

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE POLICY FACT SHEET: DRAWDOWN MARIN

California's landmark environmental laws, including [Assembly Bill 32](#) (Health & Safety Code § 38500 et seq.), address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions at the state level. Yet local California communities have also begun to implement tailored climate policies that contribute to the state's environmental progress. One such community, Marin County in northern California, is implementing a community-driven response to climate change through its [Drawdown Marin](#) campaign. Introduced in 2017, Drawdown Marin is aligned with [Project Drawdown](#), a nonprofit organization and coalition of stakeholders interested in achieving “drawdown” – the point in the future where GHG emissions start to steadily decline. This California Climate Policy Fact Sheet provides a foundational understanding of Drawdown Marin as an example of local initiatives that complement California's efforts towards reducing emissions across the state.

Overview of Drawdown Marin

Drawdown Marin was launched as a countywide climate action campaign to achieve [two goals](#) in Marin County:

1. A 60% reduction of GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030; and
2. A 100% or greater reduction of GHG emissions by 2045.

Drawdown Marin aims to go through a step-by-step [process](#), from information gathering to the development of focus areas and stakeholder groups, to implement local climate solutions that address six categories: [renewable energy](#), [transportation](#), [buildings and infrastructure](#), [carbon sequestration](#), [local food and food waste](#), and [climate resilient communities](#). Primary stakeholder groups include an executive steering committee to guide the campaign, stakeholder collaboratives to develop recommended priority solutions and measure progress, and a community partnership council to engage and empower Marin County residents. Once solutions are identified, the campaign will seek funding to implement prioritized solutions and measure success.

The Evolution of Drawdown Marin

An October 2017 [statement](#) made by two Marin County policymakers details the intention of developing local climate policy efforts: “Eliminating carbon emissions is an ambitious but achievable goal, and everyone has a part to play.” The Marin County Board of Supervisors subsequently adopted [Resolution No. 2017-104](#), “Supporting Actions to Dramatically Reduce Carbon Emissions and Achieve a Climate Resilient Future.” With the Resolution's passage, the Board of Supervisors committed to working with Marin County staff and community leaders to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change in Marin County – an effort later branded Drawdown Marin and supported with a grant by the Marin Community Foundation.

Marin County hired a program manager the following year to help coordinate and lead the process for the development of Drawdown Marin. Stakeholder collaboratives were formed to address the campaign's six categories, and community engagement and input occurred over a [two-year process](#) towards developing a playbook of recommended actions. In the summer of 2020, the program manager will [synthesize](#) Drawdown Marin's initial efforts in the playbook, which:

- Provides a summary of the recruitment and meetings of each stakeholder collaborative;
- Describes successes and lessons learned;
- Summarizes completed and planned community engagement; and
- Summarizes findings for each main category and provide recommended solutions.

Following the issuance of the playbook, Drawdown Marin will be an iterative process towards funding and implementing recommended solutions and empowering actions within the Marin County community.

Key Outcomes and Next Steps for Drawdown Marin

Launched as a countywide climate action campaign with a vision of making Marin County a carbon-free community by 2045, Drawdown Marin continues to invigorate the county as it strives towards a [sustainable future](#). Furthermore, in collaboration with Project Drawdown, Drawdown Marin has inspired similar efforts across [communities nationwide](#), including in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Southern Appalachian region, and the Ferguson Township, Pennsylvania. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has even recognized local communities like Marin County as having a key role to play in helping California achieve its emissions reduction goals. CARB maintains a [Local Government Toolkit](#) to provide guidance and resources for local governments and a [California Climate Action Portal Map](#), which helps recognize local government climate action planning efforts across the state. As one of the first community-driven climate campaigns of its kind, the impacts of and lessons learned from Drawdown Marin can help other communities, jurisdictions, and networks in their local efforts to advance climate solutions.

Project Climate and Drawdown Marin

Project Climate is interested in helping Marin with its effort, and is particularly interested in learning about the key challenges the County encounters and the solutions that it develops. While Marin has certain unique features, many of the issues in Marin are the same for local communities around California and throughout the country. Project Climate will help Marin share the lessons learned with communities across the country and promote the most promising solutions that Marin pioneers.