Valley Transportation Authority

Solutions that move you

FISCAL YEAR 2024

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION REPORT

About this Report

This Sustainability and Climate Action Report provides an update on VTA's progress towards implementing its Sustainability Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 reporting period occurring between July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2020, established specific objectives and targets to measure VTA's performance through 2040, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, criteria air pollutants, energy use (buildings and fleet), water, and waste. The CAAP, adopted in 2024, serves as VTA's roadmap to further reduce GHG emissions and address climate change impacts by adapting to and building resilience of VTA's assets and operations. This report highlights key implementation efforts of both plans and VTA's ongoing commitment to protect the environment.

Advancing Sustainability at Cerone Bus Division

VTA completed a project to upgrade the exterior lighting at the Cerone Bus Division to LEDs. This project aligns with the strategies identified in VTA's CAAP to reduce building energy consumption, and associated GHG emissions, and improves the safety of VTA's facilities through better nighttime lighting quality. Overall, 381 lighting fixtures were replaced resulting in annual savings of more than 187,000 kWh of electricity. To put this into perspective, the energy savings is enough to power more than 18 homes for a year and avoids 65 metric tons of GHG emissions (equivalent to removing over a dozen cars from the road). It is expected that VTA will save approximately $80,000 in utility costs annually as a result.

VTA completed the final design for the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Infrastructure & Microgrid Project at the Cerone Bus Division, and will commence construction in late Summer of 2026. This project will install two new 1.44-megawatt (MW) and two new 180-kilowatt (kW) charging cabinets to support the transition from diesel to electric buses. It will feature 34 charge ports, a 450 kW solar system, and a 4 MWh battery energy storage system that will serve as a microgrid to support the charging infrastructure. As VTA operations increasingly depend on electricity as a fuel source, ensuring energy reliability and resilience is critical. The project will provide a decentralized, grid-independent power source to a facility identified by VTA's CAAP as vulnerable to flooding and wildfire events that can disrupt grid power to Cerone. Funding for this project includes a $4.7M grant from the California Energy Commission's Clean Transportation Program, $17M from the State's Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, and over $85,000 in expected PG&E Electric Vehicle Fleet and other rebates.

381
Lighting fixtures replaced

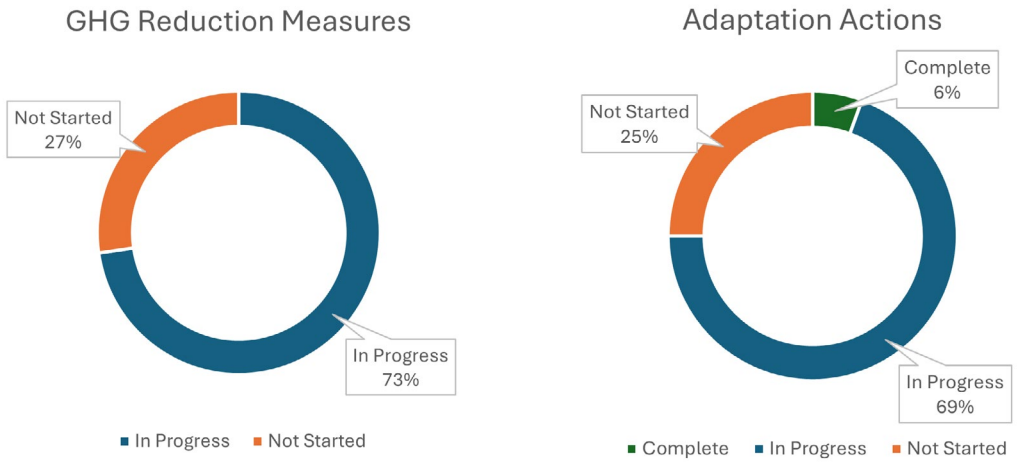
187
mWh saved

65
metric tons of GHG eliminated

Climate Action and Adaptation Moves into Implementation

Following the adoption of the final CAAP in early 2024, VTA held a community celebration to thank students, agency partners, and community organizations for their valuable contributions during the development of the plan. The implementation phase is underway and involves prioritizing measures and actions based on their potential benefits and magnitude of impact, implementing those measures and actions, and continually monitoring and evaluating the CAAP, making periodic updates as needed. **Figure 1** shows the implementation progress to date. VTA regularly seeks input from stakeholders and participates in various working groups as a member of the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative.

Figure 1 **Progress of CAAP Implementation**

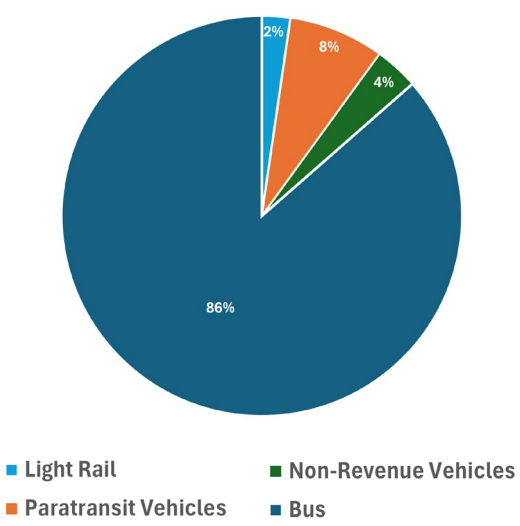


On the Path to Zero-Emission Buses

As shown in Figure 2, VTA's revenue fleet makes up the majority of the agency's total GHG emissions. Therefore, the implementation of the CAAP must be closely aligned with the implementation of VTA's Zero Emission Bus Blueprint. The transition to zero-emission buses is a key area where VTA must focus additional resources to ensure a more sustainable future. VTA staff are collaborating across multiple departments to identify funding sources to help support this transition. However, VTA is not waiting for a zero-emission fleet to cut our carbon footprint. VTA's current fleet of hybrid (diesel/electric) buses, equipped with diesel particulate filters, reduces fuel consumption and lowers harmful tailgate emissions. In 2022, VTA switched from ultra-low sulfur petroleum-based diesel to 100% renewable diesel made from biofuels for all its buses, cutting GHG emissions for the lifecycle of fuel by at least 50% and improving air quality for the community.

Figure 2

VTA's GHG Emissions by Fleet Type



FY 2024 Sustainability Highlights

Earth Day

For the first time ever, VTA combined Earth Day with Bring Your Child to Work Day. The event was a great success for staff and their children. Participants embarked on a journey through different VTA departments, soaking up knowledge about how public transportation contributes to cleaner air and how stormwater runoff impacts our waterways. Grownups and kids unleashed their creativity by creating recycled art collages from surplus office supplies destined for the trash. From greeting cards to crafts, everything was made from recycled materials, embodying VTA's commitment to reducing waste.

Vanpool Subsidy Program

A partnership between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Enterprise, and VTA, offers a subsidy of up to $900 per month to commuters for vanpools commuting within Santa Clara County. The program encourages commuters to use a sustainable mode of transportation for work and school, providing an alternative to commuting by single-occupancy vehicle. Vanpooling helps reduce traffic congestion, GHG emissions, wear and tear on personal vehicles, and commuting costs. In FY 2024, the program supported 20 active carpools, collectively removing 766 cars from the road and eliminating 713,632 commuter miles. This is equivalent to eliminating 247 Metric Tons of CO2.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

VTA participates in California's LCFS program, which aims to decrease the carbon intensity of transportation fuels and incentivize the use of low- or no-carbon alternatives. VTA earns LCFS credits through the electrical usage of its public and non-revenue electric vehicle charging stations, bus charging stations, the light rail system, and BART operations between Warm Springs and Berryessa Stations. These earned credits can be sold to fund vehicle electrification projects. VTA generated 17,600 LCFS credits in FY 2024. A total of 91,763 credits were carried into FY 2025. The amount of LCFS credits is expected to increase as VTA adds more electric charging stations and zero-emission buses to its portfolio. The credits were worth $4,118,323 as of the week ending on July 13, 2025.

Storm Water Management and Trash Full Capture Systems (FCS)

Through its Stormwater Management Program, VTA prevents pollution from stormwater runoff, which carries trash and other pollutants directly into local waterways leading to San Francisco Bay. Unlike sewer systems, stormwater drainage does not include direct treatment for pollutants. The program includes designing projects with stormwater features and treatment measures, educating staff and the public, installing trash capture devices, organizing clean-up events, and participating in regional data collection efforts.

As of June 30, 2024, VTA installed 253 FCS units at various locations and installed multi-benefit treatment systems at facilities including the Eastridge Transit Center, Chaboya Bus Division, and the Berryessa and Milpitas BART Stations. VTA is on track to install FCS at all facilities by FY 2030.

KEEP SANTA CLARA VALLEY BEAUTIFUL

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

4,950 pounds

of litter removed from roadways

Keep Santa Clara Valley Beautiful Initiative

This is a countywide, multi-agency initiative focused on cleaning and preventing littering on highways in Santa Clara County. Partners include Caltrans, Clean CA, California Highway Patrol, Valley Water, and San Jose State University. The program works to change people's attitudes and behaviors towards littering, recognizing that highway trash is hazardous to drivers, the environment, and residents. For FY 2024, nine events were held with the help of 224 volunteers collecting around 4,950 pounds of trash. The initiative received Keep America Beautiful's President's Circle Recognition Award in 2024 for exemplary performance in promoting clean, green, and beautiful communities.

VTA's Sustainability Team Remains Committed and Engaged

Sustainability Team members proudly include the following: Humzah Baig, Hassan Basma, Greg Beattie, Lorena Bernal-Vidal, Patty Boonlue, Daniel Bustos, Colleen Campbell, Melissa Canales, Kat Correia, Marc Delong, Lani Lee Ho Christina Jaworski, Angel Madero, Debrah Magqoka, Jon Maier, Fanny Mata, Iulia Panescu Quiazon, Kathleen Podrasky, Raj Sehdev, Mike Tkalcevic, Bob Victor, and Joseph Vigil.

VTA's commitment to sustainability is significantly supported by its dedicated Sustainability Team, which was established in 2008 with the goal of strengthening the agency's commitment to the environment. Comprised of staff from across nearly every agency function, including operations, engineering, and community engagement, the team champions a greener VTA and provides input and oversight for the Sustainability Plan. The Sustainability Team meets quarterly and participates in several field visits throughout the year, including a trip to Coyote Ridge, where the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, a species endemic to the San Francisco Bay region of California and listed as federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act, can be spotted on VTA-owned property.

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For more information, please visit:
https://www.vta.org/programs/sustainability