low-carbon concrete



Thank you!

Jesse Gutierrez – Principal
Planner, Sustainability

Jesse.Gutierrez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-1362

Ryan Melendez - Planner II,
Sustainability

Ryan.Melendez@countyofnapa.org

707-259-5969



Sample footer text



@countyofnapa

From: [Christopher J Warner](#)
To: [MeetingClerk](#); [Gutierrez, Jesse](#)
Cc: [Michelle Deasy](#)
Subject: Re: Additional Preliminary Comments on Draft Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and Schedule, Building Electrification Measures, and Agenda Item 5.A, Napa Climate Action Committee Meeting, September 26, 2025
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 11:09:41 AM
Attachments: [CAC Agenda Item Feb 26 2026 Exemption for AB 130 re. REACH Code Restrictions on New and Renovated Housing.pdf](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Comments - CAC February 27, 2026 - Agenda Item "Unincorporated Napa County Sustainability Activities Update" - Proposal to Seek Exemption from AB 130 New Housing Protections in order to Impose Stricter "REACH Code" Building Standards on New and Affordable Housing

I have reviewed the CAC's staff's proposal in the above-referenced CAC agenda item to seek a Napa County exemption from the state's AB 130 new and affordable housing goals and incentives, in order to impose stricter "green building" standards that bypass and nullify the AB 130 prohibition on local building code changes that make affordable and new housing more difficult, expensive and less economic for developers, residents and families in Napa County.

I recommend that the CAC and Napa County defer any consideration of this attempt to bypass AB 130 until and unless any building code changes and exemptions from AB 130 are demonstrated by substantial and credible evidence in the record that the changes are justified by extensive benefit-cost evaluation, similar to that which I have requested in my prior comments on the draft RCAAP, and developers and advocates of new and affordable housing in Napa County have reviewed and approved any such changes or exemptions from AB 130 as not imposing significant additional costs and disincentives on new and affordable housing projects.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments at your February 27, 2026 CAC meeting. I also request these comments be included in the draft RCAAP docket as well because significantly related to similar proposed building code measures in the draft RCAAP. These comments are solely my personal comments, and not in any official or representative capacity.

Christopher J. Warner
1434 Grayson Avenue
St. Helena, CA 94574

On Thu, Oct 2, 2025 at 4:44 PM RCAAP <rcaap@countyofnapa.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Warner,

Thank you for your additional preliminary comments on the draft RCAAP.