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**PETALUMA**  
SONOMA COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA-USA

**PETALUMA'S BLUEPRINT  
FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY:**  
A PATH TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



CLIMATE READY 2030



# CARBON-NEUTRAL 2030

Climate change is affecting our world in significant ways. Here in Petaluma, we are committed to taking action to help our community best navigate the impacts of climate change – and to lessen the impacts wherever possible. In 2019, Petaluma declared a Climate Emergency and created a Climate Action Commission (CAC) to guide our climate efforts. Petaluma’s CAC is tasked with discussing the impact of climate change in our city and helping to create a plan of action with the partnership of Petaluma’s Climate Action Manager.

In fall 2023, the City is proud to release the **Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality**. This plan aims to make Petaluma carbon-neutral by 2030 by taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate challenges.

It involves a collaborative effort between public and private partners, prioritizes equity, and focuses on transformative actions across various sectors. While challenges exist, Petaluma is committed to creating a sustainable and resilient future for its residents and ecosystems.



## WHAT IS CARBON NEUTRALITY?

Carbon neutrality means that Petaluma’s total greenhouse gas emissions balance out to zero. Even if Petaluma still emits some greenhouse gases, those may be offset by excess renewable energy generation or storing/sequestering carbon in trees and natural landscapes.

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## WHAT WE STUDIED: MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Petaluma is already experiencing the consequences of this changing climate, which are affecting people, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Wildfires, floods, and extreme drought, and increasing “red flag” weather days are some of the symptoms of climate change we have experienced firsthand, and with increasing frequency, here in Petaluma over the past several years. Certain populations in the city are disproportionately affected. The Blueprint prioritizes actions that create greater climate equity for all Petaluma’s residents.

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## WHAT WE LEARNED: OUR COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

In studying Petaluma's greenhouse gas emissions, we discovered that we are currently not on track to become carbon neutral by 2030. On the bright side, these studies showed us exactly where we can make changes that will drastically improve our emissions. If we implement an ambitious, Petaluma-based program, we could reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 61% from 1990 levels! This would require that we:



**REDUCE SINGLE  
OCCUPANCY ROAD  
TRAVEL TO  
50% OF ALL  
ROAD TRAVEL**



**INCREASE  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
USE TO  
25% OF ALL  
VEHICLES ON THE ROAD**



**ELECTRIFY  
40% OF ALL  
LOCAL BUILDINGS**

The more we can increase energy efficiency in our buildings and in road travel, the more we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

## WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO: THE BLUEPRINT FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

Petaluma has set an ambitious goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The **Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality** is a comprehensive plan created through collaboration with city staff, the Climate Action Commission, and the community. This plan includes specific actions funded by the city, requirements for new development, and partnerships with businesses and organizations. Everyone in Petaluma, both individuals and businesses, has a crucial role in reducing emissions to help reach this target.

## THE BLUEPRINT IS STRUCTURED INTO SIX CHAPTERS:

- 1 BLUEPRINT FOUNDATION:**  
Context and vision for the Blueprint.
- 2 WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
Explains climate change and its impact on Petaluma.
- 3 BLUEPRINT APPROACH:**  
Covers the plan's development, scope, equity considerations, and community engagement.
- 4 OUR COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
Describes current GHG emissions and future projections.
- 5 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION MEASURE ACTION PLANS:**  
Details specific actions for reducing emissions.
- 6 BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION:**  
Provides guidance for implementing policies and programs.

# CORNERSTONE ACTIONS

In Chapter 5, the Blueprint identifies 22 key actions to kickstart emissions reductions by 2027. These actions align with city priorities and generate significant emission reductions while preparing for future initiatives. They cover various sectors, including transportation, energy, waste management, urban planning, and more.

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 will require transformative changes in the city's infrastructure, urban planning, and daily life. The Blueprint emphasizes an "All of the Above" approach that spans multiple climate action sectors, recognizing the challenge but also the long-term benefits for Petaluma's future. Below is a summary of the 22 Cornerstone Actions; for the complete list, read the full document at <https://www.planpetaluma.org/blueprint-for-carbon-neutrality>

**WHEN PETALUMA, AS A COMMUNITY, COMES TOGETHER TO COMPLETE THESE CORNERSTONE ACTIONS, WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY – AND A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.**



## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

- Switch city buildings and vehicles to electric power, including making necessary yard upgrades to support these electric vehicles.
- Broaden the availability of electric vehicle charging stations through updated codes and installing new infrastructure.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- Work with Cool Petaluma to survey and calculate the carbon emissions generated by consumption.
- Collaborate with Recology and Zero Waste Sonoma to:
  - Conduct audits to monitor waste and contamination.
  - Create and enforce a program to recover wasted food.
  - Educate the community on how to divert waste from landfills.



## NEW POLICIES + EDUCATION STRATEGIES

- Develop plans, financial incentives, and a resource guide to encourage the electrification of buildings.
- Implement a policy that mandates the use of construction materials with low carbon footprints.
- Revise and put into action the city's tree protection laws and Urban Forest Plan.
- Develop and implement plans and procedures for regenerative land management.
- Create guidelines for waste enclosures in new multi-family and commercial buildings.
- Revise and carry out the General Plan, incorporating strategies for promoting walking, biking, and overall local road safety.
- Approve a program to manage transportation demand, along with a fee based on the number of miles a vehicle travels.
- Set up a pricing program for parking spaces.



# WRITING THE BLUEPRINT

The Blueprint was developed as part of Petaluma's General Plan Update and built on existing climate work. It involved collaboration among city staff, the Climate Action Commission, consultants, and the community. Stakeholder input and a commitment to equitable action shaped the Blueprint's measures, which aim to put Petaluma on the path to carbon neutrality within a short timeframe.

At the same time, we recognize that the Blueprint is a dynamic document, subject to changes in federal and state law, technological advancements, funding opportunities, and cultural shifts. It establishes a collaborative and adaptive framework for the city, involving cross-departmental cooperation, training, monitoring, reporting, and annual adjustments.



*We invite you to read the full document, provide your feedback through our survey, and stay updated by signing up for information at [www.planpetaluma.org/blueprint-for-carbon-neutrality](http://www.planpetaluma.org/blueprint-for-carbon-neutrality)*



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