

The Yolo Climate Commission: Emission Reduction Through Community-Driven Action

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
4:30 – 5:45 PM



Kristen Wraithwall
Sustainability Manager
Yolo County



Adelita Serena
Community Engagement Coordinator
Sierra Club



NJ Mvondo
Chair
Yolo County Climate Action Commission



Jim Provenza
County Supervisor
Yolo County, District 4

SESSION OVERVIEW



- Poll the Audience
- Introduction of Speakers
- Panelist Introductory Remarks (*5 min per panelist; 15 min total*)
 - *Adelita Serena*
 - *NJ Mvondo*
 - *Supervisor Jim Provenza*
- Q&A with Panelists (*20 min*)
- Breakout Groups (*20 min*)
- Report Back from Breakout Groups (*7 min*)
- Concluding Remarks

WELCOME AND POLL THE AUDIENCE



- Affiliation
- Geography
- Current Work and Priorities

SHORT ANSWER PROMPT: In 5 words or less,
what are you hoping to get out of this session?



Adelita Serena

Community Engagement Coordinator, Sierra Club
Commissioner, Yolo County Climate Action Commission

Journey to Climate Emergency Resolution

- Community organizing began around the time that Standing Rock gained visibility.
- Youth Climate Strikes
- Rise for Climate Jobs & Justice San Francisco Sept. 8, 2018
 - Organized a busload of community members from Sacramento & Yolo County to attend the biggest Climate March - Marches took place all around the world.
- Movement to pressure decision makers to recognize the urgency and impact of climate change.
- Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition formed.

Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition

As a coalition we developed these guides for our collective work:

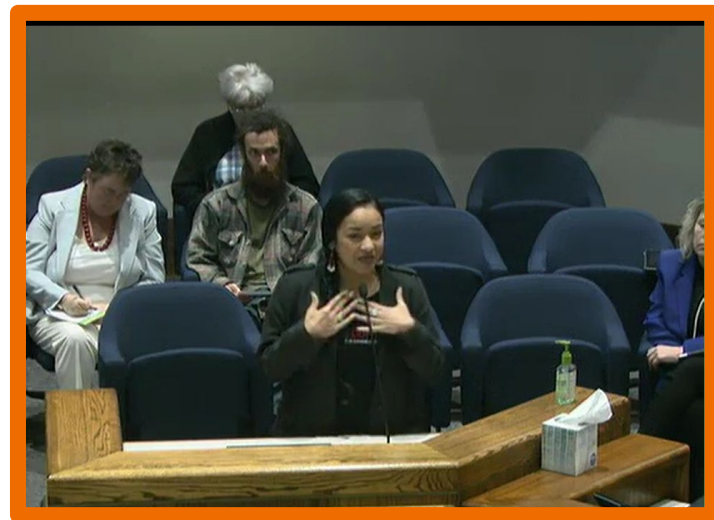
Vision: We share a vision of collective care for a socially just and sustainable Yolo County centering wisdom, equity and mutual prosperity

Mission: Our mission is to apply equity and justice principles to the transition from a fossil fuel driven economy to a regenerative economy in Yolo County.



Timeline

- **March 10, 2020:** Resolution presented.
 - Day before Covid shutdown and last in person Board of Supervisors meeting.
 - Met with each Supervisors to understand and receive guidance and thoughts.
- **Sept. 29, 2020:** Resolution passed 4-1.
- **Dec. 2020:** Advisory Body Recommendations Submitted.
- **Jan. 2022:** Yolo Climate Action Commission seats filled.
- **March 2022:** Sustainability Manager hired.



Resolution States:

- **Declare climate change a crisis requiring an emergency mobilization**
- **Guided by a Just Transition to a carbon-negative, climate positive footprint by 2030**
- **Establish Yolo Climate Commission that includes historically marginalized communities**
- **Assess ecological impact of county's decisions (Climate Impact Statements – to be developed)**



NJ MVONDO

Chair

Yolo County Climate Action Commission,
City of Davis Human Relations Commission

DEI in YCCAC Academic, Scientific, & Community Outreach Processes

Assets => value of lived experience

- **Community organizing** (*emphasis on community*): **BLM** (healing circles, Solidarity Space, Book Readings...), **NAACP**, National Alliance of Climate Resilience Planners (**NACRP**), Valley Alliance for Equitable Climate Action (**VAECA**), Community-Academic Partnerships to Advance Equity-focused Climate Action (**CAPECA**), **UMOJA**, **HHS**A Cultural Competence Committee...
- **Event organizing** featuring fellow environmental justice activists & cultural practitioners, land caretakers, scientists: Mandela Washington Fellows, Family workshops, films showing + discussions (The Gather, the Cost of Darkness...)
- **Small Farms Network** (including BIPOC-owned farms and CO-OPs) / CAFF
- **Political access** via commissions & network: Davis Human Relations Commission (Chair), school district consultant, InterFaith organizations (St Martin Episcopal Church, Catholic Dioceses, Care for Creation...)

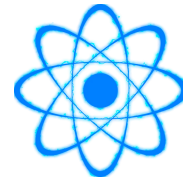
Roles

- Environmental Justice Lead
- Chair



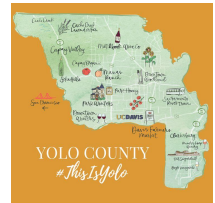
Motivations for Engaging in this Process

- **Urgency:** we can't afford to wait ;
- **Kids, families at-risk:** lead poisoning, air quality...
- **Small farms at-risk:** water levels (wells), drought, EJ legislations causing costly transition, costly transition to electric equipments...
- For the **local economy:** when the above hurt, our local economy hurts.
- **Seizing the moment:** the time is now. *Everyone* has a part to play: every institution, every resident. (*leveraging networks*)



Key Takeaways About Equitable & Collaborative Climate Action Work

- **Mindset** is key: no “Us vs Them” approach, but fostering a spirit of **collaboration** instead ;
- **Community Engagement** is essential for longevity & sustainability
=> participatory budget, resources highlights...
- **Dedicated Staff**, County Sustainability Manager = game changer ;
- **Coordination** across institutions, municipalities & education/research bodies ;
- **Framework** creation for other communities & future generations during this process.





JIM PROVENZA

County Supervisor

Yolo County District 4

FILED
October 13, 2020

BY *Julie Dachtler*
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 20-114

A Resolution Declaring a Climate Crisis Requiring an Urgent and Inclusive Mobilization in Yolo County

WHEREAS, Yolo County, like other communities across California, is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by climate change, including increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity;

WHEREAS, the COVID19 pandemic has spurred a health and economic crisis that has exposed and amplified pervasive social and economic disparities that will be further amplified by the climate change crisis;

WHEREAS, historically Yolo County actions have put it in the forefront of the green movement including adoption in 2009 of the Yolo County 2030 General Plan with more than 350 climate change related policies; among them: the 2011 adoption of a Climate Action Plan(CAP) to: reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 27% below 1990 levels by 2030, 53% below 1990 levels by 2040, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; address economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change; and implement detailed strategies and measures to achieve these goals and contribute to State and international climate protection efforts;

WHEREAS, Yolo County can continue its leadership by initiating with urgent speed, a Climate Mobilization of countywide resources to effect a just transition to an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and resilient local economy while also supporting and advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse the climate, social justice, and economic crises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Yolo County declares climate change a crisis requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions needed to achieve a just economic recovery and transition to a countywide carbon-negative (climate-positive) footprint by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County commits to an inclusive plan development and implementation process that engages and empowers all stakeholders, including historically under-represented and disproportionately impacted communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County shall, by March 1, 2021 create a working advisory body to develop and propose a new Climate Action Plan (Yolo County 2022 Climate Action Plan) designed to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions in Yolo County and achieve a carbon negative footprint by 2030. The advisory body shall include, but not limited to, in addition to appropriate county staff, one or more county supervisors, representatives from cities and other appropriate jurisdictions, community organizations, experts in the field of climate

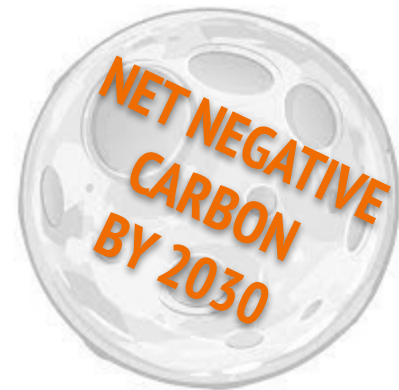
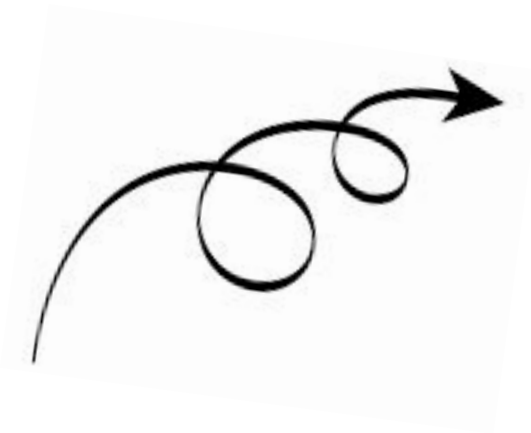


**Net NEGATIVE
Carbon
By 2030**

“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

President John F. Kennedy, 1962 Moonshot Speech





Setting up the Infrastructure



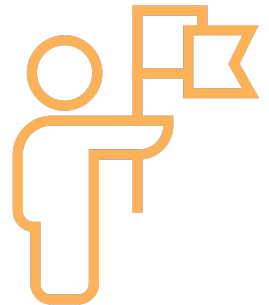
**Set Up Climate Action
Commission**



**Ensure Elected
Officials Participate**



**Set Aside Dedicated
Funding**



**Hire Full-Time
Sustainability Staff**

Yolo County Agriculture

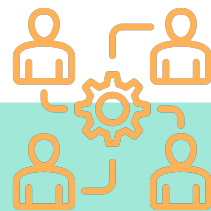


More than
85%
of County land

Collaboration is Key



BREAKOUT GROUP ACTIVITY (20min)



ASSIGN ROLES (1 min)

- A facilitator (*if necessary*)
- A timekeeper
- A notetaker
- A person to report back to the full group

INTRODUCTIONS (2 min)

- We will begin the breakout groups by doing rapid-fire introductions.
- Each attendee will share their name and affiliation (in 10 seconds or less)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (15 min)

*NOTE: You will not be able to walk through these questions with all group members - **aim to repeat this process 3 times (5 min each)***

- A volunteer should answer the following two questions (2min):
 - *Exploring the Landscape:* In your community/municipality, what are the primary priorities when it comes to climate action?
 - *Exploring Needs:* Are you satisfied with the state of local climate action? What do you feel is missing?
- Based on this individual's response, the group should work together to respond to the following question (3min):
 - *Sharing Lessons Learned:* What are solutions that could help address this gap? Think about additional resources, roles, or processes that might need to be identified.

WRAP-UP (2 min)

- Prepare final thoughts to share back out with the full group.
- Where are the areas of overlap in terms of shared priorities, resources, roles, processes, etc.?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (15min + 2min wrap-up)



NOTE: You will not be able to walk through these questions with all group members.

Aim to repeat this process 3 times (5 min each)

A volunteer should answer the following two questions (*in no more than 2 min*):

1. *Exploring the Landscape:* In your community/municipality, what are the primary priorities when it comes to climate action?
2. *Exploring Needs:* Are you satisfied with the state of local climate action? What do you feel is missing?

Based on this individual's response, the group should work together to respond to the following question (*in 3 min or less*):

3. *Sharing Lessons Learned:* What are solutions that could help address this gap? Think about additional resources, roles, or processes that might need to be identified.

Thank You!



Contact Us:

sustainability@yolocounty.org
530-666-8047
www.yolocounty.org/sustainability

Visit our LinkTree for Helpful Links
and Resources

<https://linktr.ee/yolosustainability>

