February 2024: Climate Action Campaign team helping flood-affected Southcrest residents prepare for additional rainfall.

6TH EDITION
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
REPORT CARD

CLIMATE ACTION
CAMPAIGN
SAN DIEGO | ORANGE COUNTY | LOS ANGELES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local governments must pass and implement bold climate policies to reach California's 2045 zero carbon goal. Climate Action Campaign's 6th Edition Climate Action Plan (CAP) Report Card highlights that San Diego cities must update their CAPs with bold strategies and ambitious implementation timelines to reach local and state climate targets. California will fail to meet its ambitious mandates for combating climate change unless the state almost triples its rate of reducing greenhouse gasses through 2030.

The devastating January 22nd floods are an example of climate injustice that demonstrates how the climate crisis is at our doorstep. 2,400 households were damaged in the floods, impacting 7,750 residents and displacing 1,000 of them. This triggered the City of San Diego to secure $18 million in FEMA aid and the County to provide nearly $30 million in aid. The City continues to offer hotel vouchers, waive property repair costs, supply small business aid, and offer support for basic needs. Our region needs to act together to advocate for sustainable and green infrastructure, specifically by securing funding for stormwater improvements to make San Diego more resilient in the face of inevitable climate impacts.

CAPs must have climate justice goals or equity frameworks for CAP strategies. Cities are failing to incorporate and implement equity targets or frameworks within their CAPs, perpetuating decades of underinvestment and leaving frontline communities vulnerable to climate impacts. As demonstrated by this year's 'thousand-year floods,' unjust policies and disinvestment influence which communities experience the brunt of climate impacts. Cities must center communities of concern and local environmental justice groups in their solutions.

Our climate crisis is a public health crisis. Extreme weather events and worsening climate impacts are becoming the new normal, creating immediate hazards to frontline communities. We need to invest in community resilience to protect our health and well-being. Children living in homes with gas stoves have a 42% higher chance of experiencing asthma symptoms. Lower-income and BIPOC communities, relegated to areas adjacent to freeways due to historic redlining practices, bear the brunt of increased air pollution from car exhaust and dust. Living in car-dependent areas leads to sedentary lifestyles and increased risk for heart disease. Combating climate change means protecting our families health and reducing community-wide medical costs.

Benchmarks are essential to accurately track implementation progress. We appreciate the City of San Diego's precedent-setting agreement to establish annual targets for reducing GHG emissions and encourage other cities to follow suit. If the City of San Diego falls short of these targets, it will trigger public discourse, public hearings, and an amendment to the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to identify how the city will realign with its target. Without benchmarks, there is little clarity and accountability on whether CAP implementation is on track to reduce GHG emissions.

SANDAG's regional and city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reports are critical tools for accountability. SANDAG currently supports monitoring city-level CAP implementation across the County with biannual snapshots of GHG emission levels. Tracking GHG emissions is crucial to inform cities how to adjust their CAP strategies if they are not reaching their goals. SANDAG must prioritize securing funding for this monitoring so cities and advocates are fully equipped to fight climate change.

Regional collaboration is necessary to address the climate crisis. SANDAG is leading the charge in developing a Regional CAP in collaboration with cities and CBOs to apply for incoming funds from the EPA. Once this plan is in effect, cities must collaborate to leverage time, resources, and opportunities to develop and implement programs. Similarly, San Diego Community Power is developing a San Diego Regional Energy Network (SDREN) to collaborate regionally and contribute to our local and state energy efficiency and climate goals.

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ABOUT CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

Climate Action Campaign's mission is simple: create a zero carbon future through effective and equitable policy action. We champion effective climate action through our Five Fights, each committed to equity and justice: 100% clean energy, all-electric buildings, bikeable, walkable neighborhoods, world-class transit, and resilience.

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) believes change happens from the ground up. By uniting with broad-based community coalitions, prioritizing climate action, and investing in communities most affected by climate impacts, local governments can serve as an effective model for implementing bold policy solutions. Cities are leading the way on climate solutions, and we leverage this innovation and creativity to model solutions that can be scaled and replicated around the world.

ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDINGS

BIKEABLE, WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

WORLD CLASS TRANSIT

RESILIENCY

100% CLEAN ENERGY

This report card highlights our Five Fights—key climate policy areas we encourage every municipality to address with quantifiable, enforceable strategies as part of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
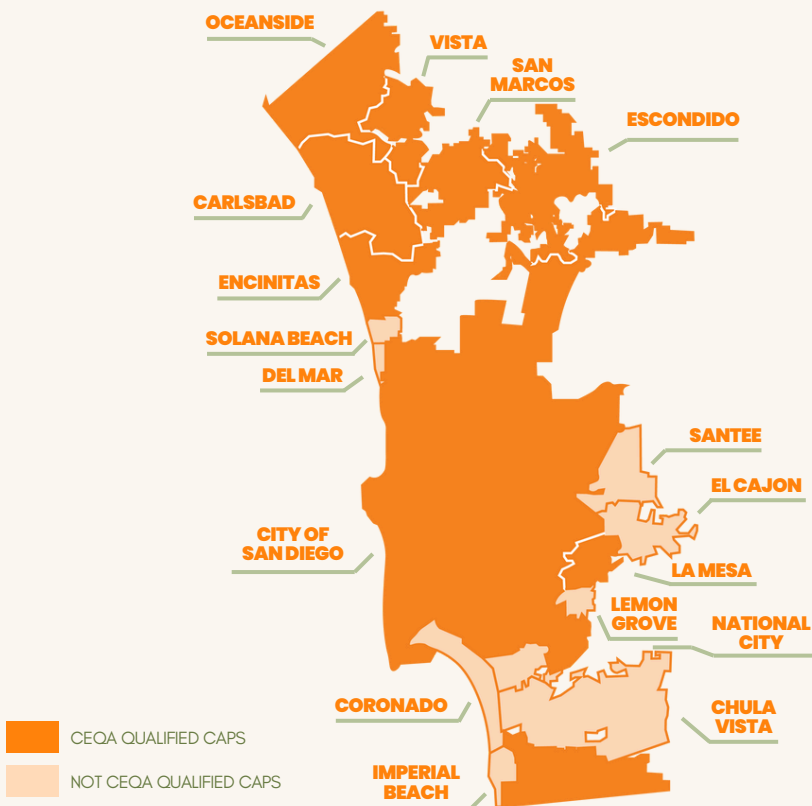
WHAT IS A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

Climate Action Plans (CAPs) are comprehensive tools that help local governments mitigate the climate crisis. CAPs provide a roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions ("GHGs") by implementing various strategies, goals, actions, and supporting measures.

These long-range planning documents quantify local governments' current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions levels, identify target levels to which they plan to reduce their emissions and chart the strategies and measures that will enable local governments to reduce emissions to their targeted levels. CAPs also consider how state and federal policies will impact local efforts to reach emissions reduction targets.

Typically, CAPs focus on strategies that help reduce emissions from these key categories: energy, transportation and land use, solid waste, water and wastewater, and carbon sequestration. Each City should develop an associated and detailed Implementation Plan that outlines how each strategy within the CAP will be implemented and funded and how the local government will report on that implementation.

CAPs are opportunities for local governments to develop comprehensive climate strategies and implementation plans that meet the scale of the climate crisis and help bring clean air, safe streets, clean energy, affordable homes, and economic benefits to local families and businesses. CAPs can also provide models of bold and equitable climate solutions to be scaled and replicated at all levels of government.

OCEANSIDE
VISTA
SAN MARCOS
ESCONDIDO
CARLSBAD
ENCINITAS
SOLANA BEACH
DEL MAR
SANTEE
EL CAJON
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
LA MESA
LEMON GROVE
NATIONAL CITY
CORONADO
CHULA VISTA
IMPERIAL BEACH

CEQA QUALIFIED CAPS
NOT CEQA QUALIFIED CAPS

44%
OF SAN DIEGO CITIES
HAVE A LEGALLY BINDING CAP

WHAT IS A CAP REPORT CARD?

The Climate Action Plan Report Card assesses the San Diego region's climate planning and climate action to guide the public and local governments to:

TAKE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION;

SHARE BEST PRACTICES;

UNCOVER PATTERNS AND TRENDS ACROSS A VAST AND SCATTERED SET OF INFORMATION;

AND INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Through this report, we spur cities to take action and protect our region's future with Climate Action Plans that include ambitious emissions reduction targets and best practices gleaned from models in the region. We also arm residents in the community with a tool that increases transparency and enables them to hold their local governments accountable for reducing the pollution that causes climate change. Cities are a key component of climate action, and this Report Card is an essential tool that will guide the direction and speed of local policies.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CAC'S 2024 REPORT CARD:

Our 6th Edition CAP Report Card evaluates how well the top 9 cities are implementing their CAPs, eight of which are legally binding, as they have the largest opportunity to reduce GHG emissions. The most populated cities frequently have a larger impact and more resources than their smaller counterparts. These cities have a responsibility to prioritize climate action or risk offloading the burden onto smaller, under-resourced communities.

Previous editions of the report card graded Climate Action Plans, whereas this iteration focuses on implementation efforts. Without implementation, even legally binding CAPs are merely aspirational documents, so our rubric is updated to focus on tangible action in key areas, including climate equity, transportation and land use, and clean energy. Ultimately, this report card provides cities in the San Diego region with data-driven best practices to enforce comprehensive plans that reflect the current state of implementation and community needs.

Graded cities received their scores in advance of the report's release and had the opportunity to provide feedback that led to appropriate adjustments to scores.

The scores on page 08 evaluate and compare the implementing actions undertaken by the cities across the region to their 5th edition evaluation score.

IMPLEMENTATION SCORES

	5TH EDITION CAP SCORE	5TH EDITION IMPLEMENTATION SCORE	6TH EDITION IMPLEMENTATION SCORE
Carlsbad	65.5	64	70
Chula Vista	68.5	60.5	57
Encinitas	92	73	82
Escondido	97.5	-	49.5
La Mesa	85	74	85
Oceanside	62.5	8	62.5
San Diego	78	60	63
San Marcos	59.5	49.5	59
Vista	62.5	-	62.5

*The City of San Diego received fewer points given its dissimilar size to its regional peers; as a top-10 US city, San Diego has more opportunities for funding for CAP implementation.

BIG THREE

Here are three key highlights of strong implementation since the release of our 5th Edition Report Card—these action items model effective strategies for other cities to follow.

The First Building High Efficiency Reach Code in the Region

The City of Encinitas is once again leading by example by being on the verge of passing a high-performance reach code, which we hope will set the pace and tone for future building electrification efforts across the region. When we electrify, we're moving closer to our emissions reduction goals, protecting the climate and bringing public health and air quality benefits to our neighborhoods.

Our Region is Choosing Clean Energy

CAC continues to celebrate the cities joining a Community Choice Energy program to empower ratepayers by providing energy democracy, allowing communities to select energy sources, and promoting a path to 100% clean energy.

In the last two years, we've welcomed National City and San Diego County's Unincorporated Communities to San Diego Community Power, as well as Escondido, Oceanside, Vista, and San Marcos to the Clean Energy Alliance. Both programs offer customers a 100% renewable product to opt into, increasing opportunities for residents to access clean energy for their homes. Their base products also offer significantly higher renewable content than San Diego Gas & Electric, with SDCP and CEA both serving 50% and higher for the basic opt-in product.

We're rapidly expanding energy choice across our region. 13 out of 18 cities in San Diego County, along with the County's Unincorporated Communities, are choosing clean energy. That's more than 1.09 million residents!

Small City Budgets Prioritizing Climate Action

Budgets shouldn't compromise our health and safety. Without the prioritization of climate action in a budget, cities will fail to protect their communities from the hazards of climate change. CAC is excited to see smaller cities, like the City of Vista, prioritize efforts to build resilient communities. Vista allocated approximately $2.43 million for GHG emissions reduction strategies, including:
- $500,000 invested in the CAP Reserve to implement CAP programs or policies.
- $500,000 toward traffic calming measures.
- $650,000 in final design costs for the Emerald Drive Active Transportation Project.
- $100,000 toward the E-Bike Safety Training and Rebate Program.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

→

We must accelerate efforts to achieve zero carbon as a region. Our region must rapidly develop policies to slash pollution, clean the air, and improve public health to meet local and state targets. How do we ensure effective implementation?

1 **Cities Must Update Their CAPs and Include Annual Implementation Benchmarks to Account for Changing Political Climates and Worsening Climate Impacts.** When a city does not achieve a strategy on time or a new legislative barrier appears federally or at the state level, reducing GHG emissions can feel like a moving target. Cities need to update their CAPs with more ambitious GHG reduction strategies to remain on track to meet their goals. We're falling behind on reaching our climate targets largely because cities failed to develop annual implementation benchmarks in their current CAPs. These benchmarks strengthen a city's commitment to implementation and allow communities to hold the city accountable to their annual goal.

2 **Implement CAPs with Urgency.** We are seeing the devastating impacts of climate change in our communities now and cannot afford to delay implementation. While updating a legally binding CAP is critical for accountability, the timeline between updates is several years. Cities have cited this time between updates as a reason not to pursue exploring a new strategy to implement, but waiting to act only causes us to miss out on critical funding opportunities and pushes the burden of the climate crisis onto our communities. Cities must implement strategies as soon as possible, regardless of CAP update timelines.

3 **City Budgets Across the Region Need to Prioritize CAP Implementation.** Cities often cite being underfunded and understaffed when it comes to implementation, yet budget deficiencies shouldn't compromise our communities' well-being. To obtain the necessary resources to implement CAPs, cities can hire contract grant writers to secure federal, state, and private grants that increase capacity and further climate goals. Cities can utilize grant matchmakers such as the Community Infrastructure Center tool operated by the Milken Institute to find grants. There are also specific grants that call for collaboration where cities can work together to apply and share the work jointly.

4 **Strengthen Transportation and Sustainable Development CAP Goals.** Vehicle emissions contribute more than any other sector to overall GHG emissions. City CAPs frequently fail to have measurable mode shift goals, demonstrating how to better connect communities to safe walking or rolling, biking, and public transit. In a CAP update, cities need to develop or strengthen their targets for the development of affordable high-density housing near public transit to help residents reduce their cost of living, shorten commute distances, and reduce sprawl development in fire-prone areas as well as include mode-shift goals to help measure progress.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

5 **CAP Implementation Needs to Uplift Communities of Concern and Create More Good Green, Union Jobs.** Climate change disproportionately impacts communities of concern, worsening health and socioeconomic disparities. Cities need to report how their CAP implementation directly benefits these communities, and many cities have the opportunity to update their CAP to include missing equity goals. This transition must include creating good family-sustaining union jobs, creating an equitable jobs pipeline for communities of color and workers, and developing affordable communities.

7 **Opt Up to 100% Clean Energy with Community Choice Energy Accounts.** Many cities are now supported by San Diego Community Power or Clean Energy Alliance, Community Choice Energy programs (CCE) providing residents with clean, renewable energy. If equitably possible, cities should auto-enroll in the 100% clean energy option. Encinitas is the only city participating in a CCE program that auto-enrolled customers into the 100% clean energy option. Cities must develop a plan with clear benchmarks to transition as many residents as possible to the 100% clean energy option.

6 **Explore Alternative Pathways to Building Electrification.** As the region's third-largest source of GHG emissions, cities must implement strategies to transition off of methane gas and electrify buildings. Despite obstacles to developing all-electric reach codes due to the Berkeley ruling, alternative pathways to electrification are available, including high-performance reach codes, electrifying municipal buildings, adding electrification requirements into funding streams distributed to developers, adopting a heat pump replacement policy, and setting a zero emission appliance standard. Our recent report, 'How to Move All-Electric Buildings Forward Post-Berkeley Ruling,' shares more information on electrification opportunities.

8 **Widespread Regional Action and Coordination are Necessary to Achieve our Climate Goals.** The Regional CAP led by SANDAG and SDREN led by SDCP are critical opportunities for cities in our region to work collaboratively. Both these plans will necessitate cities to leverage time, resources and opportunities to develop and implement programs if we are to reach our local and state climate goals.

THE COST OF INACTION:
STORMWATER AND EQUITY

At the beginning of this year, our communities were overwhelmed with heavy rainfall, extreme floods, water rescues, and evacuations. Homes were demolished, families displaced, and communities submerged. **Frontline communities—already traditionally underinvested—bear the brunt of damages and costs. It is clear we are ill-prepared for the challenges posed by our changing climate.**

Climate change must be stopped at its source: greenhouse gas emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that human activity has increased the frequency of heavy rainfall events in many regions, including Southern California. We must take action now to protect our communities and region.

The recent storms exposed inadequacies in San Diego's stormwater systems, which have been ignored for decades. This negligence has resulted in $1.6 billion in unfunded stormwater needs. Aging drainage systems, inadequate flood defenses, poor urban planning, and lack of maintenance have all contributed to the severity of this year's storms and flooding. This damage underscores the importance of investing in resilient systems to mitigate the impacts of future disasters.

We must implement key CAP strategies to reduce GHG emissions, improve infrastructure, and invest in under-resourced communities. Adapting to climate change requires long-term solutions, like investing in our stormwater systems and green, resilient infrastructure, strengthening our water management strategies, and improving urban planning through a lens of equity and sustainability. We must now act together as a region to safeguard our communities and minimize economic loss and damage.

> *WE'RE ACTIVELY SEEING THE IMPACTS OF A LACK OF REGIONAL ACTION. IT'S TIME TO FUND STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND PRIORITIZE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, PRIORITIZING INVESTMENTS IN FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES HIT FIRST AND WORST BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS.*

NICOLE CAPRETZ, CEO

BETA STREET, SOUTHCREST SAN DIEGO

CITY HIGLIGHTS

CARLSBAD

65.5

5th Edition
CAP Score

70

6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: The city is beginning to implement its adopted ordinances requiring new residential and nonresidential buildings to install solar thermal or electric heat pump water heaters.

Transportation: Through its Transportation Demand Management Plan, the city exceeded its 2025 sustainable mode shift goals. Participating worksites and commercial properties increased to 37% of commuters choosing to walk/roll/bike or take public transit to work.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Zero Carbon:** The CAP should commit to zero carbon by 2045 or earlier to align with state law and climate science.

- **Clean Energy:** The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in Clean Energy Alliance's 100% clean energy option.

- **Building Electrification:** The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.

- **Transportation:** The city should expand its commuter mode shift goals citywide with targets to meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

CHULA VISTA

68.5

5th Edition
CAP Score

57

6th Edition
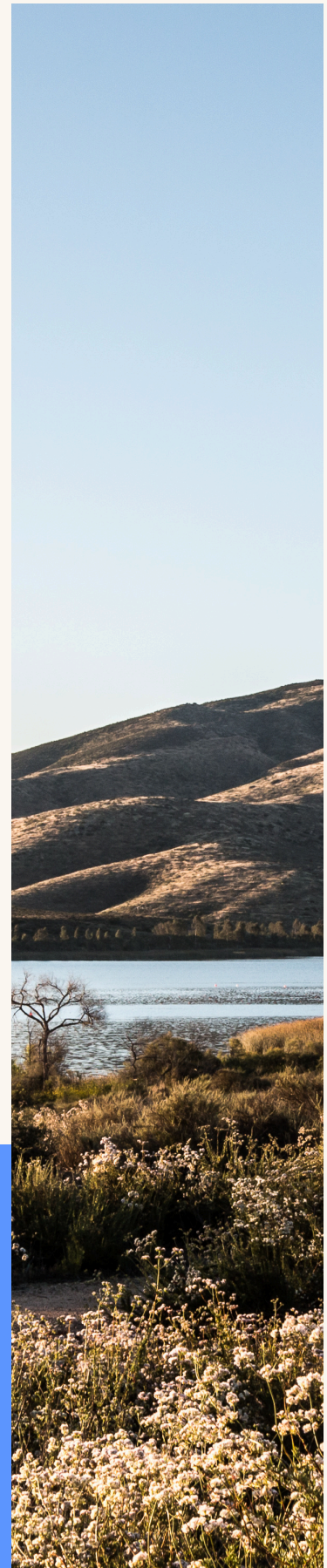Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Building Electrification: The city has implemented a Building Energy Saving Ordinance, which requires owners of multi-family, commercial, and industrial buildings 20,000 square feet or larger to report annually on their energy use. Over time, inefficient buildings will need to obtain energy audits and address cost-effective building upgrades.

Climate Equity: The city has taken significant steps to address climate equity by releasing its first Climate Equity Index (CEI) to identify CAP implementation priorities. The city intends to engage community-based organizations for the next CAP update to conduct outreach.

Zero Waste: The city is implementing its 2022 Zero Waste Plan to reach its 2035 zero waste goal, exceeding the state's goal.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Zero Carbon:** The CAP should commit to zero carbon by 2045 or earlier to align with state law and climate science.

- **Clean Energy:** The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in San Diego Community Power's 100% clean energy option.

- **Building Electrification:** The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.

- **Transportation:** The city should commit to developing a Mobility Action Plan that includes mode shift targets that will meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

ENCINITAS

92
5th Edition CAP Score

82
6th Edition Implementation Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: Encinitas is the only city participating in a Community Choice Energy program that auto-enrolled all customers, including municipal buildings, into the 100% clean energy option. San Diego Community Power has a participation rate of 93.3% in Encinitas.

Building Electrification: Encinitas is preparing to be the first city in the region to adopt a high-performance reach code after the Berkeley ruling. This reach code will go to a final vote on June 12th.

Transportation: The city adopted its Modal Alternatives Project Encinitas plan in 2023, providing the city with a prioritized list of bike and pedestrian projects that reflect community needs. The project will also develop conceptual plans and fact sheets for 35 of the highest-priority projects so that the city is well-positioned to apply for grant funding.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Zero Carbon: The CAP should be updated to commit to zero carbon by 2045 or earlier to align with state law and climate science.

Transportation: The City should commit to developing a Mobility Action Plan that includes mode shift targets that will meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

Smart Growth: The City should identify high-density housing projects to incorporate into the CAP to reduce VMT.

# ESCONDIDO

97.5

5th Edition
CAP Score

49.5

6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: The City launched services with Clean Energy Alliance on April 1st, 2023.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Clean Energy:** The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in Clean Energy Alliance's 100% clean energy option.

- **Transportation:** The city should commit to developing a Mobility Action Plan that includes mode shift targets that will meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

- **Climate Equity:** The city should begin work on developing its promised "Priority Investment Neighborhood" matrix, a version of a Climate Equity Index that can identify and prioritize climate investments in communities of concern.

- **Building Electrification:** The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.
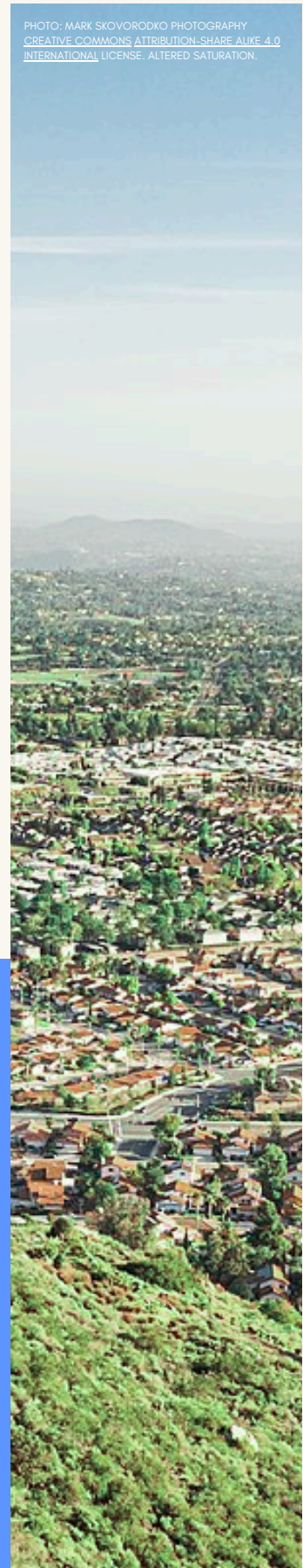
LA MESA

85

5th Edition
CAP Score

85

6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Building Electrification: The city's Environmental Sustainability Commission is researching a high-efficiency reach code post-Berkeley ruling. The city has a new instant permitting process for solar and battery storage systems.

Smart Growth: The city has finished one high-density housing project and is on track to complete another that includes 147 affordable housing units; both projects are near public transit and businesses.

Complete Streets: The city completed its La Mesa Complete Streets Integrated Design Manual, which informed the planning of the La Mesa Boulevard Complete Streets project.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Zero Carbon:** La Mesa should update its CAP and commit to zero carbon by 2045 or earlier.

- **Clean Energy:** The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in San Diego Community Power's 100% clean energy option.

- **Transportation:** The city is conducting a mode share analysis study and, when complete, should synthesize its findings into mode shift goals and strategies in a CAP update.
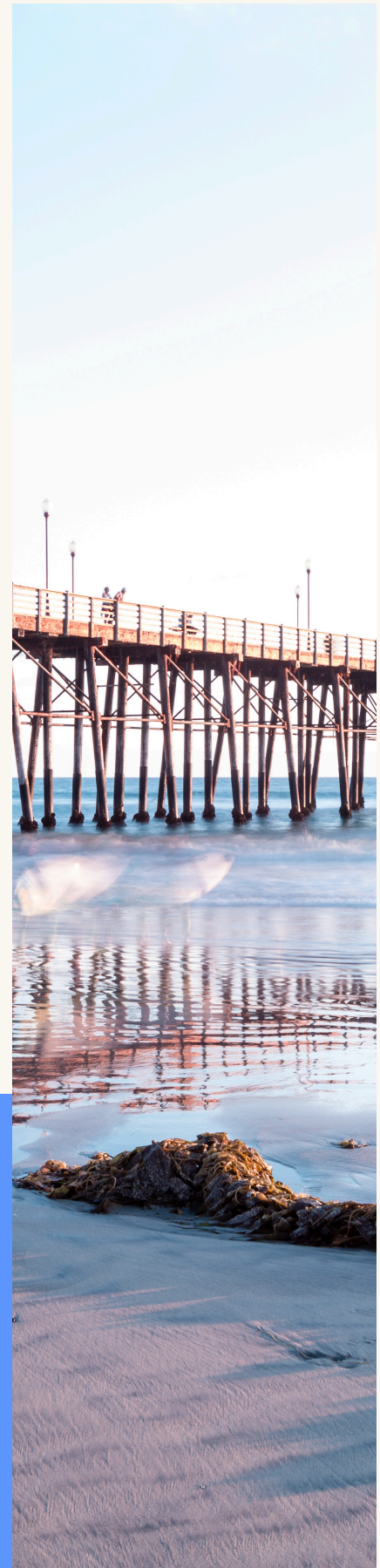
OCEANSIDE

73

5th Edition
CAP Score

62.5

6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: The city launched services with Clean Energy Alliance on April 1st, 2024.

Water Conservation: The city operates Pure Water Oceanside, a local water harvesting program that purifies recycled water to create a new sustainable source of drinking water.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Zero Carbon: The city should update its CAP to include a zero carbon target by 2045 or earlier to meet state law and align with climate science.

Clean Energy: The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in Clean Energy Alliance's 100% clean energy option.

Building Electrification: The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

78
5th Edition
CAP Score

63
6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Benchmarks: The city sets a legal precedent for climate action and accountability by agreeing to annual GHG benchmarks. Falling short of these targets will trigger public disclosure, public hearings, and an amendment to the CAP to identify how the city will realign with its targets.

Building Electrification: The city adopted the Zero Emissions Municipal Buildings & Operations Policy and has started electrifying municipal buildings.

Climate Action Plan Dashboard: The city developed a new dashboard that, if maintained, can serve as a transparency tool for the government and communities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Building Electrification: The city needs to adopt a high-performance reach code for new buildings and a performance standard for existing buildings. The city cannot wait for a state building code update; communities deserve immediate action.

Transportation: The city is off-track in achieving its mode shift targets and failing to conduct annual mode shift monitoring. The city must complete, adopt, and fund projects prioritizing equity initiatives, programs, and policies that increase sustainable transportation options. The Mobility Master Plan is the city's best opportunity to create a roadmap to reach the CAP's legally binding GHG emissions reduction requirements.

Climate Resiliency: In its 2025 budget, the city plans to slash the Climate Equity Fund, which funds resilience projects in Communities of Concern. This fund needs to be restored in full in future budgets to ensure climate justice for generations of disinvested communities.

Just Transition: The CAP should ensure that all new green jobs are unionized, with infrastructure projects operating under project labor agreements and a focus on hiring from communities of concern.
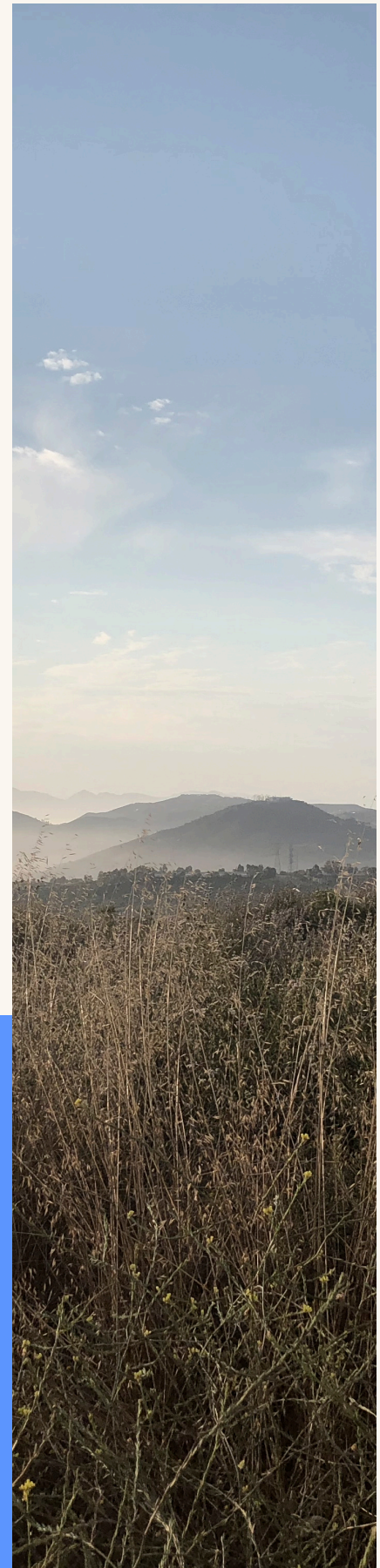
SAN MARCOS

59.5

5th Edition CAP Score

———————

59

6th Edition Implementation Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: The city launched services with Clean Energy Alliance on April 1st, 2023.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Zero Carbon:** The city should update its CAP to include a zero carbon target by 2045 or earlier to meet state law and align with climate science.

- **Clean Energy:** The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in Clean Energy Alliance's 100% clean energy option.

- **Building Electrification:** The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.

- **Transportation:** The city should commit to developing a Mobility Action Plan that includes mode shift targets that will meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

VISTA

62.5
5th Edition
CAP Score

62.5
6th Edition
Implementation
Score

WHAT'S GOING WELL

Clean Energy: The city launched services with Clean Energy Alliance on April 1st, 2024.

Smart Growth: The city approved the Vista Melrose high-density housing project, and the Vista Palomar project is pending review.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Zero Carbon: The city should update its CAP to include a zero carbon target by 2045 or earlier to meet state law and align with climate science.

Clean Energy: The city should choose to auto-enroll or develop high participation rate goals in Clean Energy Alliance's 100% clean energy option.

Building Electrification: The CAP should aim to implement a building high-performance reach code.

Transportation: The city should commit to developing a Mobility Action Plan that includes mode shift targets that will meet or exceed 50 percent walk/bike/roll/transit by 2035.

CAP STATUS AND UPDATES

Legally Binding CAP Adopted

Carlsbad

Encinitas

Escondido

La Mesa

Oceanside

San Diego

San Marcos

Vista

CAP Updates in Progress

County of San Diego

On September 30, 2020, the County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors voted to set aside its approval of the County's 2018 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and related actions because the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was found to not be compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The county is anticipated to adopt the CAP in 2024.

National City

Between 2020 and 2021, City staff from the Planning and Engineering Departments worked with the General Plan Update consultant to review, revise, and update the adopted 2011 CAP measures in preparation for the CAP update.

Non-Legally Binding CAP Adopted

Chula Vista

Coronado

Del Mar

Imperial Beach

Lemon Grove

Solana Beach

No Commitment

Poway

Fatally Flawed CAPS

Santee

El Cajon

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, whose unwavering dedication and generous contributions have made the release of this report possible. Without your support, our efforts to drive transformative climate action and hold local governments accountable would not be achievable.

Your commitment to a sustainable future fuels our work, and together, we are making significant strides toward a zero-carbon, equitable future for the San Diego region. Thank you for standing with us and empowering our mission to create meaningful change for generations to come.

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CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
GRADING CRITERIA

Out of 100 points, 33 points are assigned to CAP structural elements, and 67 points are assigned to implementation progress on key emissions reduction strategies we recommend for inclusion in every CAP based on feasibility and effectiveness.

POINTS	CAP STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS (33 PTS)

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT RELEASED 8 PTS

What: The city has released a CAP annual monitoring report for the past year.

Why: Publishing an annual CAP monitoring report is an opportunity for the city to be transparent about its progress on the CAP, and it acts as a tool for community members to hold their city accountable. Transparency and accountability are necessary if we are to take bold action to reduce emissions.

MONITORING REPORT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 10 PTS

What: The annual monitoring report graphically and verbally shows the City's progress toward emissions targets using data from the most recent available GHG inventory. An annual summary should also provide a brief, clear, and comprehensive summary of progress on CAP actions.

Why: An effective CAP annual monitoring report executive summary gives a high-level understanding of whether the city is on track to reach its GHG reduction targets and complete its CAP strategies.

CAP STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS (33 PTS)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT: PROGRESS REPORTED BY MEASURE 15 PTS

What: For each CAP strategy, the annual monitoring report includes a qualitative description of the implementation progress made, provides baseline and progress metrics, and matches units of metrics in the CAP strategy description with units in implementation reporting. The report also includes dates of key actions and names of involved departments or agencies, and it is easily understood by the lay audience.

Why: Detailed implementation progress provided for each CAP strategy allows local governments and the public to gauge progress made toward implementing CAP strategies and assess if adjustments are needed to remain on track for GHG reduction targets.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS ON KEY EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGIES (67 PTS)

EQUITY & JOBS 10 PTS

What: Cities demonstrate outreach to Communities of Concern, the benefits of CAP strategies implementation for Communities of Concern, and how environmental justice groups have participated meaningfully in implementation. Additionally provides metrics on the CAP's commitment to creating high-paying green jobs.

Why: Communities of Concern are at the frontlines of the climate crisis, burdened by increased air pollution and other adverse health impacts, and have fewer resources to protect against a hotter and drier San Diego. CAPs are an opportunity to create good, family-sustaining union jobs for workers and communities of concern that have been disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

CLEAN ENERGY 27 PTS

What: Cities are steadily progressing toward their 100% clean energy goal and are adopting a CCE as a key clean energy strategy. Additionally, cities must implement strategies to transition off of methane gas and electrify buildings.

Why: CCE is one of the most effective ways to reduce GHG emissions, achieve 100% clean energy, and foster local control of energy decisions. CCE allows municipalities to provide clean energy for families and businesses at a competitive cost compared to a monopoly utility. It also allows families to choose their electricity provider and brings significant revenue to the participating municipality. The region's third-largest source of GHG emissions is our built environment utilizing methane gas, it is critical we retrofit and build new buildings with sustainable electricity.

TRANSPORTATION AND SMART GROWTH
18 PTS

What: Cities report on track progress toward their commitment to electrifying 100% of the municipal fleet by 2030; commitment to implementing a city-wide electric vehicle strategy that prioritizes Communities of Concern; mode shift goals for biking, walking, and transit; commitment to a Mobility Action Plan; smart growth and infill development; commitment to adopting an Active Transportation Plan; and commitment to developing a Complete Streets Policy.

Why: Transportation is the greatest source of GHG emissions in our region. Shifting away from reliance on cars as the primary mode of transportation reduces GHG emissions and has co-benefits of improved public health, safety, and air quality. Mode shift goals also help municipalities plan and budget to facilitate a shift away from car-centric growth and advocate for assistance for better transit infrastructure. Smart land-use policies are essential to support commuters' ability to choose non-car transportation. Dense development should be located near transit, walking, and biking infrastructure. Affordable urban housing enables people to use non-car transportation rather than depending on a car for daily commutes.

ZERO WASTE
5 PTS

What: The city's waste diversion rate demonstrates on-track implementation of its zero waste strategies.

Why: Waste decaying in landfills emits methane, a potent GHG. Waste typically generates 3% to 11% of municipal GHG emissions.

TREES
5 PTS

What: The City is implementing actions, is on track to meet its tree canopy coverage target, and is implementing its Urban Forestry Plan.

Why: Trees provide shade while filtering the air and absorbing carbon.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADU - Accessory Dwelling Unit

AFV - alternative fuel vehicle

AB - Assembly Bill

BAU - business-as-usual

CalGreen - California Green Building Standards

CAC - Climate Action Campaign

CAP - Climate Action Plan

CARB - California Air Resources Board

CCE - Community Choice Energy

CEA - Clean Energy Alliance

CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act

CO2 - carbon dioxide

EO - Executive Order

EPIC - Energy Policy Initiatives Center

EV - electric vehicle

GHG - greenhouse gas

HERO - Home Energy Renovation Opportunity program

LED - light-emitting diode

MW - megawatt

MWh - megawatt-hour

MTCO2e - metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

MTS - San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

PACE - Property Assessed Clean Energy

RTP - Regional Transportation Plan

SANDAG - San Diego Association of Governments

SB - Senate Bill

SDCP - San Diego Community Power

SDG&E - San Diego Gas & Electric

SDREN - San Diego Regional Energy Network

TDM - transportation demand management

VMT - vehicle miles traveled

ZEV - zero-emissions vehicle

TERM DEFINITIONS

Annual Monitoring Report
An Annual Monitoring Report summarizes CAP measure implementation progress toward GHG reductions targets and actions specified in the CAP.

California Environmental Quality Act
The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is California's broadest environmental law. CEQA helps guide the Department during the issuance of permits and approval of projects. Courts have interpreted CEQA to afford the fullest protection of the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutes. CEQA applies to all discretionary projects proposed to be conducted or approved by a California public agency, including private projects requiring discretionary government approval.

Climate Action Plan
A Climate Action Plan is a plan prepared by an entity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and identify climate change adaptation strategies to be implemented.

Complete Streets Policy
Complete streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

General Plan
General Plans provide a vision for future growth and development. A General Plan identifies the community's land use, transportation, environmental, economic, and social goals, and policies related to land use and development.

Global Climate Change
Human-caused emissions of greenhouse gasses above natural ambient concentrations are responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the Earth's climate, known as global climate change.

Greenhouse Gases
A greenhouse gas is a type of gas that causes heat to be trapped in the atmosphere, resulting in warming effects for the Earth.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory
A greenhouse gas inventory provides a snapshot of emissions generated by the community and municipal activities in a given year and provides a baseline from which emissions trends are projected.

Implementation Strategy

An implementation strategy determines the priority of strategies based on various factors, including cost, staff resources needed, ease of implementation, and timeframe.

Mode Share

Mode share (also called mode split, modal share, or modal split) is the percentage of travelers using a particular type of transportation or the number of trips using said type. Modal share is an important component in developing sustainable transport within a city or region.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Greenhouse gas inventories are a type of emission inventory that is developed for a variety of reasons. Policymakers use inventories to develop strategies and policies for emissions reductions and track progress on those policies.

Reach Code

A reach code is a local building energy code that "reaches" beyond the state minimum requirements for energy use in building design and construction, creating opportunities for local governments to lead the way on clean air, climate solutions, and the renewable energy economy, while creating roadmaps for other local governments to take action as well.

Reduction Targets

Climate Action Plans set target levels for local greenhouse gas reductions by certain dates. Current state laws include Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which established a target of reducing statewide GHG levels to 1990 levels by 2020; Senate Bill (SB) 32, which established a mid-term target of reducing statewide GHG levels to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; Executive Order (EO) S-3-05, which recommends a 2050 statewide goal of reducing GHG emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels, and Executive Order (EO) B-55-18, which recommends statewide carbon neutrality by 2045.

Reduction Strategies and Measures

Greenhouse gas reduction strategies and measures aim to close the gap between the City's anticipated legislatively adjusted business-as-usual emissions and the reduction targets.

San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan

SANDAG prepares a Regional Plan in collaboration with the 18 cities and the County of San Diego and regional, state, and federal partners every four years. The Regional Plan identifies the transportation needs and improvements to support future regional growth.

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SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

The release of this report represents an immense amount of dedication and effort from our team. We've been working behind the scenes to ensure you receive all the important details about your city's #ClimateAction efforts. Your support is crucial in allowing us to sustain this vital work.

If you believe in the power of transparency and accountability and would like to contribute to our efforts to release these updates, your donation would be greatly appreciated.

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