

THE BAY AREA REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

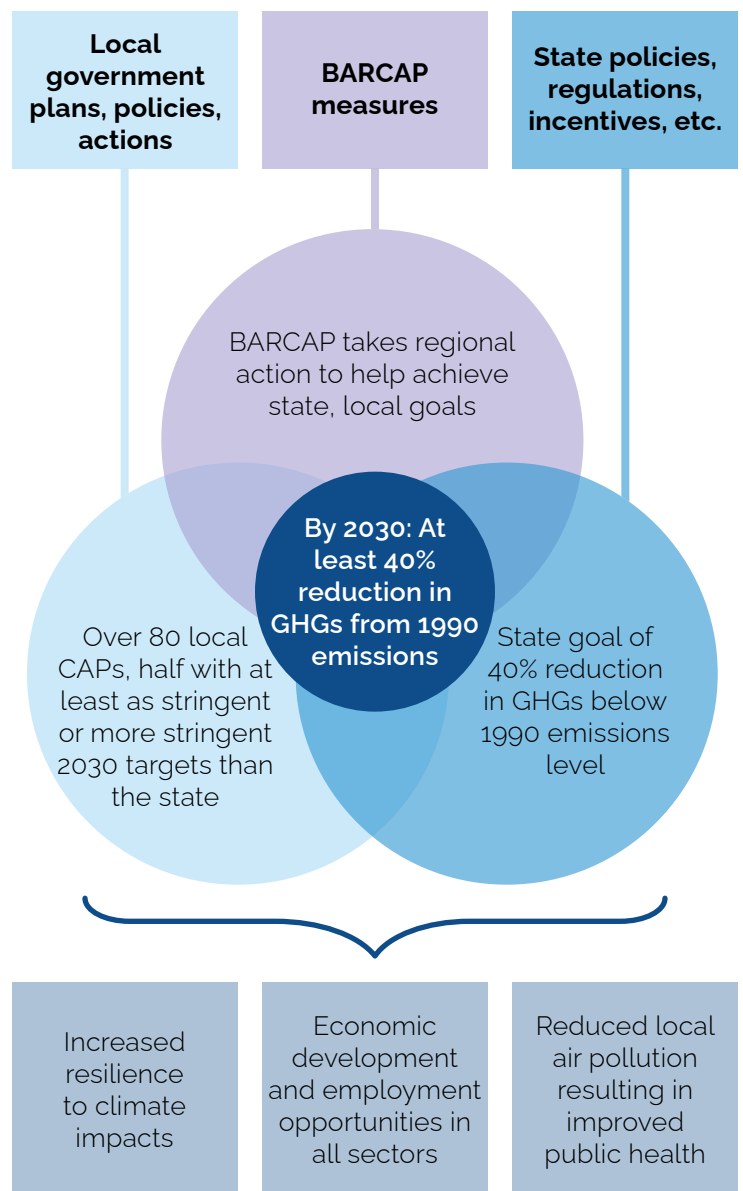
Executive Summary

Climate change is already impacting the San Francisco Bay Area (Bay Area), as evidenced by wildfires and smoky air, increased heatwaves, large storms, flooding, and rising seas. Bold local action to reduce climate pollution contributes to state, national, and global efforts to reduce planet-warming emissions, and can also bring key quality of life improvements and economic benefits to the region.

Rising to this challenge will require everyone to play their part, which is where the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan (BARCAP)¹ comes in. The State of California and over 80 Bay Area cities and counties have adopted plans to aggressively fight climate change. The BARCAP adds to these efforts without duplicating what others are already doing, fills key gaps, and enables existing plans to be successfully implemented in ways that are efficient, equitable and will benefit the whole region.

As the Bay Area's first *regional* climate action plan, the BARCAP lays out a set of actionable and impactful strategies to accelerate the transition to a cleaner economy and the state's goal of a carbon-neutral future. The plan was developed with robust input from frontline communities and community-based organizations, local governments, a wide variety of technical stakeholders, and the public. Successful implementation of the BARCAP will reduce climate pollution, improve regional and local air quality, create jobs and spur economic growth, and enhance health and quality of life in the Bay Area. The BARCAP is designed to ensure these important benefits reach frontline communities who often experience greater impacts from fossil fuel dependence like changes in climate and air pollution.

¹ The area covered by the BARCAP does not include Santa Clara County, which has its own planning effort.



THE BARCAP'S VISION FOR 2045:

Together, we envision a Bay Area where achieving our climate goals fosters thriving communities, healthy natural systems, and a sustainable and prosperous economy. On the path to that future, we will create family-sustaining jobs, inspire innovation, improve air quality and public health, and prioritize environmental justice.

Success in each BARCAP sector looks like:



Regional transportation is well-connected and safe, and prioritizes transit and active transportation, allowing people to connect more easily with where they live, work, and shop. Vehicles and equipment increasingly shift to zero-emission models that reduce fossil fuel use.



Healthy, zero emission homes for all through integrated services and funding that also improve housing conditions for those most in need, and a successful, well-trained, and diverse workforce to serve the entire community.



The region's electricity comes from clean sources and is affordable for everyone, with a grid that is resilient, reliable, flexible, and able to meet growing needs of electrified buildings and transportation.



Very few materials are wasted. Communities have access to a wide variety of foods and families eat healthy meals. Builders use healthier, lower-carbon materials that are made regionally, and buildings are designed to last longer and be more adaptable to change. For materials that cannot be reused, recycled, or repurposed, waste management facilities develop ways to reduce pollution and protect air quality.



Natural and working lands (farms and rangelands, wetlands, forests, urban green spaces, etc.) are minimally impacted by wildfires, drought, and development, and have been made healthier by implementation of nature-based solutions such as climate beneficial agriculture. These lands will continue to store carbon, cool cities, provide clean drinking water, produce healthy food and fiber crops, and support our cherished ecosystems.

Potential Impacts to Frontline Communities from Climate Actions

Equity was a key consideration when developing the BARCAP measures. Successfully implementing the BARCAP will generate a significant range of benefits for the whole Bay Area region, but without intentional effort and focus, frontline communities could be left out or even see their current challenges exacerbated by unintended consequences of certain actions.

The content below shows **+** potential benefits and **✘** *potential unintended consequences* of climate actions across key impact categories. The specific outcomes will depend largely on how the actions are implemented in the future.

Public and Community Health

- +** Reduced exposure to health-damaging pollution
- +** New green spaces and community gardens
- +** Accessible and safe active transportation
- ✘** *Inequitable distribution of benefits for just the wealthy, those in non-overburdened communities*

Cost Burdens

- +** Decreased energy cost burden
- +** Improved food access from edible food recovery will reduce cost burden for households
- ✘** *Higher energy bills, less money for rent and food*
- ✘** *Higher upfront costs for climate-friendly technologies like electric vehicles and electric heat pumps*

Climate Resilience Benefits

- +** Nature-based solutions can reduce the risk of flooding during heavy rains and provide shade during periods of extreme heat
- +** Improved home insulation, ventilation and filtration systems reduce wildfire smoke exposure and extreme heat or cold impacts
- ✘** *Electrification benefits may only be available to those with higher incomes and access to resources*
- ✘** *Increased water usage and other resources needed to maintain nature-based solutions*

Jobs and Workforce Development

- +** Potential to create family-sustaining jobs and improve access to employment opportunities
- +** Job security in emerging clean energy economy
- ✘** *Reduced work and lack of training and other supportive resources for those in older, carbon-intensive industries*

Housing Quality and Security

- +** Improved housing conditions, increased comfort, protection from extreme heat and cold
- +** Reduced utility bills and maintenance costs
- ✘** *Potential for increased housing costs, displacement risk, rent increases, and gentrification*

Community Engagement, Awareness, and Capacity

- +** Community capacity building (including to participate in climate solutions and help bring those solutions to their communities)
- +** Improved or growing trust between communities and the government
- ✘** *Outreach may only engage people in one area, one language, or those with more time and resources, and omit many individuals with possibly greater vulnerabilities*
- ✘** *Reduced trust in government and technologies*



Next Step: Implementing the BARCAP

Engaged and thoughtful implementation will be necessary to achieve the goals and benefits of the BARCAP. While the Air District coordinated development of the BARCAP, it is just one of many implementers, including but not limited to local governments, resource conservation districts, and community-based organizations. A successful transition to a healthy and clean economy will require participation and leadership from regional and local governments, business and industry, community and environmental groups, educational institutions, and the Bay Area population itself. Success will also require accountability and transparency through tracking and reporting, continued public outreach and education, and securing the workforce, funding, and financing needed to equitably execute the plan.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Scan the QR code below or visit www.baaqmd.gov/en/plans-and-climate/climate-planning/bay-area-regional-climate-action-planning-initiative



By rising to this challenge together, the region can achieve a carbon neutral future that provides cleaner air, thriving communities, healthy natural ecosystems, and a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous economy for everyone.

REQUEST TRANSLATION

The BARCAP chapters and appendices can be translated into commonly-used languages in the Bay Area upon public request. For further information on translated versions (including the timeline for receiving translation), please email planning@baaqmd.gov.

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Los capítulos y apéndices pueden traducirse a otras lenguas de uso común en el Área de la Bahía, si se solicita. Para obtener más información sobre la traducción, incluidos los plazos para recibir los materiales traducidos, envíe un correo electrónico a planning@baaqmd.gov.

Maaaring isalin sa mga karaniwang ginagamit na wika sa Bay Area ang mga kabanata at appendix kapag may pampublikong kahilingan. Para sa karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa mga isinaling bersyon (kabilang ang inaasahang timeline ng pagtanggap ng salin), mangyaring mag-email sa planning@baaqmd.gov.

Các chương và phụ lục có thể được dịch sang các ngôn ngữ phổ biến tại Khu vực Vịnh theo yêu cầu công khai. Để biết thêm thông tin về các phiên bản đã dịch (bao gồm cả thời gian dự kiến nhận bản dịch), xin vui lòng gửi email tới planning@baaqmd.gov.