

*A 2026 Update*

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR TRAVIS COUNTY OPERATIONS

Roadmap to Reducing Our Environmental Impact



**CONSERVE  
TRAVIS COUNTY**  
For a sustainable future

2026

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# MESSAGE FROM COUNTY JUDGE BROWN

## Travis County Employees and Residents,

More than ever, Texas and Travis County are feeling the effects of climate change. From flooding to annual winter storms to wildfires, it is abundantly clear that climate change affects all of us. People need real action to mitigate the effects of climate change and prevent further damage to our environment, and Travis County is proud to do the work for our climate. While some may say climate policy is a state, federal, or even international issue, we understand that sustainability starts with local governments and with all of us. Our excellent county staff worked incredibly hard to put this plan together and will continue to work to implement it and look for long-term solutions.

Our new Climate Action Plan is an update from our last plan in 2020. While we will continue with much of that plan, we are in very different circumstances than we were in 2020. Coming out of the pandemic, we will continue pursuing our goal of net zero emissions by 2030. We are proud to continue implementing strategic sustainability strategies from that plan that have now largely become standard practice for the County.

I am proud of our county staff who put this plan together and encourage all County employees to follow its recommendations. I am confident in our ability to adhere to this plan and look forward to seeing how it can help us achieve our climate goals.

If we are to prevent further loss, destruction, and damage to our environment, we all must act now. Travis County will not stand by. We will continue implementing the strategies we need to ensure that our climate will be strong and healthy for generations to come.



Andy Brown  
Travis County Judge



# MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER SHEA

It is no secret that our region is facing accelerating extreme climate impacts with devastating flash floods, persistent drought threatening our water supply, and growing wildfire risk. These are not future possibilities, they are present-day realities that demand action. Local governments play a critical role in protecting our residents. We are facing the climate crisis head on with national award-winning resilience programs, policy leadership, and by the example we set in our daily operations. Lasting change requires intentional, strategic, and proactive planning. This Climate Action Plan is Travis County's roadmap for doing just that. I am proud of our sustainability staff's work to build a comprehensive framework for reducing the County's carbon footprint, increasing operational efficiency, and building long-term resilience.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced rapid and large-scale changes to operations. While challenging, it also revealed new and more sustainable ways of working. A sharp shift to remote work during the pandemic resulted in significant reductions in emissions related to employee commuting, facility energy use, and water consumption. While we still have one of the most ambitious remote work policies of any local government in the US, we have seen some movement toward a more hybrid work model with an increased onsite presence to support operational needs and workforce flexibility. We continue to implement practical and environmentally responsible policies that emerged during the pandemic, many of which are now standard practices that help us minimize our carbon footprint while maintaining high quality public service.



Our Climate Action Plan centers on key operational areas where we can reduce emissions and build resilience. These include energy and water consumption, waste and recycling, air quality and transportation, purchasing and procurement practices, culture and process improvement, nature-based practices, and resiliency. These are not isolated efforts but interconnected strategies that will make our County more efficient, more adaptive, and better prepared for the challenges ahead.

We are approaching this work with urgency, transparency, and accountability. This plan sets clear goals, identifies our achievements, and commits to ongoing evaluation. It is a living framework that will evolve as we learn, adapt, and advance.

Travis County is committed to modeling the kind of leadership and responsibility this moment demands. We are responding to today's needs and preparing our County for a more resilient future.

Brigid Shea  
Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 2

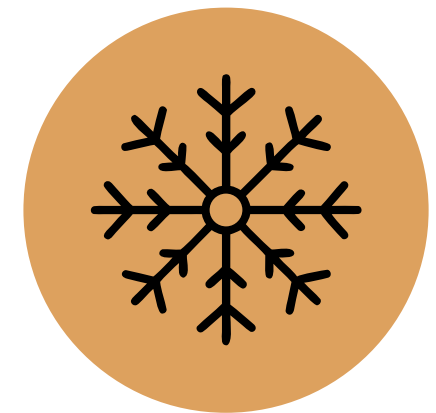
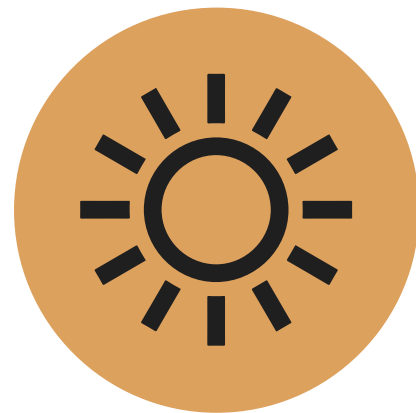
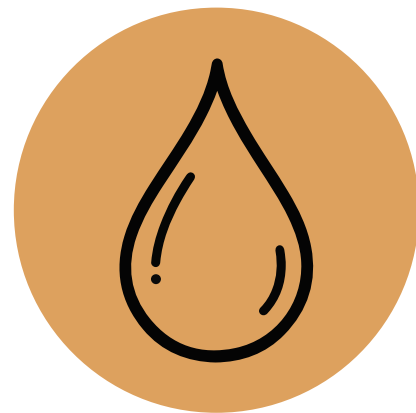
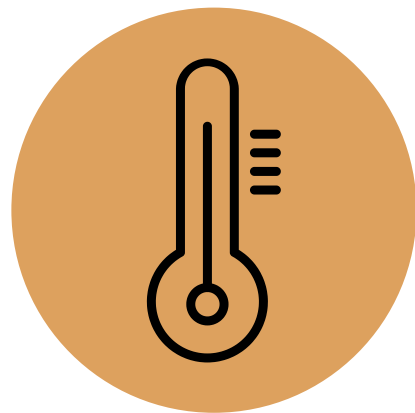
# CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRAVIS COUNTY



# INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

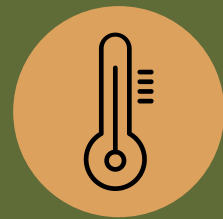
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Climate change is generally defined as the process in which there is a shift in the Earth's average weather patterns primarily due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), farming, and deforestation. These activities release heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere causing our surface and water temperatures to rise much faster than they would naturally. This global warming puts people, communities, and the economy at risk. It causes more extreme weather like hotter temperatures, flooding, droughts, and wildfires. It also leads to more air pollution, rising sea levels, loss of crops and animals, and the spread of diseases carried by insects. This affects every sector from public health to housing, transportation, agriculture, recreation, and tourism. It threatens residents' safety, quality of life, and livelihoods, impacting underserved communities the most. Here are some of the major impacts we can expect to see here in Travis County.



# CLIMATE HAZARDS IN TRAVIS COUNTY

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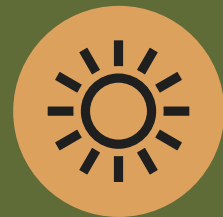
## 01 — Heat

By 2040, the number of days over 100°F is projected to more than double, with days over 110°F becoming more common.



## 02 — Flooding

Travis County already faces high flood risk due to its location in Texas’s “Flash Flood Alley.” Future trends indicate more of our precipitation falling during heavy rain events, which increases the risk of flooding.



## 03 — Drought

Instead of rainfall being spread out over the year, Travis County is more likely to see long dry stretches interspersed with sudden downpours. In addition, hotter weather is expected to increase water loss through evaporation by 7% by 2036, which will cause water bodies and soil to dry out faster.

# CLIMATE HAZARDS IN TRAVIS COUNTY

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## 04 — Wildfire

While the County’s wildfire risk is currently moderate, projected changes—like higher temperatures, increasing dryness, and longer, more intense heatwaves and droughts—are likely to increase the frequency and severity of wildfires in the future.



## 05 — Winter Storms

Periodic cold snaps and winter storms pose a particular challenge in places like Travis County, which is not accustomed to extreme cold. Winter storms in 2021 and 2023 caused billions of dollars in damage and widespread power outages that highlighted the community’s vulnerability to extreme cold. Although our region is generally expected to become hotter overall, some research indicates an increase in the risk of winter storm conditions.

# TRAVIS COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE THREAT



Volunteers planting trees on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Travis County Natural Resources

# TRAVIS COUNTY'S NET-ZERO GOAL

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To try and combat the impacts of climate change in our local area, Travis County strives to achieve net-zero emissions as an organization by the year 2030. Net-zero emissions is the state in which the amount of greenhouse gas emitted is equal to the amount removed. By developing and implementing this Climate Action Plan, we aim to move closer towards this goal.



**Carbon sequestration** is the process of capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Stabilizing carbon in solid and dissolved forms, such as in trees and soil, helps prevent it from entering back into the atmosphere. When carbon is stored in natural systems, it is not contributing to global heating. Travis County currently implements many business practices in our day-to-day operations that are 'nature-based', several of which have the inherent co-benefit of sequestering carbon. Further increasing carbon sequestration potential on County-owned land is one strategy to help us achieve our net-zero emissions goal.

# TRAVIS COUNTY'S FIRST CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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In 2019, leadership teams from departments across the organization participated in visioning workshops to explore how the County could change its operations to reduce potential damage to the environment. Their ideas became the comprehensive list of goals, policies, and activities that form the backbone of Travis County's first Climate Action Plan, approved by Commissioners Court in 2020. The plan signified Travis County's commitment to being part of the solution to the climate crisis.



Shortly after the plan was approved, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic brought a rapid change to business operations. In March 2020, all non-essential staff suddenly transitioned to remote work, and the County adopted electronic process solutions for everything from document management to virtual meetings. In May 2020, Commissioners Court set a target to keep 75 percent of eligible staff working from home permanently. Travis County saw a significant reduction in operational greenhouse gas emissions during this unprecedented time.

# UPDATING THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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As the acute phase of the pandemic closed, a new hybrid way of doing business emerged. The shift to electronic processes remained largely intact, but more staff were working in person again. Changing practices and priorities led County leaders to look for ways to balance employee mental health, customer needs, and environmental issues. It is in this context that staff opened conversations about updating the Climate Action Plan.

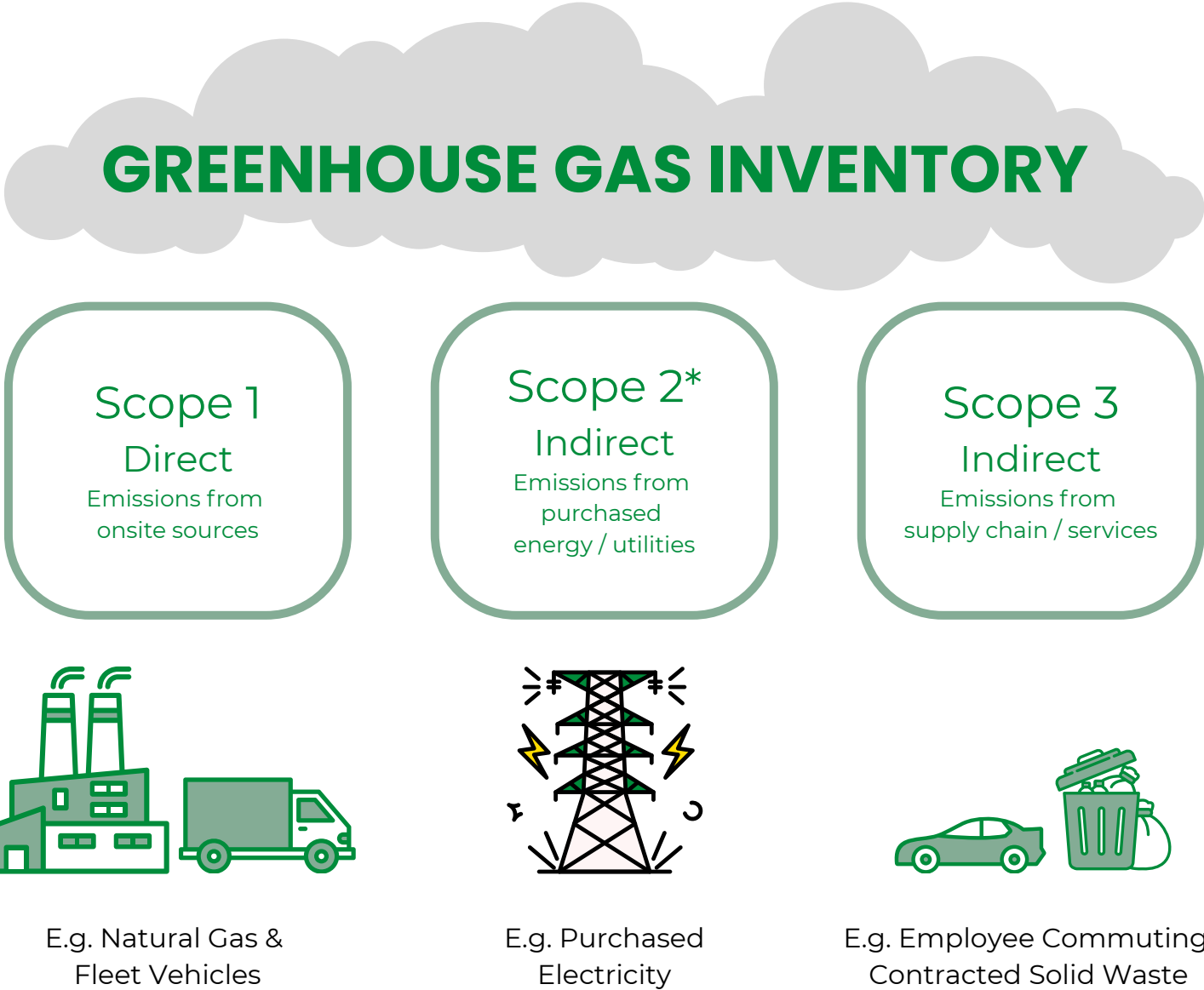


In 2024, County departments met to revisit the original Climate Action Plan. Staff thoughtfully reassessed each goal considering current business operations and suggested new activities to include. The complete list of updated goals and activities will be explored later in this document. But first, it is important to understand how Travis County measures its operational greenhouse gas emissions.

# MEASURING OUR CLIMATE-POLLUTING EMISSIONS

Historically, Travis County has reported emissions using a sector-based approach. However, beginning with the FY2024 inventory, the County shifted to a scope-based methodology to better align with industry best practices.

Scopes are used because they provide a standardized framework that makes emissions reporting comparable across organizations, ensuring both direct and indirect impacts are captured consistently.



# SCOPE 2 (INDIRECT EMISSIONS) LOCATION BASED VS. MARKET BASED

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## **Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions)**

Emissions from the use of purchased electricity at County facilities and buildings. These are calculated in two different ways.

### **Location-Based Method**

Calculates emissions based on the energy mix of the local power grid, which for Travis County is the statewide Texas grid (ERCOT).



### **Market-Based Method**

Calculates emissions based on the County's energy purchase choices (for example, the energy mix of its utility providers, including renewable energy purchases).



Travis County has traditionally relied on the location-based method for Scope 2 emissions. However, following new guidance issued in May 2024 by ICLEI USA, local governments must now report both location-based and market-based Scope 2 emissions to reflect the increasing use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and utility green power programs.

# CLIMATE POLLUTING EMISSIONS: BREAKDOWN BY SCOPE

**FY2024 GHG Inventory By Scope**

Scope	FY2024
Scope 1	10,879 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 Location-Based*	20,884 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 Market-Based*	10,734 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 3	15,324 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e

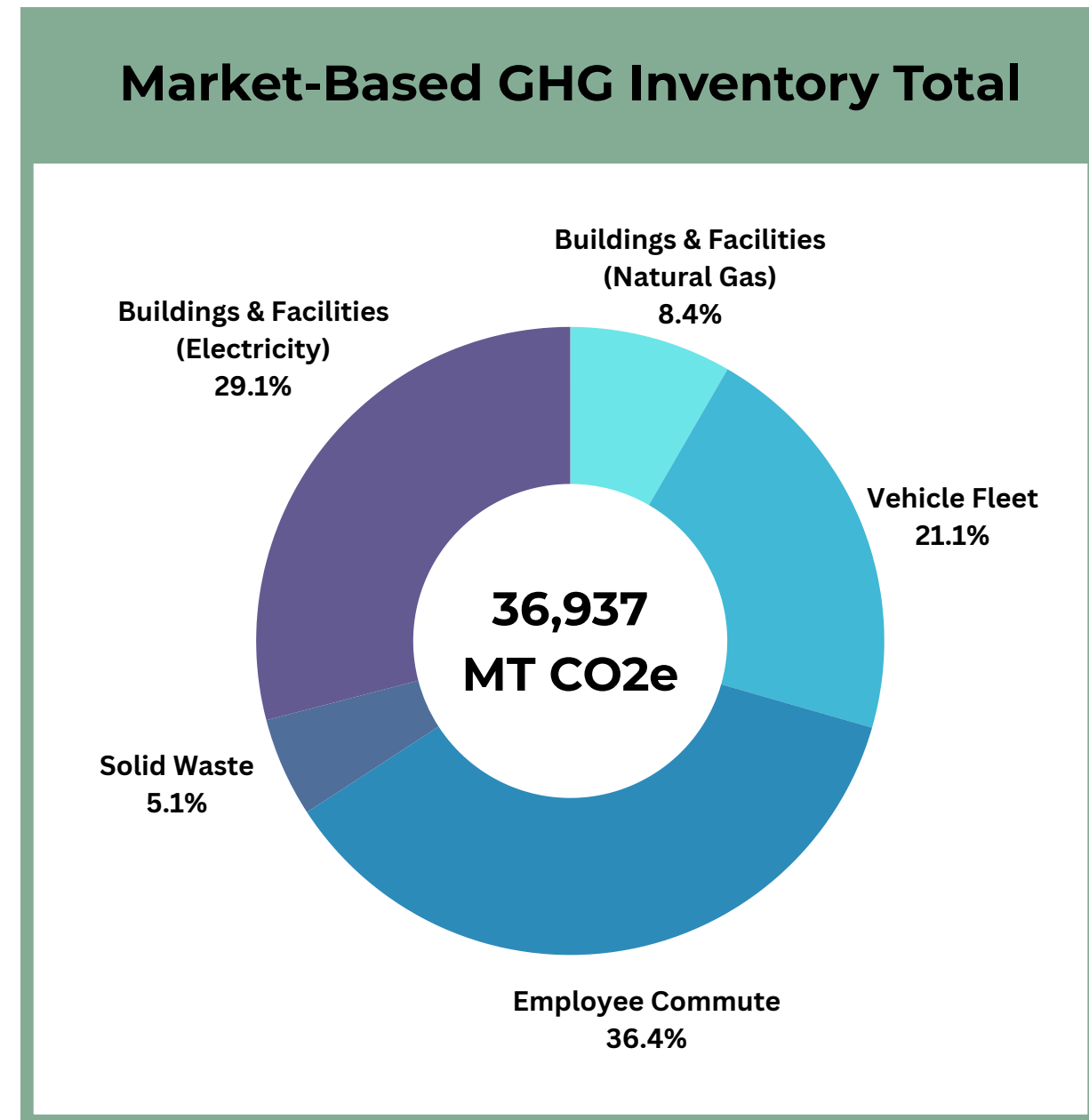
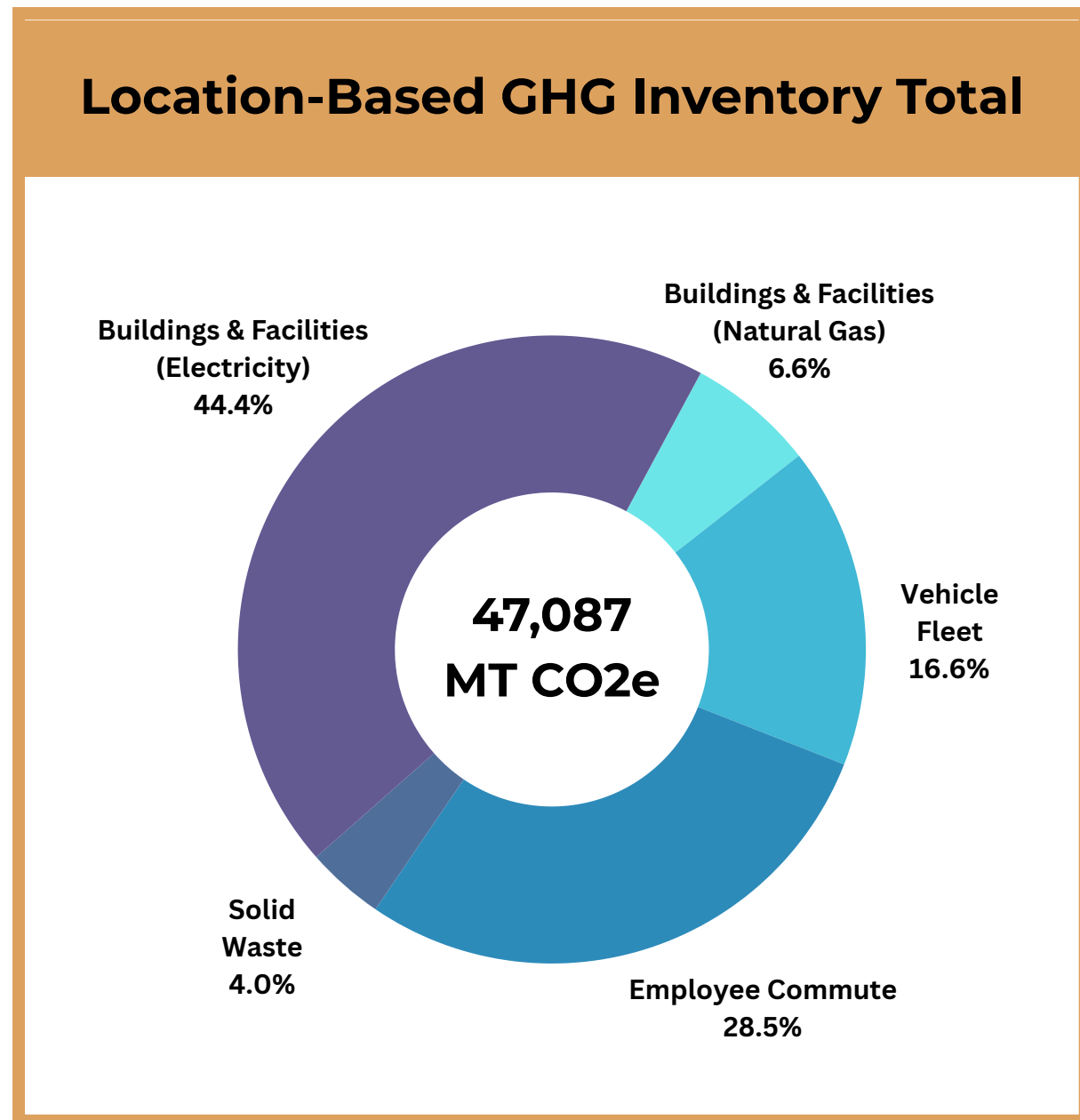
\*Electricity-related emissions are listed twice, once using the location-based method and once using the market-based method, to reflect different approaches to greenhouse gas accounting. These should be treated as separate figures and not combined when totaling emissions across sectors.

**FY2024 GHG Inventory Totals**

**47,087 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
Location-Based Total

**36,937 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
Market-Based Total

# CLIMATE POLLUTING EMISSIONS: BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR



Emissions are reported in **Metric Tons (MT) of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO2e)**, a measure that expresses the impact of various greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide needed to produce the same global heating effect.



# KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

# KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

All the activities in the original Climate Action Plan were organized into one of seven key focus areas: Energy Consumption, Water Consumption, Waste/Recycling, Transportation and Fuel, Purchasing and Procurement, Culture and Process Improvement, and Resiliency.



For this updated plan, eight focus areas have been identified: Air Quality (which includes transportation practices), Culture, Energy, Nature (newly added), Resiliency, Purchasing, Waste, and Water. Implementing practices within these different areas can result in lowering our greenhouse gas emissions, and many of these practices can be measured by way of the GHG Inventory.

# KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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The following pages explore all the activities identified by County staff for inclusion in this updated Climate Action Plan. Each activity includes a short description, responsible party (or parties), status of each activity, resources needed to implement new goals, and how each activity falls into the eight key focus areas. In some cases, the activities do not fall neatly into just one category.

Environmental practices are highly inter-connected and often overlap and fall into more than one category. Therefore, secondary key focus areas are also identified where applicable.





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# AIR QUALITY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Track and monitor recharging of ozone-depleting refrigerants to identify leaks	Track and monitor recharging of ozone-depleting refrigerants used in air-conditioning, refrigeration equipment, and other appliances that contain refrigerants to identify leaks and take corrective action.	Facilities Management	In Progress		N/A
Replace / phase out high impact refrigerants with more sustainable options	Continue to phase out high-impact refrigerants when feasible and as funding allows.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		N/A
Streamline telecommuting processes and provide more acceptance/ support for telecommuting	Allow eligible employees to telecommute and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), lower carbon emissions, conserve energy and water in County facilities, reduce waste, and improve the overall quality of life for employees. Measure data on the Auditor's Office <a href="#">Teleworking Dashboard</a> .	HRMD + ITS (Resources) + Auditor's Office (dashboard) + Department Managers (implementation)	Ongoing		Energy, Water, Waste, Culture
Allow flexible and off-peak scheduling so County staff can avoid rush hour and traffic congestion	Allow off-peak and flexible schedules as part of the new Hybrid Work Policy to help reduce traffic congestion and improve employee satisfaction and stress.	HRMD + Department Managers	Ongoing		Culture
Provide and support a <a href="#">'Commuter Connections Program'</a> for employees	For eligible employees, the benefits of this program may include flexible work hours, teleworking, free transit passes, bike facilities and showers, EV bikes, vanpooling, Guaranteed Ride Home program, and information on transportation reimbursement accounts where employees can use pre-tax dollars for work-related commuting and parking expenses.	TNR-Air Quality	Ongoing		Culture
Promote and support a <a href="#">'Commuter Leave Incentive Program'</a> (CLIP) for employees	The Commuter Leave Incentive Program (CLIP) rewards employees who walk, telework, work a compressed work week, vanpool, or use public transportation for their daily commute. Accumulated points translate into paid leave. The goal of CLIP is to reduce traffic congestion and emissions to improve air quality.	TNR-Air Quality + HRMD + Auditor's Office + Department Managers	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity for More Department Outreach	Culture



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# AIR QUALITY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Educate employees on CLIP and other incentives for reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	Utilize the Travis County website, email, handouts, and training platforms to provide information to employees on opportunities available to reduce VMT, including the use of public transportation.	TNR-Air Quality	Ongoing		Culture
Utilize gas cards for Fleet vehicles rather than going to County fuel sites	Utilize gas cards when it's more logical and efficient to fuel vehicles at private stations rather than traveling to County fuel sites.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	Ongoing		N/A
Develop a 'No Idling Campaign'	Develop a campaign to encourage drivers to reduce idling in County vehicles. This should also work in conjunction with the 'No Heavy-Duty Idling' program for heavy equipment drivers.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet) + TNR-Air Quality	Ongoing		N/A
Utilize rejuvenation products on County roadways	Utilize rejuvenation products to keep roads from becoming brittle and needing frequent repairs and maintenance. These practices will reduce the emissions from maintenance activities.	TNR-Public Works (Road & Bridge)	Ongoing		N/A
Continue implementation of the 'Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) Policy'	On December 21, 1993, Commissioner's Court approved an AFV policy. Departments should replace old vehicles with EV or hybrid alternatives, when appropriate, to help reduce fuel consumption.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	Ongoing		Culture
Move towards the electrification of fleet vehicles and equipment	In addition to County fleet vehicles, work towards procuring electric equipment such as forklifts, mowers, and utility carts. This effort should work in conjunction with the AFV Policy.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet) + TNR- Air Quality	Ongoing		Culture
Reduce the use of 2 cycle gas-powered engines and purchase more electric and battery-operated equipment	Reduce overall fuel usage for grounds and custodial operations by procuring electric and battery powered equipment such as hand tools, chainsaws, and lawn mowers.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources + Facilities Management	In Progress		Culture



Table of Activities

# AIR QUALITY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Develop a 'Hybrid Work Policy'	Update the current teleworking policy as part of the Adaptive Workplace Study to reflect the new hybrid work environment.	HRMD	In Progress	Working on formal policy- needs to be reviewed by stakeholders, finalized, and published	Culture
Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in County vehicles	Encourage carpooling, planning ahead, and being creative and flexible to reduce single person trips in County vehicles.	All Departments	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity for More Department Outreach	Culture
Expand the availability of EV charging stations and explore alternate charging methods	Increase the number of EV charging stations installed by Travis County. Increase the number of County buildings with access to EV charging stations. Explore alternative methods of charging such as adjusting policies and code to allow employees to charge at home. Explore constructing solar powered charging areas.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	In Progress	Code/Policy Change Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Adopt new formula for vehicle replacement to reduce fuel consumption and impact of vehicles	Adopt a new formula for vehicle replacement including reassessing needs to find opportunities to downsize or right-size all vehicles to help reduce fuel consumption.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	Not Yet Started	Code/Policy Change Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Create documentation which can be used as a guide for 'right-sizing' vehicles	Create a chart that will outline the appropriate vehicle size for each job classification. This chart can be added to the vehicle policy which all employees must adhere to. This goal would work in conjunction with other efforts to reduce fuel consumption.	TNR-Air Quality + TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Culture
Implement incentives for employees who reduce (or stop) idling in heavy machinery	Implement an incentive program that will 'reward' employees who reduce (or stop) idling in heavy machinery. This will work in conjunction with Fleet's 'No Heavy-Duty Idling' program.	TNR-Air Quality + TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	Not Yet Started	Court/Exec Staff Direction	N/A
Purchase employee passes for toll roads	Explore changing County code to allow the purchase of toll road passes for employees. Shortening employee travel by allowing the use of toll roads will reduce emissions.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet)	Not Yet Started	Code/Policy Change Court/Exec Staff Direction	N/A



Table of Activities

# CULTURE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Promote and expand the Travis County <a href="#">Green Team</a>	As directed by the Recycling Participation Order, Travis County has a Green Team made up of dedicated individuals across the organization that leads by example to help further Travis County's sustainability efforts. Managers are asked to help identify volunteers to ensure all applicable departments are represented on the Green Team.	TNR-Op Sustainability + All Departments (participation)	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity for More Department Outreach	Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Implement electronic and paperless processes to reduce printing, including digital file storage and records management	Transition from paper to electronic processes. Results in a reduction in amount of paper sent to Iron Mountain and reduction in paper and toner consumption due to less printing. All departments have access to training on electronics records management.	ITS + All Departments	Ongoing		Waste
Utilize digital Purchase Request Forms (PRF) and procurement approval process	Departments should utilize a paperless and electronic PRF/procurement approval process. Implement digital PRF with electronic signatures and approvals prior to a shopping cart being created in SAP.	ITS + All Departments	Ongoing		Waste
Encourage video conferencing for meetings and trainings (internal & external)	Utilize Microsoft Teams or other tele-conferencing platforms to conduct meetings and trainings between Travis County staff, and with external customers. This practice supports teleworking efforts and allows for more flexibility and ease of scheduling.	ITS + All Departments	Ongoing		Air Quality
Implement electronic and virtual services for customers	County to implement and offer electronic and virtual services to reduce the need for their customers to travel.	ITS + All Departments	Ongoing		Air Quality
Utilize electronic platforms for Auditor's Office and HRMD processes	Timesheets and performance reviews have been moved to electronic platforms. Other examples include purchase orders, audit reports/ documentation, payroll processes, pay statements, W2's, benefits enrollment, direct deposit, employment verification, and Auditor's Office-specific administrative forms. Also moving towards ACH payments and digital grant reporting.	Auditor's Office + HRMD	Ongoing		N/A
Implement Electronic Vendor Invoicing for Court Appointed Attorneys	Continue efforts between the Auditor's Office and the <a href="#">Travis County Courts</a> to replace paper invoices for Court Appointed Attorneys with an electronic process.	Auditor's Office	Completed		N/A



Table of Activities

# CULTURE

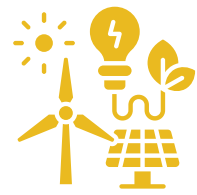
Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Encourage electronic invoicing across Departments	Continue efforts between the Auditor's Office and the <a href="#">Travis County Courts</a> to replace paper invoices for Court Appointed Attorneys with an electronic process.	Auditor's Office + All Departments	Ongoing		N/A
Utilize an electronic platform to pay rent and mortgage	The County currently uses a digital software system called ECMS- it's an HHS platform used to pay rent & mortgage and is used for utility assistance payments as well.	Auditor's Office + HHS	Ongoing		Air Quality
Communicate department goals across the organization. Share information about existing programs and initiatives to help identify common goals	Information sharing will help identify common goals that can promote better communication and collaboration regarding the Climate Action Plan. Departments should look to digital platforms such as Travis Central, SharePoint hubs, newsletters, digital dashboards, Teams channels, email alerts/public announcements, social media, etc.	All Departments	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Help departments share information related to sustainability efforts and events	Use social media, websites, public announcements, and media outlets to spread communications regarding Travis County initiatives and events related to sustainability.	TNR-Environmental Quality + <a href="#">PIO</a>	Ongoing		Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Incorporate <a href="#">Travis County Guiding Principles</a> in Performance Reviews	Employees are rated on what they do to ensure daily work is aligned with County Guiding Principles. By including Guiding Principles as part of employee reviews, Travis County leadership is demonstrating the importance of and commitment to these values which are: Equity, Fairness, and Respect; Financial Sustainability, Operational Excellence, and Leaders in Innovation.	HRMD	Ongoing		Purchasing
Include Sustainability in TNR-NHO, <a href="#">digital NHO</a> trainings, and in HRMD's 'New Employee Experience'	Include information on Travis County's Sustainability Program in the County's New-Hire Orientations (NHO) and other onboarding platforms. By including sustainability information, employees learn that green practices are important to Travis County and there are a variety of resources available to staff. They also learn ways to get involved and participate in efforts.	HRMD + TNR-Admin Services + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing		Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Include Elements of Sustainability in Health and Wellness Initiatives	HRMD continue to collaborate with NREQ to tie health and wellness initiatives to sustainability and other programs in NREQ.	HRMD + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress		Air Quality



Table of Activities

# CULTURE

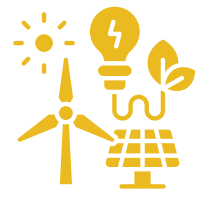
Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Incorporate sustainable practices into events such as Employee Appreciation Day and <a href="#">Juneteenth</a>	Sustainability Team collaborate to provide recycling containers for employee events. Work towards other sustainable options such as eliminating single use condiment packets and Styrofoam when purchasing supplies for events. Encourage employees to bring reusable water bottles.	TNR-Admin Services + Commissioner Travillion's Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing		Waste
Create educational campaigns for topics related to environmental matters	Create education and outreach materials, conduct trainings and presentations, participate in events, compile SAP trainings, update website information, and anything else that can be used to educate all departments and customers on NREQ services and environmental matters.	TNR-NREQ	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Continue to implement a <a href="#">Green Steering Committee</a>	Provides education of County Sustainability performance, measurement and accountability for resource consumption, and progress updates on CAP and other environmental goals. Meetings should take place regularly to review performance and goals.	TNR-NREQ + Travis County's Commissioners Court	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Update space standards to use smaller, shared spaces to support a hybrid work environment	Change the space standards policy to recognize office sharing, hoteling, collaboration spaces, and other mechanisms by which we can delay the physical expansion of our footprint and be mindful of the new hybrid work environment. Fully implement during phase III of the Adaptive Workplace Study.	Facilities Management + ITS + Planning & Budget Office (PBO-EDSI) + Depart. Directors & Office Managers	In Progress	Court/Exec Staff Direction	Air Quality, Energy, Water, Waste
Utilize credit cards to pay utility bills	Utilize credit cards to move away from paper processes of paying utility bills. This will also allow TNR to better capture the utility data for reporting.	Auditor's Office	Not Yet Started		Waste
Expand Educational Pathways at the TCCC to include sustainable initiatives	Expand education at the jail with opportunities that will include sustainable learning and overlap with the existing Marketable Skills Program. Options could include OSHA or HAZWOPER certifications, training in stormwater/erosion control practices, and training on how to install solar panels.	Sheriff's Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Energy, Waste, Water
Expand Educational Pathways at the TCCC to include sustainable initiatives	Expand education at the detention center to include sustainable learning. Include possible certification programs as well.	Juvenile Probation + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	N/A



## Table of Activities

# ENERGY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Make operational modifications based on 'Public Utility Commission of Texas Summer Conservation Alerts'	Alerts are used to notify Texans of conditions on the electricity grid, including conservation steps that can be taken to reduce the chance of involuntary rolling outages being needed in the event an Electricity Emergency is declared. When possible, FMD to make operational modifications based on these alerts.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		N/A
Implement a <a href="#">Travis County Emergency Energy Conservation Policy</a>	The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) monitors the availability of electrical capacity on the state-wide grid. In cases of extremely high load demand or loss of generation capability, ERCOT may declare an energy emergency and request users to reduce consumption. An effective response to the notifications is critical to ensure the grid remains stable and to avoid power outages and/or rolling blackouts.	Facilities Management + OEM	In Progress		N/A
Promote a <a href="#">Green Building Policy</a> and LEED Certifications	Commissioners Court adopted a Green Building Policy to promote consistent application of sustainable building philosophy for all new facilities. To the greatest extent practical, the County should at a minimum also target the U.S. Green Building Council's 'Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design' (LEED) silver level certification for new and renovated facilities budgeted at \$1 million or over. Each project should be assessed for the appropriate certification level with the goal of maximizing long-term benefits. LEED principles should also be used for renovation and rehabilitation projects budgeted below \$1 million.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality, Culture, Resiliency, Waste, Water
Implement Energy Efficiency Projects	Energy efficiency projects to be completed for new buildings and renovations (optimize and install additional occupancy sensors, install manual on/off switches for occupancy sensor lights, switch to LED lights, etc.)	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality
Increase temperature range to use less A/C	Resolution passed by Commissioners Court to raise approved temperature range and adjustment of temperature controls.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality
Optimize space heating and cooling in facilities	Ensure all very large office spaces (staff population of 200+) are equipped with smart thermostats and optimized space heating and cooling controls. Establish zones where controls can be installed.	Facilities Management	In Progress	Additional Funding	Air Quality



## Table of Activities

# ENERGY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Support earlier blackout of lights in buildings after hours	With the exception of safety lighting and aside from times of special occasion, lights should always be turned off as early as possible after hours to conserve energy.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality, Nature
Use more effective/efficient insulation throughout County buildings	Plan for increased or updated insulation at facilities (thicker wall insulation, more modern, multi-paned glass, better roofing materials, roof insulation, etc.)	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality
Generate and utilize energy from renewable sources	Purchase or generate renewable energy to the greatest extent is feasible. Continue participation in <a href="#">Green Choice</a> programs and expand to include other departments.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality
Enroll in Demand Response Programs to reduce energy consumption	Participate in <a href="#">Demand Response</a> programs to help reduce energy usage during peak times, lower costs, and reduce strain on the electric grid. Expand to include other departments.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Air Quality
Use energy efficient servers as well as virtual servers	Ensure any new servers purchased have reduced energy use compared to other servers of equal performance. Also utilize virtual servers, when possible, to further cut back on energy consumption.	ITS	Ongoing		Air Quality
Migrate data storage from on-site servers to the Cloud reducing equipment needs	Utilize the Cloud as another way to reduce energy consumption and the need for onsite servers.	ITS	Ongoing		Air Quality, Culture
Move from spinning hard drives to solid state hard drives	Move to solid state hard drives that are very low power and require very little cooling.	ITS	Ongoing		Air Quality
Move towards hosted solutions	Keep hardware infrastructure offsite and in the vendor's hands to lower the County's energy consumption.	ITS	Ongoing		Air Quality
Administer a Travis County Jail <a href="#">Energy Savings Performance Contract</a>	The Commissioners Court approved a \$27 million Energy Savings Performance Contract with Schneider Electric for energy and water efficiency upgrades at the Travis County Jail which are guaranteed to provide more than \$42 million in savings over 20 years as well as resulting significant emissions savings.	Sheriff's Office + Planning & Budget Office (PBO)	Ongoing		Air Quality, Water

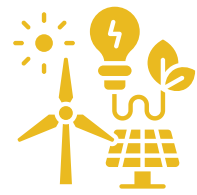


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# ENERGY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Implement Energy Efficiency Projects at the TCCC	Implement projects at the jail to improve energy efficiency such as installation of Building Automation Software (BAS), increased HVAC air duct cleaning, installation of fuel-efficient emergency generators, and boiler and laundry equipment upgrades.	Sheriff's Office	In Progress	Additional Funding	Air Quality
Switch to Energy Efficient Lighting at Parks	Install energy efficient lighting at new County parks. Retrofit existing County parks with more energy efficient lighting, where feasible.	TNR-Parks	In Progress	Additional Funding	Air Quality
Monitor and manage energy usage and develop method of tracking energy consumption	Establish baseline usage for facilities and/or programs. Use the data to support or develop reduction goals. Measure the energy efficiency of the County facilities (Energy Use Intensity).	Facilities Management	In Progress		Air Quality
Get Silver LEED Certification for TCCC	Get the Travis County Correctional Complex (TCCC) Silver LEED certified.	Sheriff's Office	Not Yet Started	Additional Funding	Air Quality
Install solar panels for the TCCC	Get funding needed to install solar panels at the jail which will significantly reduce the need for non-renewable energy.	Sheriff's Office	Not Yet Started	Additional Funding	Air Quality
Install LED bulbs for perimeter lighting at the TCCC	Switch to LED lighting around the perimeter of the jail.	Sheriff's Office	Not Yet Started	Additional Funding	Air Quality



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# NATURE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Protect existing trees in Travis County (from development or otherwise)	Implement policies and put mechanisms in place to protect and/or mitigate against the removal of trees in Travis County ( <a href="#">see code section 482.973</a> ).	TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Public Works (CIP) + TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	Ongoing		Air Quality, Resiliency, Water
Increase planting of native trees in appropriate areas on Travis County property.	Plant native trees in Travis County parks, on County property, or on other lands acquired by Travis County (BCP, floodplain buy-outs, etc.) to increase tree canopy cover, minimize soil erosion, promote carbon sequestration, and improve water quality.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Public Works (CIP) + TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	In Progress	Additional Funding	Air Quality, Resiliency, Water
Update the Parks Comprehensive Plan	The Parks Comprehensive Plan is taking a broad look at park development as a whole over the next 10 years. This plan will focus on operations and maintenance, land management and resources, cultural & historical resources, and land acquisition and development.	TNR-Parks	In Progress (adoption anticipated March 2026)		Air Quality, Culture, Resiliency, Water
Plant wildflower prairies at County Parks & Facilities	Use County land around ponds and within parks and preserves to establish wildflower prairies that would serve as pollinator sites. Planting native wildflowers also promotes carbon sequestration, decreases the need for mowing, reduces gas consumption, and helps with erosion control.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Stormwater	Ongoing	Additional Funding	Air Quality, Water
Implement Nature-Based Solutions and use resolution as a guide for County projects	Resolution approved by Commissioners Court. Continue to find opportunities to implement nature-based solutions into Travis County projects to help enhance climate mitigation, reduce flooding, protect water quality, combat heat island effect, improve air quality, provide green space, and improve the quality of life for people and wildlife. Purchasing to include 'nature-based solutions' in bids for county projects.	TNR-Parks + TNR-NREQ + OEM + TNR-Public Works (CIP) + Facilities Management + Sheriff's Office + Juvenile Probation + TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	In Progress	Additional Funding Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Purchasing, Resiliency, Water



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# NATURE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Expand the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)	The <a href="#">Balcones Canyonlands Preserve</a> (BCP) is a system of preserves in western Travis County that comprises more than 32,000 acres. The BCP was created to protect eight endangered species and is one of the largest urban preserves in the country. In addition to providing habitat for endangered and other species of concern, the preserve provides numerous other ecosystem services such as cleaning our water, filtering pollutants from the air, reducing the risk of flooding and erosion, carbon sequestration, and lowering temperatures by buffering the urban heat island effect.	TNR-Natural Resources	In Progress		Air Quality, Resiliency, Water
Enhance Resiliency and Restoration on the BCP	A new program has been developed in TNR-Natural Resources to help enhance the existing habitat on the BCP and increase resiliency to climate change. A large part of the program's efforts focuses on increasing biodiversity, soil health, and water conservation projects.	TNR-Natural Resources	In Progress	Additional Funding	Resiliency, Water
Develop methods to preserve and restore the ecosystems of Travis County including Travis County Parks and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – ecosystem services and flood mitigation.	Implement actions to help preserve ecosystems in the County, increase biodiversity and water quality, promote carbon sequestration, and reduce the urban heat island effect and flooding. Many of these efforts are a byproduct of habitat restoration projects.	TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Parks	Ongoing		Air Quality, Resiliency, Water
Create a Native Plant Nursery	Create a native plant nursery as part of Natural Resources' new program to enhance and restore existing BCP habitat.	TNR-Natural Resources	In Progress	Additional Funding	Resiliency
Implement a Native Plant Exchange Program	Work to remove invasive plants in residential areas that are adjacent to the preserve- replace them with native plants which will be more resilient to drought and climate change.	TNR-Natural Resources	In Progress	Additional Funding	Resiliency



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# NATURE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Expand the tree fund to buy conservation lands and use for restoration projects	Expand tree mitigation efforts to include the purchase of conservation lands and waste lands that can be used for native plantings, prairie restoration, and agricultural conservation (in addition to just planting trees). Further expand tree fund to restore/ enhance existing County lands, and help with soil & water conservation projects, and ecosystem services projects. The fund could also help protect ranch lands, historical sites, protect species of concern, provide sites for local food sources, and promote carbon sequestration.	TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Parks + TNR- Natural Resources	Not Yet Started	Court/Exec Staff Direction Code/Policy Change Additional Funding Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Resiliency, Water
Modify maintenance operations to promote native habitats for at-risk species - salvage plants from construction and maintenance projects	Incorporate elements into Travis County maintenance operations that will promote habitats for different species that are currently at-risk. Salvage plants that may otherwise be destroyed as a result of ground disturbance during construction and maintenance projects. Parks and Public Works collaborate with Natural Resources on efforts.	TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Parks + TNR-Public Works (Road & Bridge)	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Resiliency



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# PURCHASING

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Implement an <a href="#">Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy</a>	Commissioners Court adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy providing support for purchasing and procuring products and services that have the least adverse effect on human health and the quality of the environment when compared to similar products and services.	Purchasing Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	Completed		Culture, Waste
Provide <a href="#">Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Training</a> for all relevant staff	Provide EPP training to all department managers, supervisors, and shoppers.	TNR-Op Sustainability + All Departments (take training)	Ongoing		Culture, Waste
Utilize the <a href="#">Purchasing Warehouse</a> for Furniture and Other Reuse Opportunities	Travis County's Purchasing Warehouse is full of items that still have value and utility but are no longer needed by their original users. From office chairs to desks, to filing cabinets and more the Purchasing Warehouse is bursting with reuse opportunities – and low-cost supplies for County employees.	Purchasing Office	Ongoing		Culture, Waste
Use vendors/contracts to full potential	Exhaust vendor support, maximize application usage, and otherwise use all of what we pay for.	Purchasing Office + Auditor's Office	Ongoing		N/A
Develop contract language for environmental provisions	Add language that includes environmental requirements to the special provisions and specifications of Purchasing contracts (i.e. promote recycling/ waste diversion, green building practices, etc.).	Purchasing Office	In Progress		Air Quality, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Water, Waste
Use Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) or other environmentally preferable flooring in more County buildings	Install flooring options that better align with EPP policy, require less maintenance, and promote lower cost of ownership.	Facilities Management	Ongoing		Waste
Create and utilize an office supply <a href="#">Reuse Store</a>	Have a designated room for the purpose of office supply reuse. County staff members can send gently used office supplies to the reuse store and/or request available items to pick up and reuse.	TNR-Op Sustainability + TNR-Admin Services + ITS (donated room)	Ongoing		Culture, Waste
Make recycled content paper available to departments through Records Management	Make recycled content paper available to departments through Records Management	ITS (Records Management)	Initial Contract Completed	Court/Exec Staff Direction (for new contract)	Culture, Waste



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# PURCHASING

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Develop a webpage or reuse platform for County resources and supplies (office supplies, computer equipment, and other small items)	Create an online reuse platform to share County resources that will work in conjunction with the Office Supply Reuse Store.	TNR-Op Sustainability + ITS	Not Yet Started	Additional Staff Capacity	Culture, Waste
Practice Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)	Departments should opt to make green purchases, when feasible.	All Departments	Ongoing		Culture, Waste
Assist with Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) - Add EPP to contracts and make recommendations to departments on alternative green purchases	Work with Legal to develop a plug to insert EPP policy reference in contracts. Include green purchasing options to contracts during solicitation process. Give vendors credit for providing greener procurements. Upon review of purchases, make recommendations to departments on EPP/ environmentally friendly options that might be available as alternatives.	Purchasing Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress		Culture, Waste
Develop a vendor list for companies offering EPP and recycled products	Develop a list of vendors that offer EPP and recycled products.	Purchasing Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress		Culture, Waste
Recommend revision to state statutes to allow more flexibility with spending	Work with Legal and IGR to petition a change in the current state statutes that would allow more flexibility with EPP spending.	Purchasing Office + Intergovernmental Relations (IGR)	In Progress (IGR)		Culture, Waste
Issue departments purchasing cards (p-cards)	Issue p-cards to departments to help alleviate lengthy purchasing processes, at least for small or quick purchases.	Purchasing Office + Auditor's Office	Ongoing		Culture, Energy
Issue departments travel cards (t-cards)	Issue t-cards to departments for ease of making travel arrangements.	Purchasing Office + Auditor's Office	Ongoing		Culture, Energy



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# RESILIENCY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Connect <a href="#">FMD Planning</a> goals with County sustainability and resiliency work	PBO-EDSI to ensure County-wide interests are being considered as part of facility planning. Ensure scope of work and plans are connected to sustainability and resilience goals. FMD to implement the plans as recommended.	Planning & Budget Office (PBO-EDSI) + Facilities Management	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Culture, Energy, Nature, Water, Waste
Use a <a href="#">Climate Action Budget Checklist</a> to track all budget requests that will help achieve Climate Action Plan goals	Create a budget checklist that is tied to the PB5 and required as part of the budget proposal process. Use the checklist to track all requests related to climate planning.	Planning & Budget Office (PBO) + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing		Air Quality, Culture, Energy, Nature, Water, Waste
Make sure chiller systems are redundant using either multiple chillers or chillers with auxiliary power	Ensure all chillers have built in redundancy so an outage doesn't take the whole system/facility down.	Facilities Management	In Progress		Energy
Shore up facilities to prepare for extreme cold/freezing	Add heat strips to be used as auxiliary emergency heat to boost systems during severe cold/ freezing spells.	Facilities Management	In Progress		Energy
Implement strategies to reduce the urban heat island effect	Implement strategies to support heat resilience efforts and combat extreme heat. Preserve/create green spaces at our facilities. Use vegetation, trees, and shade elements to provide cool oases. Provide shade structures around playgrounds/playscapes, and provide public access to creeks, lakes, trails, and waterbodies. Utilize the <a href="#">City of Austin's Heat Resilience Playbook</a> as a model for other ideas.	Facilities Management + TNR-Parks	In Progress		Nature
Educate on grant opportunities that could help achieve goals in the Climate Action Plan	Provide information on grant opportunities that could help implement and support projects related to the CAP that otherwise may lack funding.	Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) + TNR-Env Resilience + TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing		Air Quality, Culture, Energy, Nature, Water, Waste
Recommend changes to state statutes and bills that affect operations pertaining to CAP goals	Help departments make recommendations/changes to state statutes and bills that affect CAP goals as related to operational sustainability and resiliency.	Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) + TNR-NREQ	Ongoing		Air Quality, Culture, Energy, Nature, Water, Waste



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# RESILIENCY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Develop a <a href="#">Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan</a> (Emergency Operations Plan)	The plan outlines Travis County's responsibility for identifying and mitigating hazards, preparing for and responding to emergencies, and managing the recovery from emergency situations that affect our community.	OEM	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity	N/A
Implement a <a href="#">Hazard Mitigation Plan</a>	Used to identify local hazards, (such as heavy rains and flooding, extreme heat, and wildfire), assess risks, and identify mitigation goals and priorities. Hazard mitigation activities are an investment in a community's safety and sustainability. A comprehensive update to a hazard mitigation plan addresses hazard vulnerabilities that exist today and in the foreseeable future.	OEM	Completed		N/A
Increase Emergency Management staff	Ensure Emergency Management has sufficient staff to plan for and respond to incidents or events more efficiently. Increase staff to assist with education and outreach efforts.	OEM	Ongoing		N/A
Utilize the <a href="#">Austin/Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan</a>	Used to develop a regional strategy to increase wildfire preparedness by restoring and maintaining landscapes, creating and supporting Fire-Adapted Communities, and implementing a risk-based management response to wildfires. Primary tool that communities and stakeholders should use to prepare for wildfires.	Emergency Services + TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Parks + Austin Fire Department (AFD)	In Progress	Additional Funding	Air Quality
Expand food harvesting at the TCCC	Gardens, aquaponics, and hydroponics are utilized to grow food on site at the Travis County correctional facility which is then consumed in the cafeteria. Excess food can also be donated to the local food banks.	Sheriff's Office	In Progress	Additional Funding Additional Staff Capacity	Culture, Waste
Adopt Flood Mapping and Permitting Program	Adopt Atlas 14 standards to limit development in the floodplain to ensure new construction is not built in areas that will be prone to flooding events or are built to a standard to withstand 100-year flood events. See Travis County code sections <a href="#">482</a> and <a href="#">464</a> .	TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	Completed		N/A



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# RESILIENCY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Utilize the <a href="#">Land Water and Transportation Plan</a> (LWTP)	The LWTP is a framework for formulating and enacting policies and capital improvement programs to guide growth while protecting critical natural resources in unincorporated Travis County. The plan specifically addresses county services provided through the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) Department, including regulating development in floodplains, mitigating the impacts of wildfire, flood, and other natural hazards, and protecting natural resources within the county's jurisdiction.	TNR- Development Services and Long-Range Planning	Ongoing		Air Quality, Nature, Water
Utilize the <a href="#">Transportation Blueprint</a>	The Blueprint is a regulatory document that is used to help balance growth and the environment. Focuses on the following programs and strategies: roads, transit, active transportation, safety, resiliency, technology, partnerships, transportation management.	TNR- Development Services and Long-Range Planning	Completed		Air Quality
Expand the prescribed burn program in Travis County Parks and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve	Include all parklands and preserves in the prescribed burn program, as applicable. Planned burning is predicable, easier to control, and has many benefits. It helps to sequester carbon, reduces the risk of wildfires, helps with habitat restoration, increases biodiversity, helps endangered species, and reduces the chemicals that are emitted into the air from wildfires.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources	Ongoing		Air Quality, Nature
Implement food harvesting at Gardner Betts	Develop gardens on site and install a hydroponics system which can be utilized to grow food for the residents at the detention center.	Juvenile Probation	In Progress		N/A
Develop County-wide Health & Safety Guidelines for outdoor workers in extreme heat/cold	Develop County-wide guidelines for employees that work in extreme weather conditions. Expand beyond individual department guidelines to provide more consistency throughout organization. Implement trainings in these areas.	HRMD	Not Yet Started		Culture
Implement a Sustainable Jail Plan	Complete and implement a Sustainable Jail Plan to help increase awareness of sustainability, reduce recidivism, reduce energy and water usage, promote waste reduction, support local food systems, reduce use of toxic materials, and expand green purchasing.	Sheriff's Office + TNR-Op Sustainability	Not Yet Started	Additional Staff Capacity	Culture, Energy, Purchasing, Water, Waste
Develop a Sustainability Plan for Gardner Betts	Develop and implement a plan similar to the Sustainable Jail Plan. Intent of the plan should be to increase awareness of sustainability, reduce recidivism, reduce energy and water usage, promote waste reduction, support local food systems, reduce use of toxic materials, and expand green purchasing.	Juvenile Probation + TNR-Op Sustainability	Not Yet Started	Additional Staff Capacity	Culture, Energy, Purchasing, Water, Waste



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# RESILIENCY

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Participate in the Good Food Purchasing Program	Enroll in AISD program to improve food standards based on core values such as environmental sustainability, nutrition, animal welfare, etc.	Juvenile Probation	Ongoing		N/A
Replace concrete/cement with alternate materials	Find alternatives to concrete and cement that will lessen the carbon footprint and reduce the heat island effect. Seek products for the roadway recycling program that uses materials other than dry cement.	TNR-Public Works	Ongoing		Air Quality
Require Low Impact Development (LID) for construction in Travis County	Require LID practices on Capital Improvement Projects, when feasible. Work on developing Travis County technical standards as a first step towards requiring/incentivizing LID on other land development projects.	TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Public Works (CIP) + TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	In Progress	Code/Policy Change, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Nature, Water
Expand stabilization efforts to allow more native and adaptive vegetation	Develop technical standards as a first step to redefine compliance regarding stabilization efforts. Look for ways to incentivize developers to move beyond traditional permanent stabilization methods and towards methods that would require less watering.	TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Public Works (CIP) + TNR-Development Services and Long-Range Planning	Not Yet Started	Code/Policy Change, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Nature, Water
Create policy to implement the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) resolution	Update existing Parks policy on integrated pest management. Expand to create a county-wide policy to implement the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) resolution from 2019 that calls for ensuring pesticides that are especially harmful for bees are not used.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources + Facilities Management	In Progress (Parks & NR)	Additional Staff Capacity (Parks)	N/A
Apply SITES Certification for County Projects	Apply SITES to County projects to promote a framework for designing sustainable and resilient landscapes.	TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Parks + TNR-Public Works (CIP)	In Progress (NR), Not Yet Started (Parks)	Additional Staff Capacity (Parks)	Nature, Water
Utilize Texas State Vulnerability Assessment report and tools to improve resilience of County facilities, infrastructure, and services	Use Facility Planning Investment Tool to prioritize resilience investments for County-owned facilities based on building purpose, hazard risk, and existing resilience investments. Use the Climate Impacts and Solutions Viewer to better understand how climate hazards may affect departmental assets and functions, and to see examples of strategies to increase resilience to those impacts.	PBO (EDSI) + All Departments (utilization)	Not Yet Started	Additional Staff Capacity	N/A

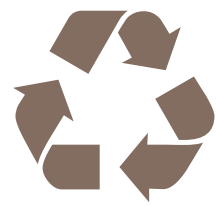


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# WASTE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Fully Implement a Travis County <a href="#">Operational Sustainability Program</a>	Travis County has a dedicated team charged with overseeing waste reduction, working with departments to reduce the County's environmental impacts, and promoting an overall cultural shift towards a greener way of doing business.	TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Air Quality, Culture, Energy, Nature, Resiliency, Purchasing, Water
Promote a Binder Reuse Program	This program traditionally collected surplus binders from Travis County operations and donated them to AISD so they could be reused by teachers and students. As many processes have moved digital the need for binders has reduced, lessening the need for this program. Excess binders are now housed in the Reuse Store at 700 Lavaca and have become part of the reuse inventory set aside for County employees.	TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing		Culture, Purchasing
Implement the <a href="#">Recycling Participation Order</a>	Order directs all departments of the Commissioners Court to participate in the County recycling program. The Operational Sustainability Team works to ensure there are scheduled recycling services where feasible, and departments are recycling all items from tires, to brush, to hazardous waste, and more. Dedicated programs have also been implemented to recycle used toner and ink cartridges, and used batteries, some of which generate revenue for the County.	TNR-Op Sustainability + All Departments	Ongoing	Code/Policy Change, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Recycle all fluids, oils, batteries, etc. from County Fleet operations	TNR's Fleet division to recycle oil, batteries, and other automotive parts that can no longer be used for the County Fleet.	TNR-Public Works (Fleet) + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing	Code/Policy Change, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Collect recycling (in addition to trash) in all buildings as part of custodial efforts	Ensure equal custodial collection service for recycling and trash at all County facilities.	Facilities Management + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity (Parks)	Culture
Install water bottle filling stations and encourage reusable bottle use	Replace water fountains with water bottle refill stations to minimize the amount of waste produced.	TNR-Natural Resources + TNR-Parks + TNR-Public Works (CIP)	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity (Parks)	Culture, Water



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# WASTE

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Organize <a href="#">Lake Travis Cleanup</a> and East Side <a href="#">Spring Clean</a> events	Organize events to help clean up shorelines, waterways, hiking trails and more throughout west and east side Travis County parks. In addition to the cleanup effort, these events promote recycling and waste diversion in our parks.	TNR-Parks + TNR-Water Quality	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity	Culture, Water
Expand the County Composting Program	Continue the composting program/collection that has been fully established at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center. Continue in-house composting at the TCCC and expand to collection services. Expand composting to other departments, as feasible.	Juvenile Probation + Sheriff's Office	In Progress		Culture
Install cleaning/disinfectant generators at the TCCC to produce cleaning agents onsite	Install generators that will produce cleaning agents on site at the jail. This eliminates the single use packaging that typical disinfectants are stored in when purchased.	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	Additional Funding, Additional Staff Capacity, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Create centralized recycling and waste collection areas in County facilities	Implement centralized recycling and waste collection areas in new buildings, and in older facilities where feasible.	Facilities Management + TNR-Op Sustainability	In Progress	Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture
Reduce the menu of printer products that need to be supported	Examine printing consumption and identify opportunities to streamline printer products, reduce waste, and save money and resources. Expand to include other items in the future.	ITS + TNR-Op Sustainability	Ongoing	Additional Staff Capacity (Parks)	Culture
Provide incentives for contractors to recycle more waste from construction and demolition sites	Offer incentives to contractors to improve waste diversion efforts and reduce illegal dumping around the county.	TNR-Stormwater + TNR-Op Sustainability	Not Yet Started	Code/Policy Change, Additional Staff Capacity, Court/Exec Staff Direction	Culture



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# WATER

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Utilize Reclaimed Water for Building Cooling ( <a href="#">Purple Pipe Project</a> )	Travis County connects to the City of Austin's purple pipe and uses reclaimed water for cooling. The following downtown facilities are already connected to the system: Criminal Justice Complex (CJC)/Gault building, the HMS County Courthouse, 700 Lavaca, and Ned Granger. The South Community Center is connected for irrigation and internal plumbing. The Sheriff's Office is also working on a purple pipe connection at the Del Valle correctional complex. As additional buildings are built or acquired, they will be evaluated for their potential to connect to the purple pipe. The County should continuously look for ways to extend the purple pipe to additional buildings, as well as expand ways in which to use the reclaimed water in the facilities. These efforts save water and taxpayers' money.	Facilities Management + Sheriff's Office	In Progress		Culture
Fix toilets, sinks, and appliances that are leaking or aren't functioning properly	Utilize maintenance staff to fix appliances that are leaking or malfunctioning to help conserve water.	Facilities Management + TNR-Parks	Ongoing		N/A
Implement Water Efficient Irrigation Methods at Facilities and Parks	Implement irrigation methods that will save water, such as the utilization of reclaimed water, rainwater collection systems, and other water conservation practices, as feasible.	Facilities Management + TNR-Parks	In Progress	Additional Funding	Resiliency
Use native plants, and other landscaping methods that require less watering	Implement landscaping strategies that require less watering such as incorporating drought tolerant plants, synthetic fields, limit irrigated zones, flower beds and annuals, plant more wildflowers, and designate no-mow zone areas.	Facilities Management + TNR-Parks + TNR-Natural Resources	In Progress	Additional Funding	Nature, Resiliency



Table of Activities

# WATER

Activity or Goal	Description	Responsible Party	Status	Resources Needed	Secondary Focus Area(s)
Fully Implement a Travis County Water Quality Program	Travis County implemented a new program in 2024 with dedicated resources and staff to oversee efforts related to water quality in local streams and rivers. This program collects quarterly water quality data throughout the county, has initiated a wastewater discharge tracking project to monitor point source pollution, and participates in numerous outreach activities including water sampling demonstrations and presentations at conferences, schools, and tabling events.	TNR-Water Quality	In Progress	Additional Staff Capacity	Nature, Resiliency
Install water-saving plumbing features such as aerators and low-flow toilets. Install automatic sensors to conserve water.	Ensure all new toilets and urinals are water efficient. Retrofit older buildings with water-efficient fixtures and appliances (sinks, toilets, etc.), when feasible. Install automatic sensors on sinks and irrigation systems to conserve water. Include language in plumbing feature contracts related to water efficiency.	Facilities Management + TNR-Parks	Ongoing		Culture
Expand the Purple Pipe connections to include Parks	The City of Austin has expanded their reclaimed water lines along FM 973. Work to get the Del Valle softball fields connected to this system.	TNR-Parks	In Progress	Additional Funding	Culture

# MEASURING PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS



# MEASURING PROGRESS

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Travis County's Operational Sustainability Team (Conserve) will continue to have a key role in measuring progress on the implementation of the internal Climate Action Plan. Although it is up to the individual departments to implement the specific goals, policies, and other activities, the Conserve Team will continue to act as a super-connector, gather data on the County's environmental initiatives, and compile the information into an annual Sustainability Report.

This report tracks progress throughout the year, highlights success stories, and quantifies our emissions by way of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. This information is then presented to the Commissioners Court each year.

The plan will be reevaluated on a periodic basis to ensure the County stays up to date with the latest technological and scientific developments and is aligned with our current business practices and will be updated as needed.



# Recommended Next Steps

**1.**

Continue progress on existing activities, and work towards implementing new goals to lower pollution

**2.**

Put additional emphasis on enrolling all County facilities in Green Utility Programs and expanding our connections with the City of Austin's purple pipe system

**3.**

Continue to connect with other local governments to share resources and explore best management practices

**4.**

Encourage departments that do not report to the Commissioners Court to adopt and commit to initiatives that align with the Climate Action Plan

**5.**

Hire a third-party consultant to identify measurable actions and create a strategic plan and implementation framework to significantly reduce pollution from County operations

**6.**

Explore new ways to develop our education and outreach efforts across our organization, helping to promote a culture shift towards greener and more resilient ways of doing business

**7.**

Expand our Green Team efforts to continue bridging the gaps between the different departments across Travis County

# THE GREEN TEAM



# THE GREEN TEAM

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As directed by the Commissioners Court, the County organized a Green Team to help move waste diversion efforts and other environmental initiatives forward within the organization. The 'Recycling Participation Order' approved in 2015 to support this directive states the following:

***Each department head will seek appropriate volunteers, or assign an employee or multiple employees, if necessary, to the Tavis County Green Team.***

Although the original intent of the order was to develop a team focused primarily on recycling efforts in County facilities, its mission has broadened over the years. The Green Team is made up of dedicated and passionate individuals across the organization who volunteer their time and lead by example to help conserve resources, promote climate initiatives, and educate their peers to help further Travis County's sustainability efforts.



# THE GREEN TEAM

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The Green Team also provides a safe platform for representatives of different County departments to ask questions and discuss the many challenges we face due to overheating and extreme weather. It is an opportunity for employees to gather information, highlight success stories, and share resources. But above all, it is an opportunity to educate. It helps to expand staff knowledge of environmental issues, how they connect to our daily lives at work and at home, and what we can do to be a part of the solution.



Green Teams have become an integral part of climate planning across organizations and entities and have proven successful in bringing awareness to environmental issues. They also promote collaboration and cooperation among employees to reach new heights in our efforts to lower organizational pollution. Travis County's Green Team will play a valuable role in implementing the goals of our Climate Action Plan for years to come.

# THANK YOU!

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We'd like to thank the following County departments, divisions, and work groups for their participation in the 2024 meetings that helped develop and shape this updated Climate Action Plan (in alphabetical order):

Auditor's Office  
Community Legal Services  
Emergency Services  
Facilities Management Department (FMD)  
Health & Human Services (HHS)  
Human Resources Management Department (HRMD)  
Innovative Justice & Program Analysis  
Intergovernmental Relations (IGR)

Information Technology Service (ITS)  
Juvenile Probation  
Planning & Budget Office (PBO)  
Public Information Office (PIO)  
Purchasing Office  
Sheriff's Office  
TNR-Admin Services  
TNR-Air Quality

TNR-Development Services & Long-Range Planning  
TNR-Environmental Resilience  
TNR-Natural Resources  
TNR-Operational Sustainability  
TNR-Parks  
TNR-Public Works  
TNR-Stormwater  
TNR-Water Quality

It gives us great pride to acknowledge how many departments that do not report to the Commissioners Court have voluntarily participated in this effort!

We'd also like to extend special thanks to our Judge and County Commissioners for their commitment to making Travis County safer, cleaner, and healthier.

Furthermore, we express our gratitude to our external partners who continue to share resources and offer guidance and direction in helping us work towards our goal of net-zero climate pollution.

Finally, thanks to all our participating Green Team members for your constant and unrelenting dedication to this cause!



# APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** A measure that expresses the impact of various greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide needed to produce the same global warming effect.

**Carbon Footprint:** The amount or calculated value of greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with the activities of an individual or other entity (i.e. building, organization, nation, etc.).

**Carbon Sequestration:** The process of capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Climate Change:** The process in which there is a shift in the Earth's average weather patterns primarily due to human activities.

**Environmental Resilience:** The capacity of an ecosystem to respond to disturbances by resisting damage and subsequently recovering.

**Green Utility Programs:** Optional programs offered by utility companies that allow customers to purchase renewable energy.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Gases (i.e. carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, etc.) that are emitted into the atmosphere and can absorb infrared radiation (heat energy) and redirect it back to the Earth's surface, thus contributing to global warming.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory:** A detailed list of all greenhouse gas emissions produced by a specific source or activity.

**Global Warming:** The rise in the Earth's surface and water temperatures due to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Nature-Based Solutions:** Actions aimed at protecting, conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing natural or modified ecosystems.

**Net-Zero Emissions:** The state where the amount of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed.

**Purple Pipe System:** The City of Austin's reclaimed water system.

**Reclaimed Water:** Wastewater from homes and businesses that has been treated and recycled and is safe for non-potable water usage such as irrigation, toilet flushing, and air conditioning systems.

**Renewable Energy (aka Green Energy):** Energy made from natural resources that can be replenished on a human timescale (i.e. solar, wind, hydropower, etc.).

**Renewable Energy Credits (RECs):** Credits that are sold to offset carbon emissions or meet renewable energy targets. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy source.

**Sustainability:** The ability to maintain or support economic, environmental, or social processes over time without depleting natural resources.

**Waste Diversion:** The process of diverting waste materials away from the landfills towards more environmentally friendly alternatives.