



Watsonville 2030 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

Bold climate leadership





Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security, and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.

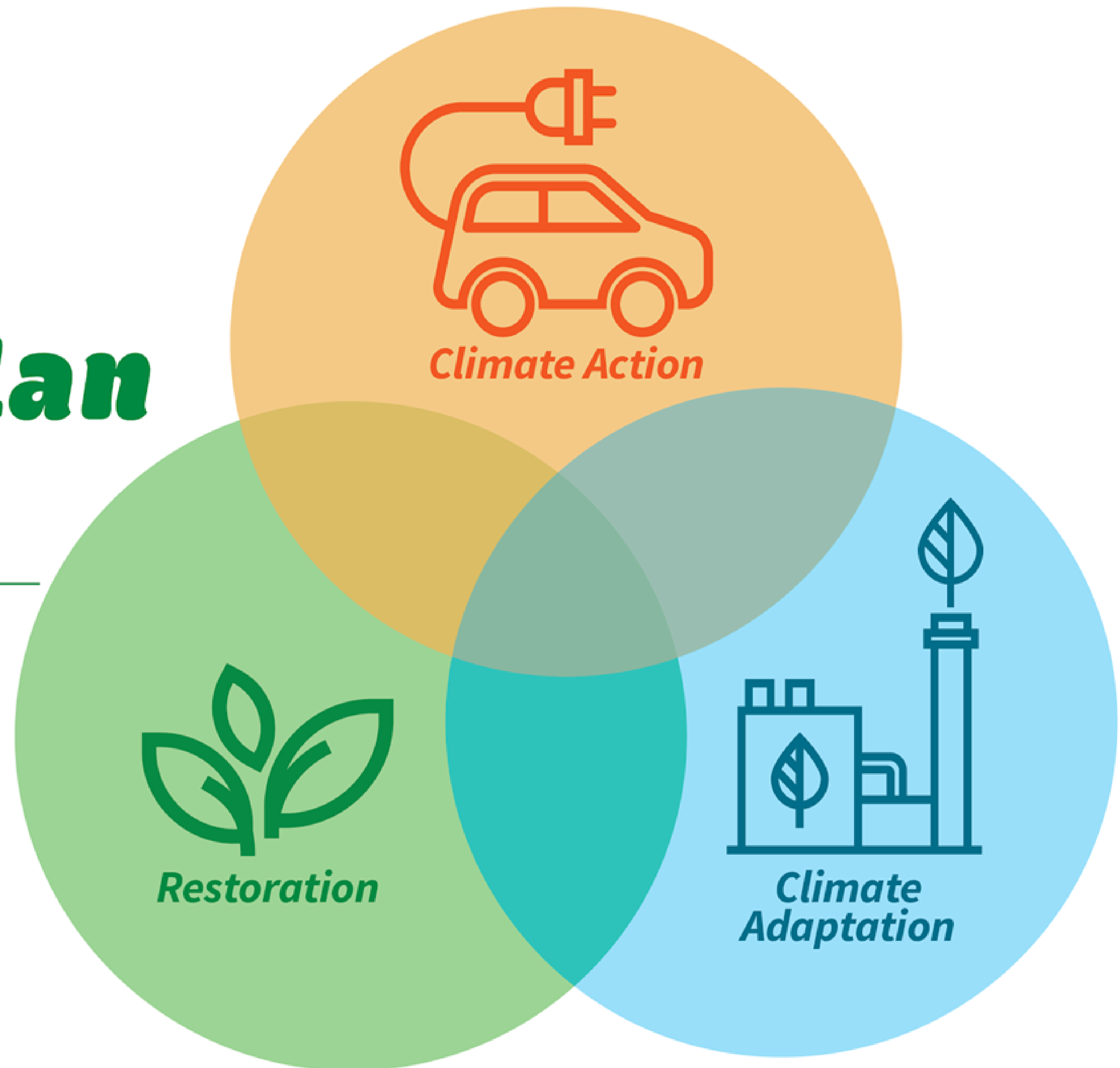
Ban Ki-moon



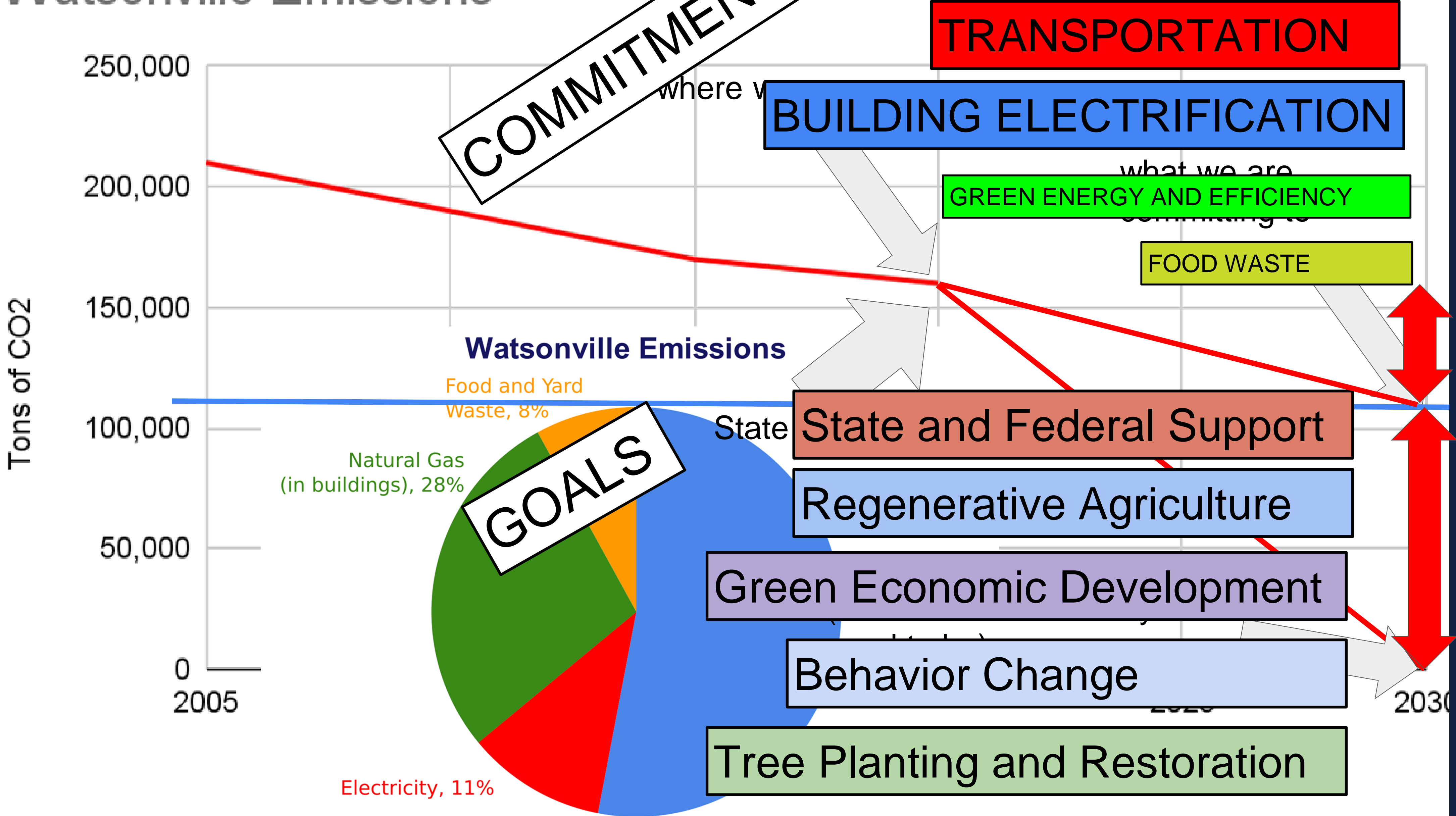
2030 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

A Holistic Approach

The 2030 Plan interconnects past and current planning efforts to ensure our community is prepared and more resilient.



Watsonville Emissions



Reducing Emissions - Building Electrification (natural gas phase-out) - 35% of Solution

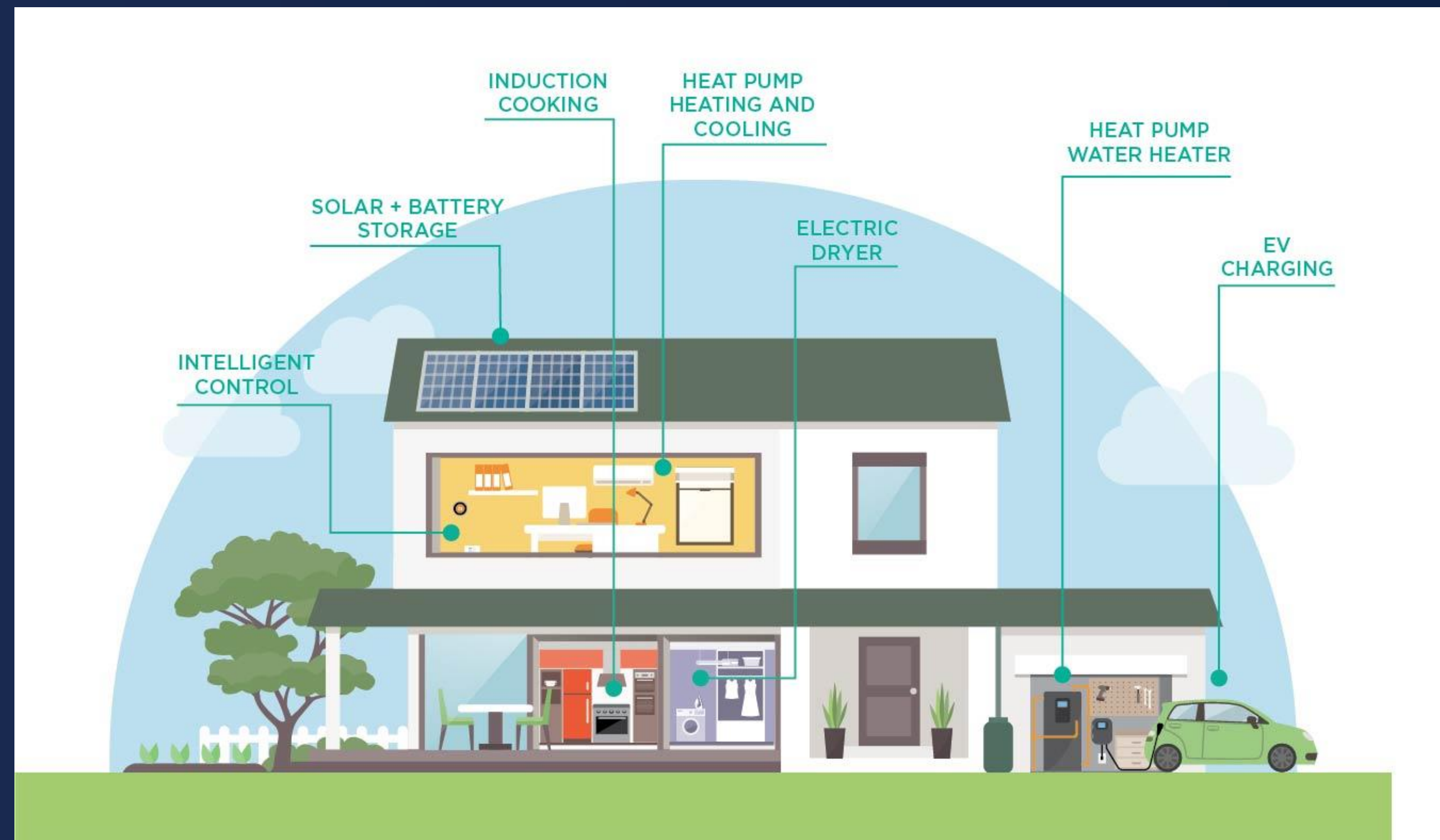
- **All new buildings to be all-electric**
 - Electric-only ordinance for new development
- **Retrofit existing buildings to be all-electric**
 - Biggest program: will take 20-30 years
 - Requires significant State and Federal funding
 - Next steps:
 - Develop Retrofit Master Plan
 - Find partners for implementation



Building Electrification



Before



After

Transportation - 35% of Solution

- **Facilitating Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure**

- EV Master Plan
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Charging Station Friendly Codes

- **Electrify City Fleet**

- **Getting people into EVs- Equitably:**

- Requires significant outside funding-State and Federal grants
- Partnerships with Nonprofits and 3CE



Transportation

- **Active Transportation:** more walking and biking trails
 - Update City-wide Bike & Trails Master Plan
 - E-Bike Share Program
- **Community Trip Reduction**
 - Carpool programs (Green Business Program)
 - Promote use of mass transit
 - Smart growth-Downtown Watsonville Specific Plan



Green Energy and Energy Efficiency - 16%

- **Shift more customers to 3CE Prime (100% Renewable Energy)**

- Advocacy and Partnership with 3CE
- Significant Outreach Effort
- Request Rates for Low-Income

- **Energy efficiency retrofits**

- with partners such as Central Coast Energy Services



Food Waste Program-12% of Solution

- Collection of Food Waste from all residents and businesses
- Home Composting program
- Edible Food Redistribution Program
 - Reduces food wasted by stores and restaurants



Adaptation

- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)**
 - Preparing for Flooding and Wildfires
 - Preparing for extreme heat and sea level rise
 - Drought readiness and response
- **Agricultural and Food Resilience**
 - Buy local programs
 - Community gardens
- **Energy Resilience**
 - Grid Improvements
 - Power Backups at Critical Facilities
 - Microgrid at WWTP



Climate Restoration and Sequestration: Removing CO2 from the Air

- **Carbon Sequestration**
 - Tree Planting
 - Regenerative Ag Practices
- **Healthy Ecosystems**
 - Habitat Restoration
 - Water Quality Programs

Co-Benefits

Air Quality Improvements



Recreation Opportunities



Cost Savings



Job Creation



Health Benefits



Water Quality Improvements



Other Actions and Considerations

- **Legislative Efforts**

- Stronger State and Federal Climate Goals
- Significant Funding Needed
- Climate Safe California



- **Regional Climate Action Plans**

- Energy and transportation: beyond City influence

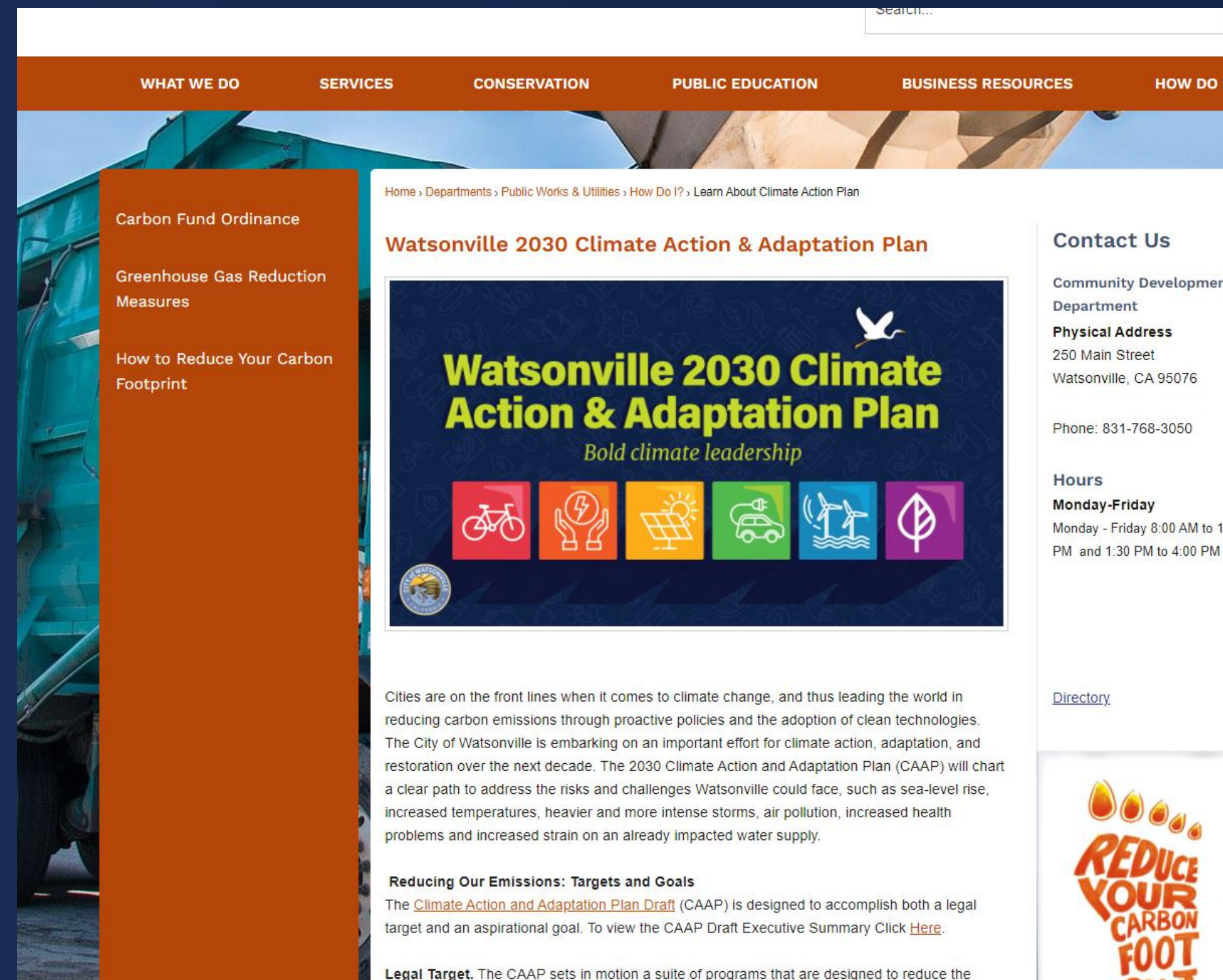
- **Equitable Green Recovery**

- Green Job Creation
 - Local Training Programs
 - Identify Partners (MBEP, CCES)
- Green Infrastructure



Public Engagement

- Stakeholder meetings
- Community Advisory Committee meetings
- Community Survey (1400 responses!)
- Climate Action Website



Environmental Review & General Plan Amendment

- **Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND)**
 - No mitigation measures required
- **Qualified GHG Reduction Plan**
 - Allows future projects to use the CAAP to streamline GHG analysis for CEQA compliance
- **General Plan Amendment**
 - Add policy in the General Plan to direct the preparation & implementation of the CAAP



Implementation

- **Clear Immediate Actions for 2022:**

- New Building Electrification Ordinance
- Work with Watsonville Wetlands Watch and Regeneration
 - Restoration, Tree Planting, EV programs
- Install 12 new EV charging stations
- Green Job Development
- Existing Building Electrification Master Plan
- Expand Food Waste Program to all residents
- eBike Share Program
- New Nature Center



“Climate change is sometimes misunderstood as being about changes in the weather. In reality, it is about changes in our very way of life.” – Paul Polman

This CAAP is a call to action to residents, community organizations, and businesses to take an active part in Watsonville's transition to a low-carbon future.



General Plan Text Amendment

Chapter 9 Environmental Resource Management

9 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Watsonville Planning Area possesses a rich heritage of open space and natural resources. Farmland, water, wildlife habitat, and air quality are not recognized as limited resources which must be judiciously used and wisely managed to minimize stress on the area's natural resources.

This chapter of *Watsonville 2005* addresses the state of planning requirements for conservation and open space. It presents goals and policies for the protection and wise use of the environmental resources found in the Watsonville Planning Area. Additional City policies and actions on the preservation and enhancement of important agricultural soils are found in the Growth and Conservation Strategy chapter (3).

The City shall prepare a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The CAAP provides a framework and process for updating policies, programs, practices, and incentives for the City, including residents and businesses, to reduce the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, combat the impacts of climate change, and explore carbon sequestration, habitat restoration, and repair of our natural world. The CAAP policy and implementation measures are included in Policy 9.K Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The CAAP is available on the City's website.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

In the Watsonville Planning Area community concerns center around air and water quality, lakes, streams, riparian vegetation, prime agricultural soils, and freshwater marshes. Issues of community concern include the following:



Photo: Courtesy of the Register-Pajaronian

Habitat preservation is an important planning issue in Watsonville, where rivers, sloughs, and agricultural lands are prominent in the landscape.

Environmental Resource Management

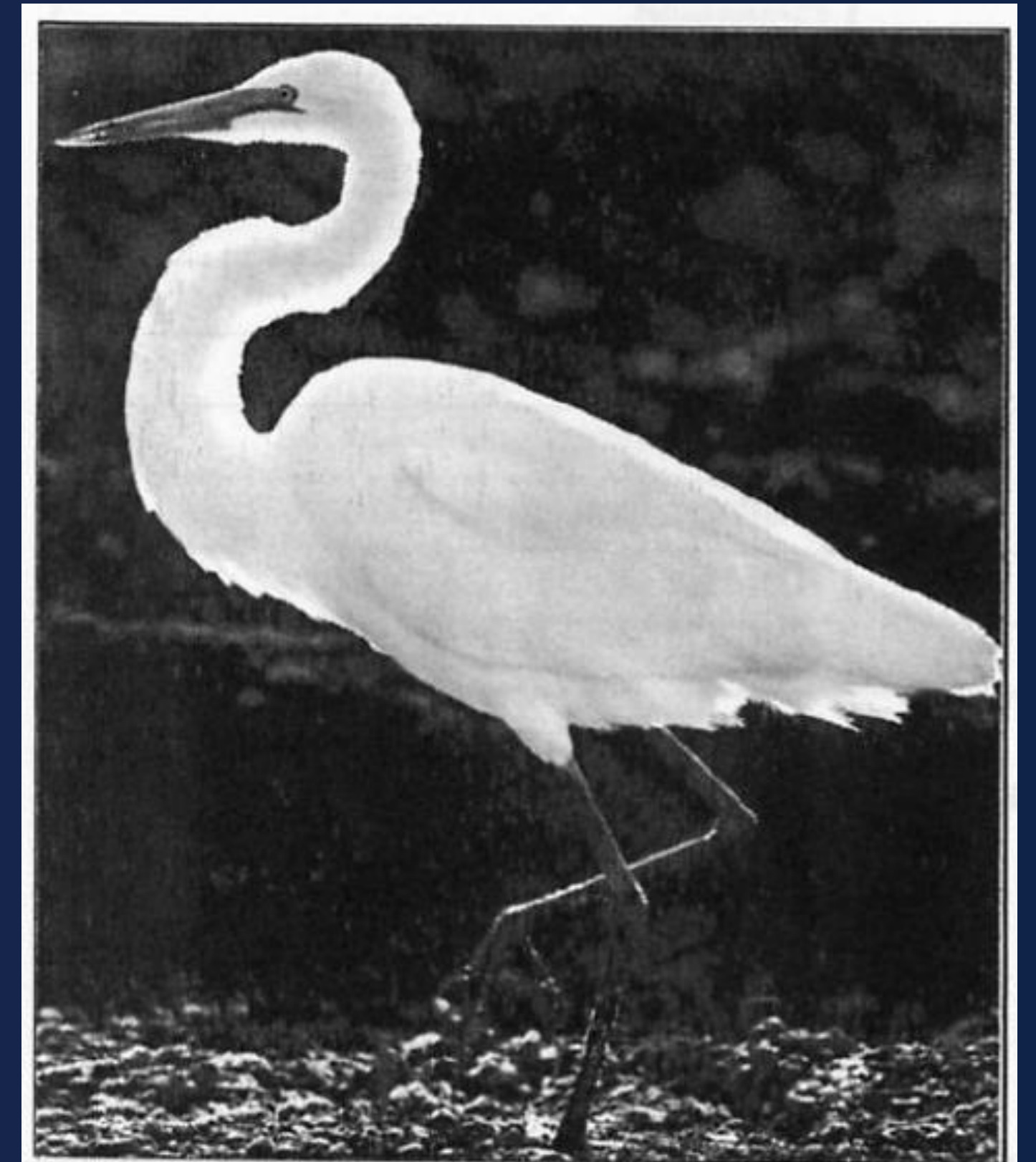
- **Addresses...**

- Conservation and open space requirements
- Natural resources (e.g., air, water, wildlife habitat)
- Related topics (e.g., climate, energy)



Photo: Courtesy of the Register-Pajaronian

Habitat One thousand native trees and shrubs plus 3,000 grass plants were planted to help restore Watsonville Slough and are provided as a condition of City approval for a new auto center on Main Street.



Egrets are frequently seen along waterways in the Pajaro Valley. "Pajaro" means bird in Spanish.

Goals

Goals for environmental resource management have been established to preserve the natural resources of the Planning Area. These goals provide for open space, conservation, and limitations of the extent of future urbanization.

Goal 9.1 Open Space Network

Provide a comprehensive network of open space land uses for outdoor recreation and environmental protection.

Goal 9.2 Open Space Preservation

Preserve the open space and agricultural land uses surrounding the urban limit line which contribute to the economic base, provide scenic vistas, and offer opportunities for scientific exploration.

Goal 9.3 Natural Resources

Identify and protect the natural resources of the Watsonville Planning Area.

Goal 9.4 Air Quality

Maintain or improve the present air quality level within the Pajaro Valley

Goal 9.5 Water Quality

Ensure that surface and groundwater resources are protected.

Goals

Goals for environmental resource management have been established to preserve the natural resources of the Planning Area. These goals provide for open space, conservation, and limitations of the extent of future urbanization.

Goal 9.8 Wildlife Habitat

Preserve and protect the remaining areas of wildlife habitat for their scenic and scientific value.

Goal 9.9 Mineral Resources

Provide for protection and appropriate conservation of economically important mineral resources.

Goal 9.10 Archaeological Resources

Identify and protect prehistoric resources for their scientific, educational, and cultural values.

Goal 9.11 Hazardous Materials

Protect the air, water, soil, and biotic resources from damage by exposure to hazardous materials through aggressive management of hazardous materials.

Goal 9.12 Energy

Promote the conservation of energy and the use of alternative energy resources in transportation and residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Proposed Text Amendment

- **Added background information**
 - Purpose of the CAAP
 - What it intends to accomplish
 - How it's integrated in the General Plan

The City's CAAP includes three types of initiatives in order to advance its desired climate resilience goals. Climate action, or mitigation, refers to actions taken to address the causes of climate change and to reduce the impact people have on the climate system. An example of mitigation includes transitioning to low-carbon energy sources, such as renewable energy. Climate adaptation, on the other hand, refers to adjusting behaviors, systems, and infrastructure to reduce the impact climate change has on communities. Updating building codes to address future climate conditions and extreme weather events is an example of climate adaptation. Climate restoration consists of goals and associated actions, such as tree planting programs and soil carbon sequestration, intended to return climate systems to the safe and healthy state in which the natural world evolved.

Proposed Text Amendment

- **New Policy 9.K - Climate Action and Adaptation**

- Requires the **preparation & implementation** of the CAAP
- CAAP shall establish **GHG emission reduction** targets & strategies
- CAAP shall be a CEQA-qualified GHG reduction plan → **enforceable**

include a climate change preparedness analysis to address City adaptation to climate change. The City shall monitor and report on progress toward the emissions reduction targets on a periodic basis, with updates to the inventory every two years and an update to the CAAP at least every five years. The CAAP shall be a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-qualified GHG reduction plan pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. Therefore, all strategies and GHG reduction measures must be fully enforceable and feasible to implement by the City.

Proposed Text Amendment

- **New Implementation Measure 9.K.1**

The CAAP shall include the following:

- *Conduct a baseline analysis (GHG emissions inventory) using the best available baseline year;*
- *Adopt an emissions reduction target;*
- *Develop strategies and measures for reducing emissions;*
- *Develop strategies and actions for adaptation to climate change;*
- *Develop a local carbon offset program;*
- *Implement strategies and measures identified in the CAAP; and*
- *Monitor emissions and verify results.*

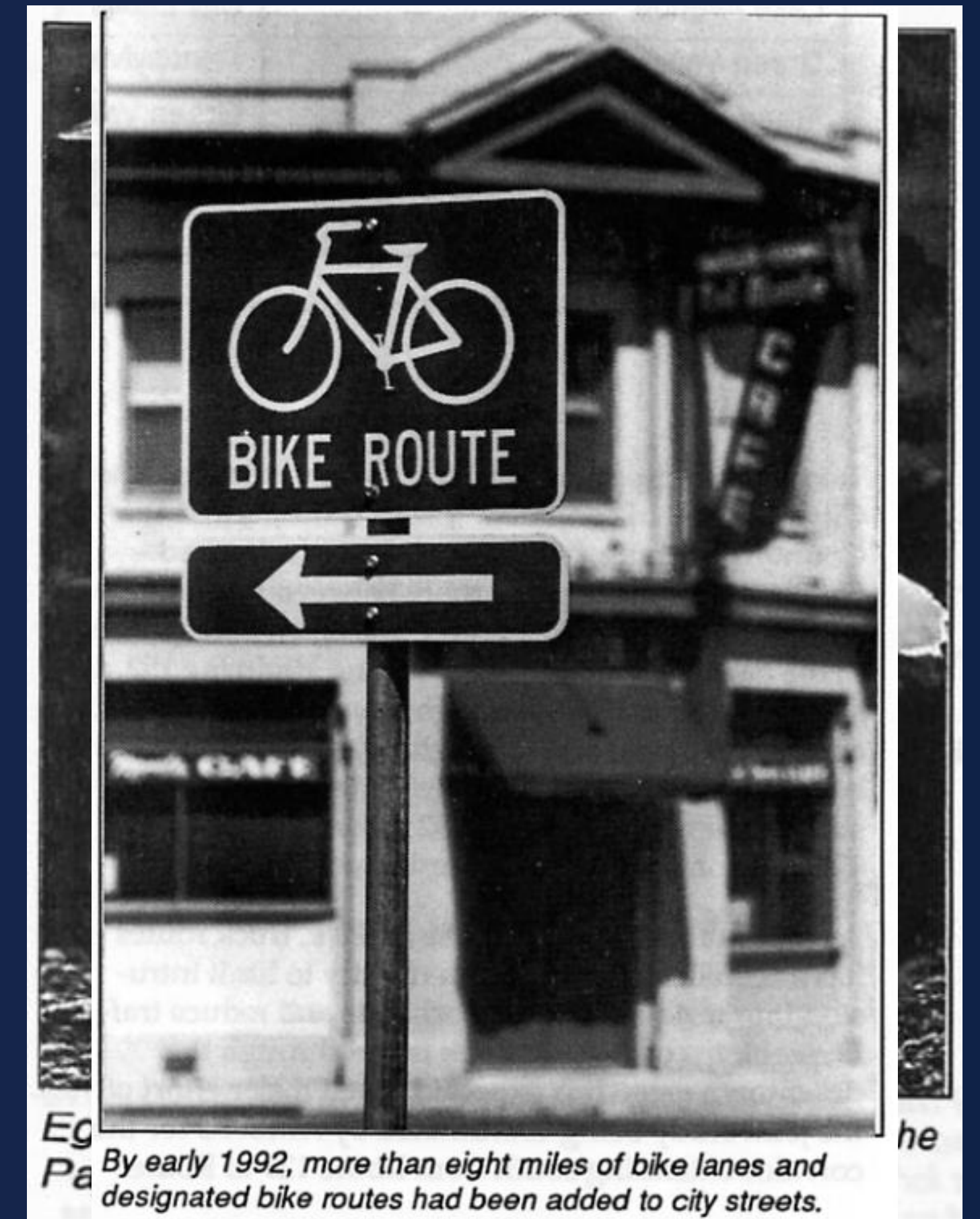
Note: measure based on language in the *Watsonville VISTA 2030 General Plan* and modified to reflect the CAAP (instead of the 2015 Climate Action Plan)

General Plan Consistency

- **The proposed text amendment is consistent with...**

- Goal 9.1 Open Space Network
- Goal 9.2 Open Space Preservation
- Goal 9.3 Natural Resources
- Goal 9.4 Air Quality
- Goal 9.5 Water Quality
- Goal 9.12 Energy
- Goal 10.2 Transit Facilities and Service
- Goal 10.3 Rail Facilities and Service
- Goal 10.4 Bicycle Circulation
- Goal 10.5 Pedestrian Circulation

- **Council may make required Findings** (WMC § 14-12.708)



General Plan & CAAP Relationship

- CAAP is a standalone document
- CAAP implements General Plan Policy 9.K
- CAAP updates anticipated every 5 years
- GHG inventory updates every 2 years
- CAAP progress tracked online
- City operations and actions will be required to be consistent with the CAAP

Recommendation

- **Planning Commission recommends that the City Council adopt:**

1. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration
2. The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
3. The General Plan Text Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 16-21 (PC)
14-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH (27TH) AMENDMENT TO THE *WATSONVILLE 2005 GENERAL PLAN* AMENDING CHAPTER 9 (ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT) TO INCLUDE THE CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

CEQA GUIDELINES



Questions & Discussion

