

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA

Town of Windsor

Greenhouse Gas Policies & Compliance Checklist

LSA

SOUTHWEST STRATEGIES GROUP

August 25, 2025

Our Team

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA



Kim Jordan
Project Planner



Chloe Ballard
Sustainability Coordinator

LSA



Jessica Coria
Associate/Director of
Air Quality Services



Amy Fischer
President/Principal in Charge

SOUTHWEST
STRATEGIES
GROUP



Nate Galvan
Senior Manager



Stephanie Dell
Senior Vice President &
Partner

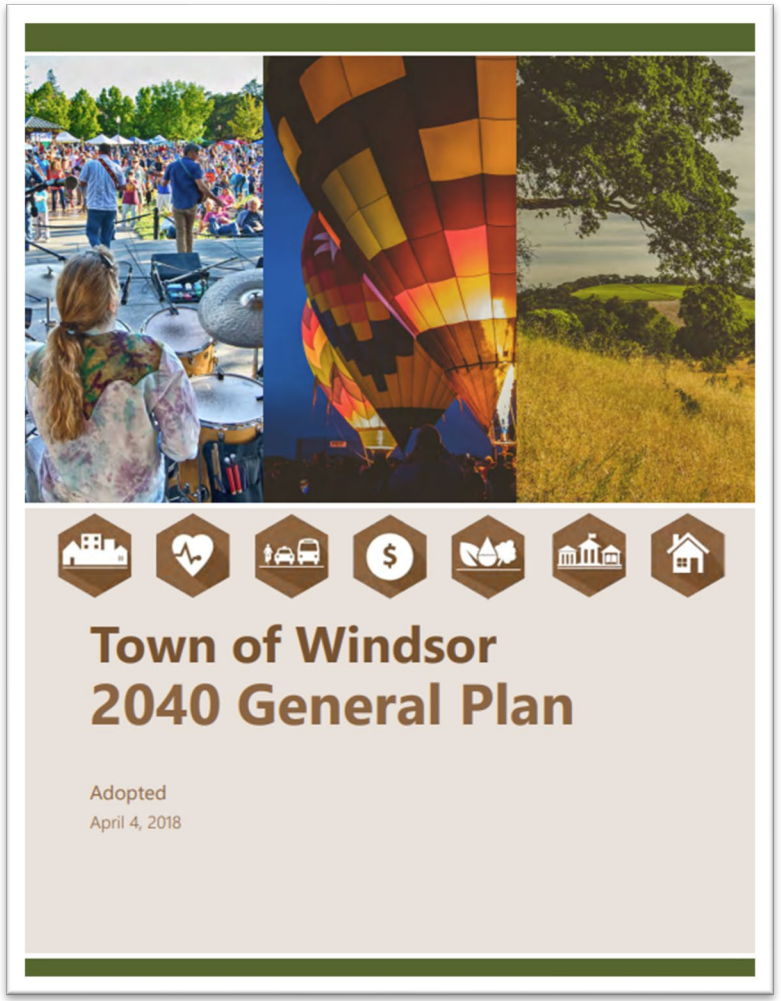
Town of Windsor Climate Leadership to Date

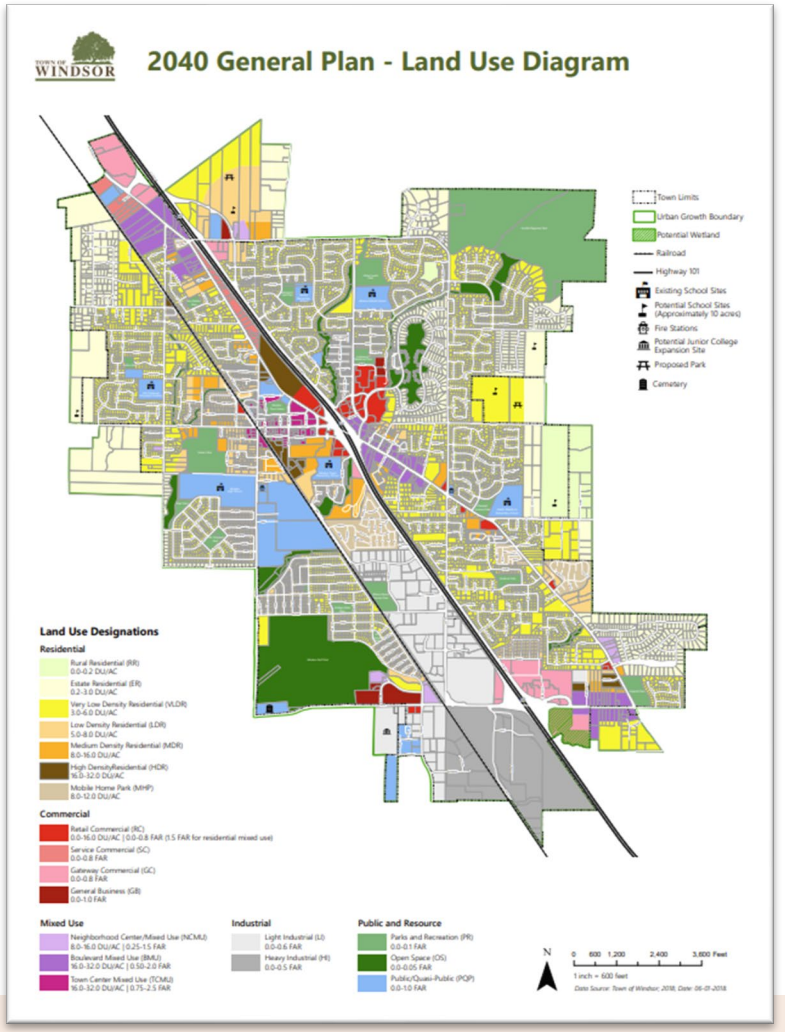
- 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution
- 2019 Zero Waste Resolution
- 2021 Community Vulnerability Assessment
- 2022 Climate Resilience Plan
- 2024 Municipal Climate Action Plan
- **23+ General Plan Sustainability Policies**



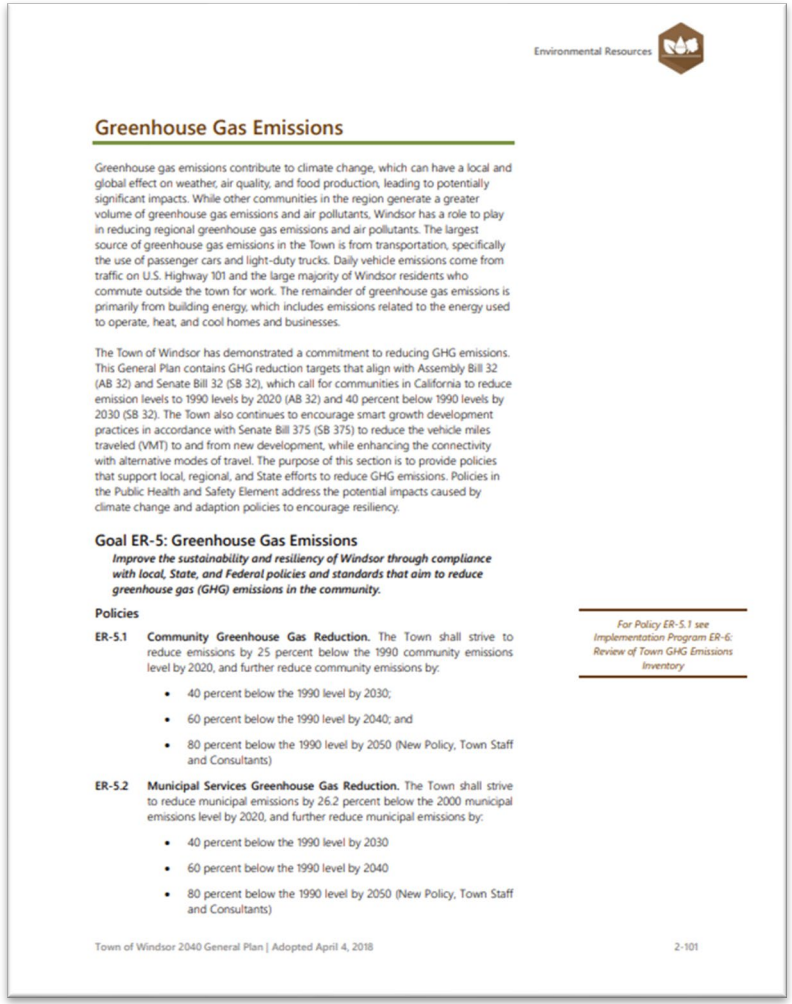


Town of Windsor 2040 General Plan





Existing 2040 General Plan GHG Emissions Section



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change, which can have a local and global effect on weather, air quality, and food production, leading to potentially significant impacts. While other communities in the region generate a greater volume of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, Windsor has a role to play in reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the Town is from transportation, specifically the use of passenger cars and light-duty trucks. Daily vehicle emissions come from traffic on U.S. Highway 101 and the large majority of Windsor residents who commute outside the town for work. The remainder of greenhouse gas emissions is primarily from building energy, which includes emissions related to the energy used to operate, heat, and cool homes and businesses.

The Town of Windsor has demonstrated a commitment to reducing GHG emissions. This General Plan contains GHG reduction targets that align with Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) and Senate Bill 32 (SB 32), which call for communities in California to reduce emission levels to 1990 levels by 2020 (AB 32) and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32). The Town also continues to encourage smart growth development practices in accordance with Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) to reduce the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to and from new development, while enhancing the connectivity with alternative modes of travel. The purpose of this section is to provide policies that support local, regional, and State efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Policies in the Public Health and Safety Element address the potential impacts caused by climate change and adaption policies to encourage resiliency.

Goal ER-5: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Improve the sustainability and resiliency of Windsor through compliance with local, State, and Federal policies and standards that aim to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the community.

Policies

ER-5.1 **Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction.** The Town shall strive to reduce emissions by 25 percent below the 1990 community emissions level by 2020, and further reduce community emissions by:

- 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030;
- 60 percent below the 1990 level by 2040; and
- 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050 (New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

For Policy ER-5.1 see Implementation Program ER-6: Review of Town GHG Emissions Inventory

ER-5.2 **Municipal Services Greenhouse Gas Reduction.** The Town shall strive to reduce municipal emissions by 26.2 percent below the 2000 municipal emissions level by 2020, and further reduce municipal emissions by:

- 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030
- 60 percent below the 1990 level by 2040
- 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050 (New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

GHG Reduction Goals

Efficiency Targets

Performance Standards

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Tree Preservation and Planting

Development Patterns

Zero Net Energy Goals

Retrofit Existing Buildings



ER-5.3 **Greenhouse Gas Efficiency Target.** The Town shall ensure that all new development projects and Public Works Improvement projects would result in less than (*) metric tons CO2e per capita (including residents and employees) per year in order to ensure that the emissions targets for the years 2030 and 2050 in ER-5.1 and ER-5.2 would be achieved. **Note: Policy ER-5.3 is a placeholder "emissions threshold" policy that will be used to satisfy 5.1 and 5.2. The actual target will be set once the land use diagram has been confirmed and the associated impacts analyzed.*

ER-5.4 **Encourage Development Patterns that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** The Town shall strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging compact, mixed-use, pedestrian/bicycle friendly, transit-oriented development that reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT); promoting energy efficient building enhancements, construction practices, design, and site planning; improving the job-to-housing ratio; and other methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining a balance of housing types.

ER-5.5 **AB 32 and SB 32 Greenhouse Gas Assessment and Monitoring.** The Town shall continue to assess and monitor performance of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction efforts beyond the AB 32 designated 2020 goal, including progress towards meeting long-term GHG emissions reduction goals for 2030 (consistent with SB 32) and 2050, as well as the effects of climate change and associated levels of risk, in order to plan a community that is resilient and can adapt to changing climate conditions and its negative impacts.

ER-5.6 **Coordinate with BAAQMD and NSCAPCD.** The Town shall coordinate with BAAQMD and NSCAPCD to ensure projects incorporate feasible mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions and air pollution, if not already provided for through project design.

For Policy ER-5.7 see Implementation Program ER-8: Review of Town Energy Consumption

ER-5.7 **Reduced Emissions for Town Operations.** The Town shall promote reduced idling, trip reduction, routing for efficiency, carpooling, walking/biking and electric vehicle use for its transportation needs for Town operations.

For Policy ER-5.8 see Implementation Program ER-4: Energy Information Program

ER-5.8 **Energy Conservation and Efficiency Programs.** The Town shall promote energy conservation/energy efficiency improvement programs for residential and commercial properties such as those offered by Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), that reduce energy demand which contribute to background levels of regional air emissions and GHG emissions.

ER-5.9 **Energy Conservation through Land Use.** The Town shall promote the creation of a land use pattern that reduces operational energy requirements, especially for transportation purposes, by:

a. Avoiding land use configurations and siting decisions that result in single-purpose automobile trips, and instead encouraging patterns that result in multi-purpose trips.

b. Promoting land use patterns that may be easily served by local transit and linked with regional transit.

Why Update the GHG Emissions Section?

- **Meeting State and Regional Mandates:**
  - State's most recent GHG reduction targets (e.g., AB 1279, 2022 California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan).
  - CEQA requirements for GHG emissions.
  - Aligning with regional initiatives (e.g., Bay Area Air District's GHG thresholds).
- **Addressing Local Concerns and Priorities:**
  - Community-specific actions and policies.
  - Promoting community access to climate co-benefits.
- **Maximizing Co-benefits:**
  - Improved air quality and public health.
  - Reduced energy costs and increased economic vitality.
  - Creation of green jobs and innovation opportunities.
  - Preservation of natural resources and biodiversity.



Context and Rationale for the Update

Evolving Understanding and State Mandates: The Town recognizes the need to align with current best practices in climate action planning and recent state legislative requirements for GHG emissions reductions.

Grant Opportunity: The California Clean Energy Planning Program (CCEPP), administered by the CEC, awarded the Town a grant to develop updated GHG policies and a compliance checklist.

Wide-ranging Benefits for the Community

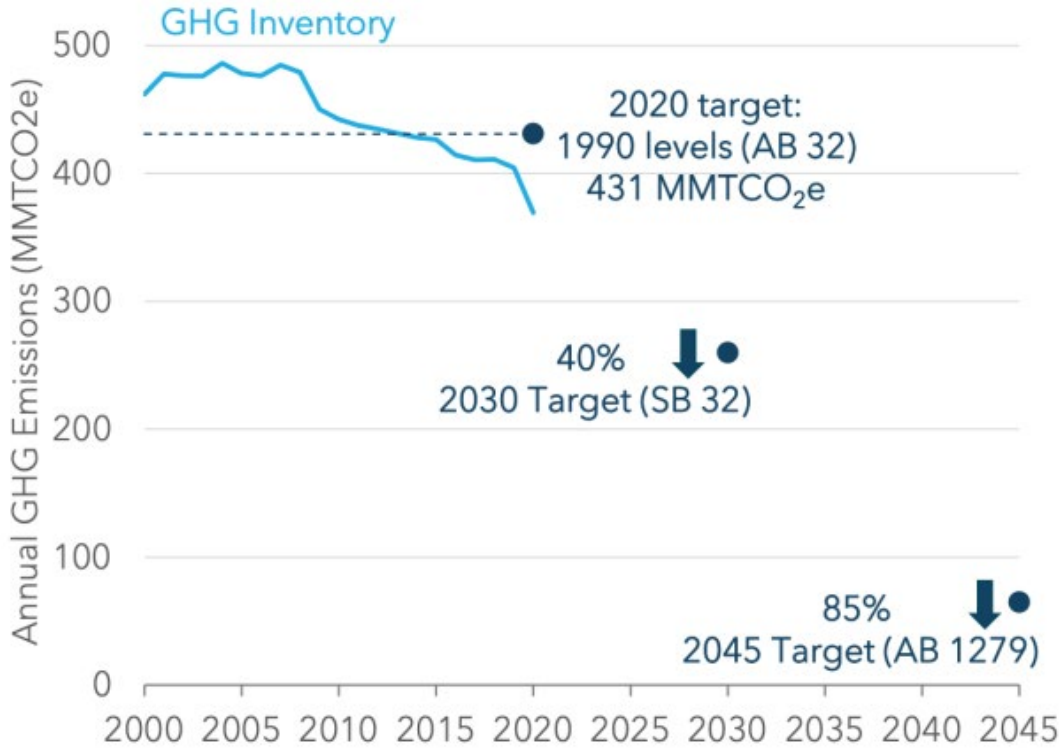
Benefits of Town GHG Policy Updates



- *Effectively reduce GHG emissions:* by providing clear strategies and measurable actions.
- *Encourage sustainable development:* focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- *Improve project review efficiency:* through a standardized compliance checklist.
- *Support a healthier, more sustainable community:* by proactively addressing climate change impacts.

Elements of a Strong GHG Emissions Section Update

- Local GHG emissions inventory and projections
- Setting ambitious but achievable reduction targets
  - Aligning with state goals and considering local context.
  - Defining interim milestones and a long-term vision.
- Integrating with other General Plan elements
- Implementation and monitoring framework



We'd Like to Hear From You!

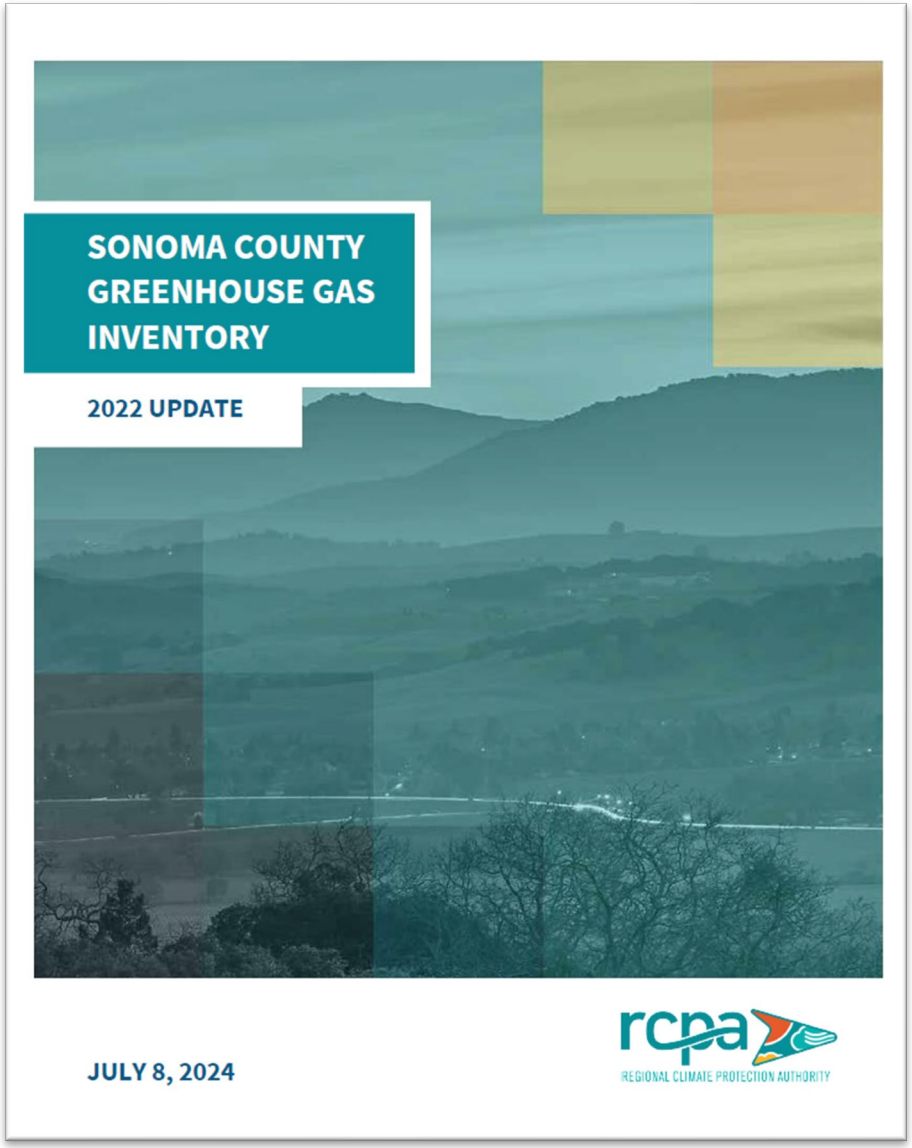
What sources of GHG emissions do you think are the biggest contributors to emissions in Windsor?

Which sources should the Town prioritize reducing?

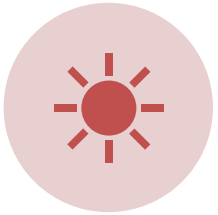
GHG Emissions in Windsor

2022 Emissions Inventory

Sector	Emissions From	GHG Emissions (MT CO_2e)	Percent of Total
Transportation	On Road Vehicles	79,609	60.2%
	Off Road Vehicles	5,436	4.1%
Buildings	Electricity	4,566	3.5%
	Natural Gas	30,583	23.1%
	Stationary Sources	2,097	1.6%
Solid Waste	Single Family Residential	3,468.53	2.6%
	Multifamily Residential	940.13	0.7%
	Commercial	2,584.18	2.0%
	Self Haul	2,535.15	1.9%
Water	Water Distribution	345.25	0.26%
	Water Conveyance	46.1	0.03%
	Total	132,210	100%



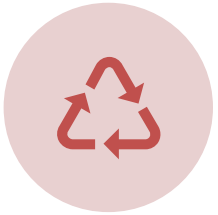
Developing a Comprehensive Set of Reduction Strategies and Actions



Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation



Sustainable Transportation



Waste Reduction and Diversion



Land Use and Urban Design



Water Conservation

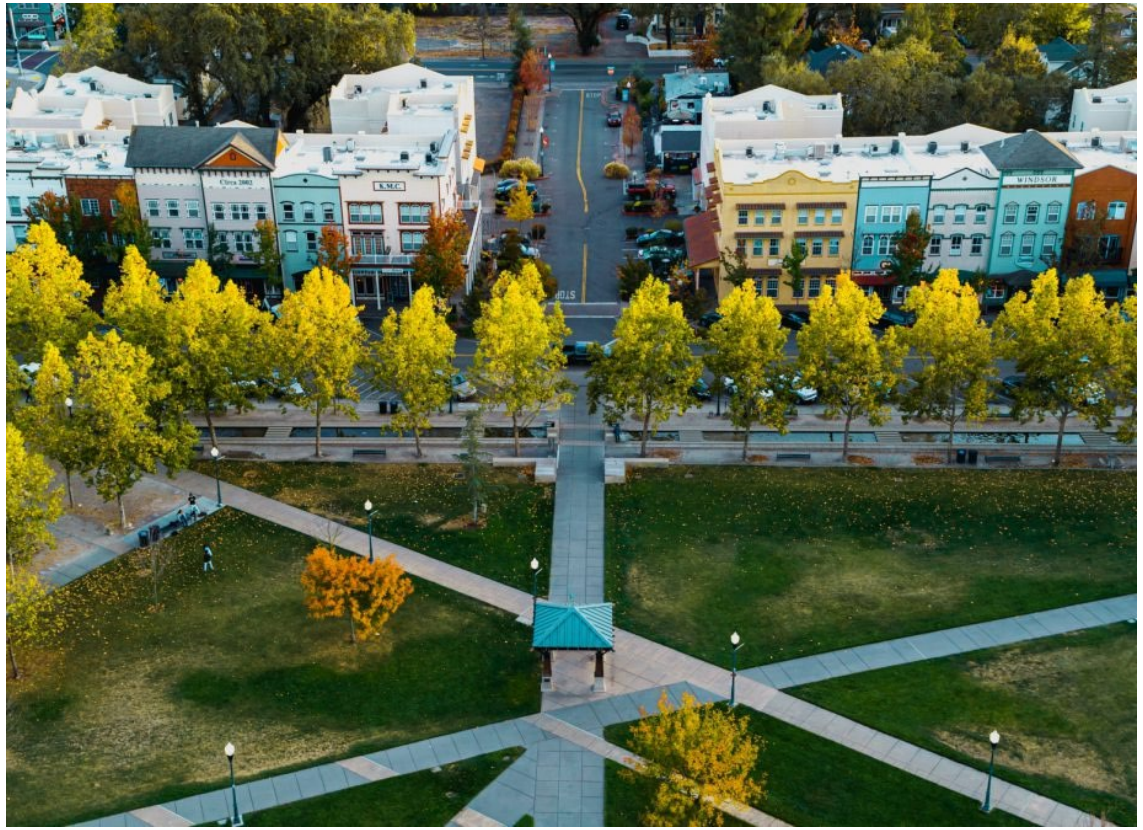


Natural Carbon Sequestration

Key Policy Considerations

- **Climate Action Policies:** The updated section will incorporate specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely (SMART) climate policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions.
  - Milestone years of 2030, 2040 and 2045 proposed.
- **Focus areas** could include:
  - **Zero-Emission Transportation:** Promoting the use of zero-emission vehicles, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and investing in public transit infrastructure.
  - **Building Decarbonization:** Encouraging energy efficiency upgrades and the transition to all-electric appliances in both new and existing buildings.
  - **Renewable Energy:** Supporting the development and use of renewable and zero-carbon energy sources.
- **GHG Emissions Compliance Checklist:** This new tool will help improve the Town's environmental review process under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by providing quantifiable and evidence-based GHG reduction measures for development projects.

Integration with 2040 General Plan



- **General Plan Consistency:** Updated GHG policies will be integrated into the 2040 General Plan, ensuring consistency with other plan elements, as required by state law.
- **Consistency with Municipal Climate Action Plan:** The updates will ensure the General Plan aligns with the objectives outlined in the Windsor Municipal Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2024, which aims to reduce emissions and improve climate resilience.
- **Implementation:** The Town's commitment to implementing the General Plan through various actions and tools will guide the integration of the updated GHG policies.

Public Engagement and Outreach

- **Community Input:** The Town is actively seeking community feedback on the proposed updates through a multi-pronged outreach process.
- **Public Meetings:** Public meetings are scheduled to discuss the updated policies and the compliance checklist:
  - *August 25, 2025:* Discussion on updated General Plan GHG policies.
  - *August 28, 2025:* Focus on the GHG Compliance Checklist and gathering feedback from the development community.
- **Online Resources:** Project updates and community engagement opportunities available on the Town's website.





www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/1597/GHG-Policies-Compliance-Checklist

Timeline and Next Steps

- **Schedule:** Updated General Plan GHG Emissions Section and compliance checklist completed by early 2026.
  - Public meetings and survey input critical to updates
  - Draft will be provided for public comment ahead of Town Council review
- **Continued Collaboration:** Successful implementation will require ongoing collaboration between state agencies, local government, and the community.



Comments/Questions?

What climate policies or programs would you like to see implemented in Windsor?

www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/1597/GHG-Policies-Compliance-Checklist

Contact Information

Jessica Coria
LSA's Director of Air Quality and Climate Change Services
Jessica.Coria@lsa.net

Kim Jordan
Project Planner
kjordan@townofwindsor.ca.gov

www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/1597/GHG-Policies-Compliance-Checklist