



GLOSSARY



GLOSSARY

Agricultural Activity: Includes, but is not limited to, cultivation, growing, harvesting, and production of any agricultural commodity and appurtenant practices incidental to the production of agricultural commodities.

Air Basin: A land area with generally similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout. To the extent possible, air basin boundaries are defined by [CARB](#) along political boundary lines and include both the [source](#) and receptor areas. California is currently divided into 15 air basins.

Air Pollutants: Amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects to humans, animals, vegetation, and/or materials.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Commonly referred to as the Stimulus Plan or Recovery Act, ARRA is an economic stimulus package enacted by the federal government in 2009. The intent of the stimulus is to create jobs and promote investment and consumer spending during the economic recession.

Assembly Bill (AB) 32, California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Establishes a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) for the State of California. Designates the [California Air Resources Board \(CARB\)](#) as the responsible agency for monitoring and reducing statewide GHG emissions to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Assembly Bill (AB) 811: Authorizes all cities and counties in California to designate areas within which willing property owners may finance the installation of distributed renewable energy generation, as well as energy efficiency improvements through low-interest loans. These financing programs are commonly referred to as Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE programs.

Assembly Bill (AB) 939: Establishes a goal of achieving a statewide waste diversion rate of 50% and requires cities and counties to divert a minimum of 50% of their waste stream for reuse or recycling.

Buildout; Build-out: Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations.

Business-As-Usual (BAU): A business-as-usual projection forecasts greenhouse gas emissions without regulatory or technical intervention to reduce GHG emissions.



California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen): The 2010 California Green Building Standards Code, commonly referred to as the CALGreen Code, is a statewide mandatory construction code that was developed and adopted by the California Buildings Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development. The CALGreen standards require new residential and commercial buildings to comply with mandatory measures under the topics of planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and environmental quality. CALGreen also provides voluntary tiers and measures that local governments may adopt that encourage or require additional measures in the five green building topics.

California Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS): Summarizes the best-known science on climate change impacts to California and provides recommendations on how to manage the risks.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): A state law requiring state and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before action can be taken on the proposed project. General plans require the preparation of a program EIR.

California Solar Initiative (CSI): Allows the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to provide incentives to install solar technology on existing residential, commercial, nonprofit, and governmental buildings if they are customers of the state's investor-owned utilities (IOUs): Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), or Southern California Edison (SCE).

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): A colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in the earth's [atmosphere](#). Significant quantities are also emitted into the air by fossil fuel [combustion](#). (See also the [California Climate Change Glossary](#).)

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e): A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential (GWP). The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated GWP.

Carbon Sequestration: The process through which agricultural and forestry practices [remove carbon dioxide \(CO₂\) from the atmosphere](#). The term "carbon sinks" is also used to describe agricultural and forestry lands that absorb CO₂.



Carl Moyer Program: Created to reduce air pollution emissions from older heavy-duty diesel engines. The program offers incentives to on-road and off-road heavy-duty vehicle owners to retrofit the engine or replace the entire vehicle with a cleaner or alternative fuel engine.

Car Sharing: A type of car rental where people rent cars for short periods of time, often by the hour.

Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5): A local group of stakeholders with a goal to expand the use and available infrastructure of alternative fuel vehicles. The group includes members from local schools and universities, fuel providers, government agencies, and the general public.

Central Coast Vineyard Team (CCVT): The team was created in 1994 and is a group dedicated to the research and promotion of environmentally friendly farming practices.

Clean Air Act: Requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six common air pollutants, known as "criteria pollutants," that are found all over the United States: particle pollution (particulate matter), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. EPA regulates them by developing human health-based and/or environmentally based criteria (science-based guidelines) for setting permissible levels.

Clean Car Fuel Standards (AB 1493, Pavley): Signed into law in 2002 and commonly referred to as Pavley standards. Require carmakers to reduce GHG emissions from new passenger cars and light trucks beginning in 2011. CARB anticipates that the Pavley standards will reduce GHG emissions from new California passenger vehicles by about 22% in 2012 and about 30% in 2016, all while improving fuel efficiency and reducing motorists' costs.

Climate Action Plan (CAP): CAPs are strategic plans that establish policies and programs for reducing (or mitigating) a community's greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. This plan serves the function of a CAP.

Climate Change (also referred to as global climate change): The term "climate change" is sometimes used to refer to all forms of climatic inconsistency, but because the earth's climate is never static, the term is more properly used to imply a significant change from one climatic condition to another. In some cases, climate change has been used synonymously with the term "global warming"; scientists however, tend to use the term in the wider sense to also include natural changes in climate.

Climate Change Adaptation: The adjustment in natural or human systems to respond to actual or expected climate changes to minimize harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities.



Climate Change Mitigation: A technical or behavioral intervention to reduce the sources of greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce the potential effects of climate change.

Climate Zone: The California Energy Commission has classified the distinct climates throughout California by climate zone to recognize the variability in energy use based on local weather patterns. The Energy Commission uses these climate zones to determine energy budgets for new and renovated buildings and prescriptive packages for each climate zone to ensure that they meet the State's Title 24 energy efficiency standards.

Co-Benefits: An additional benefit occurring from the implementation of a GHG reduction measure that is not directly related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In this document, the co-benefits are defined as follows:

- Conserves Energy
- Improves Air Quality
- Promotes Equity
- Improves Public Health
- Supports Local Economy
- Reduces Water Use
- Improves Mobility
- Provides Educational Opportunities
- Provides Monetary Savings
- Adaptation Measure
- Implements State Policy

Community Service District (CSD): A geographic subarea of the county used for the planning and delivery of services based on an assessment of the service needs of the population in that subarea. A CSD is a taxation district with independent administration.

Complete Streets: Complete Streets policies ensure that transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all potential users in mind. This includes bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. In 2007, the State of California adopted AB 1358, which directs the legislative body of a city or county, upon revision of the circulation element of its general plan, to identify how the jurisdiction will provide for the routine accommodation of all users

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG): A fossil-fuel substitute for gasoline, diesel, or propane that can be used in passenger and heavy-duty vehicles.

Conservation: Planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.



Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE): The COSE is an element of the County's General Plan and includes goals, policies, and implementation strategies related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, minerals, open space, soils, visual resources, and water resources. The COSE was updated and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2010 and includes several goals and policies related to climate change and greenhouse gas reductions.

Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D): C&D materials consist of the waste generated during the construction, demolition, or renovation of buildings, roads, and other construction projects. C&D materials may include heavy, bulky materials such as concrete, glass, wood, and metal, among other materials.

Development (Coastal): Pursuant to Public Resources Code 30106, development means, on land or in or under water, the placement or erection of any solid material or structure; discharge or disposal of any dredged material or of any gaseous, liquid, solid, or thermal waste; grading, removing, dredging, mining, or extraction of any materials; change in the density or intensity of use of land, including, but not limited to, subdivision pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act (commencing with Section 66410 of the Government Code), and any other division of land, including lot splits, except where the land division is brought about in connection with the purchase of such land by a public agency for public recreational use; change in the intensity of use of water, or of access thereto; construction, reconstruction, demolition, or alteration of the size of any structure, including any facility of any private, public, or municipal utility; and the removal or harvesting of major vegetation other than for agricultural purposes, kelp harvesting, and timber operations which are in accordance with a timber harvesting plan submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 (commencing with Section 4511). As used in Section 4511, the term "structure" includes, but is not limited to, any building, road, pipe, flume, conduit, siphon, aqueduct, telephone line, and electrical power transmission and distribution line.

Development (Inland): For purposes of implementing the Conservation and Open Space Element and EnergyWise or Climate Action Plan, development is any activity or alteration of the landscape, its terrain contour, or vegetation, including the erection or alteration of buildings or structures. Development does not include crop production or grazing. New development is any construction, or alteration of an existing structure or land use, or establishment of a land use after the effective date of Title 22.

Discretionary Development: Development that is subject to a discretionary permit that requires the exercise of judgment and the resolution of factual issues to determine if the application and requested entitlement conform with the provisions of the Land Use Ordinance



(Titles 22 and 23). Generally, a discretionary permit consists of any entitlement that requires a decision to approve, approve subject to conditions, or disapprove, based on the judgment of the Planning Commission after a hearing.

Distributed Energy Resources (DER): Small, modular, energy generation and storage technologies that provide electric capacity or energy located where it's needed. DERs typically produce less than 10 megawatts (MW) of power and include wind turbines, photovoltaics (PV), fuel cells, microturbines, reciprocating engines, combustion turbines, cogeneration, and energy storage systems. DER systems may be either connected to the local electric power grid or isolated from the grid in stand-alone applications.

Easement, Conservation: A tool for acquiring open space with less than full-fee purchase, whereby a public agency buys only certain specific rights from the landowner. These may be positive rights (providing the public with the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, or ride over the land) or they may be restrictive rights (limiting the uses to which the landowner may devote the land in the future).

Emission Standard: The maximum amount of pollutant legally permitted to be discharged from a single source, either mobile or stationary.

Energy Conservation: Reducing energy waste, such as turning off lights, heating, and motors when not needed.

Energy Efficiency: Doing the same or more work with less energy, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs or buying an Energy Star appliance to use less energy for the same or greater output.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG): The EECBG program was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and managed by the Department of Energy to assist cities, counties, states, and territories to develop, promote, and implement energy efficiency and conservation programs and projects.

Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6): Title 24 standards were first adopted in 1978 and established minimum energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings. These standards are updated continually by providing more stringent energy budgets for new buildings in an effort to reduce California's energy consumption.

Energy Star: A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to provide consumers with information and incentives to purchase the most energy-efficient products available.



Energy Star Portfolio Manager: An online management tool that allows nonresidential building owners and tenants to track and assess energy and water use over time. Benchmarking energy and water use allows building owners to identify investment priorities, determine underperforming buildings, and verify efficiency improvements.

Environment: In CEQA, “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action or project. See California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP): [California law](#) requires State government to practice Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, which is the procurement of goods and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment as compared to other goods and services serving the same purpose.

Feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable time taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

Floodplain: The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the floodplain subject to a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year is designated as an “area of special flood hazard” by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Floodway: The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved to discharge the 100-year flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than 1 foot.

Fossil Fuel Facilities: Include, but are not limited to, oil and gas wells, separators, and refineries.

Global Warming Potential (GWP): An index used to translate the level of emissions of various gases into a common measure in order to compare the relative potency of different gases without directly calculating the changes in atmospheric concentrations. Greenhouse gases are expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent. Global warming potentials are expressed in terms relative to carbon dioxide, which has a global warming potential of 1.



Green Building: Sustainable or "green" building is a holistic approach to design, construction, and demolition that minimizes the building's impact on the environment, the occupants, and the community. See California green Building Standards Code for green building regulations in California.

Greenhouse Gas or Greenhouse Gases (GHG): Gases which cause heat to be trapped in the atmosphere, warming the earth. Greenhouse gases are necessary to keep the earth warm, but increasing concentrations of these gases are implicated in global climate change. Greenhouse gases include all of the following gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The majority of greenhouse gases come from natural sources, although human activity is also a major contributor.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory: A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory provides estimates of the amount of GHGs emitted to and removed from the atmosphere by human activities. A city or county that conducts an inventory looks at both community emission sources as well as emissions from government operations. A base year is chosen and used to gather all data from that year. Inventories include data collection from such things as vehicle miles traveled (VMTs), energy usage from electricity and gas, and waste. Inventories include estimates for carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs), which are referred to as the six Kyoto gases.

Green Waste: Refers to lawn, garden, or park plant trimmings and materials and can be used in home-composts or picked up curbside by municipal waste haulers.

Greywater: See Recycled Water.

Groundwater: Subsurface water in a zone of saturation.

Groundwater Overdraft: Develops when long-term groundwater extraction exceeds aquifer recharge, producing declining trends in aquifer storage. Overdraft is usually evident by declines in surface-water levels and stream flow, reduction or elimination of vegetation, land subsidence, and seawater intrusion.

Groundwater Recharge: Any of the approved methods that are designed to detain or slow surface water runoff so that percolation is enhanced.

Habitat: The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.



Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): A plan that outlines ways of maintaining, enhancing, and protecting a given habitat type needed to protect species; usually includes measures to minimize impacts, and may include provisions for permanently protecting land, restoring habitat, and relocating plants or animals to another area.

Imported Water: Water brought into the county from outside its boundaries (e.g., State Water Project).

Indicator: Types of data or information that can be used to determine the progress or success of each reduction measure.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: A Strategic Plan for Sustainable Water Resources to Meet Human and Environmental Needs in San Luis Obispo County.

Invasive Species: Species that establish and reproduce rapidly outside of their native range and may threaten the diversity or abundance of native species through competition for resources, predation, parasitism, hybridization with native populations, introduction of pathogens, or physical or chemical alteration of the invaded habitat

Landings and Take-Offs: Refers to the aircraft operations that occur below 3,000 feet in altitude.

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a standard established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Level of Service (LOS) Standard: A standard used by government agencies to measure the quality or effectiveness of a municipal service such as police, fire, or library, or the performance of a facility, such as a street or highway.

Life Cycle Costing (LCC): The process of evaluating the total overall costs and benefits of buildings or equipment over time, including initial costs of design and construction; operating costs; long-term costs of maintenance, repair, and replacement; and other environmental or social costs over its full life, rather than simply based on purchase cost alone.

Light-Emitting Diode (LED): A lower energy consuming and longer-lasting alternative to incandescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard (S-1-07): An executive order from former Governor Schwarzenegger, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard established the goal of reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuels in California by 10% by 2020.



Low Impact Development (LID): An innovative stormwater management approach with a basic principle to design the built environment to remain a functioning part of an ecosystem rather than exist apart from it. LID's goal is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): A federally funded transportation planning organization comprising representatives from local government agencies and transportation authorities. See San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) for more information on the local MPO.

Mixed Use: Properties on which various uses such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A single site may include contiguous properties.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards: The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

Native Species: A species within its natural range or natural zone of dispersal, i.e., within the range it would or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction and/or care by humans.

Natural Area Preserve: An area of land or water managed by County Parks, a similar public agency, or a private nonprofit which remains in a predominantly natural or undeveloped state to provide resource protection and passive recreation for present and future generations.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV): Small, battery-powered, low-speed electric vehicles. NEVs are typically limited to streets with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less. NEVs are classified by the California Air Resources Board as zero emissions vehicles, as they do not produce any tailpipe emissions.

Nonattainment: The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality.

Non-Renewable Energy: Energy from sources that use a non-renewable natural resource such as uranium or fossil fuels such as coal, oil, or natural gas.

Oak: Any species in the genus *Quercus*.

Oak Woodlands: Per the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act, an oak stand with a greater than 10% canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10% canopy cover.



Off-Road Equipment: In this Plan, off-road equipment refers to agriculture equipment used for the production, transport, and maintenance of agricultural land. Agricultural off-road equipment includes tractors, tillers, sprayers, swathers, and balers, among other equipment types.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M): Refers to the activities related to the routine, preventive, predictive, scheduled, and unscheduled actions aimed at preventing equipment failure or decline with the goal of increasing efficiency, reliability, and safety.

Ordinance: A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

Ozone: Produced when gases or vapors created by cars, solvents, factories, and pesticides mix and react in the presence of sunlight. This results in certain health effects such as breathing difficulties, lung damage, coughing, and chest pains.

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) and Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}): Fine mineral, metal, smoke, soot, and dust particles suspended in the air. While particulate matter also has many natural sources, human-derived sources such as vehicle exhaust, road dust, mineral quarries, grading, demolition, agricultural tilling, and burning are major contributors to exceedances in San Luis Obispo County. In addition to reducing visibility, particulate matter can lodge in the lungs and cause serious, long-term respiratory illness and other health problems. The smaller the size of the particle, the deeper it can penetrate into the lungs, and the more difficult it is to expel.

Preservation: To keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): See Assembly Bill 811.

Recycled Water, Reclaimed Water, Treated Sewage Effluent Water, or Greywater: Treated or recycled wastewater of a quality suitable for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation; not intended for human consumption.

Reduction Measure: A goal, strategy, program, or set of actions that target and reduce a specific source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Regional Transportation Plan: A long-term blueprint of the region's transportation systems. The RTP is a federally mandated comprehensive long-range regional planning document that identifies the region's transportation needs, sets forth an action plan of projects, determines actions and programs to address the needs and issues, and documents the financial resources needed to implement the RTP. The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments adopted the 2010



Regional Transportation Plan – Preliminary Sustainable Communities Strategy in December 2010.

Renewable Energy: Energy from sources that regenerate and are less damaging to the environment, such as solar, wind, biomass, and small-scale hydroelectric power.

Renewable Energy Secure Community (RESCO): Analyzes the renewable energy resources and potential within a community. The resources identified through the RESCO include solar, wind, biogas, energy efficiency, and energy storage.

Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS): A regulation requiring utility companies in California to increase the production of renewable energy from solar, wind, or biomass, or geothermal sources.

Retrofit Upon Sale: Requirements on real property to replace inefficient water or energy fixtures as a condition of escrow. Retrofit upon sale requirements typically require a certificate or other form of verification from local government agencies to ensure that the fixtures are replaced and meet minimum efficiency requirements.

Rideshare: In this Plan, Rideshare refers to the San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare Program to educate and encourage residents and employers about the alternative transportation options available in their community. Rideshare also facilitates alternative transportation events and contests like SLO Bike Month and the Commute for Cash Challenge.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S or SRTS): A national movement aimed at providing safe environments to encourage walking and bicycling surrounding local schools through engineering, enforcement, education, encouragement, and evaluation. Safe Routes to School programs are typically funded through federal, state, and local grants. SR2S is the California program; SRTS is the national program.

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG): SLOCOG is the San Luis Obispo County's Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for preparing and implementing regional plans and programs related to transportation and other issues of regional concern.

Scopes: Scopes help to identify where emissions originate and what entity retains regulatory control and the ability to implement efficiency measures. The scopes are defined as follows:

- **Scope 1** – Direct emissions sources located within the unincorporated areas of the county, primarily from combustion of fuels. Examples of Scope 1 sources include the use of fuels such as gasoline or natural gas. GHG emissions from off-road agriculture



equipment and nitrogen fertilizer application are considered Scope 1 emissions, while methane emissions from livestock are considered Scope 3.

- **Scope 2** – Indirect emissions that result because of activities in the unincorporated areas of the county and limited to electricity, district heating, steam and cooling consumption. Scope 2 emissions sources include purchased electricity used in the unincorporated areas and associated with the generation of greenhouse gas emissions at the power plant. These emissions should be included in community-wide analysis, as they are the result of the community's electricity consumption.
- **Scope 3** – All other indirect emissions that occur as a result of activity in the unincorporated areas. Examples of Scope 3 emissions include methane emissions from solid waste generated within the community, which decomposes at landfills either inside or outside of the unincorporated areas of the county.

Senate Bill (SB) 7: Passed in 2009, SB 7 requires the state to achieve a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020. This law also requires local water providers to comply with the 20% reduction at the risk of becoming ineligible for state grant or loan funding.

Senate Bill (SB) 97: Requires lead agencies to analyze GHG emissions and climate change impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Senate Bill (SB) 375: Directs the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in California to create a Sustainable Communities Strategy as part of the Regional Transportation Plan. The SCS will demonstrate how the region will achieve the 2020 and 2035 GHG reduction targets for the region set by CARB.

Senate Bill (SB) 407: Adopted in 2010, SB 407 requires inefficient plumbing fixtures be replaced with more efficient models at the time of property sale or improvement. See Retrofit Upon Sale.

Senate Bill (SB) 610 (Chaptered at Water Code 10910): Requires CEQA review of certain large residential and commercial projects to include a water supply assessment that proves that adequate water exists for the project.

Senate Bill (SB) 1016: Adopted in 2008, SB 1016 establishes per capita waste disposal rate requirements and goals for local agencies in California. The requirements are expressed in a pounds per person per day measurement.



Senate Bill (SB) 1881: Requires local agencies to adopt a water-efficient landscape ordinance, limiting the amount of water used for landscaping purposes.

Smart Grid: The smart grid delivers electricity from suppliers to consumers using two-way digital communications. The smart grid is envisioned to overlay the ordinary electrical grid with an information and net metering system, which includes smart meters. Smart meters will allow consumers to become more aware of their energy use and in the future will allow smart grid enabled appliances to be pre-programmed to operate at a time when electricity costs are lowest.

Solar Reflectance Index (SRI): SRI is a value used to measure a materials temperature in the sun that incorporates both solar reflectance and emittance into a single value. SRI is expressed as a fractional value between 0 and 1, with a standard white surface receiving a value of 0 and a black surface a value of 1.

Strategic Growth: In San Luis Obispo County, strategic growth refers to the principles defined by SLOCOG through the development of the Community 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. The Strategic Growth Principles are defined as follows:

- 1) Strengthen and Direct Development Toward Existing Communities
- 2) Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- 3) Create Walkable Neighborhoods and Towns
- 4) Create a Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices
- 5) Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices
- 6) Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas
- 7) Encourage Mixed Land Uses
- 8) Take Advantage of Compact Building Design
- 9) Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective
- 10) Encourage Community & Stakeholder Collaboration
- 11) Strengthen Regional Cooperation



Sustainability: Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.

Sustainability in Practice (SIP) Certification: A third-party verified certification program to recognize a vineyard's and winery operation's commitment to environmental stewardship, equitable treatment of employees, and economic stability.

Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS): The land use element of each MPO's Regional Transportation Plan as required by SB 375. The SCS will demonstrate how the region will achieve the 2020 and 2035 VMT and GHG reduction targets for the region set by CARB. In 2010, SLOCOG adopted a Preliminary Sustainable Communities Strategy (PSCS) to maximize the efficiency of existing infrastructure and strengthen the land use – transportation connection through sustainable land use.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): A mixed-use residential or commercial area designed to maximize access to transit options.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan: A voluntary or mandatory program developed by local agencies, large employers, or high traffic commercial services to limit the amount of congestion and pollution related to transportation demand. TDM plans may include incentives, regulations, and education about transportation alternatives.

Trustee Agency: A state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. There are four trustee agencies: the Department of Fish and Game, the State Lands Commission, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the University of California.

Urban Heat Island: The term "heat island" describes built-up areas that are hotter than nearby rural areas. On a hot, sunny summer day, roof and pavement surface temperatures can be 50–90°F (27–50°C) hotter than the air, while shaded or moist surfaces remain close to air temperatures. These surface urban heat islands, particularly during the summer, have multiple impacts and contribute to atmospheric urban heat islands. Heat islands can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, and water quality.



Urban Reserve: An area outside of an urban service area but within an urban growth boundary, in which future development and extension of municipal services are contemplated but not imminent.

Urban Reserve Line: As defined in Framework for Planning, Part I of the Land Use Element. [Amended 1995, Ord. 2741]

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): A key measure of overall street and highway use. Reducing VMT is often a major objective in efforts to reduce vehicular congestion and achieve regional air quality goals.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC): A variety of chemicals with both short- and long-term adverse health effects. VOCs are emitted as gases from a wide array of products such as paints, lacquers, cleaning supplies, markers, and office equipment and furnishings.

Vulnerable Populations: There are three primary segments of vulnerable populations: those at risk to adverse climate change impacts due to exposure, sensitivity, or adaptive capacity.

- **Exposure:** Physical conditions may put particular populations at risk to the impacts of climate change. For instance, populations living in low-lying or coastal areas may be more exposed to flooding events and sea level rise, while those who work outside may suffer from health-related issues due to increased temperatures and decreased air quality.
- **Sensitivity:** Certain populations, including young children and those over the age of 65, are physiologically more sensitive to extreme temperatures and increased instances of air pollution.
- **Adaptive Capacity:** The adaptive capacity of lower-income and institutionalized populations can be limited due to lower access to the resources necessary to prepare for or react to the long-term impacts of climate change and the increased frequency of disasters.

Water Conservation: Reducing water use, such as turning off taps, shortening shower times, and cutting back on outdoor irrigation.

Water Efficiency: Replacing older technologies and practices in order to accomplish the same results with less water, for example, by replacing toilets with new low-water-using models and by installing “smart controllers” in irrigated areas.



Water-Efficient Landscape: Native or low-water-using landscapes. Water-efficient landscapes are required by law in all cities and counties in California to conserve water.

Watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake or reservoir.

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV): A vehicle that does not emit any tailpipe emissions from the on-board source of power. Both electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are classified as ZEVs.

