

Case Study: San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan Update 2021

1.1 Summary

The *San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan* (Reduction Plan) is a collaborative effort of the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) and 25 partnership jurisdictions in the County. The Plan developed greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and forecasts, assessed the effectiveness of California initiatives to reduce GHG emissions, and identified local GHG reduction strategies that were selected by and for 25 jurisdictions to reduce local GHG emissions. The Reduction Plan identifies potential local strategies to reduce GHG emissions in support of statewide GHG targets expressed in Senate Bill (SB) 32 (Pavley, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016, the "Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006"). This project also included development of an updated GHG monitoring and tracking tool, updated local development screening tables as an implementation tool for each jurisdiction, and training in their use. The Reduction Plan started in July 2018 and was completed in March 2021.

1.2 Lead Agency and Partnerships

The lead agency is the SBCOG. All 25 jurisdictions in San Bernardino County were partners. San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) provided support in terms of project management, quality assurance/quality control, and transportation modelling support. Josh Lee, Chief Planner of SBCOG, was the project manager. SBCOG was also supported by consultant efforts, including ICF (led by Rich Walter, Vice President, Environmental Planning) and LSA (led by Michael Hendrix, Associate Principal).



1.3 Drivers

The San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the predecessor agency to SBCOG prepared the first regional Reduction Plan in 2014, which had a 2020 GHG reduction target. SB 32 was passed in 2016 with a more aggressive 2030 GHG reduction target. The 2021 update of the Reduction Plan provides the information for local jurisdictions to use in developing local efforts to meet the more aggressive 2030 reduction targets.

In addition, grant programs (see discussion below on funding) supported the opportunity for SBCOG to help local jurisdictions with developing the technical information for local GHG reduction planning efficiently while reducing costs to local jurisdictions.

1.4 Engagement Process

The primary engagement method was to work with local planning departments through the Planning Director’s Technical Forum (PDTF) of the SBCOG. The PDTF includes planning directors and senior staff from local jurisdictions. Periodic workshop/presentations were provided to the PDTF with one-on-one follow-up discussions with individual cities to coordinate input. The individual cities then worked at the city level to vet information and develop input. The Draft Reduction

Plan was made publicly available for input in early 2021. When local jurisdictions move forward with development of their local climate action plans, they will engage more locally with the public and stakeholders at a local level.

1.5 Climate Impact Area

The focus of the Reduction Plan is reducing GHG emissions. SBCOG has a separate effort focusing on climate change vulnerability and adaptation.

1.6 Funding Source

1.7 **The Reduction Plan was supported by funding from the California Energy Commission (CEC), the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and SBCOG. The approximate total consultant cost was \$440,000 which was funded by the CEC (\$250,000), SCAG (\$150,000), and SBCOG (\$40,000). SBCTA, which is the administering agency for SBCOG also provided in-kind support through the labor of the project manager and other SBCOG staff.**

Research and Data

The GHG inventories were done using the ICLEI Community Protocol¹. The project team developed a customized GHG reduction tool for this project that was provided to all included jurisdictions to utilize in their GHG reduction planning; this tool was built on a prior version developed for SANBAG in 2014. The implementation tools were also updates of prior tools developed previously for SANBAG.

Project progress was tracked using the following metrics: meeting schedule milestones, completion within budget limits, and adherence to scope.

¹ [US Community Protocol - \(icleiusa.org\)](http://icleiusa.org)

Figure ES-3. 2016 Baseline GHG Emissions and 2030 BAU GHG Emissions Forecast for the Partnership Jurisdictions (MTCO₂e)

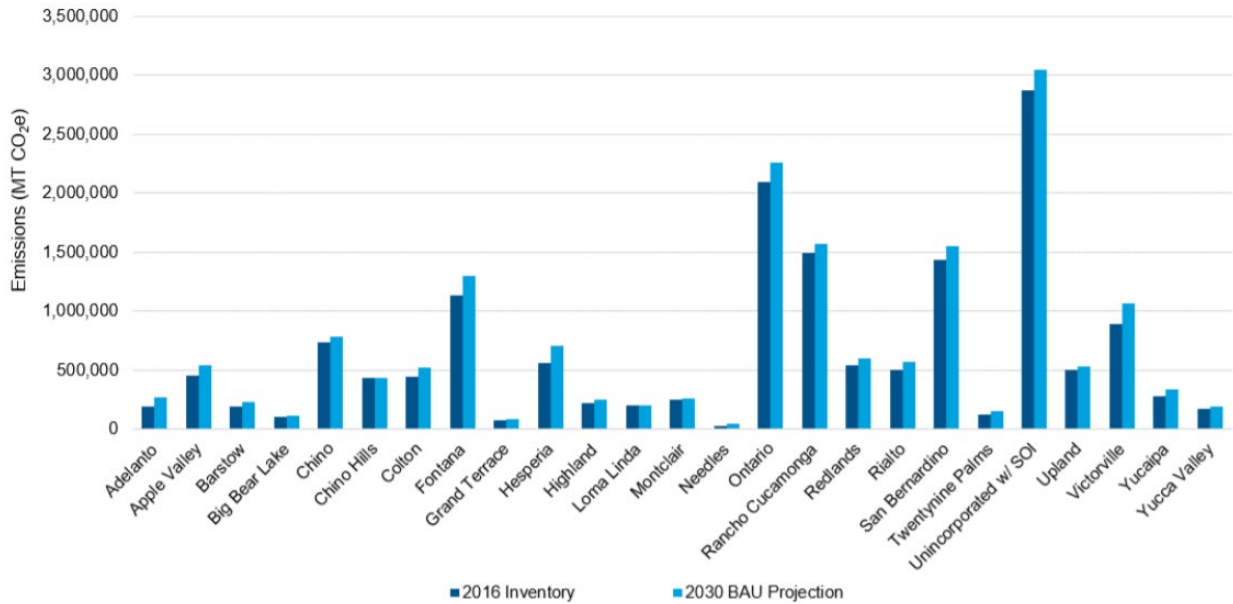
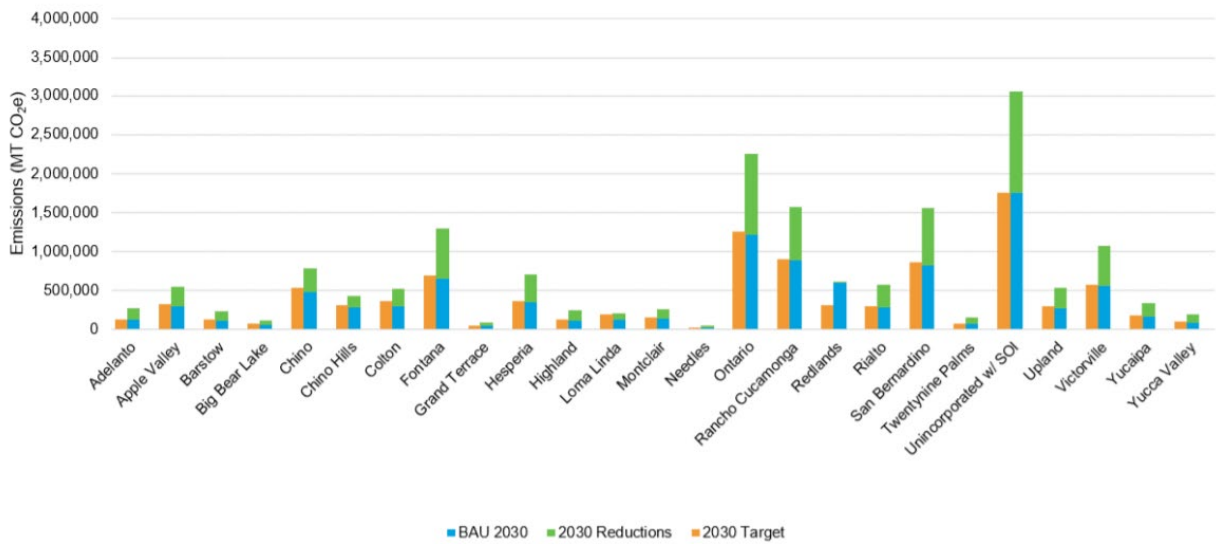


Figure ES-5. 2030 BAU GHG Emissions Forecast and Identified GHG Reductions in 2030 for All Partnership Jurisdictions (MTCO₂e)



1.8 Challenges

Once grant funding was secured, the major challenge for the project was completion during the COVID-19 health emergency. Jurisdiction planning staff needed to divert their time and attention to priority needs of local communities and were less available to provide timely input and review in 2020. The team addressed this challenge by customizing reduction scenarios for many cities combined with one-on-one meetings to relieve the burden of time-consuming reviews. SBCOG provided the

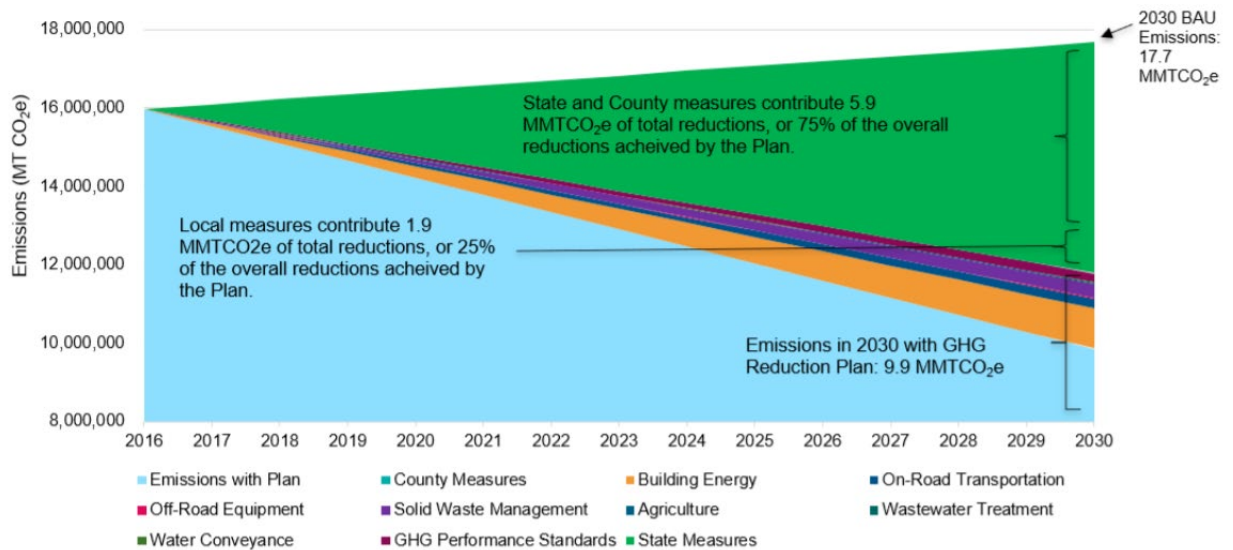
additional funding needed to provide this additional level of support. The grant agencies also provided the necessary time extensions to allow for a more-lengthy period of development accordingly.

Going forward, the continued availability of state and regional funding will help efforts like this.


1.9 Outcomes

The Reduction Plan will help local jurisdictions to plan, track and monitor their local approaches to reducing GHG emissions which will help the state overall to meet its goals. The next steps are for the local jurisdictions to complete their local processes to adopt the elements of the Reduction Plan as they deem appropriate.

Figure ES-4. Total Identified GHG Reductions in 2030 for the 25 Partnership Jurisdictions (MTCO₂e)



Summary of Plan Outcomes – Total Reductions



Source	Local Reductions	% of Total
State Measures		75%
Local Measures		25%
Total Reductions		100%
2016 Emissions		15.9 million
2030 BAU Emissions		17.7 million
2030 Emissions with Plan		9.9 million
Plan % below 2016 Emissions		38%
Plan % below 2030 BAU Emissions		44%

NOTE: Data Excludes Stationary Sources



Summary of Plan Outcomes – Local Reductions



Sectors	% of Total
Building Energy	49%
OnRoad Transportation	13%
OffRoad Transportation	1%
Solid Waste Management	18%
Water Conservation/Conveyance	5%
Wastewater	0%
Agriculture	2%
GHG Performance Standard	12%
Total Local Measures	100%



1.10 Replicability

San Bernardino County was the first region in California to complete a multi-jurisdictional GHG reduction plan back in 2014 and was a model for many other regions. The approach in the original plan and the 2021 update used can be used for other multi-jurisdictional regions in California and elsewhere.

How do local jurisdictions use the Regional Plan?



- Regional Plan contains technical information:
 - Background Info Inventory
 - Reduction Targets – Selected by each city
 - Reduction Measures – Selected by each city
 - Generic Implementation Process
- Local City:
 - Uses technical information from Regional Plan
 - Uses City chapter and background info
 - Refine/adapt/elaborate measures (if desired)
 - Define local implementation steps
 - Compiles local CAP using the above information
 - Processes through local approval



1.11 Additional Resources

The Draft Reduction Plan is on the SBCOG's website here:

<https://www.gosbcta.com/plan/regional-greenhouse-gas-reduction-plan-2014/>

The Final Reduction Plan will be posted at the same location shortly.

1.12 Further Information

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