INDICATORS? WHAT INDICATORS?
A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE INDICATORS AND ACTION
We are a nonprofit organization of over 700 members that fosters innovation in local environmental sustainability, economic prosperity and social equity.
Overview of Governments in CA

- Approximately 7,000 local government agencies in CA (cities, counties, special districts, etc.)
- Approximately 15,000 elected officials oversee these agencies
AB 32: Global Warming Solutions Act (2006)- reduce GHG to 1990 levels by 2050

SB 375: Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection Act (2008)- requires regional plans to achieve VMT reduction targets

CEQA Lawsuits (2007)- consider Climate Impacts in EIRs

Governor’s Executive Order (2015)- requires 40% GHG reduction by 2030 through: 50% renewables, 2x building energy efficiency & cutting fuel use in 1/2, Consideration of climate impacts in investment and planning
Local Governments are Challenged to Respond to Climate Change

![Bar Chart: Primary Barriers to Implementing Greenhouse Gas, Energy, and/or Sustainability Policies]

**Figure 63.** Primary barriers jurisdictions have experienced in implementing greenhouse gas, energy, and/or sustainability policies.
Local Governments are Challenged to Respond to Climate Change

![Graph showing public vs. private sector employment.](chart.png)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally-adjusted data
How LGs think about Climate Change

- **Leadership**
  - How can I demonstrate leadership within and outside my community?

- **Authority**
  - What do I have control over?

- **Opportunities**
  - Can this help my community thrive?

- **Regulations**
  - What am I required to do?

- **Risks**
  - How will this impact my community?

- **Costs**
  - How much will it cost to act?
The Local Government Toolbox

✧ General Plans
  – Long term blueprint for development, policy oriented, has seven required elements

✧ Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
  – Includes assessment of risks and assets, and mitigation strategies

✧ Climate Action Plans
  – Includes an inventory, forecast, reduction targets, and reduction measures

✧ Ordinances, permits, zoning, etc.
  – Designed to translate plans into specific requirements

✧ Adaptation Plans (new)
  – Includes vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies
The Adaptation Planning Process

Vulnerability Assessment

**Exposure**
- Identify the climate change effects a community will experience.

**Sensitivity**
- Identify the key community structures, functions, and populations that are potentially susceptible to each climate change exposure.

**Potential Impacts**
- Analyze how the climate change exposure will affect the community structures, functions, and populations (impacts).

**Adaptive Capacity**
- Evaluate the community’s current ability to address the projected impacts.

**Risk and Onset**
- Adjust the impact assessment to account for uncertainty, timing, and adaptive capacity.

Adaptation Strategy Development

**Prioritize Adaptive Needs**
- Based on the vulnerability assessment, prioritize the adaptive needs.

**Identify Strategies**
- Identify strategies to address the highest priority adaptation needs.

**Evaluate and Prioritize**
- Prioritize strategies based on the projected onset of the impact, projected cost, co-benefits, and other feasibility factors.

**Phase and Implement**
- Develop an implementation plan that includes phasing of strategies and a monitoring system to assess effectiveness.
Ideas for Integration

✧ Feed into what local governments are doing already
  – Make it simple to access
  – Make it align with existing outputs & processes
  – Connect it to level of authority

✧ Translate indicators to operational terms
  – People (displacement, exposure, response capacity)
  – Infrastructure indicators (buildings, transportation, utilities)
  – Natural resources (agricultural, forestry, fisheries)

✧ Work with Local Government to build understanding and application
  – Invest in communicating the importance
  – Create the connections between data and action
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THANK YOU!