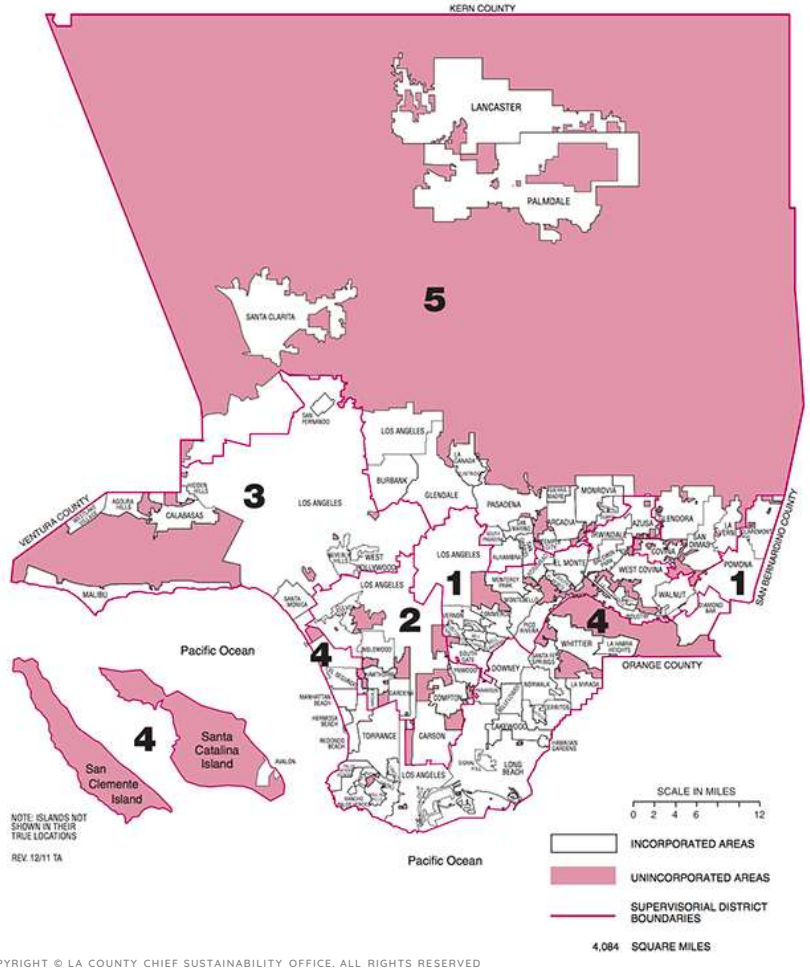
Countywide Sustainability Plan

LA County Chief Sustainability Office

Background

County of Los Angeles



- Inhabited for more than 10,000 years, most of that time the land of the Chumash, Tongva, and Tataviam tribes
- 1 out of 4 Californians and 1 in 33 Americans lives in Los Angeles county
- 200+ languages spoken
- Diverse geography: coasts, mountains, deserts
- At 4,084 square miles, the county is larger than several U.S. states
- An economy that would put LA in the G-20 if we were a country.
- 88 incorporated cities and 120+ unincorporated communities

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The County's Aims & Roles

The plan is:

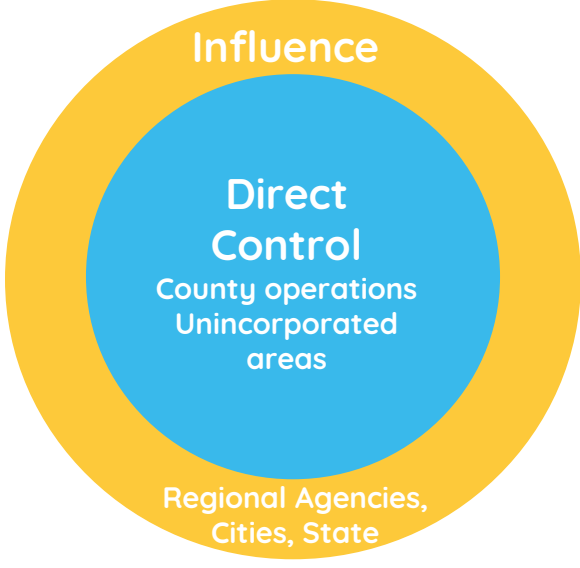
- Aspirational, Comprehensive, Long-Term, Regional, Actionable

Plan is analogous to a strategic plan

- Sets out a vision and strategy, but does not include a detailed implementation strategy

Plan mostly addresses areas of County's control

- Does include some areas where we can influence others (Metro, South Coast AQMD, etc.)



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Countywide Sustainability Plan Topics

- Water
- Energy
- Climate
- Air Quality
- Land Use and Transportation
- Open Space, Recreation and Habitat/Biodiversity
- Resource Recovery and Waste Management
- Public Health and Well-Being
- Economy and Workforce Development
- Housing

Equity & Resilience woven throughout

Alignment with LA City Sustainability pLAn refresh where appropriate

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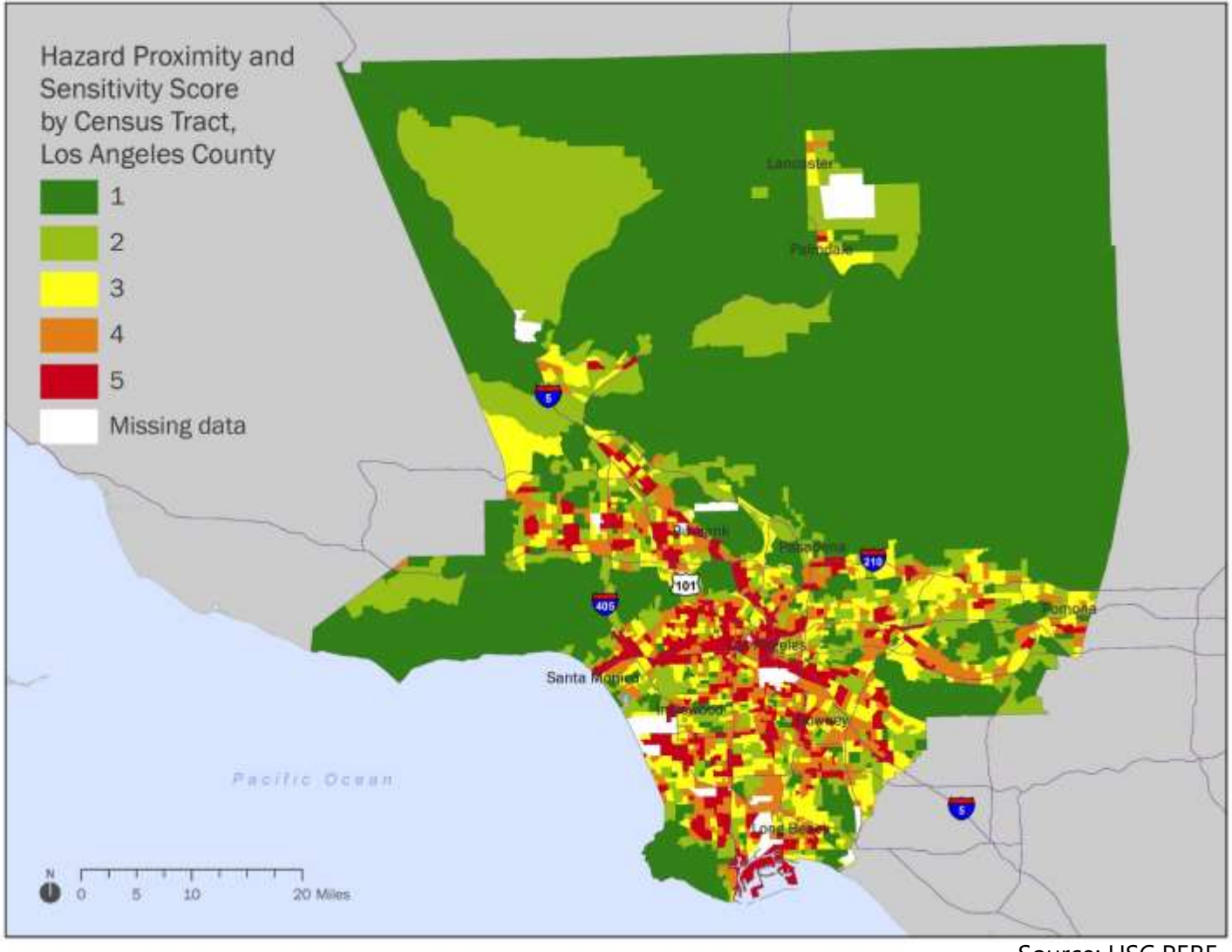

Source: USC PERE

OurCounty

- Home to 50% of all census tracts deemed by the State of California to be the most disadvantaged (95th percentile or higher per CalEnviroScreen)
- Note hazards in relation to freeway corridors

Engagement

OurCounty

Guiding Principles for Equitable Engagement

- Ask, don't tell (aka: listen, don't talk)
- Intersectional approach
- Centering around environmental justice (EJ) and low-income communities and communities of color
- Early and deep involvement by community-based organizations (CBOs)

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Public Engagement

- More than 200 meetings and presentations to business groups, community and nonprofit organizations, cities and other public entities, labor, tribes, academics, etc.
  - 11 half-day+ workshops attended by 600 people from 350 organizations.
  - Cities Summit to discuss regional coordination and collaboration.

- Generated 6,000 recommendations which were turned into 500 specific actions.
  - April 2019 Discussion Draft further refined content to 150 actions.

- An additional 50 meetings once the draft was released. The Discussion Draft Plan generated 800 specific public comments.

- Board of Supervisor adopted in August 2019.

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What's in the plan?

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Goals, Strategies, and Actions

OurCounty

Goals

Broad statement of a desired future state

Strategies

More specific statement on the approach to achieve the goal

Actions

Detailed statements on the policy or program to fulfill the strategy

"Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement."

"Ensure that housing and infrastructure and improvement do not facilitate displacement, particularly of disadvantaged communities."

"Implement substantive resident and small business protect measures to avoid displacement impacts from community investments, including rent control, just cause eviction and right-to-return" ordinances."

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High Level Goals

OurCounty

- Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place
- Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience
- Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement
- A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to clean economy sectors
- Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity
- Accessible parks, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities

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High Level Goals

OurCounty

A fossil fuel-free LA County

A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that expands mobility while reducing car dependency

Sustainable production and consumption of resources

A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food

Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that supports participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities

A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships

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Performance Monitoring

OurCounty

Goals (12)

Broad, aspirational statement of what we want to achieve

Strategies (37)

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

Actions (148)

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

Performance Monitoring

Targets

Levels of performance

Indicators

Quantitative measures that are used to assess performance

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Targets

- Numeric targets tied to strategies set for short term (2025), medium term (2035), and long term (2045) unless end point is achieved earlier.
- Targets are set countywide as well as for unincorporated areas and/or County facilities and operations as appropriate.

Strategy 1A	Targets
Increase housing affordability	**Countywide:** **2025** • 110,000 new affordable units **2035** • 300,000 new affordable units **2045** • 585,000 new affordable units **Unincorporated Areas:** **2025** • Meet 25% of very low/low income RHNA target **2035** • Meet 50% of very low/low income RHNA target **2045** • Meet 100% of very low/low income RHNA target

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Targets

Strategy 7B	Targets
Create a zero-emission transportation system	**Countywide:** **2025** • 60,000 new public EV charging stations (2018 baseline) **2035** • 130,000 new public EV charging stations (2018 baseline) **2045** • 100% of all new light-duty private vehicles are zero-emission vehicles

Strategy 8A	Targets
Reduce vehicle miles traveled by prioritizing alternative single occupancy vehicles	**Countywide:** **2025** • At least 15% of all trips will be by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit **2035** • At least 30% of all trips will be by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit **2045** • At least 50% of all trips will be by foot, bike, micromobility, or public transit

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What's in an action?

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Action 12

Complete development and start implementation of the Green Zones Program.

Horizon:	1	Short Term
Sphere of influence:	2	Direct Control
Lead County entity:	3	Department of Regional Planning
Partners:	4	DCBA, TTC
Topic Tags:	5	Air Quality, Equity, Land Use, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management

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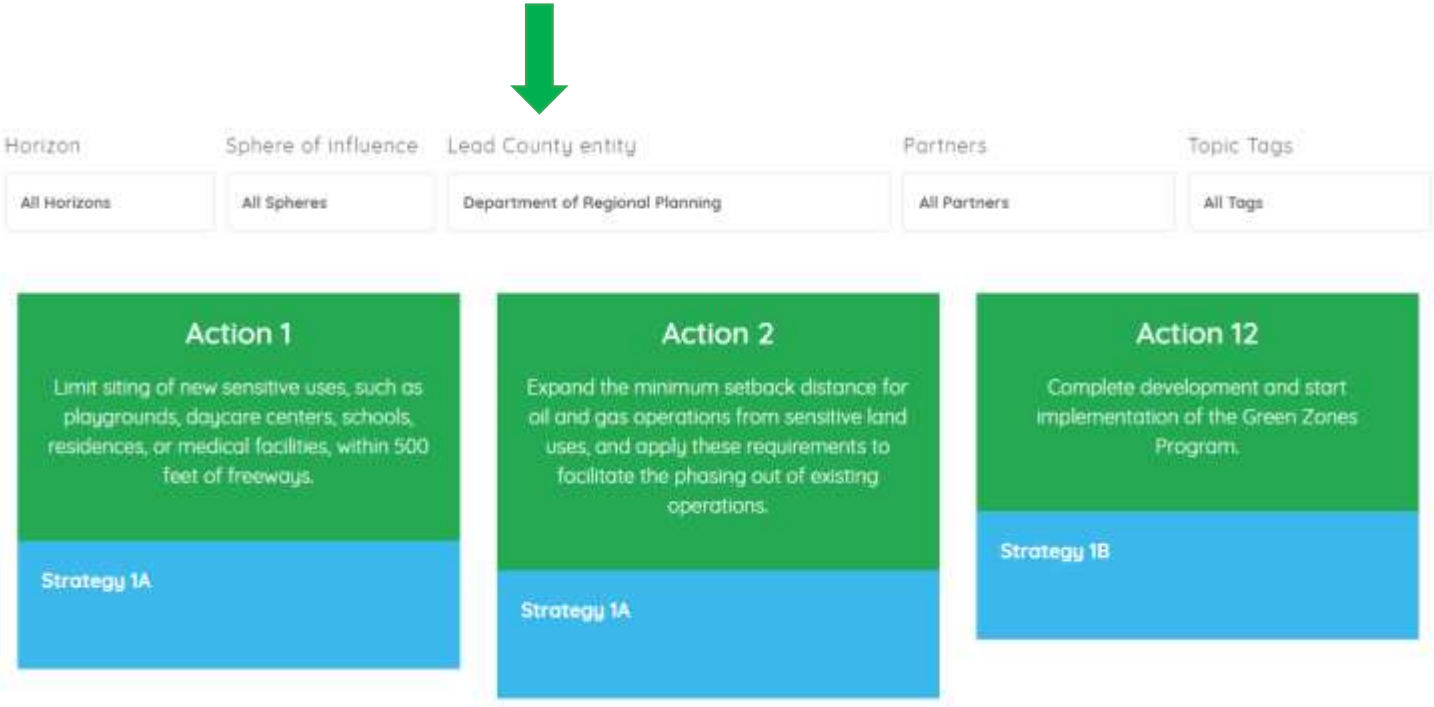
Exploring OurCountyLA.org



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Exploring OurCountyLA.org

OurCounty

Horizon	Sphere of influence	Lead County entity	Partners	Topic Tags
All Horizons	All Spheres	Department of Regional Planning	All Partners	Housing

Action 13

Identify and implement best practices to preserve and increase the amount of affordable housing proximate to job centers, transit, and open space amenities.

Strategy 1C

Action 15

Adopt an inclusionary housing ordinance that requires affordable housing as part of all new multifamily projects.

Strategy 1C

Action 43

Pilot a land use tool that allows for duplex, triplex, and secondary units in areas of low housing density.

Strategy 3A

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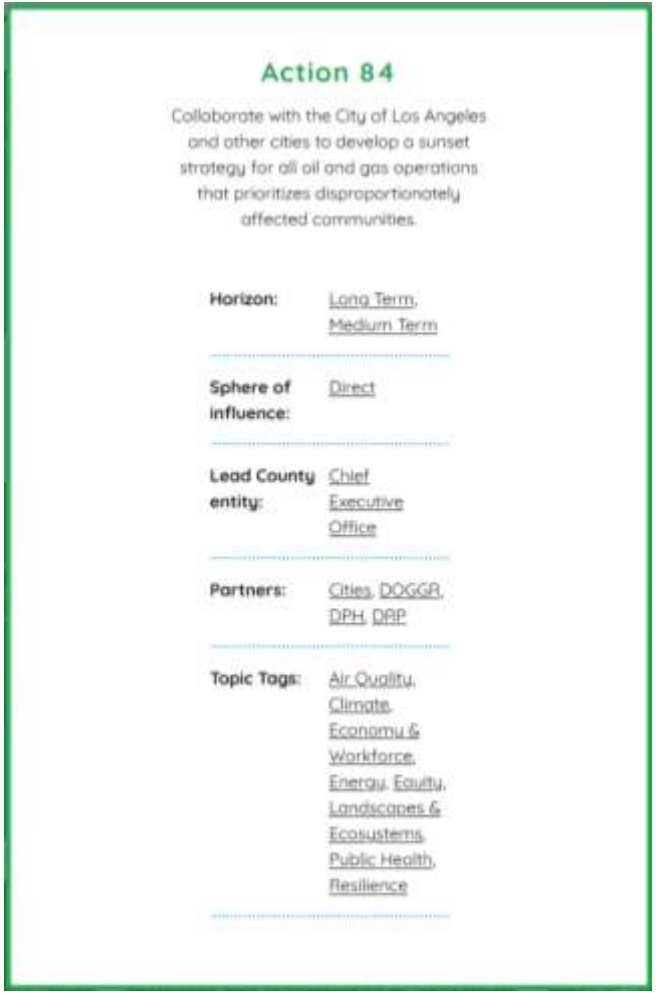
Example Action: Sunset Oil & Gas Operations



Action 84

Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles and other cities to develop a sunset strategy for all oil and gas operations that prioritizes disproportionately affected communities.

Horizon:	Long Term, Medium Term
Sphere of influence:	Direct
Lead County entity:	Chief Executive Office
Partners:	Cities, DOGGR, DPH, DRP
Topic Tags:	Air Quality, Climate, Economy & Workforce, Energy, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health, Resilience

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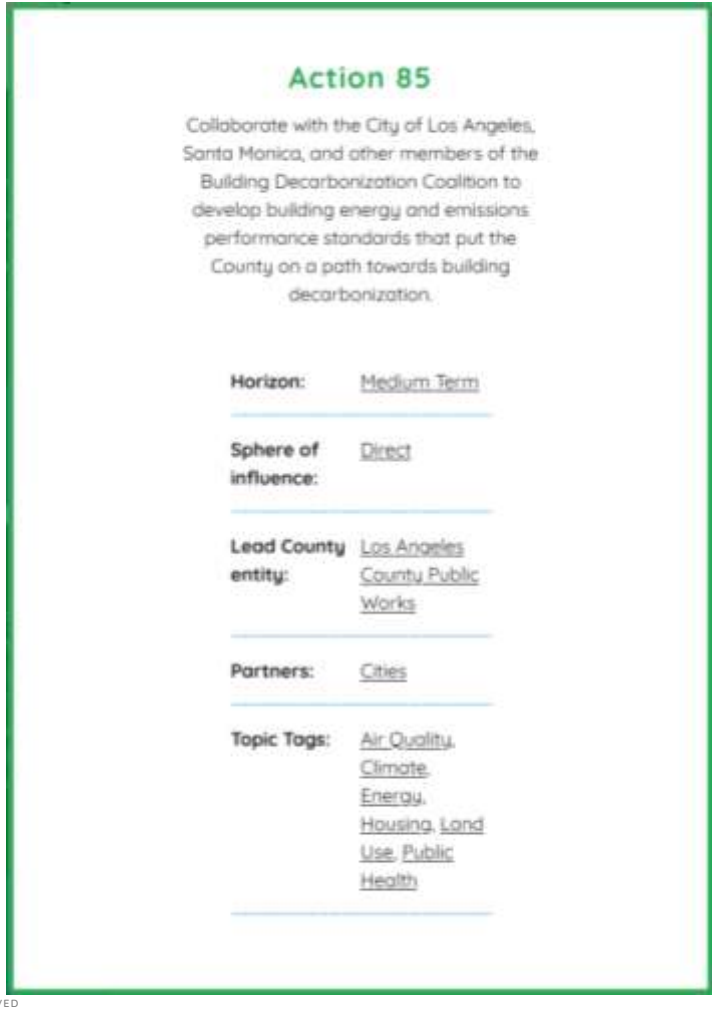
Example Action: Building Decarbonization



Action 85

Collaborate with the City of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and other members of the Building Decarbonization Coalition to develop building energy and emissions performance standards that put the County on a path towards building decarbonization.

Horizon:	Medium Term
Sphere of influence:	Direct
Lead County entity:	Los Angeles County Public Works
Partners:	Cities
Topic Tags:	Air Quality, Climate, Energy, Housing, Land Use, Public Health

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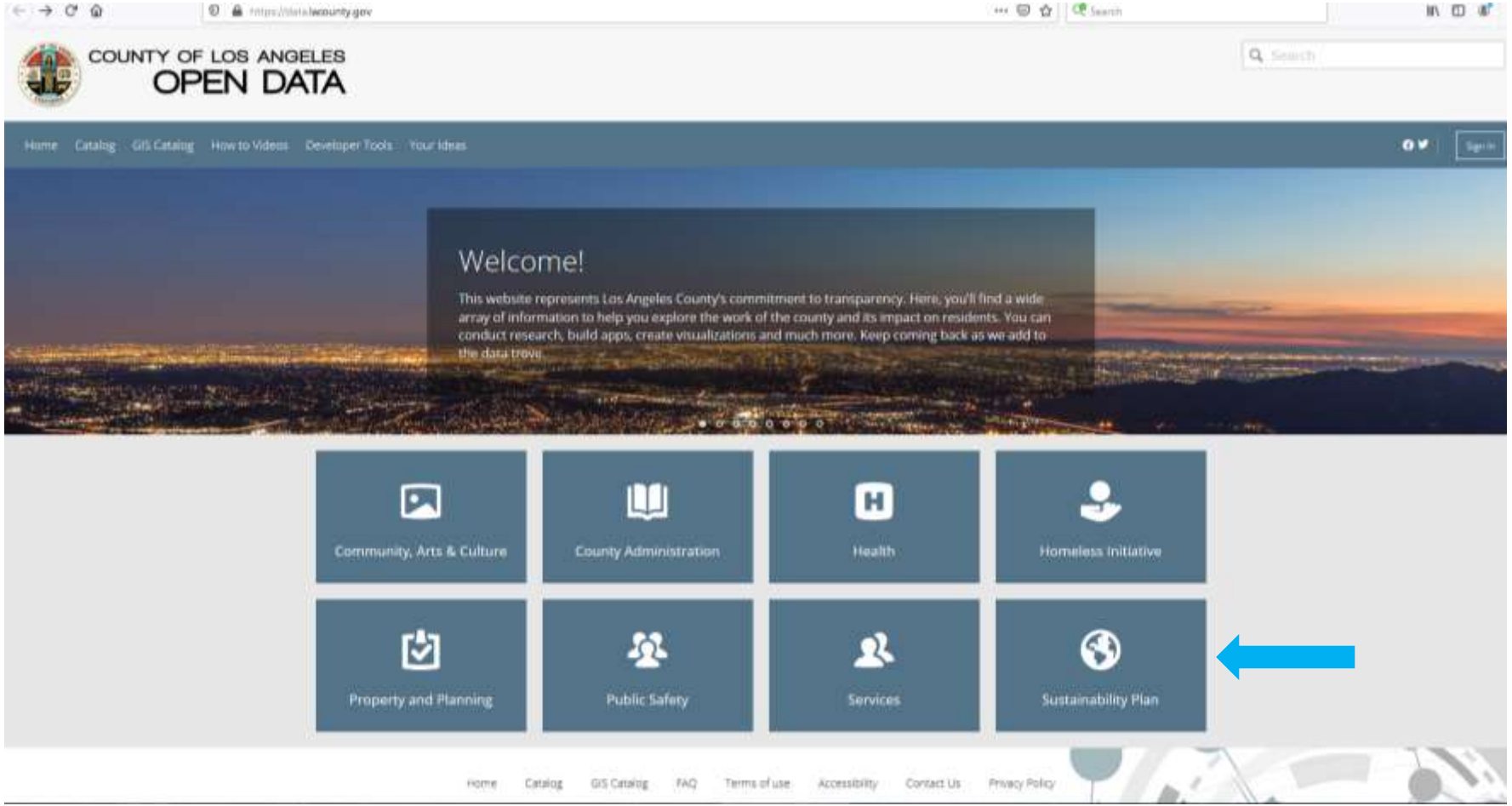
Sustainability Plan Indicator Data

OurCounty



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Sample Page in the Open Data Portal

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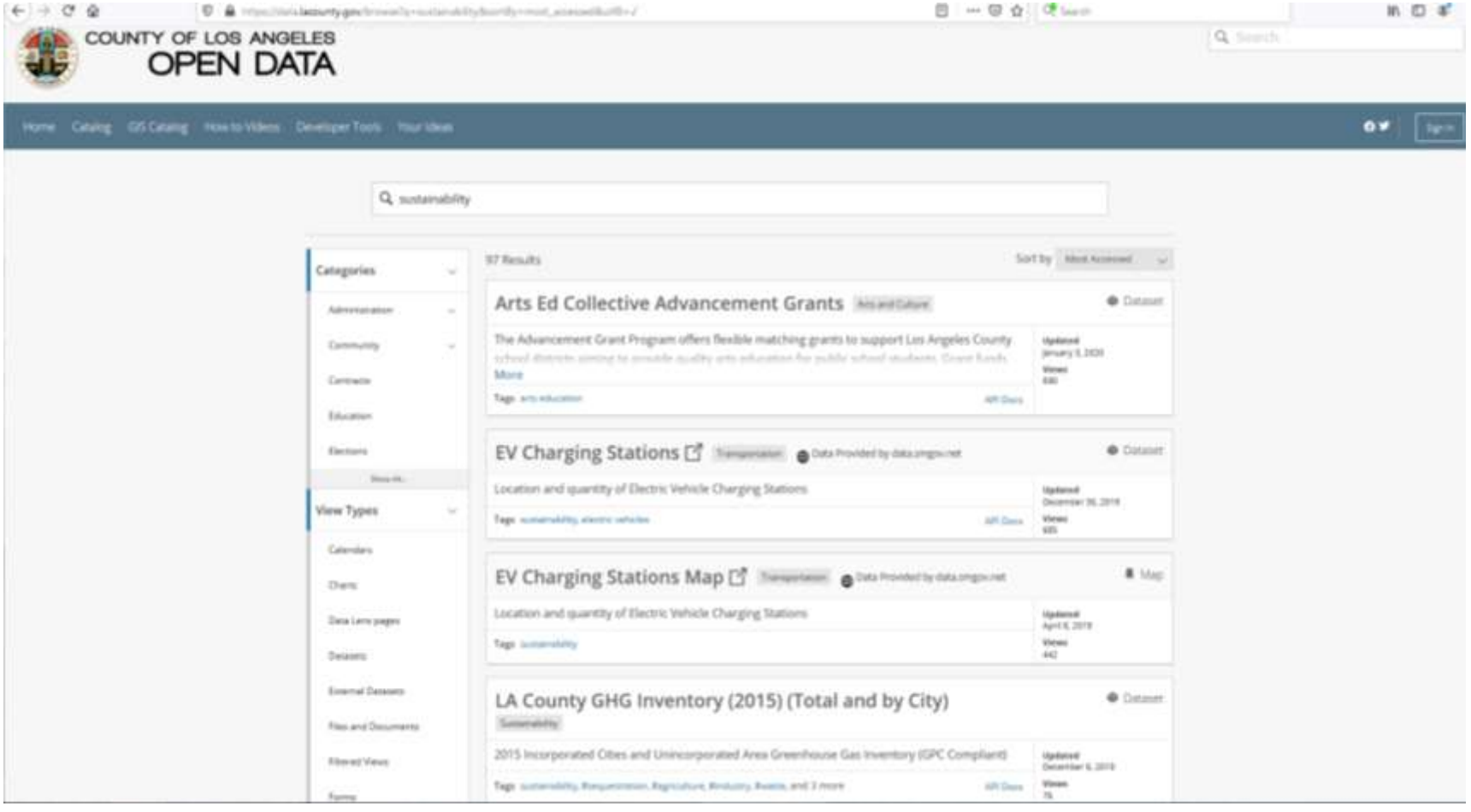

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Implementation

Board Direction on Implementation

- Declared Sustainability to be a new Board Directed Priority (1 of 7)
- Directed that performance evaluations of department heads include how they are implementing the plan
- Directed CSO to annually develop set of priorities to inform budget process and to identify state, federal, and private funding sources to support plan implementation
- Directed CSO to annual report on plan progress
- Directed CSO to align County's legislative advocacy with the plan

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Timeline

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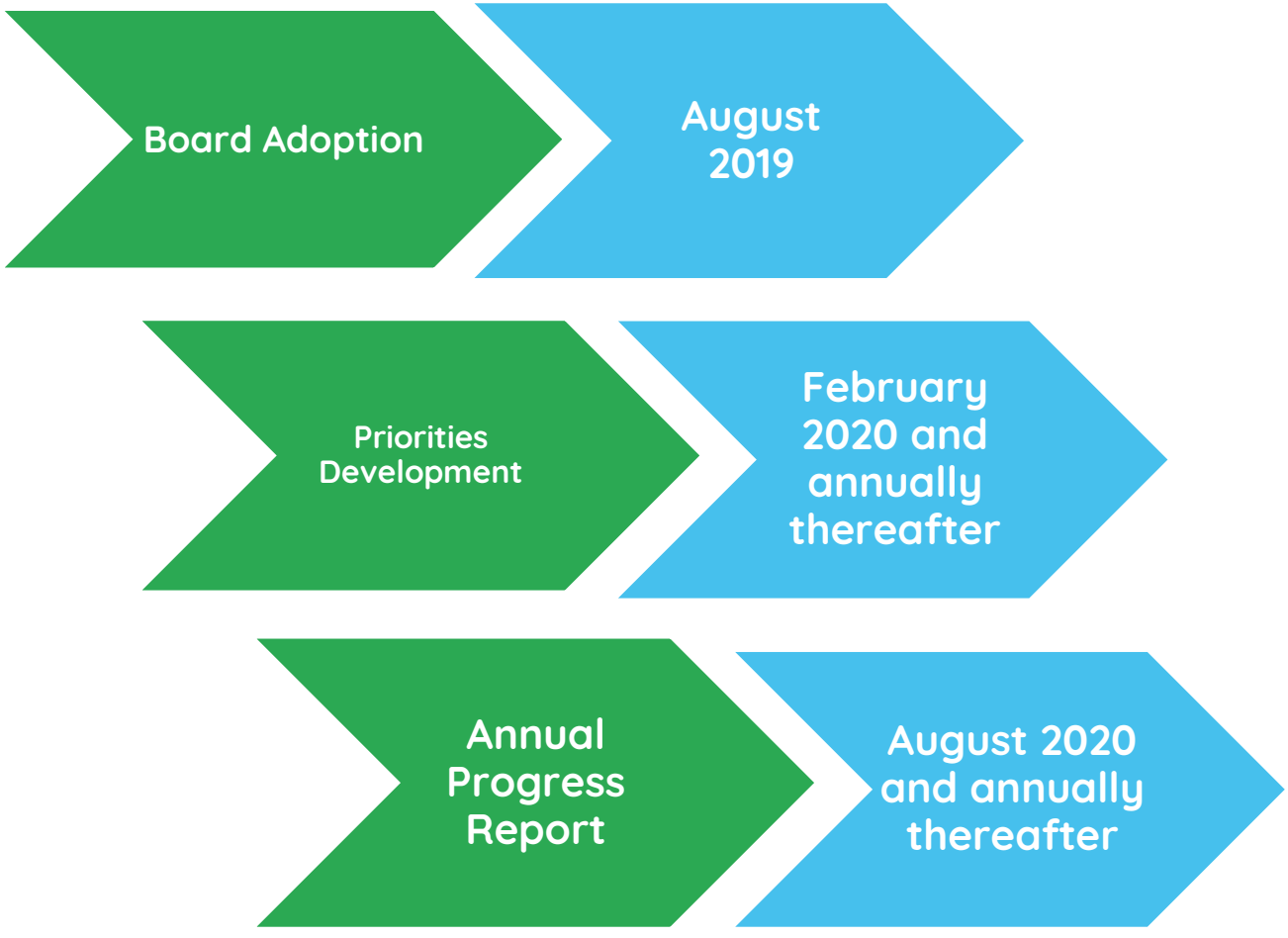

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Developing the Priorities

- County departments assessed assignments and identified/nominated priorities.
- CSO worked with departments to refine list to ensure priorities across all goals and critical path items were being addressed.
  - 58 draft priorities identified
- Draft report put out for public review and comment in November 2019.
  - Two workshops held to discuss.
- Received 30+ public comment letters.
- Revised list based on public feedback and identified top 20 goals which were reported to the Board in February 2020.
  - Meant to inform County budget process.

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Sample from the Priorities Report

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Action #	Action Description	Requires New Funds	Lead Dept.	Existing or Potential External Funding Partners
Goal 1: Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place				
2	Expand the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses.		DRP	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience				
28A&B	Conduct a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses social vulnerability and use it to guide priorities for investments in public health preparedness, emergency preparedness and response planning, and community resiliency. Conduct a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses physical infrastructure vulnerability and use it to guide priorities for investments in building upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and zoning and code changes.		CEO	California Community Foundation Wildfire Prevention Task Force; California Resilience Challenge, Southern California Resilience Initiative
29	Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.	X	DPH	California Resilience Bond; Accelerating Climate Resilience
34	Invest in multi-benefit water management solutions that diversify and increase reliability of the water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, prioritize solutions that mimic natural systems, and maximize benefits to Native and disadvantaged communities.		PW	Measure W
35	Develop a local water supply plan.		PW	
43	Create and implement a community-informed Urban Forest Management Plan that incorporates equitable urban forest practices, identifies County funding sources, and prioritizes: 1 Tree- and park-poor communities; 2. Climate and watershed-appropriate and drought/ pest-resistant vegetation; 3. Appropriate watering, maintenance, and disposal practices; 4. Shading, and; 5. Biodiversity.	X	CEO	CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program Proposition 68 Grants, So Cal Grantmakers Environmental Affinity Group; Accelerating Climate Resilience

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Impact of COVID and Fight for Racial Justice

The systemic racism that enables police brutality is the same driving force behind racial inequities that are evident across all aspects of daily life, from housing and education to employment and health.

- County budget hit hard by economic fallout from the pandemic.
- Many items either not funded or only partially funded.
- CSO largely focused on emergency food response.
- Sustainability work has slowed since March but still moving forward with most key priorities:
  - Climate Vulnerability Assessment
  - Vision Zero
  - Climate Action Plan
  - Fleet Policy
  - Building Decarbonization
  - Local Water Plan

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