

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Compliance for Development Projects

The State of California has set mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 1990 levels by 2020 or 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The City of Carlsbad is doing our part and adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in September 2015 to meet our required share of GHG emission reductions.

Commonly Asked Questions

What are the benefits to building green?

- Lease rates for green buildings can be up to 20 percent higher than average rates and typically have lower vacancy rates than non-green buildings.
- The market for residential green construction continues to rise as homeowners want and are willing to pay for energy-efficient homes.

Read more at <http://www.usgbc.org/articles/business-case-green-building>

When is my project subject to the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) requirements?

Currently, projects that require a formal application to the Planning Division and meet the threshold of 900 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO_{2e}) per year will be reviewed for CAP compliance. The city anticipates broadening the application of the CAP to additional types of projects by 2018.

How do I determine if my project exceeds the GHG emissions threshold?

Examples of projects that exceed the GHG emissions threshold include:

- 50 dwelling units or more of single family housing
- 70 dwelling units or more of multi-family housing
- 6,300 square feet or more of grocery store
- 35,000 square feet or more of office
- 11,000 square feet or more of retail

If your project does not fit in these categories, use the *Guidance to Demonstrating Consistency with the Climate Action Plan* to help determine if your project meets the threshold.

The California Emissions Estimator Model is also available online to assist with determining a project's GHG impact: <http://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/>

How do I demonstrate my project complies with the city's CAP?

There are two ways to demonstrate compliance.

1. Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist:

This checklist is the easiest way to make a project consistent with the CAP. Completing the checklist requires infrastructure and service adjustments that maximize GHG reductions, such as solar panels on rooftops or over parking spaces. If a project has no environmental impacts other than GHG emissions, completing the checklist will fulfill the project CEQA requirements, reducing overall review time.

2. Self-developed Program Approach

Applicants can also prepare a project-specific GHG reduction report since there are many tools to reduce GHG emissions (additional electric vehicle charging stations, solar carports, energy storage, energy efficient lighting), each with different levels of reduction. Submitting a report will require additional review with city staff as well as CEQA review and determination.

The Guidance to Demonstrating Consistency with the Climate Action Plan provides information on both of these approaches to Climate Action Plan compliance.

Do I have to do everything on the city's Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist?

Yes, to use the Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist, you must answer yes to all applicable items on the checklist. You may need to provide additional information that demonstrates you are fulfilling all elements of the checklist. If new Green Building Code laws are applicable to your project and enable you to complete a checklist item, please include that information in your response.

Questions?

For more information, contact Mike Peterson, Development Services Manager, at mike.peterson@carlsbadca.gov or discuss your questions with your project planner.