

What does a Carbon Neutral Chico Look Like?

A carbon neutral future is one where all of our greenhouse gas emissions are offset by carbon sequestration. Since it's difficult to sequester large quantities of greenhouse gases, a carbon neutral future is nearly free of fossil fuels all together. A primary pathway for carbon neutrality is the replacement of fossil fuels with electricity. Electric buildings and vehicles will further benefit from Senate Bill 100 which requires all electricity sold in California to be 100% carbon free by 2045.



MOBILITY

Chico's cars, trucks, and other vehicles represent the largest source of emissions in Chico (61%) and is estimated to remain the largest source in the future. There are two ways to decrease emissions from transportation: reducing the amount we drive, or reducing the emissions of our vehicles through electrification. Finding solutions that fit Chico's community will be key to reaching carbon neutrality.



CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Carbon sequestration can be thought of as negative emissions, carbon that is taken out of the atmosphere and stored in trees and other plants. Increasing urban tree canopy has the added bonus of reducing heat and mitigating the expected impacts of climate change.



BUILDINGS

Natural gas used in Chico's buildings accounts for 21% of total emissions as of 2017. By 2045 that share is expected to grow to 34% as emissions from electricity go to zero. By electrifying new and existing buildings, Chico can significantly reduce its GHG emissions over time. Co-benefits of electrification of buildings include significant health benefits by eliminating fossil fuel combustion inside the home.



WASTE

Once emissions from buildings and mobility are reduced or eliminated, waste will persist as a growing source of emissions. By reducing our waste, diverting organics and improving recycling Chico can make progress towards a zero waste future.