



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
**PLANNING DIVISION**

## **Marin Climate Action Plan Update**

Community #2

October 6, 2014

Summary of Public Comments

The following is a summary of the input received (both verbally and via comment card) from the community meeting held on October 6, 2014. Feedback that was submitted via email or letter from those unable to attend the meeting in person has also been included in the summary. This summary does not represent the opinions of County staff, but rather public opinion based on feedback received.

### **Meeting Summary**

A total of 63 members of the public attended the meeting held on Monday, October 6, 2014 at the Marin Exhibit Hall. Numerous oral comments were received at the meeting. Below is a summary of recurring topics expressed in oral and written comments. Comment cards from the event and written comments submitted via letter/email were also scanned and posted to the County climate page ([www.marincounty.org/climate](http://www.marincounty.org/climate)). Note: personal contact information from commenters was not included in the posted materials to respect their privacy.

During the presentation some clarifying questions were asked, including:

**Q: Does the Climate Action Plan (CAP) include cost effectiveness (tons of carbon per dollar)?**

**A: Yes, where possible cost effectiveness calculations including tons of carbon per dollar were estimated. It was not possible to calculate the cost effectiveness of all proposed measures as some measures either had unknown costs or too many variables to allow for a reliable estimate.**

**Q: Was climate change adaptation included in the 2006 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan?**

**A: No, it was not in the 2006 Plan but in the 2007 Countywide Plan**

**Q: Does the CAP include MCE's Deep Green program as an opportunity?**

**A: Yes, the CAP includes expanding Deep Green enrollments.**

**Q: Were you able to obtain energy use from commercial buildings?**

**A: Yes, the CAP and inventory includes energy use from all buildings including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and municipal.**

**Q: Is solar included in CAP?**

**A: Yes, the CAP includes increasing the number of solar installations on existing and new buildings.**

**Q: Does the CAP include vehicle emissions from tourists?**

**A: Yes, the vehicle emissions inventory includes estimates from the emissions from local, commute and tourist trips. If the commute or tourist trip originated in another City or County then the emissions are shared between Marin and the origin jurisdiction.**

Additional comments received during the workshop included:

- Subscription to MCE's Deep Green product should be expanded and prioritized as it is a cost effective opportunity.
- Energy efficiency and solar are cost effective measures and should get greater emphasis.
- Investment in cleaner fleet vehicles should be increased.
- Marin residents are opposed to high density development, is it possible to remove high density transit from the CAP?
- There are questions as the correct assumptions regarding vehicle emissions versus bus emissions and if increasing transit will really result in emissions reductions.
- A measure should be to get the Marin Pension Fund to divest from non-renewable energy funds.
- What if transit oriented development doesn't work? What punitive measures are in place if we don't meet the CAP goals?
- The CAP should recognize the impact of life cycle emissions (for example: Chinese made solar panels).
- Concern about buying batteries and other new/clean technologies that externalize environmental and societal costs to developing nations. Marin should be an advocate for buying US made technologies.
- There should be a measure to reduce vehicle idling.
- The bicycle component of the CAP should be strengthened. The governor signed AB1193 last month which requires Caltrans to develop design criteria for protected bikeways. The CAP should incorporate this.
- There is currently a disconnect in transportation funding with DPW and TAM – many of their projects promote driving. The needs to be a link between the CAP and where transportation funding goes.
- Need to address the city/town CAPs and County CAP – how can they work together?
- Concerns about cycling costs: Does plan address abatement costs? Are bicycle measures cost effective? Working from home has shown to be better for GHG reductions.
- More measures need to have cost effectiveness calculations and information.
- There needs to be more public education and awareness on sea level rise vulnerabilities.
- Climate change vulnerability assessment for county needs to be done that includes cost of implementing adaptation measures. There should be a budgetary element in the CAP that illustrates the cost of implementing GHG emissions reduction measures against the cost of not doing anything.
- The agricultural section and measures should be strengthened. Context should be provided for the agricultural emissions estimates. Recommend using the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, US EPA and California Energy Commission as sources for emissions methodology and context.

- Transit and bike improvements should be considered mobility issues not emissions reduction strategies.
- All language regarding measures should be strengthened. Eliminate references to “will consider” and “study and, where feasible, implement”.
- Executive Order S-03-05 stating a goal of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 is no longer adequate. The Plan should note that the science is indicating that 80% by 2050 is no longer good enough.
- Plan should include a vehicle to grid energy storage pilot project.
- Plan should include an electricity storage component as more solar comes online.

The following specific process requests were made:

- Publish all public comments

### **Next Steps**

The County staff and their consultants will review and consider the public's input from the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and all submitted written comments and incorporate it, where feasible, into the development of the Final CAP update. The Final CAP is expected to be released in November 2014.