

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA

Town of Windsor

Greenhouse Gas Policies & Compliance Checklist

LSA

SOUTHWEST STRATEGIES GROUP

August 28, 2025

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Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA



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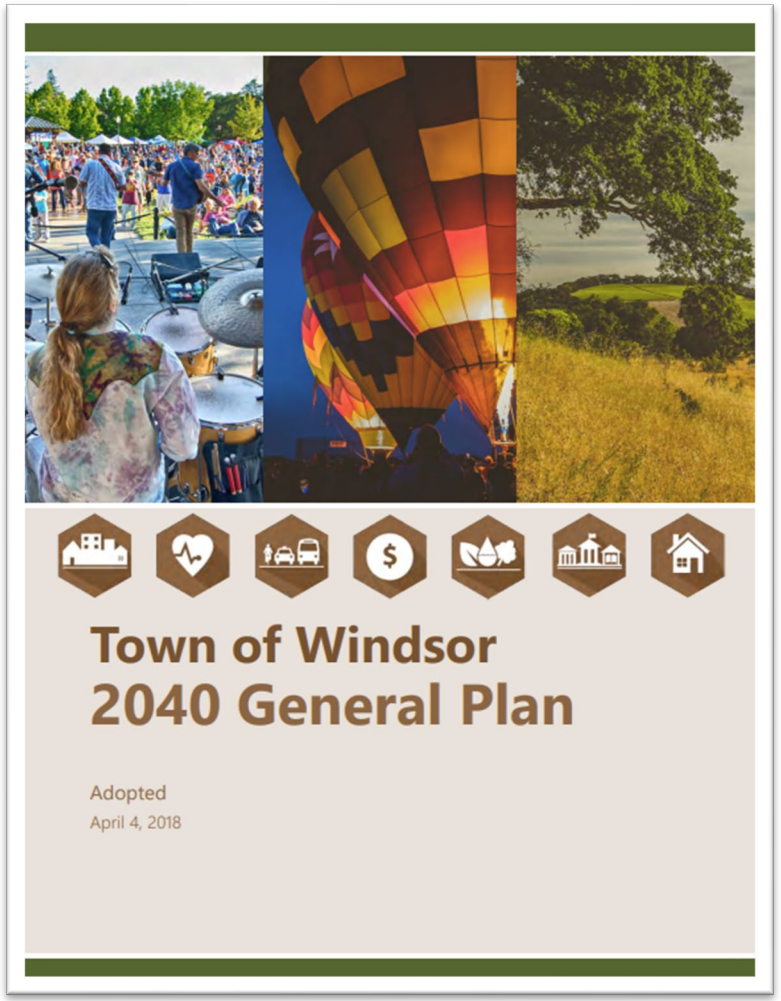


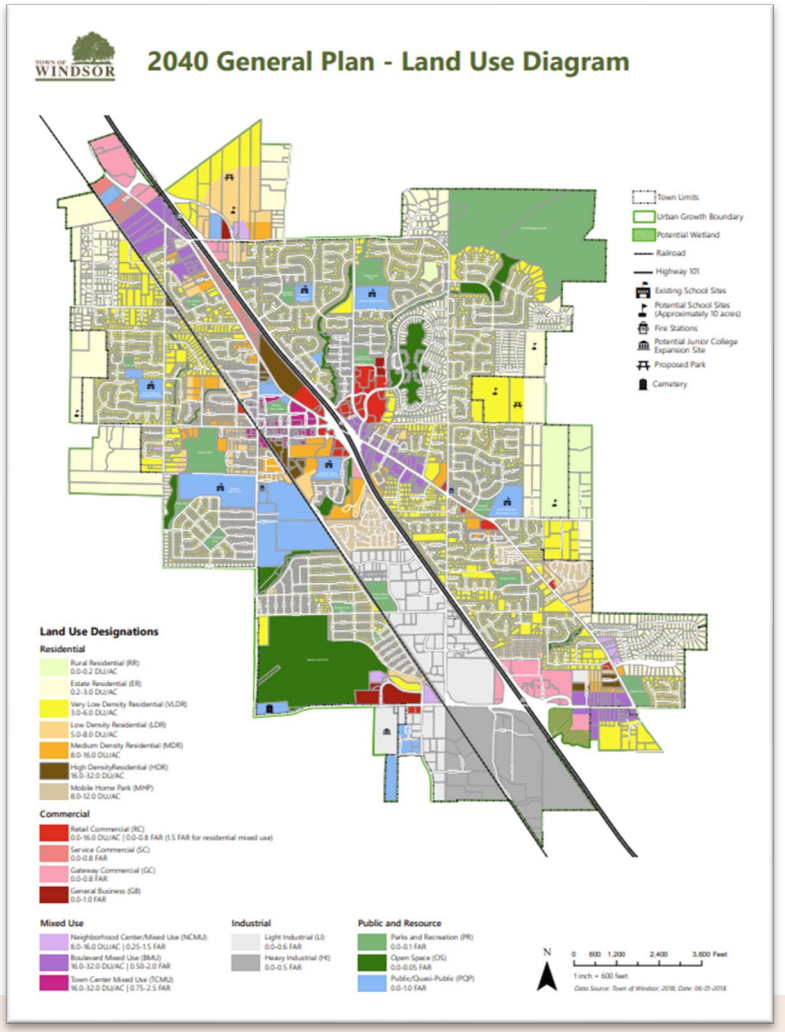
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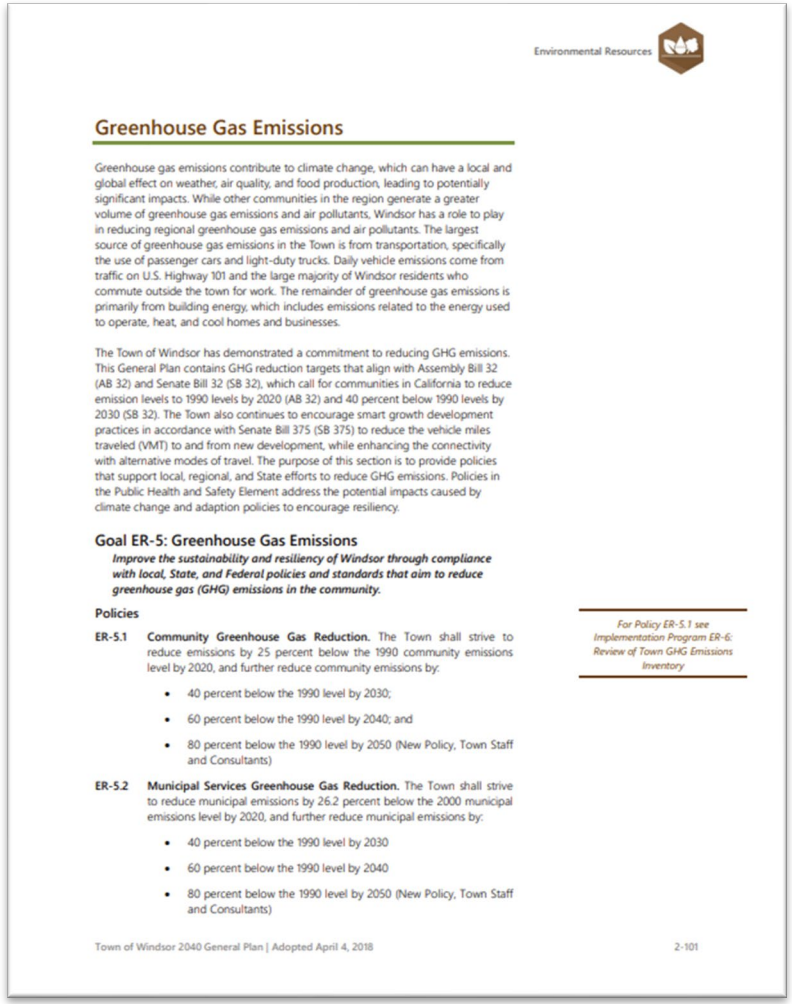
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Town of Windsor 2040 General Plan





Existing 2040 General Plan GHG Emissions Section



Environmental Resources

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

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

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)

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

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** for policy updates 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.

We'd Like to Hear From You!

Do you know what the main sources of GHG emissions are from development projects?

What are the biggest challenges for meeting GHG thresholds of significance and reducing GHG emissions from development projects?

Compliance Checklist to Support Demonstration of Project Consistency with GHG Policies in General Plan

- **Land Use and Zoning Classifications**
- **Building Code Requirements**
- **General Plan policies for:**
  - Land Use
  - Housing
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Construction equipment idling reductions and maintenance: GP EIR Mitigation Measure AQ-1
  - Shade Trees: Zoning Code, Complete Streets Design Guidelines
  - Transportation
  - Water Efficiency and Conservation
  - GHG Emissions Section (updates under development)



General Plan Policies for GHG Efficiency Target and Zero Net Energy Goals



- **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. **2030 Target previously established as 1.91 MT CO_2e per service population.**

- **ER-5.11 Zero Net Energy Goals.** The Town shall strive to implement the State goal of **zero net energy (ZNE)** in all new residential construction by 2020 and ZNE in all new commercial construction by 2030.

General Plan Performance Standards Policy

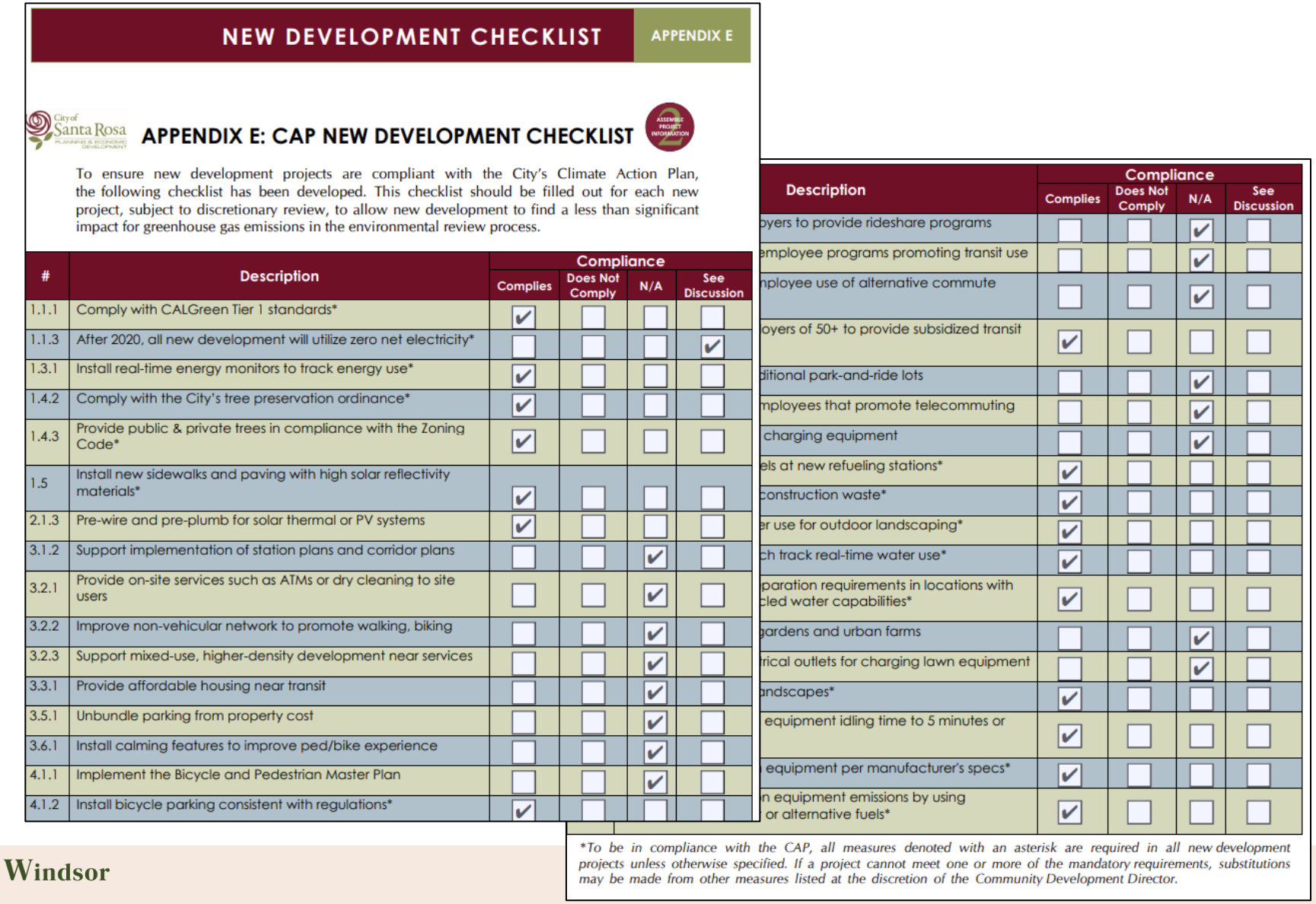
- **ER-5.10 Energy Performance Standards.** The Town shall require new construction to meet targeted energy performance standards to advance Town GHG reduction and other sustainability goals and policies identified in the General Plan. The Town will allow new development to select from a range of options to achieve a minimum energy performance standard, including but not limited to:
  - Solar easements to guarantee access to increased renewable energy generation;
  - Installation of EV charging stations in homes and in commercial development to increase the ability for the public to use zero-emission vehicles;
  - Passive heating and cooling building design;
  - Solar roof and carport panels;
  - Cool roofs;
  - Smart appliances;
  - Wind generation;
  - Installation of energy efficient appliances and fixtures; and
  - Other emerging technologies as they become available. The Town shall work with affordable housing developers to assist in meeting the energy performance standards.

Bay Area Air District Project Design Thresholds

- Bay Area Air District has established criteria to determine if a project will have less than significant GHG impacts based on consistency with the following project design thresholds:
  - All-electric (no natural gas); and
  - Meets CalGreen Tier 2 Voluntary requirements for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure; and
  - Meets regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) targets.



Format Options for Compliance Checklist



NEW DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST APPENDIX E

City of Santa Rosa PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

APPENDIX E: CAP NEW DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

ASSEMBLE PROJECT INFORMATION

To ensure new development projects are compliant with the City's Climate Action Plan, the following checklist has been developed. This checklist should be filled out for each new project, subject to discretionary review, to allow new development to find a less than significant impact for greenhouse gas emissions in the environmental review process.

#	Description	Compliance			
		Complies	Does Not Comply	N/A	See Discussion
1.1.1	Comply with CALGreen Tier 1 standards*	✔			
1.1.3	After 2020, all new development will utilize zero net electricity*				✔
1.3.1	Install real-time energy monitors to track energy use*	✔			
1.4.2	Comply with the City's tree preservation ordinance*	✔			
1.4.3	Provide public & private trees in compliance with the Zoning Code*	✔			
1.5	Install new sidewalks and paving with high solar reflectivity materials*	✔			
2.1.3	Pre-wire and pre-plumb for solar thermal or PV systems	✔			
3.1.2	Support implementation of station plans and corridor plans			✔	
3.2.1	Provide on-site services such as ATMs or dry cleaning to site users			✔	
3.2.2	Improve non-vehicular network to promote walking, biking			✔	
3.2.3	Support mixed-use, higher-density development near services			✔	
3.3.1	Provide affordable housing near transit			✔	
3.5.1	Unbundle parking from property cost			✔	
3.6.1	Install calming features to improve ped/bike experience			✔	
4.1.1	Implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan			✔	
4.1.2	Install bicycle parking consistent with regulations*	✔			

Description	Compliance			
	Complies	Does Not Comply	N/A	See Discussion
oyers to provide rideshare programs			✔	
employee programs promoting transit use			✔	
nployee use of alternative commute			✔	
oyers of 50+ to provide subsidized transit	✔			
ditional park-and-ride lots			✔	
mployees that promote telecommuting			✔	
charging equipment			✔	
els at new refueling stations*	✔			
construction waste*	✔			
er use for outdoor landscaping*	✔			
ch track real-time water use*	✔			
paration requirements in locations with cled water capabilities*	✔			
gardens and urban farms			✔	
trical outlets for charging lawn equipment			✔	
ndscapes*	✔			
equipment idling time to 5 minutes or	✔			
equipment per manufacturer's specs*	✔			
n equipment emissions by using or alternative fuels*	✔			

**To be in compliance with the CAP, all measures denoted with an asterisk are required in all new development projects unless otherwise specified. If a project cannot meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, substitutions may be made from other measures listed at the discretion of the Community Development Director.*

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? We'd like to hear from you!

Do you have suggestions on the format of the checklist, measures to include in a compliance checklist, or any questions/comments about the proposed process?

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

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