CHAPTER 1

# Introduction

# 1 INTRODUCTION

With its famous valleys and hillsides, Napa County, part of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, ranks as one of the world's premier wine regions and is home to hundreds of wineries and thousands of acres of carefully cultivated vineyards. Beyond its viticultural prominence, the county's 789 square miles encompass a stunning variety of landscapes, from the Mayacamas Mountains in the west to the Vaca Mountains in the east, with the fertile valley floor nestled between. This diverse terrain supports the region's renowned wine industry and a rich mosaic of oak woodlands, grasslands, and other natural habitats that contribute to the county's biodiversity and scenic beauty. Additionally, the county's vitality extends to its robust hospitality sector, thriving culinary scene, and growing technology and manufacturing industries. Collectively, Napa County includes five incorporated municipalities—American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena, and Yountville—along with numerous unincorporated communities, hosting approximately 140,000 residents and nearly 4 million visitors per year (Visit Napa Valley 2025).

The county's Mediterranean climate, historically characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters, has long been one of its greatest assets, with many considering it an ideal climate. However, like many regions in California and across the world, climate change is already presenting and will continue to present challenges within the county. Climate change can manifest in many different forms, and locally, this may include effects such as prolonged heat waves, extended drought periods, altered frequency and severity of storm events, and increased wildfire risk caused by conditions that are more favorable for ignition and rapid spread of fires. These effects have already proven to adversely impact communities in the region and across the state due to their wide-ranging impacts on people, infrastructure, transportation, local economies, natural resources, and agriculture, among other assets.

Recognizing these challenges, local jurisdictions within Napa County (hereinafter referred to as "Napa County Jurisdictions" when describing the collective government entities of the County of Napa, the Cities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, and St. Helena, and the Town of Yountville) have come together to develop this Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP). This collaborative effort, which serves as a comprehensive roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate change impacts, reflects a shared understanding that addressing climate change requires bold and coordinated action across jurisdictional boundaries.

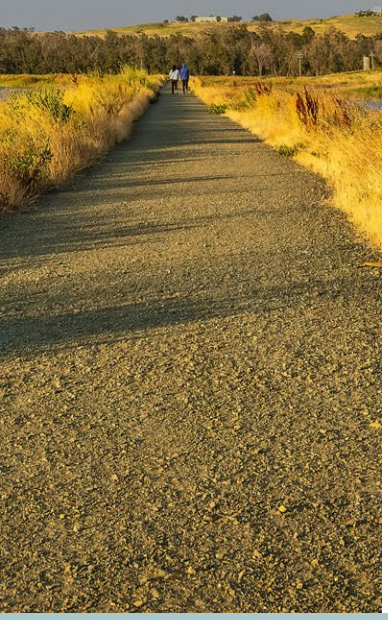


Photo Credit: County of Napa.

The RCAAP is organized into seven chapters.

- This chapter, **Chapter 1**, serves as an introduction to the RCAAP, providing important plan-specific context and other background information.
- **Chapter 2** outlines the county's GHG emissions profile, including the GHG emissions inventory, forecasts, and reduction targets.
- **Chapter 3**, informed by the contents of Chapter 2, summarizes the RCAAP's GHG emissions reduction strategies, measures, and actions.
- **Chapter 4**, shifting away from GHG discussions, presents the findings of the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) that was prepared for the RCAAP.
- **Chapter 5**, informed by the contents of Chapter 4, summarizes the RCAAP's climate adaptation strategies, measures, and actions.
- **Chapter 6** provides details for implementing and monitoring the RCAAP, along with how it will serve as a resource for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining.
- Lastly, all works cited throughout the RCAAP are listed in **Chapter 7**.

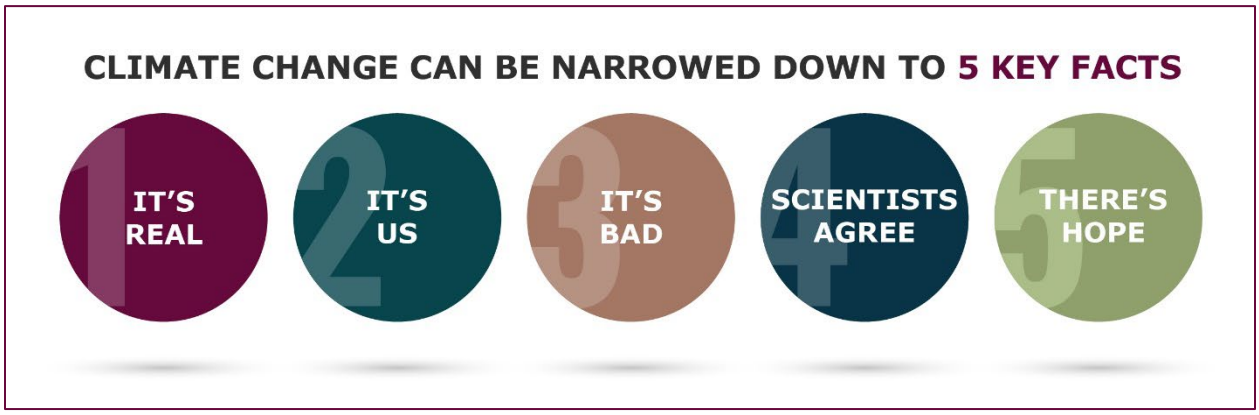
# 1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW

To understand the need for this RCAAP, it is important to understand the basics of climate change, including what it is, the facts and science supporting it, its effects and range of impacts, and how to address it. Climate change is a complex issue, but it can be narrowed down to five key two-word facts, as presented in **Figure 1.1** and the list below (YPCCC n.d.):

- **It's real**. Data shows climate change is already happening and being observed, notably through rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns around the globe.
- **It's us**. Data shows that human activities, like burning fossil fuels, are the primary driver of climate change.
- **It's bad**. The impacts of climate change, many of which are already being experienced today, are harmful to people and the planet.
- **Scientists agree**. There is a strong, evidence-based scientific consensus that climate change is real and caused by human activities and that there is an urgent need for action.
- **There's hope**. The technology, knowledge, and capabilities to address climate change already exist—we just need to act.

The subsections below seek to provide a high-level overview of climate change, emphasizing these key facts.

**Figure 1.1 Climate Change Key Facts**



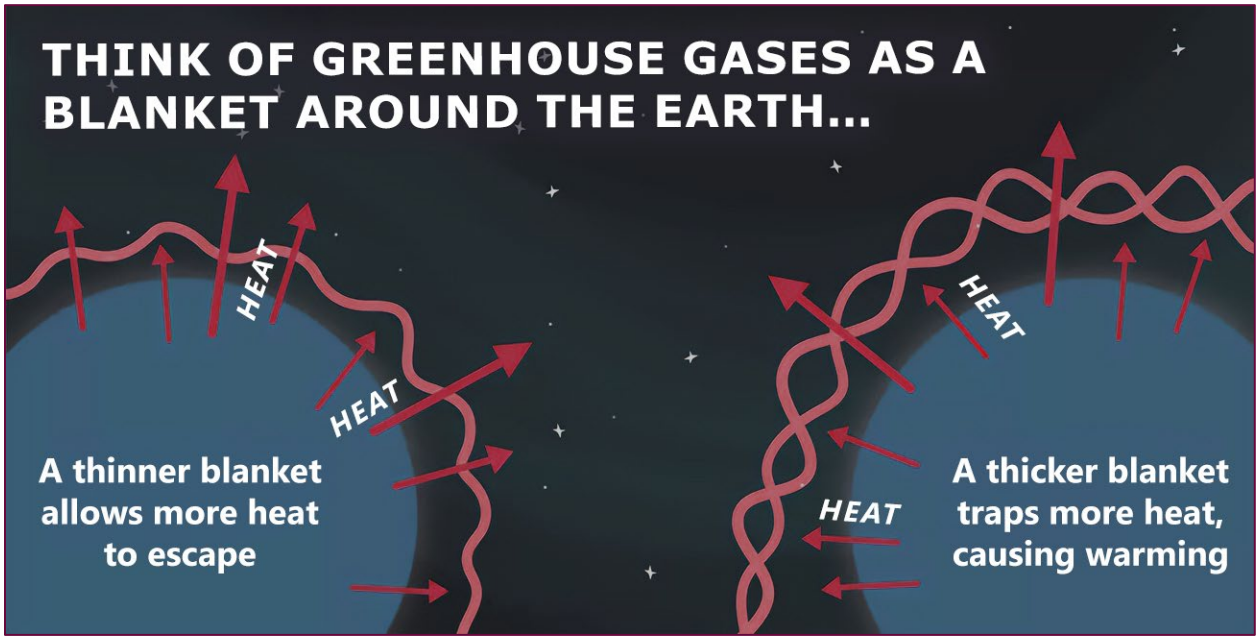

Source: **Developed by Ascent in 2025**.

## Climate Change Science

The science behind climate change is rooted in the greenhouse effect, which is a natural process that insulates the Earth and helps regulate its temperature. After absorbing sunlight, the Earth emits heat in the form of infrared radiation, which is then absorbed by a collection of naturally occurring atmospheric GHGs. These gases, which consist mainly of water vapor, carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), methane ($CH_4$), and nitrous oxide ($N_2O$), act as effective global insulators by absorbing some of the infrared radiation that is emitted by Earth and re-emitting it back towards the

planet. This process, where some heat is prevented from escaping the atmosphere, is what keeps temperatures on Earth conducive to life. Without the greenhouse effect, Earth would not be habitable. However, because of human (i.e., anthropogenic) activities, notably the combustion of fossil fuels, excess GHGs have increasingly been released into the atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect to intensify and the Earth's climate to warm at an unprecedented rate. In other words, GHGs act as a blanket around Earth—the more GHGs there are in the atmosphere, the thicker the blanket will be (see **Figure 1.2** for an illustration). This phenomenon is known as climate change and is the primary driver behind changes in more extreme weather patterns, the rapid melting of the polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and other effects that result in impacts on people, infrastructure, and natural systems.

**Figure 1.2 Greenhouse Effect Blanket Analogy**




Source: **NPS 2021**; **modified by Ascent in 2025**.

## What Does Climate Change Look Like?

Climate change can manifest in many ways across the world. **Table 1.1** below presents various climate indicators and a qualitative description of the historical and future projected trends in California (OPR, CEC, and CNRA 2019).

These trends are already holding true, and many are being experienced locally. For example, in recent years, a series of devastating wildfires swept through Napa County and surrounding regions, including the Atlas, Tubbs, and Nuns fires in 2017; and the Glass Fire and the LNU Lightning Complex fires in August and September 2020. These wildfires, collectively, burned hundreds of thousands of acres (CAL FIRE 2017a, 2017b 2022, 2023), and destroyed thousands of structures, and resulted in an array of cascading public health, economic, and even viticultural impacts throughout the county—in the 2020 fires alone, eight percent of the season's wine grapes were left tainted by wildfire smoke, and thus, were unusable (Chroback and Zimmer

2022). Additionally, in September 2022, an unprecedented and uninterrupted 10-day heat wave, with temperatures exceeding triple digits across much of the state, led to hundreds of excess deaths, including some residents of Napa County (CDPH 2023). In general, climate-related hazard events like these can have an array of adverse impacts on populations, the built environment, and community functions and over time, these events will likely increase in frequency, intensity, and/or duration because of climate change.

**Table 1.1 California Climate Indicators with Historical and Future Trends**

| Climate Indicator | Historical Trend | Future Trend |
|---|---|---|
| **Temperature** | Warming (last 100+ years) | Warming |
| **Snowpack** | Declining (last 60+ years) | Declining |
| **Intensity of Heavy Precipitation Events** | No significant trends (last 100+ years) | Increasing |
| **Frequency of Drought** | No significant trends (last 100+ years) | Increasing |
| **Sea Level** | Rising (last 100+ years) | Rising |
| **Area Burned by Wildfire**[1] | Increasing (last 30+ years) | Increasing |

Notes: The "Future Trend" associated with each "Climate Indicator" presented in this table is based on Medium-High to Very High confidence, per *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment: Statewide Summary Report*. / + = or more.

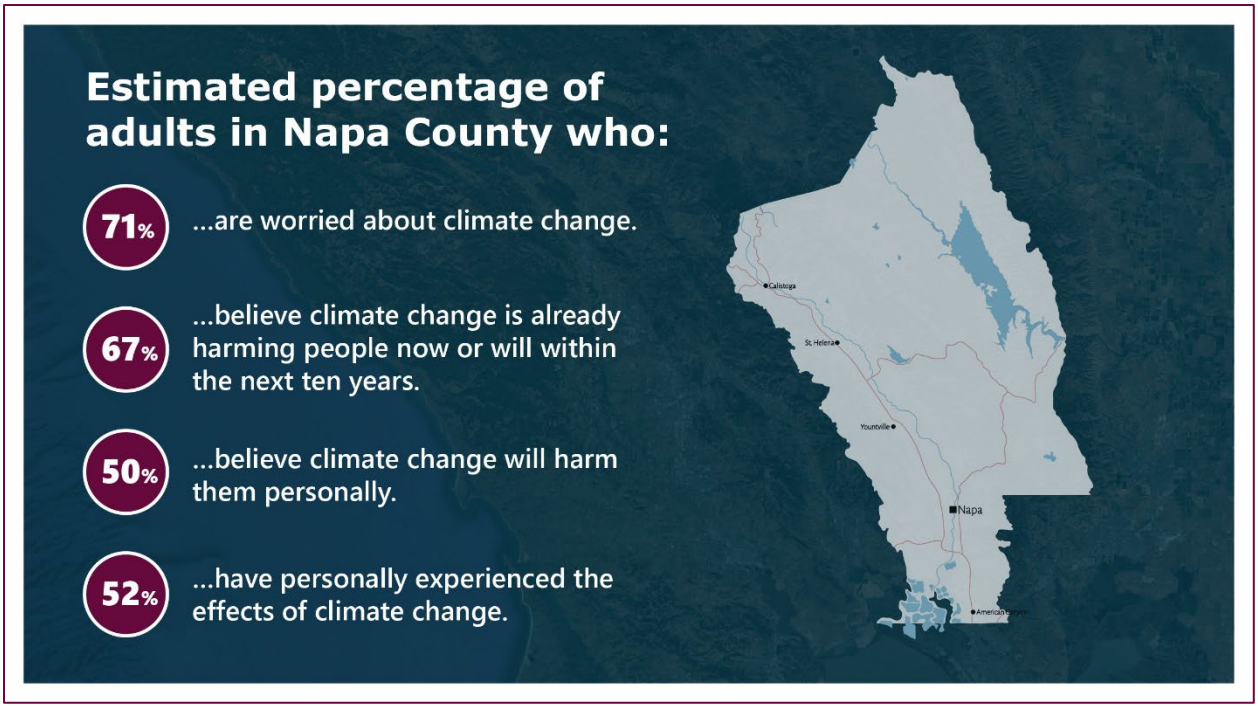
[1] There are many factors that play into the increasing amounts of area burned by wildfire in addition to climate change, including historic fire suppression regimes and inadequate levels of prescribed burning, among others. However, climate change has led to more favorable conditions for wildfire ignition and spread by contributing to a fire season that starts earlier, runs longer, and features conditions that could result in extreme fire behavior.

Source: **OPR, CEC, and CNRA 2019**.

As California continues to experience rising temperatures, increasingly severe storms, destructive wildfires, and prolonged periods of drought, among other climate-related hazards and their associated impacts, it has become more than evident that climate change is already occurring. Without immediate and intentional action, climate change has the potential to further harm current and future generations' safety, health, economic opportunity, and quality of life. As shown in **Figure 1.3**, Napa County residents understand the threat of climate change, further underscoring how critical it is to act. Through the development and implementation of this RCAAP, the Napa County Jurisdictions are committed to their role in addressing the challenges that climate change presents.

> *"The science that, decades ago, predicted the impacts we are currently experiencing is even stronger today and unambiguously tells us what we must do to limit irreversible damage: we must act with renewed commitment and focus to do more and do it sooner"* (CARB 2022: 13).

**Figure 1.3 Climate Change Risk Perceptions Across Napa County**

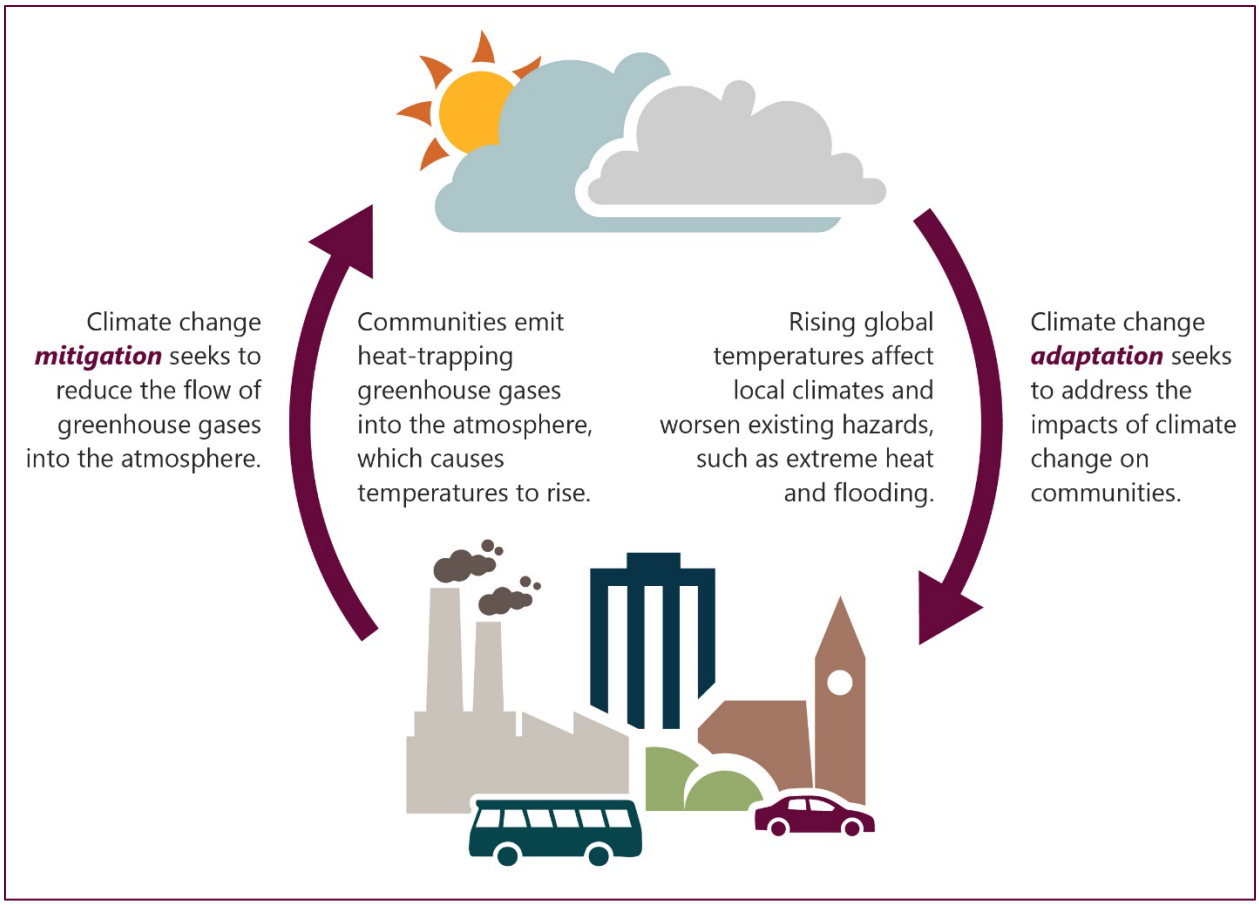



Source: **YPCCC 2023**; **figure developed by Ascent in 2025**.

## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale and, thus, local governments have an opportunity and a responsibility to address it at the local level. Addressing climate change requires an integrated approach that targets its sources and impacts. Targeting its sources is known as **climate change mitigation** and involves reducing the release of heat-trapping GHGs into the atmosphere. Targeting its impacts is known as **climate change adaptation** and involves efforts intended to reduce risk and build resilience to climate change. **Figure 1.4** below illustrates this integrated approach of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Although climate change mitigation and adaptation can sometimes be separate planning efforts, it is important to consider both components in climate action planning, which this RCAAP does.

**Figure 1.4 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**




Source: **Cal OES 2020**; **modified by Ascent in 2025**.

# 1.2 PLAN BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

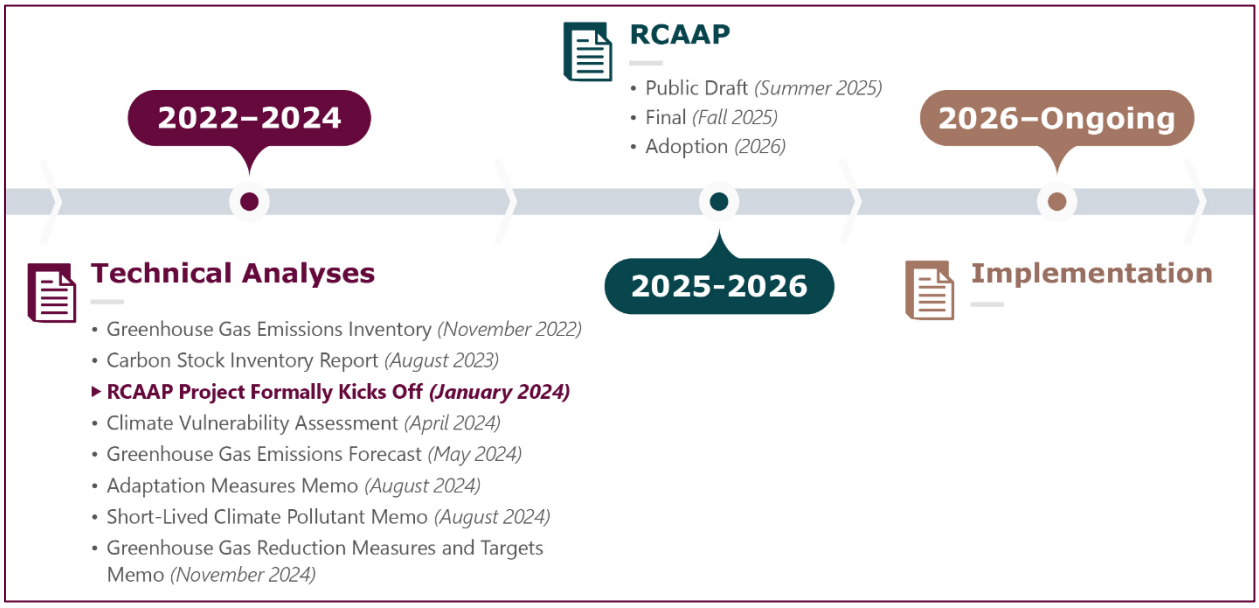
## Purpose

Overall, this RCAAP serves as a comprehensive roadmap to address both the sources and impacts of climate change across Napa County, combining strategies to both reduce GHG emissions and enhance the region's resilience to climate-related challenges. The plan, which is consistent with the methodologies and goals established by the State of California government (State) guidance and legislation, reflects regionally tailored solutions that are representative of the unique environmental, economic, and social characteristics of the county. Additionally, the RCAAP builds upon existing climate change and sustainability initiatives throughout the county (some of which are detailed in **Section 1.3**), seeking to coordinate and amplify these and future efforts through a unified regional framework.

## Plan Development Process

The development of this RCAAP is rooted in the formation of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) in 2019. Originally known as the Regional Working Group on Climate Change, the CAC—which consists of two elected officials from each of the six Napa County Jurisdictions—was collaboratively established to act on a countywide commitment to address climate change. On October 16, 2020, the CAC approved a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to coordinate climate-related efforts across the county, and in 2021, the countywide commitment to address climate change was formalized through each jurisdiction adopting a resolution or proclamation. Specifically, these resolutions and proclamations acknowledge the existence of a climate emergency that threatens the region and recognize the need to work with residents, businesses, community organizations, and many other regional partners to achieve ambitious climate goals. These resolutions and proclamations, along with the establishment of the CAC and JPA, collectively laid the groundwork for developing this RCAAP. While not an exhaustive list, **Figure 1.5** below highlights many of the key milestones for the RCAAP, including the technical work that was prepared to inform the plan.

**Figure 1.5 RCAAP Project Milestones**




Notes: RCAAP = Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Source: **Developed by Ascent in 2025**.

## Community Engagement Summary

Community engagement is a vital component of any effective climate action and adaptation planning process, ensuring that the plan reflects the needs, priorities, and values of the people it serves. Meaningful engagement helps build public awareness, foster collaboration, and generate community-driven climate solutions. While ongoing engagement and community input will be essential throughout RCAAP implementation, the following list summarizes the outreach and

engagement efforts conducted during the plan's development, which consist of both direct and indirect engagement. Full community engagement details can be found in **Appendix A**.


Photo Credit: County of Napa.

- **July 2024 Community Meetings**: In July 2024, two community meetings were hosted to discuss the RCAAP: (1) an in-person community meeting at the Yountville Community Center on July 24; and (2) a virtual meeting via Zoom on July 30. Although each meeting was hosted in a different format, all meetings included a brief presentation followed by group activities. Primary areas of concern identified by attendees included: (1) lack of accessible and efficient public transit; (2) extreme weather impacts on public health, especially vulnerable populations; (3) wildfire risks and related air quality issues; (4) water supply concerns; (5) energy efficiency and affordability issues in buildings; and (6) limited access to parks, green spaces, and community gardens.
- **Climate Action Committee Meetings**: The CAC was critical in guiding the RCAAP's development, serving as a key advisory body. Regular (i.e., monthly) meetings provided a structured forum for members to discuss key issues, offer feedback and direction, and facilitate coordination between jurisdictions, ensuring that the ultimate plan reflected a cohesive, countywide approach to climate action while addressing the unique needs of each community.

- **Focus Groups**: In July 2024, a series of focused small-group engagement sessions (i.e., focus groups) were conducted with representatives from nearly 20 diverse community organizations across Napa County. The purpose of these sessions was to directly explore the needs of the community and discuss potential solutions to be included in the RCAAP that can best serve those needs. Participants highlighted common issues, such as extreme weather impacts, educational disruptions, environmental justice concerns, and youth involvement challenges, among other key issues. Key recommendations emerged around equitable engagement, immediate action through implementable solutions, and improved accessibility of climate-related resources.
- **Pop-Up Events**: In line with the principle of "meeting people where they are," a series of pop-up events were hosted in the summer of 2024 to further engage residents and share information about the RCAAP, in collaboration with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD). By setting up information tables at community celebrations and events, such as the "Día de la Familia" celebration, which took place on July 21, 2024, these pop-ups made it easy for community members to learn about the RCAAP, share their perspectives, and stay connected with the planning process.
- **Survey**: A comprehensive survey, which closed in August 2024, was conducted to better understand how residents across the county feel about climate change and what they think should be done about climate change. Survey participants weighed in on what climate-related hazards and impacts concerned them most, what makes it challenging to adopt climate-friendly practices in their daily lives, and what actions they would like to see their local governments take—from expanding renewable energy and public transportation to reducing waste and promoting more sustainable land use. The insights gathered from the survey helped to inform various pieces of the RCAAP, including the development of the strategies, measures, and actions included in **Chapter 3** and **Chapter 5**.
- **Project Website**: A dedicated RCAAP website has served as a central hub for project updates, engagement opportunities, and access to key documents during development of the RCAAP. The website has provided an easy-to-navigate platform where residents could learn about the planning process, review draft materials, submit feedback, and stay informed about upcoming meetings and events. By offering a digital space for engagement, the website has helped to ensure transparency and accessibility for all community members, including those who may not have been able to participate in person.

## Co-Benefits

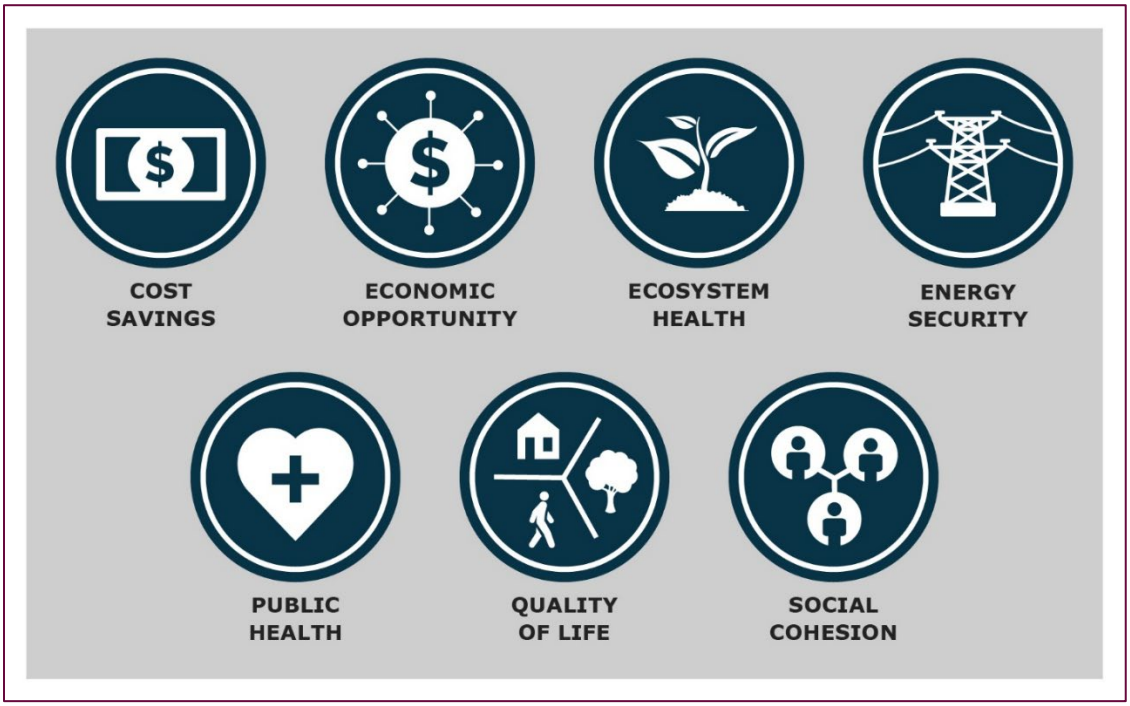
While the RCAAP is primarily geared toward reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change across Napa County, implementation of the plan will also result in an array of "co-benefits" beyond climate change mitigation and adaptation. The key co-benefits include:

- **Cost Savings**: Reduces longer-term costs for residents, businesses, and/or local government.
- **Economic Opportunity**: Creates new jobs, attracts investments, strengthens local businesses, and/or promotes sustainable economic growth in emerging green sectors.

- **Ecosystem Health**: Protects and/or enhances natural systems (e.g., watersheds, wetlands, forests), supporting biodiversity and maintaining vital ecosystem services.
- **Energy Security**: Increases local energy independence, resilience, and/or system reliability.
- **Public Health**: Improves community well-being through enhanced air quality, increased physical activity, reduced exposure to environmental hazards, and/or better access to healthy food.
- **Quality of Life**: Enhances community amenities, improves neighborhood livability, and/or creates more comfortable and enjoyable spaces for residents and visitors.
- **Social Cohesion**: Strengthens community connections, promotes equity and inclusion, and/or builds shared community identity through collaborative action.

Each GHG reduction measure presented in **Chapter 3** of this RCAAP, along with each adaptation measure presented in **Chapter 5**, may have one or more of these co-benefits associated with it, and each co-benefit is classified with a unique icon, which can be found in **Figure 1.6** below.

**Figure 1.6 Co-Benefits**




Source: **Developed by Ascent in 2025**.

## Advancing Equity

This RCAAP was developed with equitable outcomes in mind, and as such, plan implementation will prioritize and be rooted in the principles of environmental justice and climate equity. While there are no formal, regionally specific definitions for these terms, **Table 1.2** presents these terms as defined by the State and federal government, which will serve as guideposts for advancing equitable outcomes as part of this RCAAP.

**Table 1.2 Environmental Justice and Climate Equity Defined**

| Term | Definition | As Defined By: |
|---|---|---|
| **Environmental Justice** | The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice includes but is not limited to, the following: (1) the availability of a healthy environment for all people; (2) the deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities; (3) governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process; and (4) at a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions. | California Government Code, Section 65040.12 |
| **Climate Equity** | The fair and just distribution of the benefits of climate action and the burdens of climate impacts, ensuring that historically marginalized and frontline communities—who often face the greatest risks from climate change—are prioritized in decision-making, investments, and policy implementation. Climate equity acknowledges existing social, economic, and environmental disparities and seeks to correct them by providing resources, protections, and opportunities that enhance resilience and reduce vulnerabilities for all populations, especially those disproportionately affected.[1] | Cal OES & LCI |

Notes: & = and; Cal OES = California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; LCI = California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

[1] The State of California does not have a singular, formal definition for the term "climate equity," and as such, the presented definition is synthesized from various resources.

Source: **Compiled by Ascent in 2025**.

Keeping these terms in mind, various tools exist to help guide a strategic and prioritized approach for plan implementation to address unequal burdens and historical inequities exacerbated by climate change. These tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **California Climate Investments Priority Population Map**: This map, which aggregates data from multiple sources, can identify priority populations (i.e., disadvantaged and low-income communities) as defined for California Climate Investments.
- **California Communities Environmental Screening Tool**: This tool, also known as CalEnviroScreen for short, can be used to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. It was developed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), an office within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).
- **California Healthy Places Index**: This tool, developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California and known as HPI for short, can be used to explore the community conditions that impact life expectancy. It combines 25 unique community characteristics, like access to healthcare, housing, education, and more, into a single indexed HPI score for a particular community—the healthier a community, the higher the HPI score.

Advancing equity in climate action and adaptation is an ongoing process that requires intentionality, collaboration, and accountability. By using tools like these during plan implementation, where appropriate, and through targeted interventions, Napa County Jurisdictions can: (1) ensure that climate investments across the county provide meaningful benefits for those who need it most; and (2) build a future where all residents are better protected from climate change and have opportunities to thrive.

# 1.3 HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE ALREADY BEING ADDRESSED?

## State Climate Efforts

In response to the increase in anthropogenic GHG emissions and the risks posed by climate change, the State has already taken many steps to reduce GHG emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts, notably through legislation. **Table 1.3** below serves as a non-exhaustive list of important State climate legislation that provides policy direction and context for this RCAAP. All items are presented in chronological order, and newer legislation may supersede older legislation. Moreover, because this table is meant to serve as a snapshot, additional legislation may be referenced throughout this RCAAP that is not listed in the table.

**Table 1.3 Snapshot of State of California Climate Legislation**

| Year | Legislation | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | **AB 32** | ▶ Codified the targets of reducing statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, which was officially achieved in 2016. Also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. |
| 2015 | **SB 379** | ▶ Required cities and counties within California to integrate climate change vulnerability, adaptation strategies, and emergency response strategies into the safety element of their general plans.<br>▶ Allowed jurisdictions that have adopted a climate action and/or adaptation plan separate from the general plan to incorporate that document by reference to comply (if that document meets the requirements outlined in the legislation). |
| 2015 | **AB 1482** | ▶ Required CNRA to update the statewide climate adaptation strategy by July 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter. |
| 2016 | **SB 1383** | ▶ Codified the targets of: (1) reducing statewide disposal of organic waste to 75 percent below 2014 levels by 2025; and (2) recovering at least 20 percent of the currently disposed surplus of edible food by 2025.<br>▶ Identified statewide targets for reducing additional pollutants including HFCs and anthropogenic black carbon.<br>▶ Required CARB to approve and implement the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. |
| 2016 | **SB 32** | ▶ Codified EO B-30-15's target of reducing statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, expanding upon AB 32. Also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016. |

| Year | Legislation | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 2017 | **AB 398** | ▶ Extended the State's Cap-and-Trade program—a key strategy in reducing statewide GHG emissions—from 2020 to 2030, which sets total allowable emissions for facilities and creates carbon offset credits through carbon sequestration projects. |
| 2022 | **AB 1279** | ▶ Codified the targets of: (1) reducing statewide anthropogenic GHG emissions to 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045; and (2) achieving statewide net-zero GHG emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to maintain net negative GHG emissions thereafter. It is also known as the California Climate Crisis Act. |
| 2022 | **SB 905** | ▶ Required CARB to create the Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program to evaluate, demonstrate, and regulate carbon capture, utilization, or storage and $CO_2$ removal projects and technology. |
| 2022 | **AB 1757** | ▶ Required CNRA, in collaboration with CARB, other state agencies, and an expert advisory committee, to determine by January 1, 2024, a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration and for nature-based climate solutions that reduce GHG emissions in 2030, 2038, and 2045. These targets must support State goals to achieve carbon neutrality and foster climate adaptation and resilience. |

Notes: AB = Assembly Bill; CARB = California Air Resources Board; CNRA = California Natural Resources Agency; $CO_2$ = carbon dioxide; EO = Executive Order; HFC = hydrofluorocarbon; GHG = greenhouse gas; SB = Senate Bill; State = State of California government.

Source: **Compiled by Ascent in 2025**.

> "*Many of California's environmental policies have served as models for similar policies in other U.S. states, and at national and international levels. Moving forward, California will continue its pursuit of collaborations and advocacy for action to address climate change at all levels of government*" (CARB 2022: 15).

In addition to legislation, the State has adopted other plans and guidance documents to support local and regional government efforts. For example, and perhaps most notably, the Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), serves as the State's sector-by-sector roadmap for reducing GHG emissions in line with codified GHG emissions reduction targets, and additionally, serves as an important guidance document for local governments in reducing their local emissions. The most recent iteration of the Scoping Plan—the *2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality*—outlines a technologically feasible, cost-effective, and equity-focused path to achieve the GHG reduction and carbon neutrality targets established in AB 1279. Additionally, the *California Adaptation Planning Guide* (APG), developed by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), serves as California's official climate change adaptation planning guidance document intended for use by local governments. These documents, along with other climate-related efforts being led by the State, underscore the importance of addressing climate change at all levels of government.

## Climate Efforts Across Napa County

To complement the State's efforts, numerous climate-related efforts are already happening across Napa County. This RCAAP both recognizes and builds on previous and ongoing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the region. Notably, several Napa County Jurisdictions previously adopted some local form of a climate action plan or related policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions, including:

- the *City of Napa Sustainability Plan*, adopted in 2012,
- the *City of American Canyon Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan*, adopted in 2013,
- the *City of Calistoga Climate Action Plan*, adopted in 2014, and
- the *Town of Yountville Climate Action Plan*, adopted in 2016.

In 2021 and early 2022, following the formation of the CAC and JPA described earlier in this chapter, the Cities of American Canyon, St. Helena, Calistoga, and Napa, along with the County of Napa, adopted resolutions establishing goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The Town of Yountville also adopted a proclamation with the same goal. However, these goals were set prior to AB 1279 becoming law in October 2022 and CARB's adoption of the 2022 Scoping Plan in December 2022, which established a statewide goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Updated targets and goals established in this RCAAP are discussed in further detail in **Chapter 2**.

Additionally, while neither the City of St. Helena or the County of Napa have an adopted local climate action plan, climate change is addressed in each jurisdiction's general plan (i.e., Climate Change Element of the *St. Helena General Plan Update 2040*; Conservation and Safety Elements of the *Napa County General Plan*). In addition to these planning efforts, and sometimes directly informed by them, the Napa County Jurisdictions have implemented or adopted an array of projects, policies, programs, ordinances, and other initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions and building resilience to climate change impacts within their purview. Examples include, but are not limited to, rebate programs for battery-powered leaf blowers, regulations aimed at reducing pollution from plastic and single-use food ware to energy-friendly permit sales, enforcement of Senate Bill (SB) 1383 provisions, ordinances prohibiting new gas stations, and numerous other initiatives.


Photo Credit: Napa Valley Transportation Authority.

In addition to jurisdiction-specific efforts related to climate change, there is a suite of coordinated, countywide efforts that span jurisdictional boundaries. For example, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA), in coordination with each of the Napa County Jurisdictions, has prepared (or is in the process of preparing) a range of plans and programs aimed at promoting sustainable transportation throughout the county, including *Advancing Mobility 2045: Napa Valley Countywide Transportation Plan*, the *NVTA Vision Zero Plan*, and the countywide Active Transportation Plan, which is currently under development. Additionally, the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF), in coordination with each of the Napa County Jurisdictions, has prepared the *Napa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, which aims to provide countywide wildfire protection and resilience. Further, each of the six Napa County Jurisdictions are MCE member communities. MCE provides renewable and affordable electricity for its customers. Ratepayers within each jurisdiction are automatically enrolled in MCE's Light Green 60 percent renewable option, with options to either upgrade to Deep Green 100 percent renewable or opt out of MCE altogether.

Together, each of the jurisdiction-specific and countywide efforts discussed above (along with the numerous additional efforts not discussed here) represent significant progress in addressing climate change across Napa County. The Napa County Jurisdictions are already laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and resilient future by spearheading initiatives intended to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change. However, as climate change presses on, the need for a strategic and unified regional approach is becoming increasingly critical. This RCAAP builds upon this strong foundation of climate action by aligning and expanding upon existing efforts, fostering greater collaboration across jurisdictions, and

identifying new opportunities to accelerate climate solutions. Through this plan, the Napa County Jurisdictions will work collectively to maximize impact and achieve a shared vision for long-term sustainability and resilience.

Photo Credit: Visit Napa Valley.