

**UCLA**

School of Law

**Emmett Institute on Climate  
Change & the Environment**

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# Local Government Planning for Sustainability, Adaptation, and Resilience

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Sean B. Hecht

Co-Executive Director

Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

UCLA School of Law

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# Traditional Local Government Planning

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- Local Government Planning is Integrated Into Governance Structure
  - Land Use Plans
  - Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Housing & Community Development Plans
  - Economic Development Plans
  - Community Health Plans
- Plans direct or guide agencies' work

# Sustainability Planning

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- Climate change planning is emerging
- Generally cross-cutting efforts, in contrast to many other types of planning
  - Examples:
    - Climate Action Plans
    - Adaptation/Resilience Plans
- Issues touch multiple departments' work

# Climate Action Plans and Adaptation Plans

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- Climate Action Planning
  - Structured Process
    - GHG Inventory
    - Development of goals, strategies, actions
- Adaptation Planning
  - Structured process
    - Vulnerability assessment
    - Risk assessment
    - Adaptation plan

# State-Level Planning

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- CA Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Coastal & Ocean Working Group's sea-level rise interim guidance document
- CA Climate Adaptation Planning Guide
- Coastal Commission's sea-level rise guidance



# New Types of Planning Efforts

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- Sustainability Plans, “Green New Deals”
  - Plans may address economic development, environment, equity together
  - Requires integrated approaches that cut across departmental boundaries
  - Public/stakeholder participation can be valuable
  - Often, emphasis is on equity: who is vulnerable, who benefits?
  - What are targets & metrics for success?

# Challenges of Cross-Cutting Planning Efforts

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- Cross-cutting planning is often challenging
  - Stakeholder engagement is necessary, messy
  - Decisionmaking structures may be unclear
  - Planning offices may not have direct authority over key assets and processes
    - Budget
    - Implementation authority
    - Human resources

# Los Angeles County's OurCounty

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## How to read this plan

What we heard through [stakeholder engagement activities](#) was that OurCounty must go beyond traditional boundaries to achieve sustainable outcomes and reach across the usual topic areas to consider the interrelated connections between all of them. So you will notice that this plan is not organized around specific topic areas. There is no climate change chapter nor is there a water chapter. Instead, OurCounty is organized around 12 cross-cutting goals that describe our shared vision for a sustainable Los Angeles County.

This approach embraces the notion that sustainability is inherently intersectional; in other words, there is very little in this world that does not affect something else. For example, an action to support local [water](#) supplies can provide new or improved [parks and open space](#), while also reducing [energy](#) from pumping water into Los Angeles from hundreds of miles away. Reducing energy use also reduces air and climate [pollution](#) as power plants are used less, which also contributes to improved [public health](#). By focusing on broad, aspirational and cross-cutting goals, we are challenging ourselves to embrace positive change by thinking beyond our current barriers to action, whether they be technological, political, or bureaucratic.



# OurCounty Organization

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## OurCounty's Organizing Elements

### Goals (12)

Broad, aspirational statement of what we want to achieve

### Strategies (37)

Long-range approach or approaches that we take to achieve a goal\*

### Actions (159)

Specific policy, program, or tool we implement to support a strategy\*

### Progress tracking

### Targets

Levels of performance

### Indicators

Quantitative measures that are used to understand progress

# OurCounty Strategies

**Strategy 2A**

## Integrate climate resilience and adaptation into planning, buildings, infrastructure, and community development decisions

Climate change has already brought record high and low temperatures, impacting everything from baseball (we hosted the hottest ever World Series in 2017) to heating and cooling bills for residents and businesses. Urban residents also face exacerbated health impacts due to the "urban heat island effect," where commonly used materials, such as conventional pavement, absorb and retain heat.

Climate change also worsens existing inequities in specific communities:

- Low-income residents, who have fewer resources to recover from events such as wildfires and who suffer disproportionately from respiratory illnesses (which are exacerbated by extreme heat and poor air quality)
- Undocumented immigrants and migrant workers, who are at a risk of linguistic isolation and fear of apprehension if they seek resources and help during events
- Outdoor workers, who are at higher risk of heat stress and other heat-related disorders, injury, and reduced productivity from heat events
- Older residents who are more likely to have chronic health issues and have less access to mobility options during events

The County will consider climate adaptation and resilience in all future planning and development decisions. We will prioritize green infrastructure and biodiversity preservation that will support a healthy, resilient environment while addressing inequities and public health. The dangers we

### Targets

#### Countywide

**Baseline**  
Research is currently being conducted to understand how much of LA County's land area is covered by heat-trapping surfaces.

**2025**  
Convert 10% of heat-trapping surfaces to cool or green surfaces

**2035**  
Convert 20% of heat-trapping surfaces to cool or green surfaces

**2045**  
Convert 30% of heat-trapping surfaces to cool or green surfaces

**Baseline**  
In 2014 there were seven heat-stress emergency department visits per 100,000 residents. (LA County Public Health / Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development)

**2025**  
Reduce by 15% the number of heat-stress emergency department visits per 100,000 residents

**2035**  
Reduce by 45% the number of heat-stress emergency department visits per 100,000 residents

**2045**

# OurCounty Actions

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## Action 29

Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.

**Horizon:** Short Term

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**Sphere of influence:** Direct

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**Lead County entity:** Department of Public Health

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**Partners:** CEO, DPR, DRP, PW

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**Topic Tags:** Air Quality, Climate, Energy, Housing, Land Use, Public Health, Water

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# Questions Going Forward

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- How effective will integrated planning efforts be?
- How can we ensure equity concerns are integrated into governance?
- What metrics will we use for evaluation?

# Thank You

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