

# Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

## Friday January 21, 3:00 - 5:00

### Meeting Agenda

Topic: Mendocino County Climate Action Committee  
Time: Jan 21, 2022 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/84182805639>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Review of Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from December of 2021 (Att 1)
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.
5. Discuss and consider adoption of a Resolution of the Mendocino County Climate Action and Advisory Coals fo the County Strategic Priorities List. (Attachment 3)
6. Further discussion regarding having an intern help the MCCAAC. Discuss who would manage the intern and how they could help the committee.
7. Discussion of "Code Red: What Municipalities Can Do". Please review this link to the measures cities, staff, and individuals have and can be taken to mitigate climate change.  
<https://www.acterra.org/code-red/#Elected>
8. Report to the MCCAAC, by Committee Members on Ongoing Activities and Possibilities for Collaboration. Discuss follow up activities from previous meetings.
9. Vote for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Positions within the Committee
10. Identify a Meeting Date for January 2022.
11. Adjournment

# Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

## Friday December 17, 3:00 - 5:00

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll call showed the following members in attendance: Cathy Monroe, Marie Jones, Richard Huacek, Tess Albin-Smith, Jessica Still-Otto, and Sandra Marshall.

Members not present: Ellen Drell, Javier Silva

Members of the public: Nephele Barret, Chet Anderson, Carrie Durkee, Eileen

#### 2. Review of Agenda

#### 3. Review and Approval of Minutes from November of 2021

- Richard made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of the following action on the coal train vote: The Committee approved the resolution regarding the Coal Train, with one abstention and one vote against it from Javier Silva. Sandy seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.

- Nephele Barret made the following public comments regarding activities at MCOG.
  - MCOG is working on a number of climate initiatives including joining a Regional Energy Network, and/or forming a regional Climate Protection Agency.
  - Currently the focus is on joining an existing REN named the Rural Regional Energy Network which is composed of the following counties: Lake, Humboldt, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin and others. Mendocino County is joining as a subcontractor to Humboldt County under the “Redwood Coast Energy Company.”
  - The RREN will provide rebate programs for residential and commercial/industrial energy users and a public equity program which provides funds to government agencies to facilitate energy efficiency in public utilities. It will also complete energy audits, kits for energy efficiency, workforce education to bring people into employment in the field, and energy codes and standards. The financing program will start Jan 2023.
  - MCOG will discuss this item at their February 7th meeting at 1:30.
- The committee Chair will draft a letter of support to the BOS regarding this effort. Eileen’s group and GRI will also send a letter to the BOS.

#### 5. Discuss and consider adoption of a Resolution of the Mendocino County Climate Action and Advisory Committee Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Mendocino County Climate Action and Advisory Committee Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

- Moved by Cathy, seconded by Sandy and adopted by the Committee.

#### 6. Discuss Mendocino County Energy Audit and Develop Recommendations to the BOS on Same.

- The committee directed Marie and Jessica to complete the letter to the BOS regarding the energy audit with the following recommended additions: encourage the County to

transition their fleet to an electrical vehicle fleet, by spending the next two years installing electrical vehicle charging stations at County facilities, completing a pilot electrical vehicle leasing program with the Social Services Department and then transitioning the entire fleet thereafter to electric vehicles.

- Eileen and Cathy volunteered to start identifying good locations to install electric charging stations throughout the County.
  - Cathy made a motion to direct the Chair to prepare and send such a letter to the BOS on behalf of the Committee, which was seconded by Richard and adopted unanimously by the Committee.
7. Consider hiring an AmeriCorps volunteer to help the MCCAAC. Discuss who would manage the volunteer and how they could help the committee.
    - The committee discussed at length the pros and cons of hiring a Climate Corp person to assist the committee with its work. Generally, the Committee felt that it would benefit from part time support (10 hours per month) from a climate corps volunteer. John Haschak will be securing a Climate Corp person to assist the County's climate efforts and it would be helpful if that person supported the committees work for 8 to 10 hours per month. The committee will continue to discuss this issue in the new year.
  8. Discuss the Climate Crisis actions taken by the Board of Supervisors including the NEM3 position.
    - It was noted that the CPUC has already voted against the recommendations of the County Board of Supervisors and the Committee. People should now address concerns to the Governor.
  9. Discuss the actions of PG&E to remove 399 trees on Utility easements on State Parks property.
    - It was noted that this item was incorrectly described in the BOS consent Agenda item. The trees had already been removed and included primarily shrubs and small diameter trees (less than 18 inches).
  10. Report to the MCCAAC, by Committee Members on Ongoing Activities and Possibilities for Collaboration. Discuss follow up activities from previous meetings.
    - Richard has reached out to Mendocino High School, and we may be able to get a student volunteer to help with our efforts. They will need a short job description to post and attract a volunteer. Marie will prepare a small job description.
    - Eileen talked to Ukiah Advanced Placement teacher about getting a volunteer student. She is meeting with them on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - Cathy noted that we should plan something for Earth Day April 2022.
    - Richard provided an update on his media work.
    - Cathy, Sandy and Eileen confirmed that they would like a tour of a logged area by John Anderson of MRC. As this is not a quorum of the group it does not have to be noticed. Marie will reach out to John to set it up.
    - There was a general discussion about pulling together a book display at the County Library about the climate crisis.
  11. The Meeting Date for January will be Friday 1/21/2022 at 3:00.
  12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40

**RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES  
OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency declaring a state of emergency exists due to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19), pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8625) and that State of Emergency is still in effect in the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the state Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution the state Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, the California Department of Industrial Relations has issued regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention for employees and places of employment. Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D) specifically recommends physical (social) distancing as one of the measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 based on the fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors; and,

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer continues to recommend teleconferencing during public meetings of all legislative bodies to protect the community's health against the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, finds that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing based on the Mendocino County Public Health Officer recommendation and the California Department of Industrial Relations' issuance of regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention through Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D); and,

WHEREAS, as a consequence, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee does hereby find that current conditions meet the circumstances set for in Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow this legislative body to conduct its meetings by teleconferencing without compliance with Government Code section 54953 (b)(3), pursuant to Section 54953(e), and that such legislative body shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed by Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure the public can safely participate in and observe local government meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Current Conditions Authorize Teleconference Public Meetings of Legislative Bodies. Based on the California Governor's continued declaration of a State of Emergency, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer's recommendation to continue teleconferencing, and the regulations issued by the California Department of Industrial Relations, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee finds that the conditions continue to exist pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow legislative bodies to use teleconferencing to hold public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure members of the public have continued access to safely observe and participate in local government meetings.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, and carried this \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021, by the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, by the following vote:

AYES:

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.



**Mendocino County  
Climate Action  
Advisory Committee**

January 14, 2021  
Board of Supervisors  
Mendocino County  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA

**Re: County Strategic Plan**

Dear Members of the Board,

The Mendocino County Climate Action and Advisory Committee, the Grassroots Initiative and Climate Action Mendocino applaud your efforts to complete a set of strategic goals for Mendocino County. The draft strategy includes many goals and objectives, and with limited County funding and staff, implementation of the entire list will be a challenge. We recommend that the County Board of Supervisors consider simplifying the list and we recommend that you use policy language that can be used at the department level throughout the organization to foster flexibility and responsiveness at the staff level in implementation. We also recommend that the strategy include *suggested* steps for each goal statement and *potential funding sources*, as this will facilitate implementation. We hope that you consider revising the remainder of the document in a form similar to our recommendation below.

**First, a reiteration of the Strategy's current climate related goals, which are all found under point E:**

- E. Implement practices that support a sustainable environment and responsible stewardship of natural resources
  - 1. Develop a strategy for a sustainable water supply that includes the identification of potential new sources of water and/or expansion of existing surface water delivery systems
  - 2. Reduce the carbon footprint of County facilities and operations by installing solar microgrids, purchasing electric vehicles, and reducing

- the use of fossil fuels.
3. Support sustainable forestry, agriculture, and landscapes as a County policy with a focus on lowering carbon emissions

**We recommend the following changes to the three climate related goals in the Strategic Plan:**

**E. Implement practices that support a sustainable environment and responsible stewardship of natural resources**

**1. Develop and implement a Sustainable Water Supply Plan for the County.**

The plan could include: a) an analysis of potential new water sources; b) the feasibility of expanding existing water storage and delivery systems; c) facilitation of water conservation; (d) simplify the permitting process for private water storage facilities; and e) consider joining the California Water Efficiency Network to facilitate funding for water conservation. Implementation should be accomplished with an active grant writing program. Potential funding sources include:

- State Water Board <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans>
- Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/SRF.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html)
- Small Communities Drink Water Fund [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/sustainable\\_water\\_solutions/scfp.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/scfp.html)

**2. Reduce the carbon footprint at County facilities and operations with a goal towards achieving net zero energy use by 2030.**

Potential strategies could include the following: a) install solar panels and storage capacity on County buildings; b) install electric charging stations in County parking lots; c) replace fleet vehicles with electric vehicles where feasible; d) reduce work-related travel; e) reduce food and municipal waste; f) implement and facilitate reuse, recycling, green purchasing, and life cycle costing. Potential funding sources include:

- California Energy Commission Low Interest Loan Program (1% interest repayable with energy cost savings) <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/energy-conservation-assistance-act/low-interest-loans>
- CAL-eVIP Through Sonoma Clean Power. <https://calevip.org>
- Clean Transportation Program Rural Electric Vehicle (REV) Charging Grant <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/clean-transportation-program>
- GFO-21-601 Charging Access for Reliable On-Demand Transportation Services (CARTS)(closed)

- GFO-20-602 – Zero-Emission Transit Fleet Infrastructure Deployment (closed)
- Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) – Implementation Grant (closed)

**3. Assist the private sector to reduce their carbon footprint and increase carbon sequestration on private and public lands with a goal towards achieving net zero energy use and positive carbon sequestration by 2030.** Potential strategies include: a) consider carbon emissions as part of all CEQA reviews and Use Permit approvals; b) support policies and projects that result in carbon storage in our forests and agriculture soils; c) consider regulatory fee relief and/or permitting priority for those installing solar and battery systems; d) join the Rural Regional Energy Network to offer rebates for low carbon appliance replacements by residents and businesses.

Potential funding sources include:

- Ukiah Electric Utility \$3,000 rebate for a Workplace or Public Level 2 Single Hose EV Charger and a \$4,000 rebate for a Workplace or Public Level 2 Dual Hose EV Charger
- Building Forward: Library Infrastructure Grant Program Preliminary Application
- California Lending for Energy and Environmental Needs (CLEEN) Center
- California Capital Access Program (CalCAP) Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) Financing Program  
<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cpcfca/calcap/index.asp>
- GFO-20-502 – Solar Heating, Cooling, and Power for Industrial and Commercial Applications (closed)

**4. Engage in long range planning and encourage more walkable communities and higher density development (residential and commercial) in areas of the County where residents would welcome additional population and services.** Potential strategies include: a) identify and rezone areas within unincorporated towns in Mendocino County to increase housing density and allow more affordable housing development closer to job centers; b) work with water and sewer districts to identify and prioritize expansion of services where needed to facilitate the increased density of housing development; c) work to identify areas within rural towns that are appropriate for rezoning to Mixed Use, to facilitate the development of walkable communities; d) continue to ensure that the County Department of Transportation applies for funding to increase and expand walking and biking infrastructure in areas identified for increased housing density, mixed use zones, and schools, to assure there are safe non-motorized transportation opportunities available.



On behalf of the Mendocino County Climate Action and Advisory Committee, the Grassroots Institute and Climate Action Mendocino, we will continue to help the County develop and implement these strategic goals. We also offer our highly skilled and talented services to help in this effort.

Sincerely,

Marie Jones, Chair, Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

Eileen Mitro, Climate Action Mendocino

James Schoonover, Member Grassroots Institute

**Mendocino County Strategic Plan: 2022-2027**  
**Draft Priorities, Goals & Objectives**  
Revised 11/15/21

**I. An Effective County Government Organization**

**A. Define clear roles, responsibilities, and processes for government leadership**

1. Make determinations about key roles for county governance, including the CEO/CAO and County elected officials.
2. Create operating agreements for how the Supervisors will work with one another and with the CAO/CEO, County elected officials, and Department Heads.
3. In collaboration, Supervisors, Department Heads, CAO/CEO, and other elected County leaders create a *Code of Conduct* that defines acceptable behavior and sets expectations for accountability.
4. Create groupings of departments with similar functions and assign Supervisors as liaisons with the Department Heads from those groups to conduct regular meetings that promote healthy communication and greater cooperation across departments.

**B. Create a thriving organizational culture**

1. Attract and retain the best employees by identifying why people join, stay, and leave County government and making needed improvements informed by annual surveys for current employees and exit interviews for all departing employees.
2. Invest in employee professional growth and retention by continuing to offer high quality training, development, and leadership programs.
3. Create a compensation and benefits philosophy, participate in salary surveys, and complete competitive market matching every two years. Adjust wages as appropriate.
4. Continue Department Heads meetings. Identify leadership behaviors to move the County closer to the ideal High Performance Organization culture and hold leaders accountable for implementing new behaviors and encouraging leaders at all levels of the organization.
5. Strengthen the County's Leadership Initiative and High-Performance Organization culture through the implementation of projects, coaching, and performance improvement initiatives that promote leadership at all levels with support from senior leaders and the Board of Supervisors.

**C. Implement new approaches to demonstrate our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

1. Adopt definitions and create a shared understanding of what diversity, equity, and inclusion mean.
2. Launch DEI training for all County leadership, beginning with the Board of Supervisors and CAO/CEO.
3. Hire an Equity Officer and create a multi-year plan to address disparities in treatment of County employees due to race, ethnicity, and other protected classes through training, coaching, and providing toolkits and other resources.
4. Broaden the list of organizations invited to contract with the County to include a more diverse set of organizations.

5. Develop a consultation policy with the ten federally recognized Tribes to build deeper working relationships.
6. Through the guidance of the Equity Officer, review existing processes and policies in every department to determine adverse impact against County residents who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in service delivery or access.
7. Boost pay premium for bilingual employees who use multiple languages in their positions.
8. Implement strategic job outreach and recruitment efforts to attract a more diverse candidate pool.

**D. Improve operational efficiency by streamlining processes and implementing technology-based solutions**

1. Redesign the hiring process to drastically reduce cycle time from open requisition to new employee start date.
2. Evaluate the existing portfolio of County software and applications based on pre-determined criteria including reliability and ease of use, among others. Identify and prioritize the software that needs to be updated and budget for it accordingly.
3. Audit core processes for conducting business in every department to determine where technology can support organizational effectiveness and efficiencies. Perform a cost-benefit analysis of moving to a technology-based solution and prioritize investments across departments.
4. Establish expectations for every department to complete a minimum of one process improvement project each year to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, and increase customer service.
5. Provide opportunities for employees to have the information they need to perform their jobs and provide training and coaching to help them analyze the best data available to make informed decisions.

**E. Increase transparency in government operations to build trust with employees and community**

1. Strengthen internal communications to provide equitable access and increased understanding among County employees of organizational information, budgets, decisions, and emerging changes in direction.
2. Build an internal communications team to increase information sharing with the public and conduct periodic public forums with the aim of improving community engagement and trust.
3. Simplify the County website for ease of use and access to information.
4. Offer all County communications, including the website, with a Spanish language option.
5. Offer automated and paper-driven processes to serve the needs of diverse communities.

**F. Assure financial sustainability of the County**

1. Create a collective approach to grant funding, from research of funding opportunities to spending, with the expectation that all departments will collaborate.

2. Identify new sources of money to align with the discretionary funding required to deliver on strategic initiatives.

## II. A Safe and Healthy County

### A. Provide a person-centered approach to help under-resourced and vulnerable families thrive

1. Enhance collaboration among departments to provide a *one door* approach to services so community members can access services from multiple departments through one point of entry.
2. In partnership with local community-based organizations, design and implement approaches to providing families easier access to programs and services that match their needs, including providing both printed and online information and satellite offices.
3. Support community partners' efforts to achieve food security and improved nutrition among County residents.

### B. Deliver culturally relevant public health services that focus on prevention and are guided by social determinants of health

1. Review public health programs to be sure they are based on sound research, lead to positive results, and focus on prevention.
2. Fill open requisitions to ensure adequate staffing for effective program delivery.
3. Implement the Public Health Department's six strategic priorities to improve emergency preparedness, external communication, immunizations, organizational culture, prevention, and collaboration among staff and community partners.

### C. Increase access to behavioral health services

1. Increase partnerships and collaboration with community partners and law enforcement to deliver services to people in need.
2. Utilize Community Health Workers and Promotores in Tribal Communities and among Latinx populations to reduce the stigma of seeking help for mental health.
3. Implement Measure B plans to create a Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), Crisis Residential Treatment Facility (CRT), and Behavioral Health Regional Training Center.
4. In conjunction with other health and human services departments, apply for additional grant funding from state and federal sources to address County needs.

### D. Help people feel safe in their communities

1. Develop new approaches for law enforcement organizations and criminal justice partners to work in coordination with other County departments and community-based organizations to reduce recidivism and incarceration.

2. Design and implement multiple types of collaborative community-oriented law enforcement solutions based on best practices in public safety to increase citizen engagement and understanding.
3. Identify and implement strategies that prevent youth entry into the criminal justice system.

**E. Implement practices that support a sustainable environment and responsible stewardship of natural resources**

1. Develop a strategy for a sustainable water supply that includes the identification of potential new sources of water and/or expansion of existing surface water delivery systems
2. Reduce the carbon footprint of County facilities and operations by installing solar microgrids, purchasing electric vehicles, and reducing the use of fossil fuels.
3. Support sustainable forestry, agriculture, and landscapes as a County policy with a focus on lowering carbon emissions.

### III. A Thriving Economy

**A. Support a vibrant economy**

1. Collaborate with economic development partners in the County to identify actions the County can take to support their business development, expansion, and attraction goals.
2. Implement policies and practices to make it easier for businesses to start-up and expand.

**B. Support increased housing stock at a range of affordability levels**

1. Explore the creation of a workforce housing initiative and other creative programs to enable County employees to be able to afford to live in Mendocino County.
2. Identify one County executive who would have accountability for housing programs, from market-rate to housing for unhoused residents, and have responsibility for obtaining additional State and Federal grants.
3. Interview developers and housing industry stakeholders and develop a plan to reduce barriers and time relative to permitting.
4. Discover and implement strategies to provide housing opportunities for people who are unhoused.
5. Create forums and dialog with County residents about the value of and need for housing and commercial opportunities.

**C. Improve broadband communications infrastructure throughout the County**

1. Seek grants and partner with cell companies to expand communications infrastructure within the County to improve access to broadband, wireless, and cell services.

## **IV. A Prepared and Resilient County**

### **A. Increase disaster/emergency preparedness and resiliency**

1. Create and implement training and an operational plan to ensure 24/7 readiness of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
2. Develop a site for a permanent EOC with necessary, up-to-date equipment.
3. Post social media messages, provide training programs, and conduct public meetings in English and Spanish throughout the County on the topic of emergency preparedness.

### **B. Ensure access to rural fire protection and emergency medical services**

1. Support recruitment efforts of firefighters for volunteer fire departments.
2. Work with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to develop Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils in communities throughout the County.
3. Seek funding to increase the number of available ambulances with advanced life support features.

### **C. Improve and maintain transportation and road systems/access routes**

1. Identify supplemental funding sources to implement priority road system improvements.
2. Determine the feasibility of increasing Mendocino Transit Authority routes and access points and implement changes accordingly.
3. Encourage the development of road associations through public education and support.