

Climate Action Plan Implementation Tools

Southern California



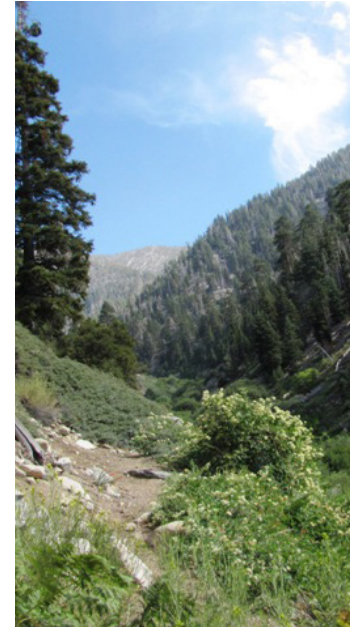
Climate change is a significant factor affecting cities, states, and regions across the country. In California, the state has seen increased temperatures, more extreme hot days, fewer cold nights, shifts in the water cycle with less winter precipitation falling as snow, and both snowmelt and rainwater running off sooner in the year. Scientific studies over the past several decades have confirmed the release of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide, is creating changes to the earth's climate leading to a variety of negative effects. From a future proofing perspective, these impacts affect a city's normal response mechanisms and create unpredictability in resiliency planning that must be addressed. Atkins is actively supporting the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) in its aim to reduce emissions and provide proactive mitigation strategies to address these inevitable impacts.

SANBAG and 21 cities in San Bernardino County have collaborated on the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan to identify cost-effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with statewide targets. The plan addresses a total geographic area of

20,100 square miles with a population of more than 1.7 million people. It constitutes the largest greenhouse gas reduction plan in the nation—in geographic area, population, and economic activities—adopted through an environmental review process. Atkins prepared greenhouse gas inventories and evaluated reduction measures, population trends, changes in potable water supplies, air quality, and transportation connectivity for this plan.

Implementation of the plan is being supported by a series of monitoring tools also being developed by Atkins. These "Climate Action Plan Implementation Tools" are enhanced through Atkins engagement with key stakeholders and incorporation of business interests to identify ways to reduce regulatory oversight and costs of implementing the plan. A "screening table concept" was chosen to implement the reductions, which provides a menu of options that includes energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, transportation, waste diversion, and industry specific opportunities. This menu allows flexibility for projects to meet their reduction allocation, while balancing the need to reduce carbon and maintain a business-friendly environment.

As the world's fifteenth largest emitter of greenhouse gases from human activity and natural sources and with trillions of dollars of real estate at risk, California has led the way in adopting initiatives to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. Although climate change is a global issue, actions taken by California can encourage other states, the federal government, and other countries to act. SANBAG's implementation of the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan is expected to see a reduction of more than 4.3 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 2020—18 percent lower than 2008 levels across the participating cities.



Client

Southern California Association of Governments

Completion date

2014

Services provided

- Greenhouse gas reduction plan development
- Data collection
- Greenhouse gas reduction measures