



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

May 6, 2025

Resolution for Climate and Sustainability Action Planning for 2025 - 2030

Background

Since 2007, the Pima County Board of Supervisors has adopted a series of Board Resolutions demonstrating the County's commitment to climate and sustainability efforts. These resolutions have directed Pima County departments to adopt and implement critical mitigation strategies for Climate Action, realized through its Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO). The directives contained in the most recent Pima County Board of Supervisors Resolution (2022-25) have been accomplished, and this new resolution is proposed to further expand the SAPCO effort into a larger Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO).

Within the proposed resolution there are directives to continue to align with science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and targets for County Operations, ensure that the SAPCO priorities are continued throughout the new 2025 – 2030 plan, and establish a new framework that comprehensively addresses mitigation, adaptation, and resilience tenants. The framework proposed is data-driven, and representative of extensive planning and qualitative feedback gathering to identify powerful strategies that can be successfully implemented and measured.

The proposed resolution highlights specifically that the CAPCO framework will not only build upon SAPCO but further expand the County's efforts to include regional priorities, partnerships, stakeholder engagement, and ensure our planning effort addresses cross-cutting priorities such as vulnerable community members, public health, workforce and economic vitality.

This resolution will build upon the priorities set forth in the previous climate and sustainability planning efforts and grow to include adaptation and resilience measures to prepare for the region's largest climate-related hazards – such as drought, extreme heat, extreme weather, and wildfire risk. The climate and sustainability planning efforts (regionally, and across County Operations) will continue to be championed and implemented by an enterprise-wide interdepartmental leadership team and create continued engagement across the workforce.

The upcoming planning effort will connect to other planning efforts across the County – specifically, the County's 10-year Comprehensive Plan – Pima Prospers, and the Integrated Infrastructure Plan. In addition, the Board of Supervisors adopted BOS Policy E 36.2 - the Prosperity Initiative, to reduce generational poverty and improve community wealth, which includes a cross-policy strategy to address climate resilience in a way that prioritizes low-income communities and provides quality job opportunities.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Resolution for Climate and Sustainability Action Planning for 2025 - 2030**
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The proposed resolution reflects the completion of Pima County Board of Supervisors Climate Resolution 2022-25 and proposes the direction for the 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan framework. Herein is a culmination of the interdepartmental and regional planning efforts led through Pima Climate Action Now! (Pima CAN!) that will guide the unique and critical action plans for each priority area and the specific County-operation commitment.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed Resolution for Climate and Sustainability Planning for 2025 – 2030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Leshner", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jan Leshner
County Administrator

JKL/dym – April 23, 2025

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO FURTHER
PIMA COUNTY'S COMMITMENTS TO ADDRESS THE RISKS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE BY ADOPTING A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN THAT ALIGNS WITH
CURRENT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND EFFORTS**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. Pima County understands and agrees that the imminent impact of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions is resulting in increased risk to public health, economic vitality, and resilience throughout Pima County, the nation, and the globe; and
2. Documented impacts of global warming include, but are not limited to, rising sea levels, melting ice sheets, and increased occurrences of extreme weather events, and
3. Climate change results in the destruction of ecosystems and infrastructure, increased costs, and reduced economic productivity, as well as unpredictable and unhealthy living environments that will have significant impacts on human health and safety; and
4. Pima County's geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, drought, wildfire risk, and the concomitant adverse impacts on human health and environment; and
5. Over recent years in Pima County, the extreme climate and increasing heat has resulted in a need to direct its climate planning and activities to include adaptation, safety, and hazard mitigation for the most pressing climate risks in this region; and
6. Nationally, 2023 and 2024 experienced record high heat. Pima County experienced record-breaking heat with over 112 days of 100+ degree weather in 2024; and
7. In 2007, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2007-84, which was the basis for Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO) for 2008 and 2014, and which set targets for reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and
8. In 2015, nearly 200 nations adopted the voluntary United Nations Paris Climate Agreement (Paris Agreement) aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures, and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change; and
9. On June 6, 2017, the Pima County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2017-39 affirming its commitment to the Paris Agreement; and

10. On July 2017, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Climate Resolution 2017-51, which resulted in the recently completed 2018 – 2025 SAPCO that addressed Carbon, Water, Landscapes, Materials, and Workforce
11. Resolution 2017-51 also aligned County carbon emissions targets to the United States target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025; and
12. In 2022, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Climate Resolution 2022-25, which aligned with National recommendations to set an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030; and
13. Resolution 2022-25 also directed Pima County to expand its SAPCO effort into a multi-year Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO 2025 – 2030), align such plan to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Government Operations Protocol (ICLEI LGOP), expand its goals and high priority strategies for mitigation strategies, and grow the climate-informed Pima County workforce initiatives.
14. Pima County exceeded its previous goal to reduce carbon emissions for 2024 and based on science-based targets set forth through the commitment to the Paris Agreement, and national recommendations from ICLEI LGOP, the County is positioned to set forth on updated science-based recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 2021 levels, by 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorizes and directs the County Administrator and staff to:
 - a. Prioritize and grow directives set forth in previous Board of Supervisors Climate Resolutions and adopt current science-based climate best practice strategies to inform the upcoming CAPCO 2025 – 2030.
 - b. Within the multi-year Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO), incorporate critical strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions across County Operations by the updated science-based target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 2021 levels, by 2030.
 - c. Ensure that the original priorities of SAPCO – Carbon, Water, Landscapes, Materials, and Workforce are represented in CAPCO and aligned with augmenting our existing priorities to expand on mitigation efforts, but also adaptation and overall climate resilience.
 - d. Within the multi-year CAPCO, augment strategies to include not only mitigation strategies, but adaptation priorities and strategies to respond to the growing threat of climate risks such as, but not limited to, extreme heat, drought, extreme weather, and wildfire risk.

- e. Build CAPCO Framework to reflect the key indicators from SAPCO, but augment to further build climate resilience: **Mitigation & Carbon** - Energy Use and Efficiency across County Operations, Fleet, Commuter Emissions; **Adaptation Measures** – Extreme Heat, Invasive Species and Wildfire Risk, Drought and Water Priorities; **Cross-cutting Climate Measures** – Water, Materials and Waste, Landscapes and Workforce.
- f. Ensure that the County's CAPCO build in **resilience measures** underscoring that Climate Action planning also addresses our disproportionately affected and vulnerable community members, public health, workforce, and economic vitality.
- g. Continue to build the Climate Action enterprise-wide approach through engagement of interdisciplinary department directors, key subject matter experts, and liaisons across County staff to ensure that operational measures in the CAPCO continue to be implemented and improved upon.
- h. Enhance the Climate-informed workforce by continuing to grow and expand the Pima County Green Stewards by bolstering monthly events to better inform all staff about engagement, the County's climate priorities, and how to stay involved in County and regional activities for sustainability.
- i. Continue to explore the most innovative and effective strategies for carbon reduction, alongside other priorities resulting in regional partnerships, stakeholder engagement, and multi-priority (mitigation, adaptation, and resilience) planning.
- j. Continue to explore and apply for funding opportunities to implement innovative and effective strategies for carbon reduction projects.
- k. Update the Pima County Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis on the County's progress across all of its Climate priorities, strategies, and evaluative impacts on the community and on County Operations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this 6th day of May, 2025.

Rex Scott, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board



Bobby Yu, Deputy County Attorney