

Cornerstone

A cornerstone strategy in a CAP refers to a foundational approach or key initiative that is essential for achieving the plan's overall goals. It serves as a primary focus and supports the implementation of other strategies by providing a solid framework, significant impact, or critical support.

Cornerstone strategies are typically characterized by their broad scope, potential for high impact, and their role in facilitating or enabling other actions within the climate action plan.

The Humboldt Regional Cornerstone Strategy focuses on the establishment of a coalition between jurisdictions and key organizations to guide a regional approach to climate-related challenges through coordinated efforts. Given the rural nature of the region and its dispersed population, individual municipalities and even the larger incorporated cities face significant constraints in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions due to limited resources (e.g. staffing and funding). These constraints can be overcome through a coordinated and collaborative approach to RCAP implementation. Through a collaborative approach the region can more effectively identify and build efficiencies, attract and share resources (e.g., funding, staff time), and undertake regional infrastructure initiatives needed to enhance capacity and interconnectivity in sectors such as solid waste and transportation, thereby reducing GHG emissions as outlined in the RCAP Measures.

Strategy 1: Development of a regional climate coalition

Collaboration between jurisdictions in rural areas is crucial for leveraging limited resources and accessing state and federal funding earmarked for climate-related projects. Humboldt recognizes that a regional approach to implementing the RCAP is essential to achieving the significant GHG reductions needed to meet both regional and individual municipality goals. This Strategy is considered the cornerstone of the RCAP and will be the first to be implemented. As the region's first RCAP, establishing a collaborative approach to expanding and improving shared infrastructure, such as an interconnected energy and transportation system and regional waste management solutions, is necessary to successfully achieve GHG reductions in each sector.

Measure C-1: Establish a Regional Climate Committee comprised of representatives from each jurisdiction, HTA, HCAOG, HWMA, and RCEA.

Measure C-1 commits the region to establishing a Regional Climate Committee and governance to serve as a regional coalition. This committee would include representatives from municipalities across Humboldt County as well as representatives from regional agencies such as the HTA, HCAOG, HWMA, and RCEA, and other partner organizations. The purpose of this coalition is to foster collaboration and coordination among the region to address climate-related challenges and implement effective climate action strategies. By bringing together key parties from various sectors and jurisdictions, Measure C-1 leverages collective expertise, resources, and efficiencies to tackle climate change at a regional level. The committee would support RCAP implementation through information sharing, coordination of RCAP efforts, development of joint initiatives to reduce GHG emissions, support and pursue funding, and promote sustainable development practices. The Regional Climate Committee is integral to the implementation of all RCAP Measures detailed in the following sections. Actions, co-benefits, key performance indicator, and specific quantitative GHG emissions reductions associated with implementation of Measure C-1 are included in Table 3.

Table 3 Measure C-1 Actions

Action ID	Attribute	Action
C-1a	Structural	Pursue and obtain funding to create a Climate Program Manager position to lead the coordination efforts of the Regional Climate Committee. The Regional Climate Committee will be responsible for implementing RCAP measures and actions. The Climate Program Manager will facilitate the work of the Regional Climate Committee made up of responsible parties from each of the region's jurisdictions and agencies. The Manager will work with the Committee to utilize the RCAP as a strategic plan outlining the goals of the Coalition. The Manager will coordinate with staff of the participating jurisdictions and agencies to undertake the work directed by the Committee. Finally, the Manager will develop an annual progress report on RCAP implementation annually to City Councils and County Supervisors to measure progress and establish accountability in achieving RCAP emissions reduction goals.
C-1b	Structural	The Regional Climate Committee will develop and provide models, pilot programs, and template policies or ordinances that enable each jurisdiction in the region to implement uniform changes and facilitating local communities in making the necessary structural adjustments to reduce GHG emissions. This will reduce inefficiencies and duplication of effort while ensuring a coordinated regional approach.
C-1c	Engagement	Develop and distribute promotional materials and programs across the region to inform the community, gain buy-in, and promote awareness of new and existing programs and opportunities. Leveraging the Regional Climate Committee to prepare such materials will allow for limited resources in the region to be pooled on such efforts thereby reducing strain on jurisdictional staff.
C-1d	Equity	Leverage regional programs to engage and support frontline communities that may experience secondary impacts or not benefit directly from the measures' objectives. Ensure these communities can access regional resources or funding opportunities to mitigate identified impacts and benefit the entire community. The Regional Climate Committee will be charged with engaging with regional programs and identifying appropriate community-based organizations to lead and guide such engagement efforts to ensure voices of vulnerable communities are involved in RCAP implementation and planning.
C-1d	Feasibility Study	Utilize regional resources to conduct efficient regional studies, avoiding redundancy, that provide a clear understanding of the details, obstacles, and feasibility of proposed programs. This includes necessary analyses to identify the best path forward or the feasibility of implementing specific measures. The Regional Climate Committee will aid in identifying the regional expertise and coordinating studies across the region to limit duplication of efforts.
C-1e	Funding	Collaborate regionally to identify and pursue relevant and impactful grants and financial backing to facilitate RCAP implementation across the region. Ensure resources and efforts are directed towards securing funds that can be distributed across the region, such as grants or rebates to support measure implementation and adequate program staffing. Direct the Regional Climate Committee to pursue 3-5 grants for regional efforts to meet RCAP goals per year.
C-1f	Partnership	Use the collaborative network of local jurisdictions, agencies, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to attract additional internal and external support

Action ID	Attribute	Action
		and expertise. This includes engaging community organizations that are well-positioned to consistently and sustainably advance specific measures. Leverage the Regional Climate Committee to identify and provide assistance to local jurisdictions’ high priority project pursuits which support the RCAP.
2030 GHG Emissions Reduction:		Supportive/Critical
2045 GHG Emissions Reduction:		Supportive/Critical
Co-Benefits:		Public Health & Equity, Increased Resilience, Green Jobs
KPI:		Establishment of Committee; Progress reports
