

# Proposed Architecture for Climate Policy in Santa Barbara County

A coordinated response to the relationships between public concern, climate change policy, and the Federal economic stimulus bill will ensure Santa Barbara County (County) complies with legal mandates, is competitive for funding available to local governments, and is strategically positioned to achieve outcomes that protect and preserve the regional quality of life.

As illustrated in the stairs, public concern has led to the development of State and Federal policy aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This presents various ongoing obligations for the County to respond to the new regulatory environment. The proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles, illustrated in the foundation of the structure, would make the County more competitive for immediate Federal stimulus funding and inform deliberation on the development of a strategy that responds to the regulatory environment.

Through this strategy, the County would be capable of meeting State obligations to reduce local GHG emissions through its roles as: 1) a producer, 2) a regulator, and 3) an incentivizer (as shown in the columns). The County's Sustainability and Conservation Team is already engaged in actions to address the "producer" role.

To address the "regulator" and "incentivizer" roles, the Office of Long Range Planning has proposed the development of a Climate Action Strategy in its annual Work Program to develop GHG reduction measures in four general areas: air/energy (shown in blue), transportation/land use (purple), green building (green), and resource conservation (orange). Examples of actions related to each category are shown in the column sections.

As illustrated in the roof, these actions would produce beneficial outcomes such as compliance with State policy, and a competitive edge in accessing Federal economic stimulus funds available to local governments.

