

Energy goals and policies excerpt from the Preliminary Draft Antelope Valley Area Plan

Find the full document online at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

- **Policy COS 9.8:** Coordinate with the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and other local, regional, state, and federal agencies to develop and implement regional air quality policies and programs.

- **Policy COS 11.2:** Promote the use of solar-powered lighting for highways, streets, and public facilities, including parks and trails.

- **Policy COS 11.3:** Promote the use of renewable energy systems in public facilities, such as hospitals, libraries, and schools, to ensure access to power in the case of major disasters.

Energy

Goal COS 10

Diverse energy systems that utilize existing renewable or waste resources to meet future energy demands.

- **Policy COS 10.1:** Encourage the use of non-hazardous materials in all individual renewable energy systems and all utility-scale renewable energy production facilities to prevent the leaching of potentially dangerous run-off materials into the soil and watershed.
- **Policy COS 10.2:** Ensure that all individual renewable energy systems and all utility-scale renewable energy production facilities do not interfere with commercial and military flight operations or communication facilities. Consult with Edwards Air Force Base and U.S. Air Force Plant 42 on all proposed renewable energy projects that require discretionary approval.
- **Policy COS 10.3:** Encourage the safe and orderly development of biomass conversion facilities as an alternative to burning agricultural wastes.
- **Policy COS 10.4:** Promote methane recapture in existing landfills to generate energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal.
- **Policy COS 10.5:** Encourage the development of emerging energy technologies, such as “solar roads.”

Goal COS 11

Energy systems for use in public facilities that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources while maintaining public safety.

- **Policy COS 11.1:** Promote energy retrofits of existing public facilities throughout the County to complement and reduce dependence upon utility-scale renewable energy production facilities, such as solar facilities and wind facilities, in the Antelope Valley.

Goal COS 12

Individual energy systems for onsite use that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and dependence on utility-scale energy production facilities.

- **Policy COS 12.1:** Promote the use of individual renewable energy systems throughout the County to complement and reduce dependence upon utility-scale renewable energy facilities, such as solar facilities and wind facilities, in the Antelope Valley.
- **Policy COS 12.2:** Require appropriate development standards for individual renewable energy systems to minimize potential impacts to surrounding properties. Simplify the permitting process for individual renewable energy systems that meet these development standards.

Goal COS 13

Utility-scale energy production facilities for offsite use that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources while minimizing potential impacts on natural resources and existing communities.

- **Policy COS 13.1:** Direct utility-scale renewable energy production facilities, such as solar facilities and wind facilities, to priority locations on the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map (Zones 1 through 3) where environmental, noise, and visual impacts will be minimized.
- **Policy COS 13.2:** In the High Priority Zone (Zone 1) of the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map, require basic conditions and mitigation measures for utility-scale renewable energy production facilities during the application review process because of the limited potential impacts they may have on known sensitive biotic communities.
- **Policy COS 13.3:** In the Medium Priority Zone (Zone 2) of the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map, require moderate conditions and mitigation measures for utility-scale

renewable energy production facilities during the application review process because of the potential impacts they may have on the swainson's hawk, Mojave ground squirrel, and desert tortoise species habitats, which are known sensitive biotic communities.

- **Policy COS 13.4:** In the Low Priority Zone (Zone 3) of the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map, require stringent conditions and mitigation measures for utility-scale renewable energy production facilities during the application review process because of the potential impacts they may have on Significant Ecological Areas, which are known sensitive biotic communities.
- **Policy COS 13.5:** Allow utility-scale renewable energy production facilities outside priority locations on the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map (Zones 1 through 3), provided that a contiguous site has been assembled near new transmission lines on previously disturbed lands that are not designated as Prime Farmland by the State of California, and require stringent conditions and mitigation measures for such facilities during the application review process because of potential impacts.
- **Policy COS 13.6:** Restrict development of utility-scale wind energy production facilities within the Edwards Air Force Base Impact Area, as identified on the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map, to limit interference with military operations.
- **Policy COS 13.7:** Require all utility-scale renewable energy production facilities to implement a decommissioning plan that will restore the full site to its natural state upon complete discontinuance of operations and will restore non-operational portions of the site while the remainder continues operating.
- **Policy COS 13.8:** Promote the use of recycled water in utility-scale renewable energy production facilities to limit impacts on the available fresh water supply.
- **Policy COS 13.9:** Where development of utility-scale renewable energy production facilities cannot avoid sensitive biotic communities, require open space dedication within Significant Ecological Areas as a mitigation measure.

- **Policy COS 13.10:** Ensure that all utility-scale renewable energy production facilities, such as solar facilities and wind facilities, do not create land use conflicts with adjacent agricultural lands or existing residential areas in the vicinity. Require buffering and appropriate development standards to minimize potential conflicts.
- **Policy COS 13.11:** Limit the aesthetic impacts of utility-scale renewable energy production facilities to preserve rural character.
- **Policy COS 13.12:** Coordinate with other jurisdictions to plan for utility-scale renewable energy production facilities in order to minimize impacts to sensitive biotic communities and existing residential areas.
- **Policy COS 13.13:** Review and update the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map when any boundaries within the data layers are revised.

Goal COS 14

Energy infrastructure that is sensitive to the scenic qualities of the Antelope Valley and minimizes potential environmental impacts.

- **Policy COS 14.1:** Require that new transmission lines be placed underground whenever physically feasible.
- **Policy COS 14.2:** If new transmission lines cannot feasibly be placed underground due to physical constraints, require that they be collocated with existing transmission lines, or along existing transmission corridors, whenever physically feasible.
- **Policy COS 14.3:** If new transmission lines cannot feasibly be placed underground or feasibly collocated with existing transmission lines or along existing transmission corridors due to physical constraints, direct new transmission lines to locations where environmental and visual impacts will be minimized.
- **Policy COS 14.4:** Discourage the placement of new transmission lines on undisturbed lands containing sensitive biotic communities.
- **Policy COS 14.5:** Discourage the placement of new transmission lines through existing communities or through properties with existing residential uses.

- **Policy COS 14.6:** Review all proposed transmission line projects for conformity with the goals and policies of the Area Plan, including those listed above. When the California Public Utilities Commission is the decision-making authority for these projects, provide comments regarding conformity with the goals and policies of the Area Plan.
- **Policy COS 14.7:** Require that electrical power lines in new residential developments be placed underground.
- **Policy COS 14.8:** When new transmission lines are developed, review and update the Renewable Energy Production Priority Map to reduce the need for long distance tie-ins from utility-scale renewable energy production facilities to electric utility substations.

Dark Night Skies

Goal COS 15

Humans and wildlife enjoy beautiful dark Antelope Valley skies unimpeded by light pollution.

- **Policy COS 15.1:** Ensure that outdoor lighting, including street lighting, is provided at the lowest possible level while maintaining safety.
- **Policy COS 15.2:** Prohibit continuous all-night outdoor lighting in rural areas unless required for land uses with unique security concerns, such as fire stations, hospitals, and prisons.
- **Policy COS 15.3:** Replace outdated, obtrusive, and inefficient light fixtures with fixtures that meet dark sky and energy efficiency objectives.
- **Policy COS 15.4:** Coordinate with the International Dark Sky Association to develop appropriate standards for public and private outdoor lighting throughout the unincorporated Antelope Valley.

Vegetation Conservation

Goal COS 16

Native vegetation thrives throughout the Antelope Valley, reducing erosion, flooding, and wind-borne dust and sand.

- **Policy COS 16.1:** Require new development to minimize removal of native vegetation. Discourage the clear-scraping of land and ensure that a large percentage of land is left in its natural state.
- **Policy COS 16.2:** Require that native vegetation be used in all landscaped areas, provided that vegetation meets all applicable requirements of the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works.

Green Building

Goal COS 17

Buildings are sustainable, conserving energy, water, and other resources, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Policy COS 17.1:** Require green building techniques for the construction and operation of all public and private buildings.
- **Policy COS 17.2:** Require that new buildings be sited and designed in a manner that maximizes efficient use of natural resources, such as air and light, to reduce energy consumption, heat profiles, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Policy COS 17.3:** Promote energy retrofits of existing buildings.
- **Policy COS 17.4:** Promote the use of individual renewable energy systems and require appropriate development standards for such systems to minimize potential impacts to surrounding properties. Simplify the permitting process for individual renewable energy systems that meet these development standards.
- **Policy COS 17.5:** Protect active and passive solar design elements and systems from shading by neighboring structures and trees through appropriate development standards.