Measuring the Region's Progress with the Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators Map

July 21st, 2020

sustainability PROGRAM

Toolbox Training

www.scag.ca.gov

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INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Agenda

1. Introduction

   Jason Greenspan

   Manager of Sustainability, SCAG

2. Civic Spark Program Introduction

   Mackenzie Bolger

   Program Implementation Manager, Local Government Commission

3. Green Region Initiative version 4.0

   Natalie Arreaga, Amanda Caswell & Vannesa R. Salazar

   CivicSpark AmericCorps Climate Fellows, SCAG

Housekeeping

1. Meeting length: approximately 1 hours
2. All participant lines will be muted
3. At the end, there will be a Q&A session
4. If you have a question during the presentation, please type it into the chat box
5. We will log all questions and then voice a selection at the end of the presentation
6. A recording of this webinar and the PowerPoint slides will be available on the SCAG website. We will send a link to everyone who has registered after the event.

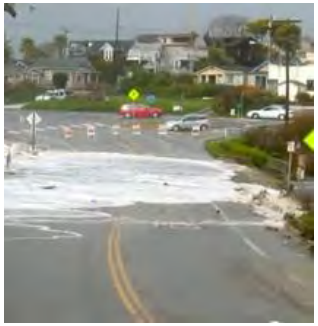
Introduction to CivicSpark

Mackenzie Bolger
Local Government Commission

CivicSpark is administered by CaliforniaVolunteers, Office of the Governor, and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

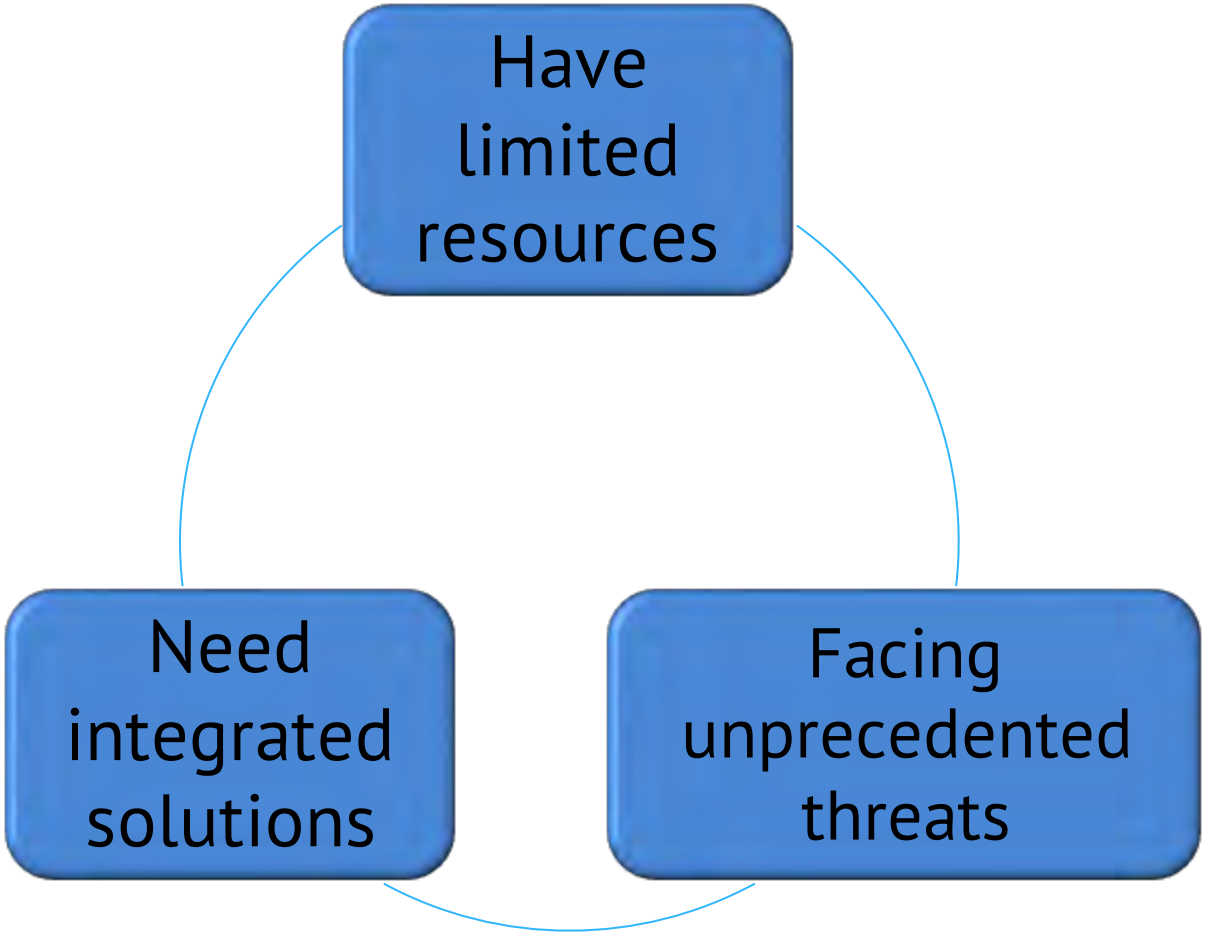
Let's start with a bit of context

- CA faces widespread environmental and social equity challenges
- The state has set ambitious goals to address these challenges

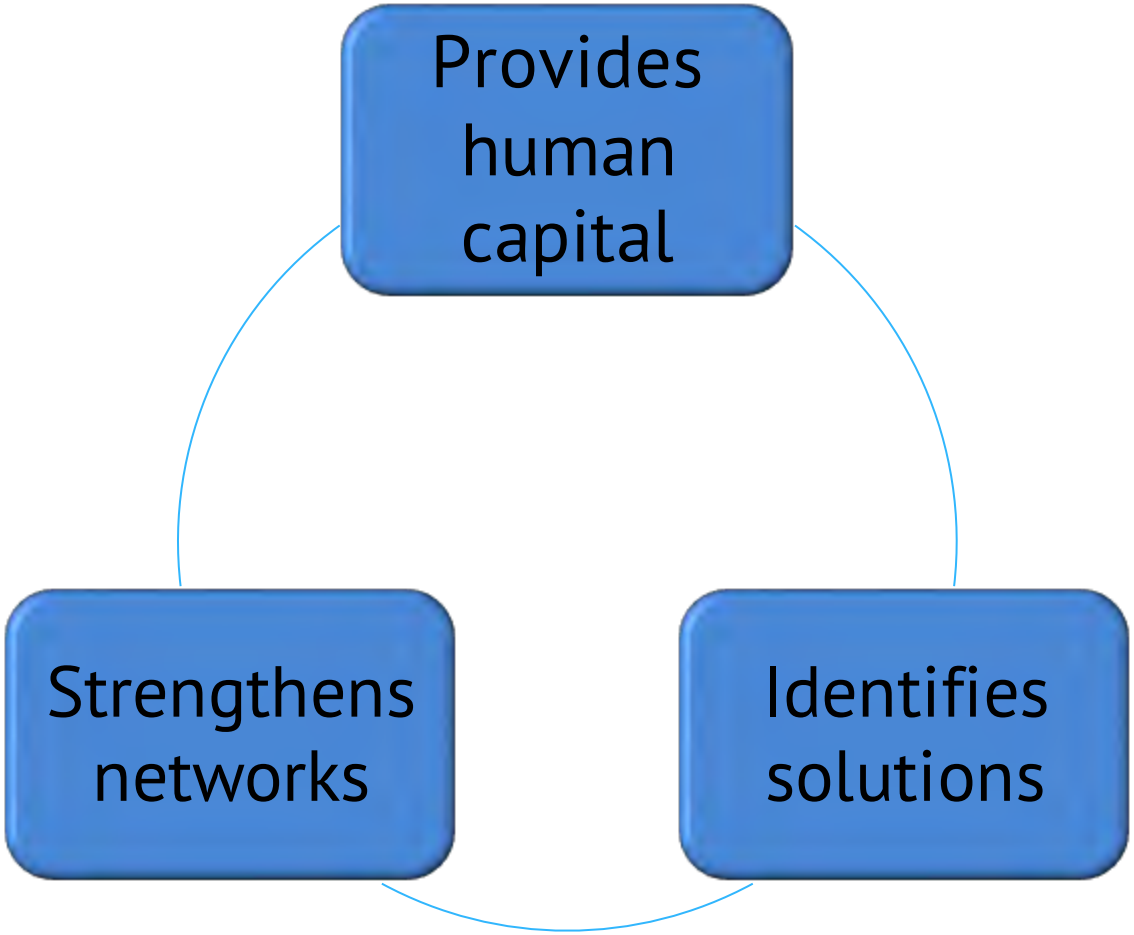


The well-being of Californians depends on community resilience.

Local Governments are critical to resilience, but lack capacity to respond for many reasons.



CivicSpark can help fill those resilience capacity gaps.



What is CivicSpark?

- Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program
- Addresses emerging environmental & social equity challenges through public sector capacity building

Climate Mitigation, Adaptation & Decarbonization

- Climate vulnerability assessment in the Delta
- Fire recovery and adaptation planning in Butte Co.
- Regional EV assessment in San Luis Obispo Co.
- Carbon neutrality in Marin, and Albany
- Carbon farming in Sonoma and Napa Counties

Water Policy and Management

- Stormflow analysis in Lakeport
- Groundwater sustainability planning in Yolo County, Mt. Shasta, Borrego Springs, and Tulare Co.
- Flood hazard management in Livermore

Affordable Housing and Access to Opportunity

- Technical assistance for SB1 and AHSC grants
- Housing element updates in Placer and San Luis Obispo Counties
- Housing solutions for California Community Colleges

Equity and Environmental Justice

- Disadvantaged community engagement in Marin, Tulare, and Alameda Counties
- Energy Equity in Los Angeles
- Community needs assessments in the Santa Ana River Watershed
- Community leadership in San José

COVID-19 Recovery

- Develop and implement recovery programming.
- Research & analysis, plan development, and stakeholder engagement for long-term recovery efforts
- Coordination of volunteer activities and resources

CivicSpark is making a lasting impact for California communities.

Over the past five years, CivicSpark Fellows provided more than **515,000 hours** of service to over **190 public agencies** through **500+ projects.**

"Our CivicSpark Fellows have brought a fresh perspective on how we engage the community in energy planning in the region, and they are not short on ambition."

And for the 300+ Fellows who participated.

- **83%** of all alumni who completed the program are in a relevant career path
- **73%** are currently working in the public sector or public service
- **69%** reported that CivicSpark specifically had a significant impact on their lives and careers

"I've somehow landed my dream job, working in the nexus of sustainability and policy, and CivicSpark made this possible for me."

-18-19 Alum

LGC manages CivicSpark.

We partner with the Governor's Office to leverage state resources and support.

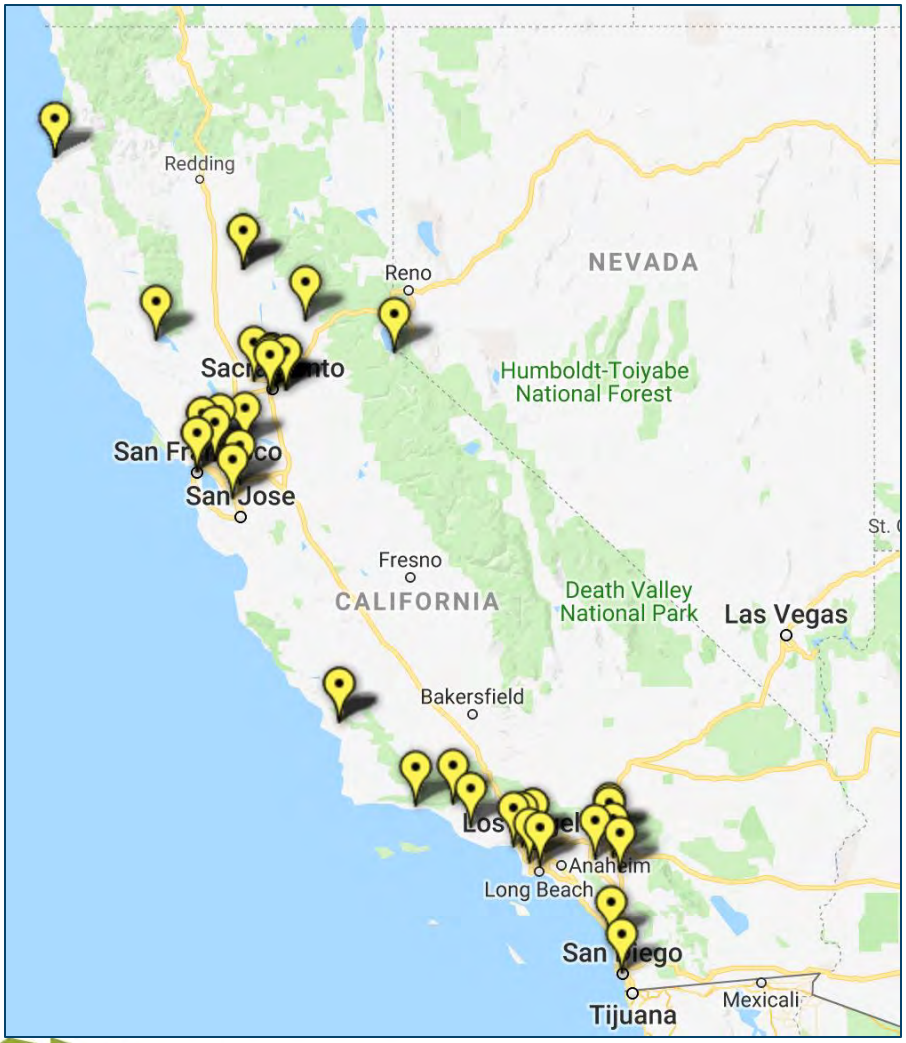
We also work closely with national, state, and you - our local partners.

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

"Our CivicSpark Fellow is full of energy and optimism, and single-handedly re-energized efforts to educate the community on climate action."

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

Especially our Fellows.



- Serve all over California
- Individual or teams of Fellows
- Tend to group in regions
  - Bay Area
  - Los Angeles
  - Sacramento

CivicSpark Fellows build capacity through four core activities.

Gap Assessments

- Fellows interview staff and review key documents to determine needs and finalize project goals and scope.

Service Projects

- Fellows complete specific research, planning, or implementation project(s).

Volunteer Engagement

- Fellows support increased volunteerism in conjunction with their project(s).

Transitioning Expertise

- Fellows sustain progress by sharing results with key stakeholders.

"Without CivicSpark, climate planning would not be happening here!"

We are looking for strong partnerships.

- Tangible and impactful resilience projects
  - Clear, suitable scope of work
  - Commitment to implementation
  - Strong connection to public agencies need
- Commitment to Fellows' growth and development
  - Direct project oversight
  - Dedicated Fellow supervisor

We'd love to partner with you!

- 2020-21 Service Year begins September 1st.
- Check out our website: civicspark.lgc.org
  - Eligibility
  - Fiscal contribution
  - Application
- Reach out with any questions!

Mackenzie Bolger
mbolger@lgc.org

Local Government Commission

Leaders for Livable Communities

Green Region Initiative v4.0 (GRI)

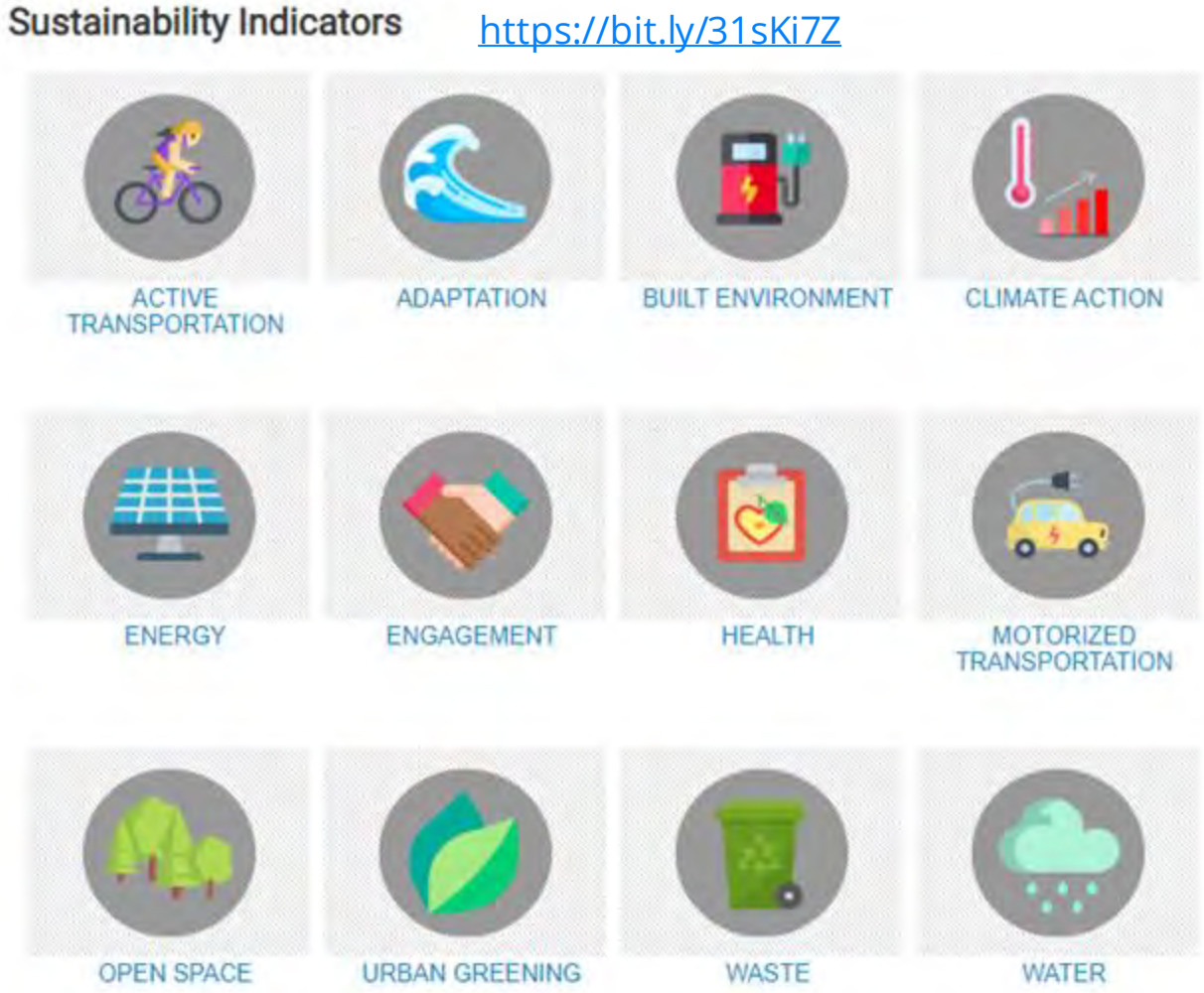
July 21, 2020

Natalie Arreaga
Amanda Caswell
Vannesa Reyes Salazar

Green Region Initiative (GRI)

- Define, measure and track sustainability progress within the SCAG region
  - Measures progress through Policy and Performance Categories
- A resource for local governments to
  - Explore best practices
  - Collaborate on programs
  - Assess the needs of communities

GRI Topics and Indicators



Roadmap to Version 4.0

GRI v1.0
2014-15

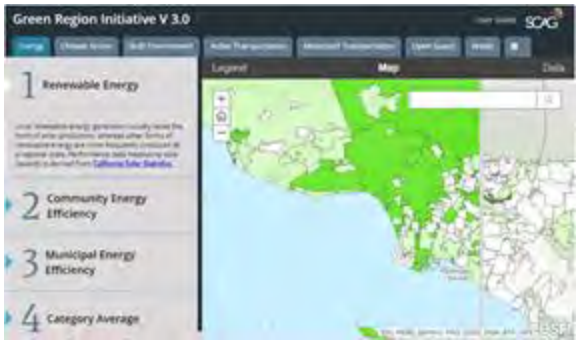
Aggregate total of all sustainability plans and progress made across the region

GRI v2.0
2015-16

Separate ranking systems based on policy measures

GRI v3.0
2016-17

Separate ranking systems based on policy and performance measures



Roadmap to Version 4.0

GRI v3.5
2017-18

Improved map performance and additional indicators of Adaptation, Affordable Housing, and Healthy Food Access

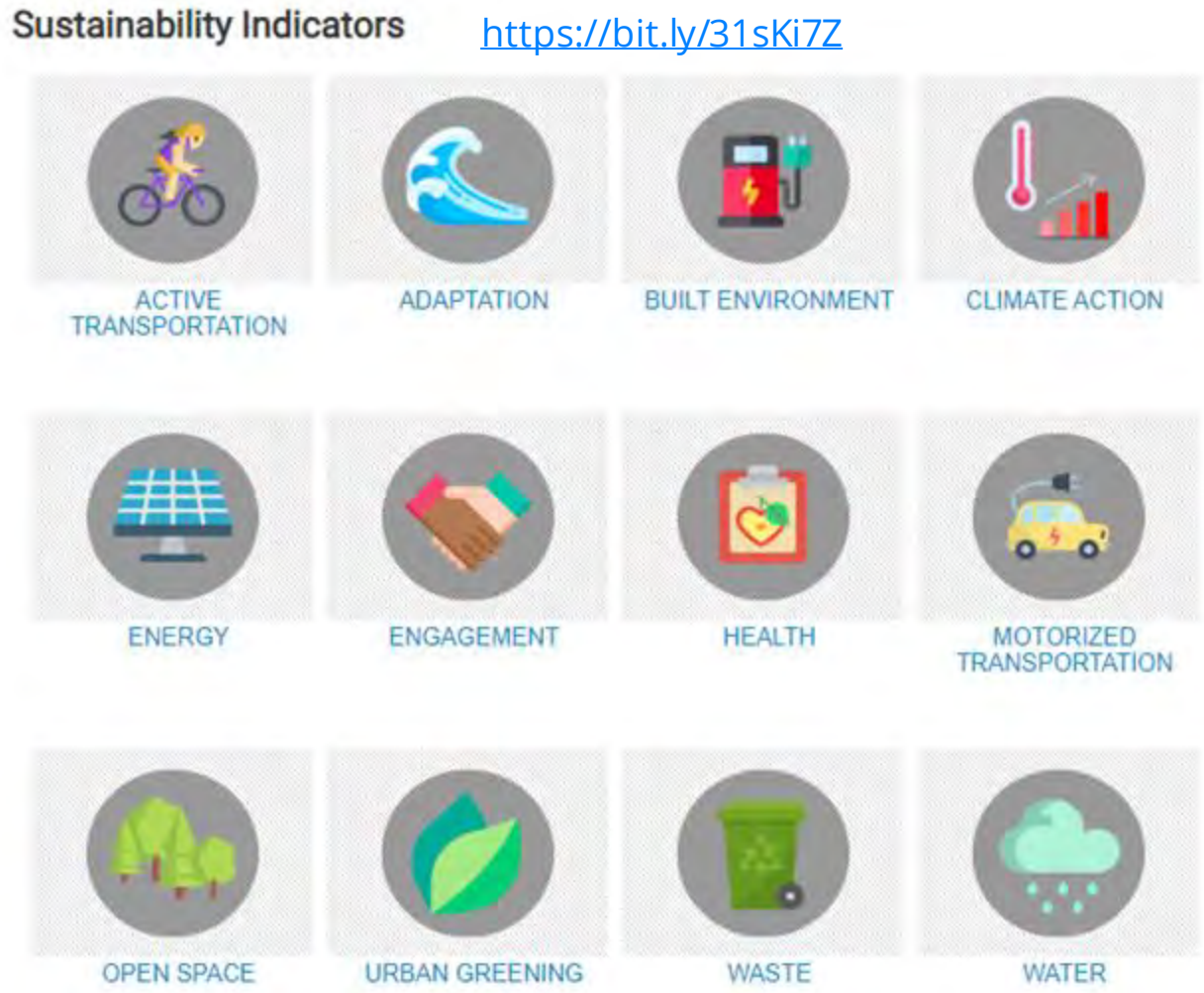
GRI v3.6
2018-19

Updated 11 maps and simplified regional sustainability statistics through utilization of the GRI data

GRI v4.0
2019-20

Updated data in 2 indicators. Additional Electric Vehicle Charger Station Permitting indicator and Urban Greening topic. Incorporated Senate Bill (SB) 535 Disadvantaged Communities map

Quick Demonstration

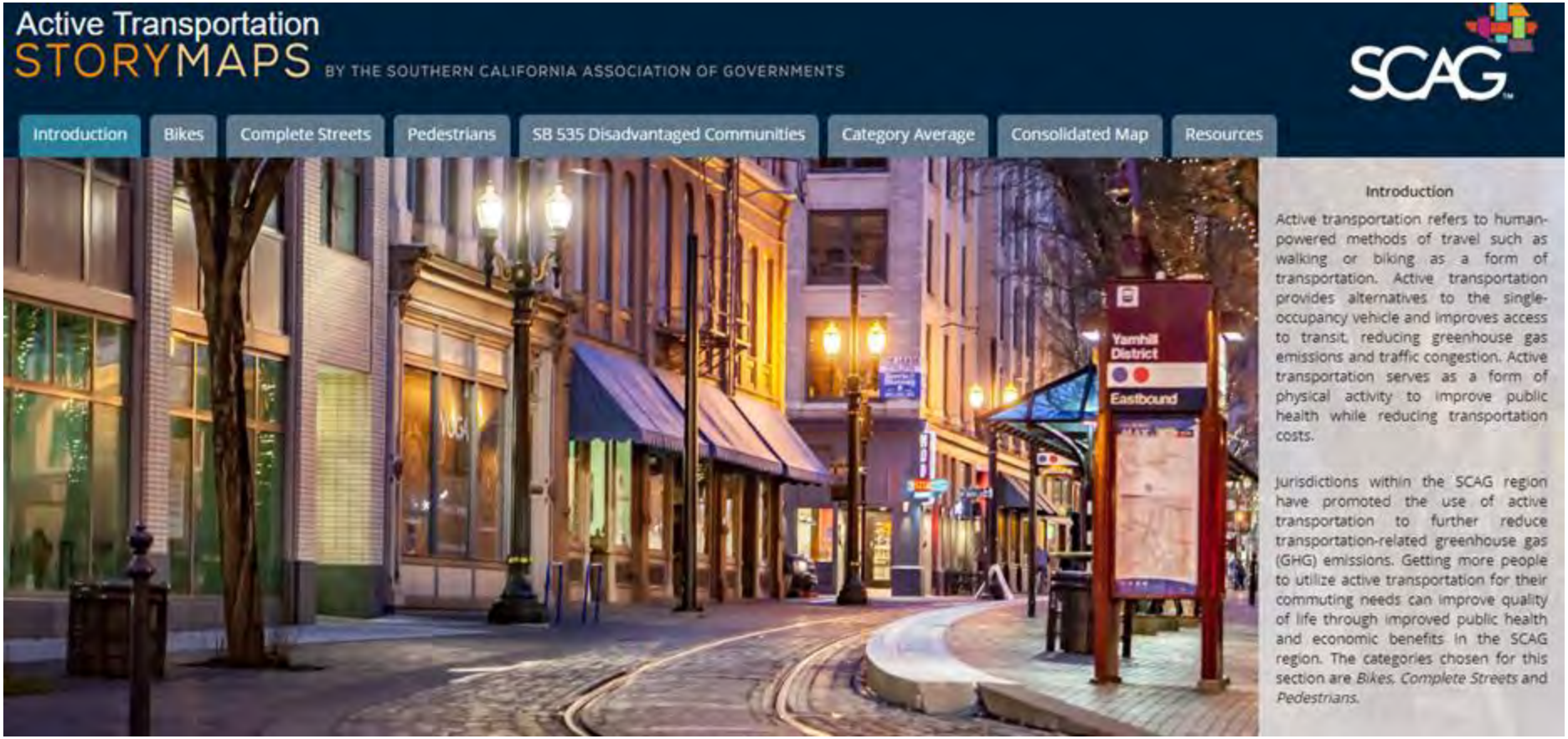


Demo - Poll

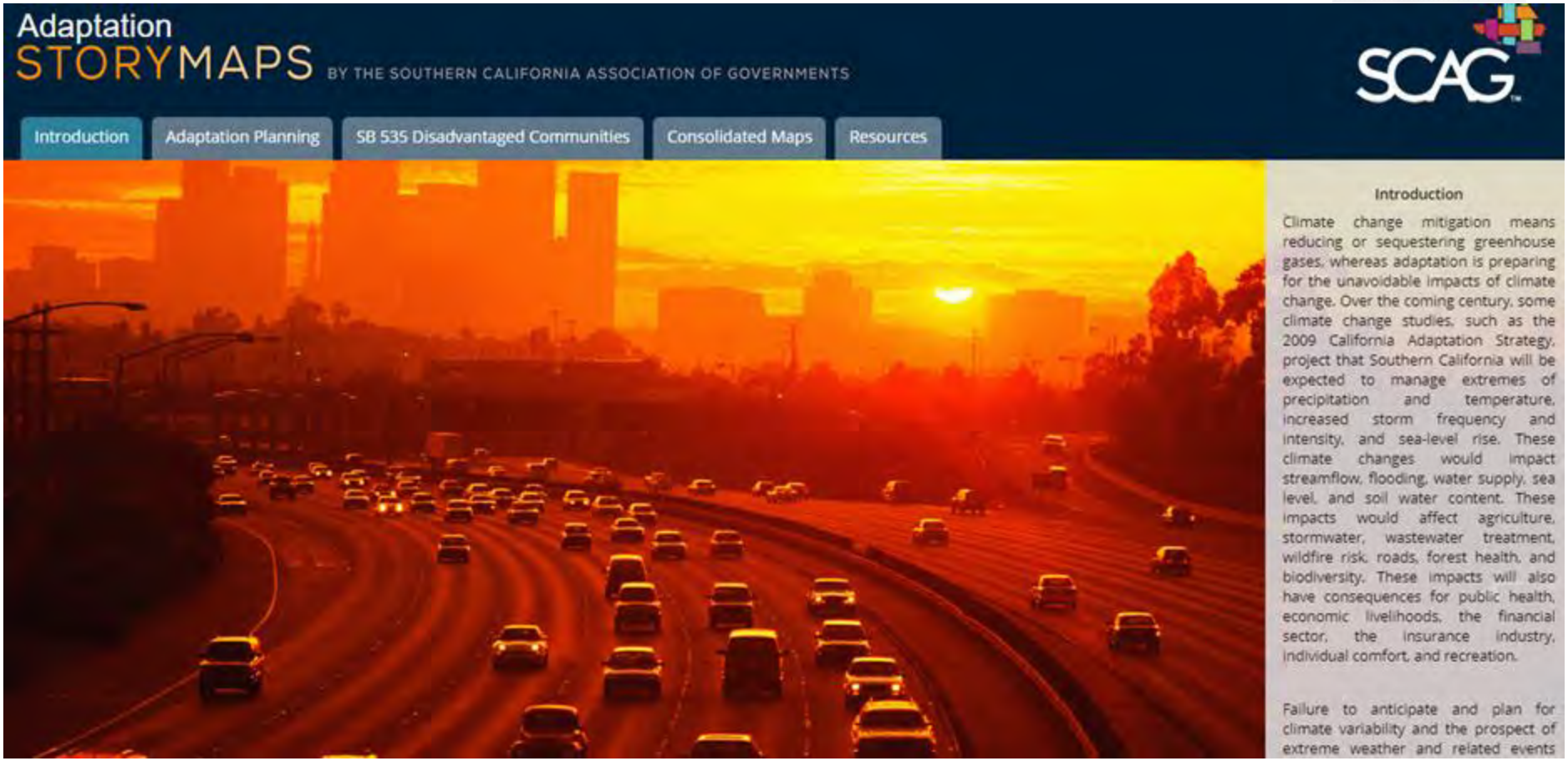
Exploring the GRI's Sustainability Topics

http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Sustainability%20Topics/SustainabilityTopics.aspx

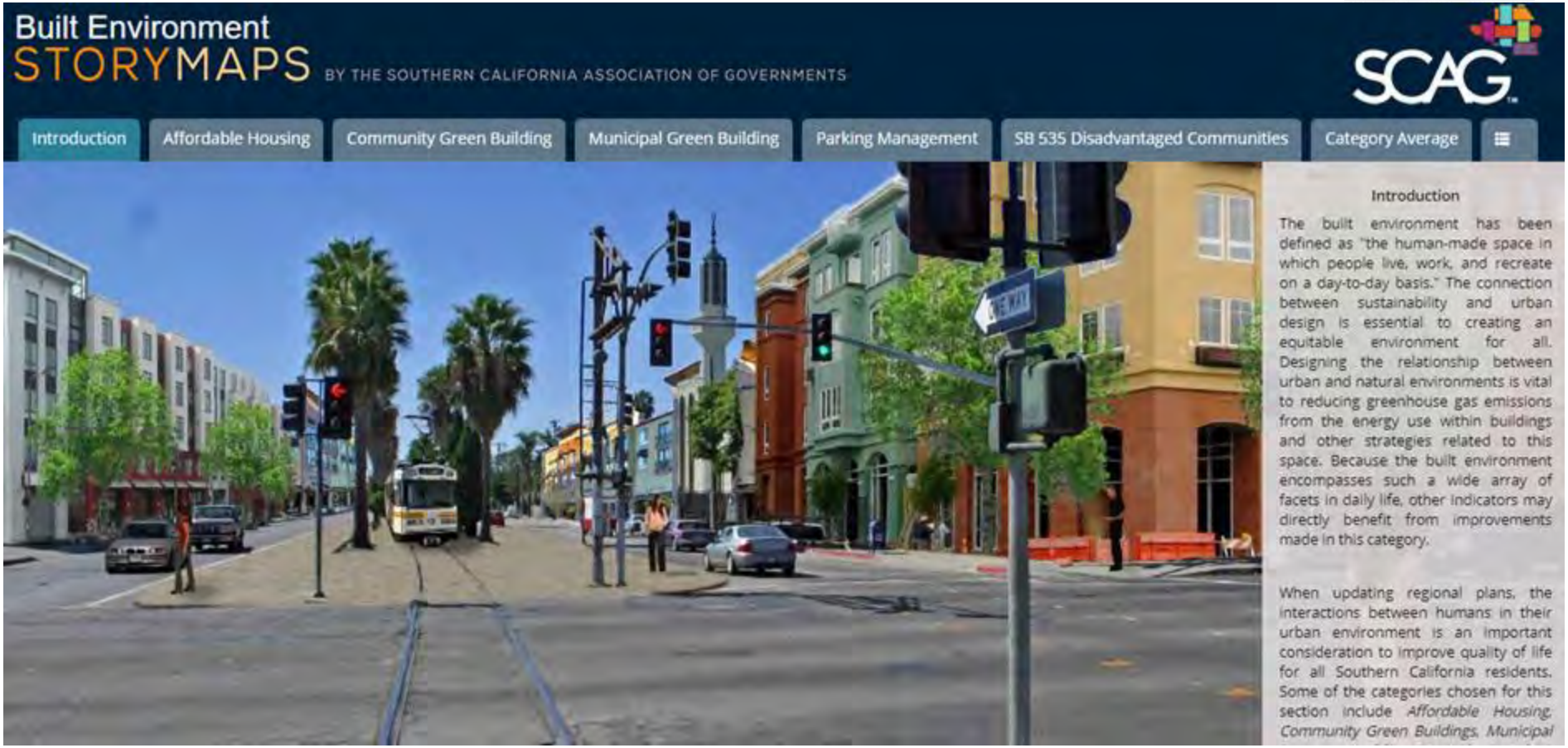
Active Transportation



Adaptation


Adaptation
STORYMAPS
BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SCAG
Introduction
Adaptation Planning
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Consolidated Maps
Resources
Introduction
Climate change mitigation means reducing or sequestering greenhouse gases, whereas adaptation is preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Over the coming century, some climate change studies, such as the 2009 California Adaptation Strategy, project that Southern California will be expected to manage extremes of precipitation and temperature, increased storm frequency and intensity, and sea-level rise. These climate changes would impact streamflow, flooding, water supply, sea level, and soil water content. These impacts would affect agriculture, stormwater, wastewater treatment, wildfire risk, roads, forest health, and biodiversity. These impacts will also have consequences for public health, economic livelihoods, the financial sector, the insurance industry, individual comfort, and recreation.
Failure to anticipate and plan for climate variability and the prospect of extreme weather and related events

Built Environment



Climate Action

Energy

Energy
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SCAG
Introduction
Community Energy Efficiency
Municipal Energy Efficiency
Renewable Energy
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Category Average
Consolidated Maps
Introduction
Clean, stable, and sustainable sources of energy for Southern California are critical to supporting a healthy and resilient region. In developing future plans, SCAG must fully weigh and consider energy supply, efficiency, consumption, and environmental impacts.
Renewable energy and energy efficiency provide energy solutions beneficial to reducing environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With energy-related emissions representing a major component of GHG emissions, alternative energy solutions can result in lower energy system costs, environmental and social benefits, and less air pollution. Topics chosen for this category include Community Energy Efficiency, Municipal Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Energy.
Click on the tabs above to find out more about an individual indicator.

Engagement

Engagement
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SCAG
Introduction
Green Business Program/ EPP
Participation Collaboration Policy
Sustainability Grants
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Category Average
Introduction
In order to thrive as a region, local governments need to provide leadership within their communities to actively support the overall sustainability of Southern California. Southern California is a leading center for innovation, university research, and technology development, all critical aspects of building a sustainable region. SCAG honors the commitment to foster collaboration to improve the overall sustainability of the region.
In recent years, climate organizations within the public and private sectors have been on the rise to tackle some of the most daunting climate change concerns. When local jurisdictions actively participate in engagement efforts, they initiate actions to address global challenges. Topics chosen for this category include Green Business or Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, Participation Collaboration Policy and Sustainability Grants.

Health

Health
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SCAG
Introduction
Healthy Food Access
Public Health
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Category Average
Consolidated Map
Resources
Introduction
Sustainability aims to promote healthy, safe, and clean communities under the notion of healthy planet, healthy people. Many health issues are directly related to poor water and air quality among other negative environmental impacts. Reducing these environmental impacts improves health, enhances livelihoods and encourages healthier communities.
Cities have opportunities to influence and improve health of its residents by dictating plans, policies, and programs to ensure everyone has access to components of a healthy life. Evidence links neighborhoods and built environment characteristics such as transportation and land use patterns to behaviors that can support or discourage healthy, active, and safe lifestyles. The categories chosen for this section are Healthy Food Access and Public Health.

Motorized Transportation

Open Space

Open Space
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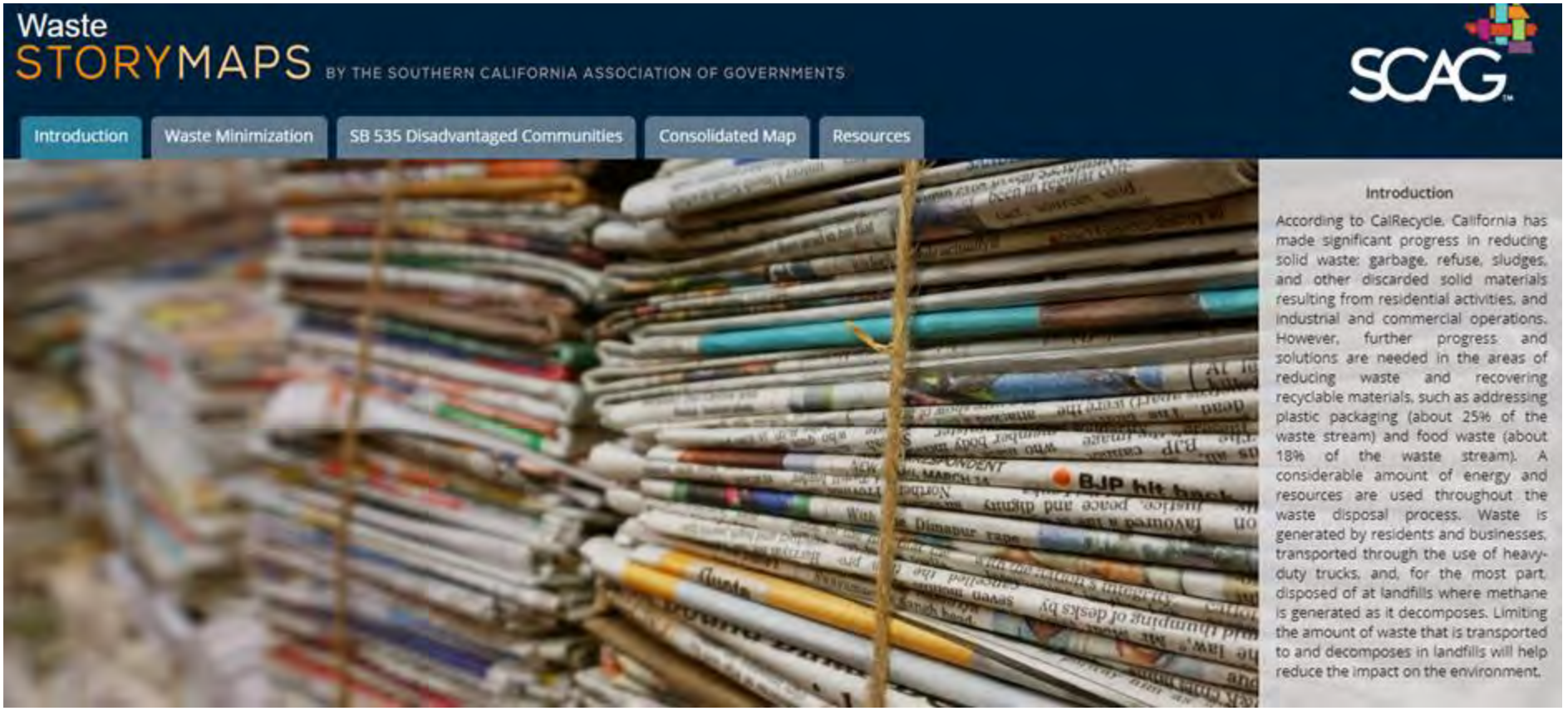
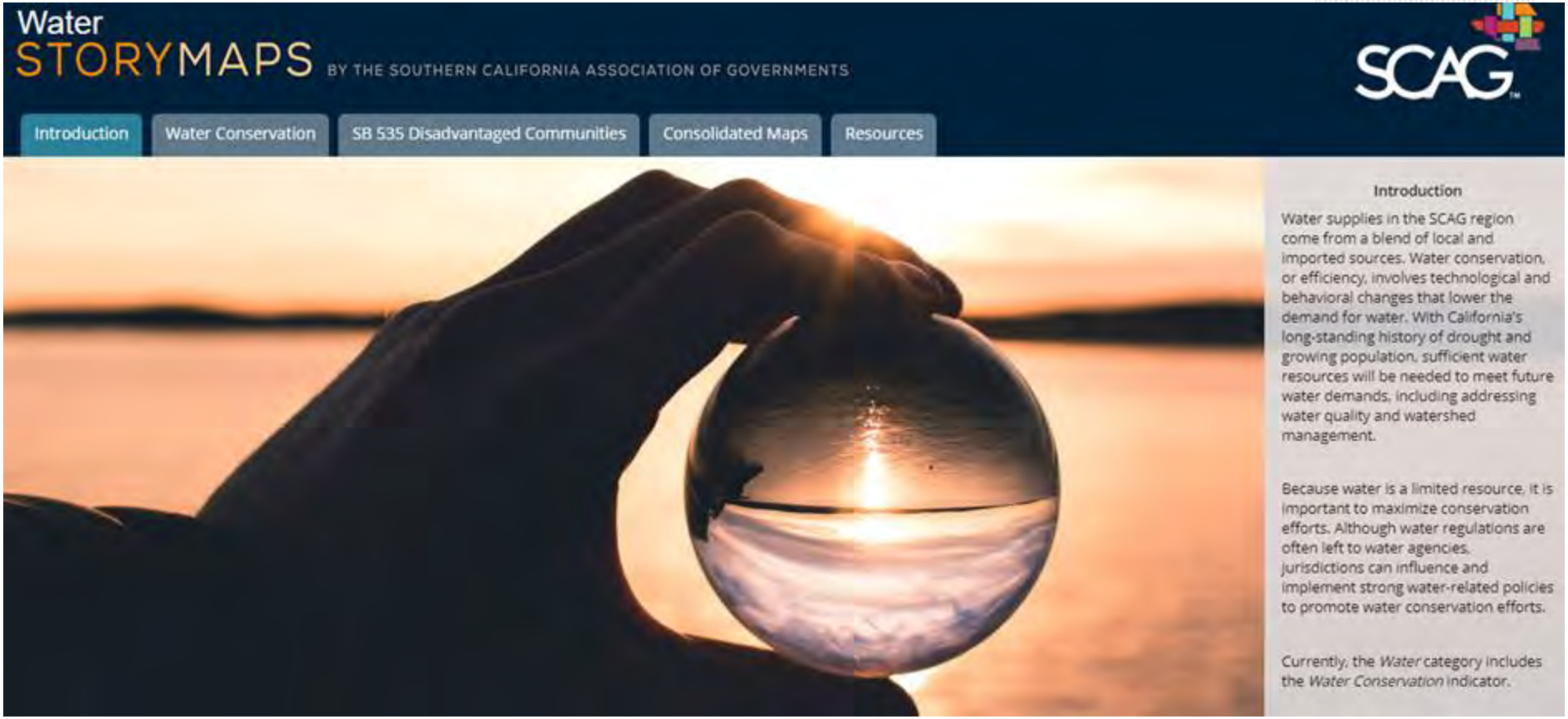
SCAG
Introduction
Farmland
Natural Lands
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Category Average
Consolidated Map
Resources
Introduction
As the region's population grows, the preservation of open space becomes increasingly more critical. California's natural corridors provide a multitude of benefits from resources to natural hazard relief. Due to the different topographies of the Southern California region, communities can act by preserving and increasing ecosystem productivity, improving wildlife habitats, and making greenspace more easily accessible.
Incorporating open space into the SCAG's regional plan is essential as it serves as an avenue in mitigating climate change. Potential mitigation programs include planning of transportation projects to avoid or lessen impacts to open space, recreation land, and agricultural lands through information and data sharing, increasing density in developed areas and minimizing development in previously undeveloped areas that may contain crucial open space. Topics

Urban Greening

Waste


Waste
STORYMAPS
BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SCAG
Introduction
Waste Minimization
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Consolidated Map
Resources
Introduction
According to CalRecycle, California has made significant progress in reducing solid waste; garbage, refuse, sludges, and other discarded solid materials resulting from residential activities, and industrial and commercial operations. However, further progress and solutions are needed in the areas of reducing waste and recovering recyclable materials, such as addressing plastic packaging (about 25% of the waste stream) and food waste (about 18% of the waste stream). A considerable amount of energy and resources are used throughout the waste disposal process. Waste is generated by residents and businesses, transported through the use of heavy-duty trucks, and, for the most part, disposed of at landfills where methane is generated as it decomposes. Limiting the amount of waste that is transported to and decomposes in landfills will help reduce the impact on the environment.

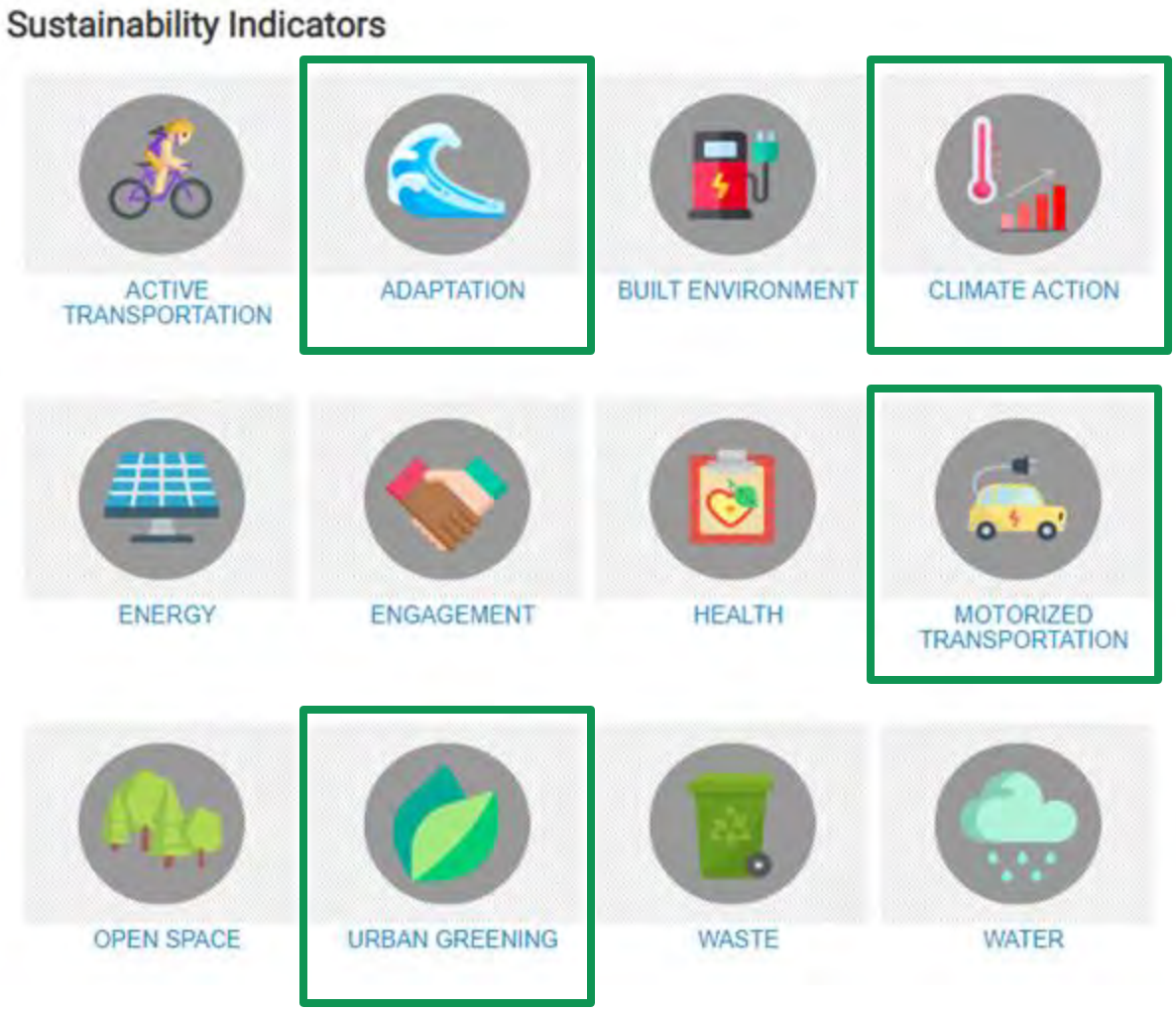
Water


Water
STORYMAPS
BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SCAG
Introduction
Water Conservation
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Consolidated Maps
Resources
Introduction
Water supplies in the SCAG region come from a blend of local and imported sources. Water conservation, or efficiency, involves technological and behavioral changes that lower the demand for water. With California's long-standing history of drought and growing population, sufficient water resources will be needed to meet future water demands, including addressing water quality and watershed management.
Because water is a limited resource, it is important to maximize conservation efforts. Although water regulations are often left to water agencies, jurisdictions can influence and implement strong water-related policies to promote water conservation efforts.
Currently, the Water category includes the Water Conservation indicator.

GRI Version 4.0 Progress

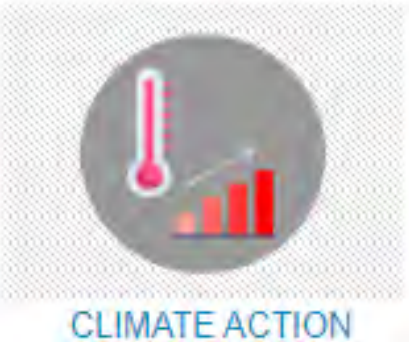
- Enhanced map performance and visualization data
- Addition of new indicator and topic
  - Electric Vehicle Permitting Streamlining found in Motorized Transportation topic
  - Urban Greening was added as a new topic, comprised of the existing Parks, Stormwater Management, and Urban Forestry indicators
- Expanded Database now totals
  - 29 sustainability indicators
  - 12 topics
- Addition of SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Layer and Consolidated Map to each topic

GRI Version 4.0 Progress

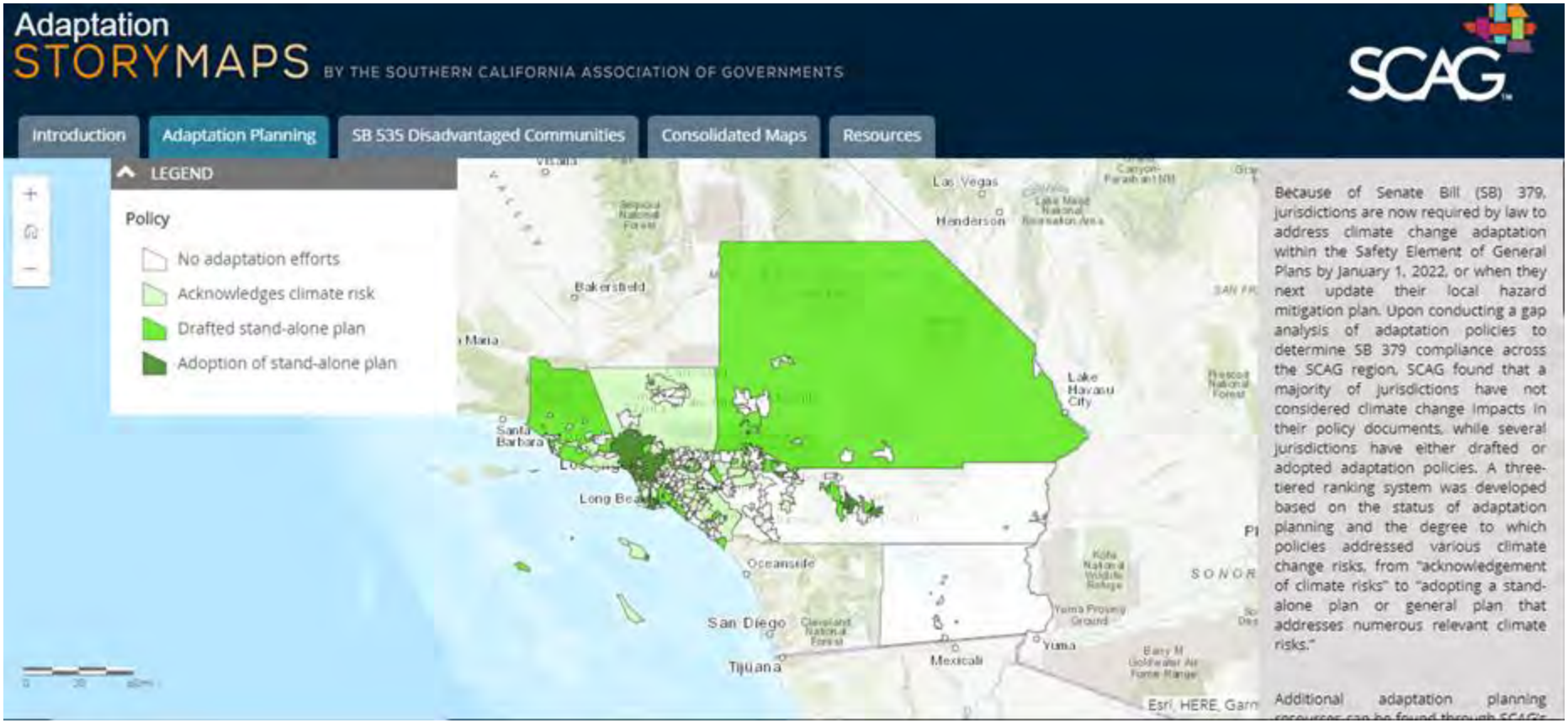


Climate Adaptation and Action

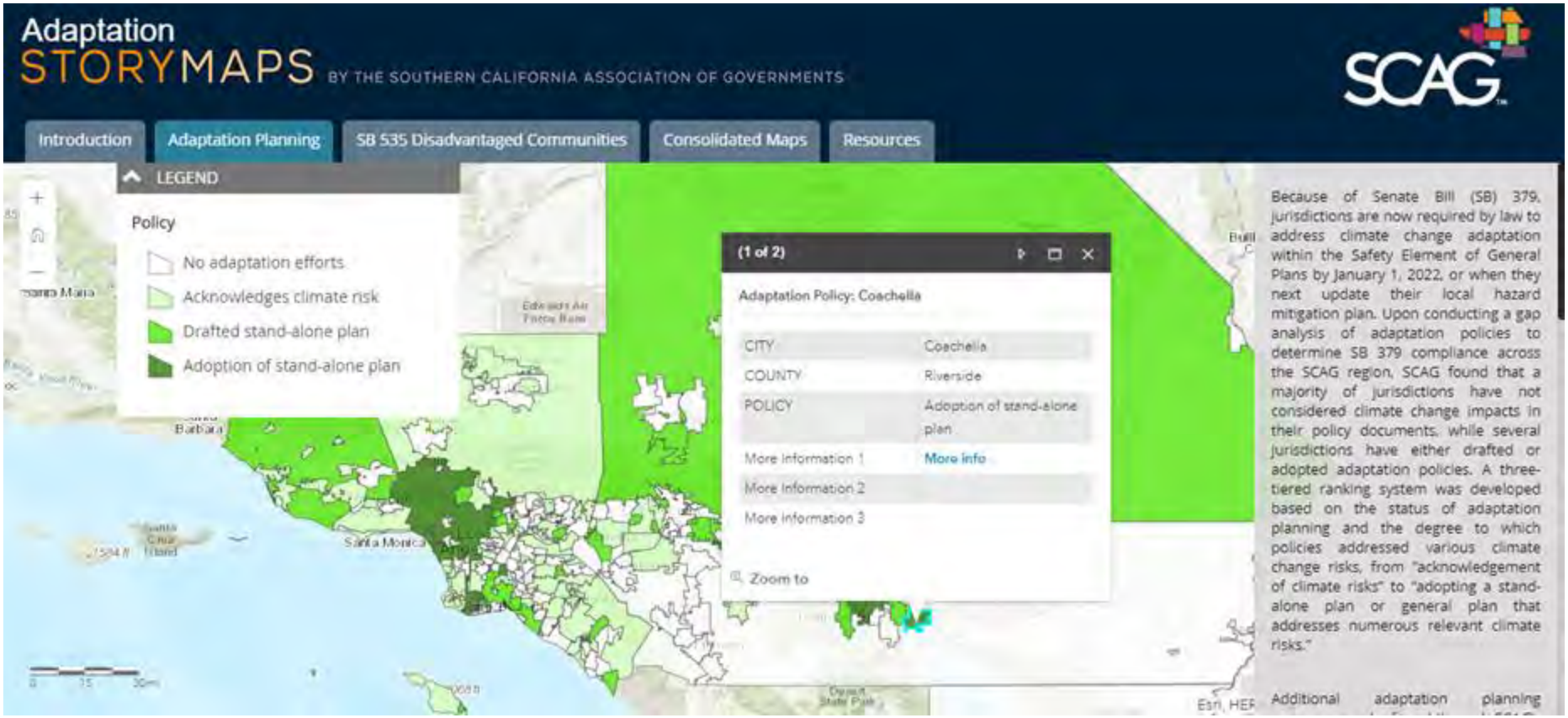
- Conducted gap analysis of adaptation policies in policy documents across the SCAG region
  - Reviewed General Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, and stand-alone plans (e.g. Climate Action Plans, Sustainability Plans, etc.) of 191 cities and 6 counties in the SCAG region
- Final Regional Climate Adaptation Framework will be available December 2020



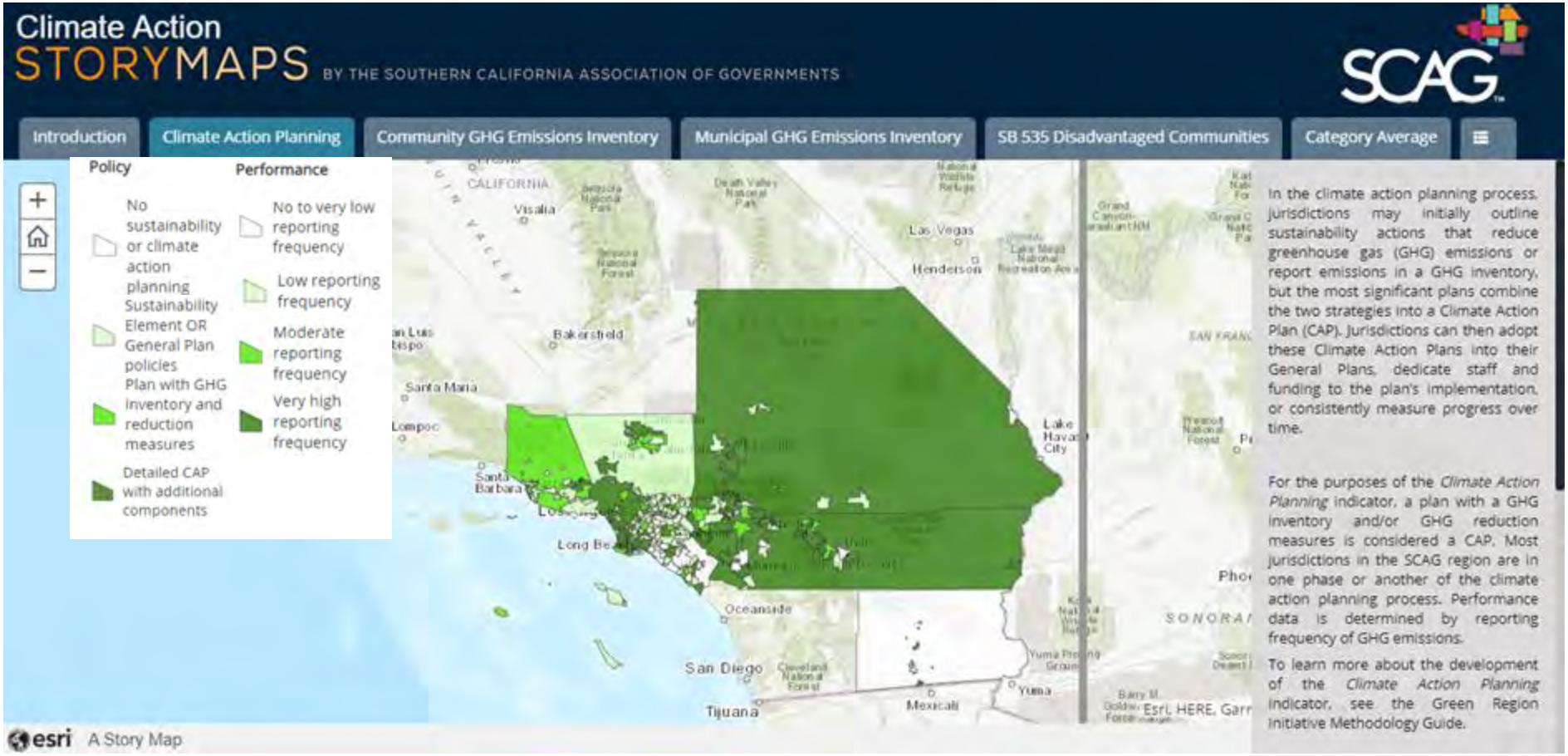
Adaptation Planning



Adaptation Planning



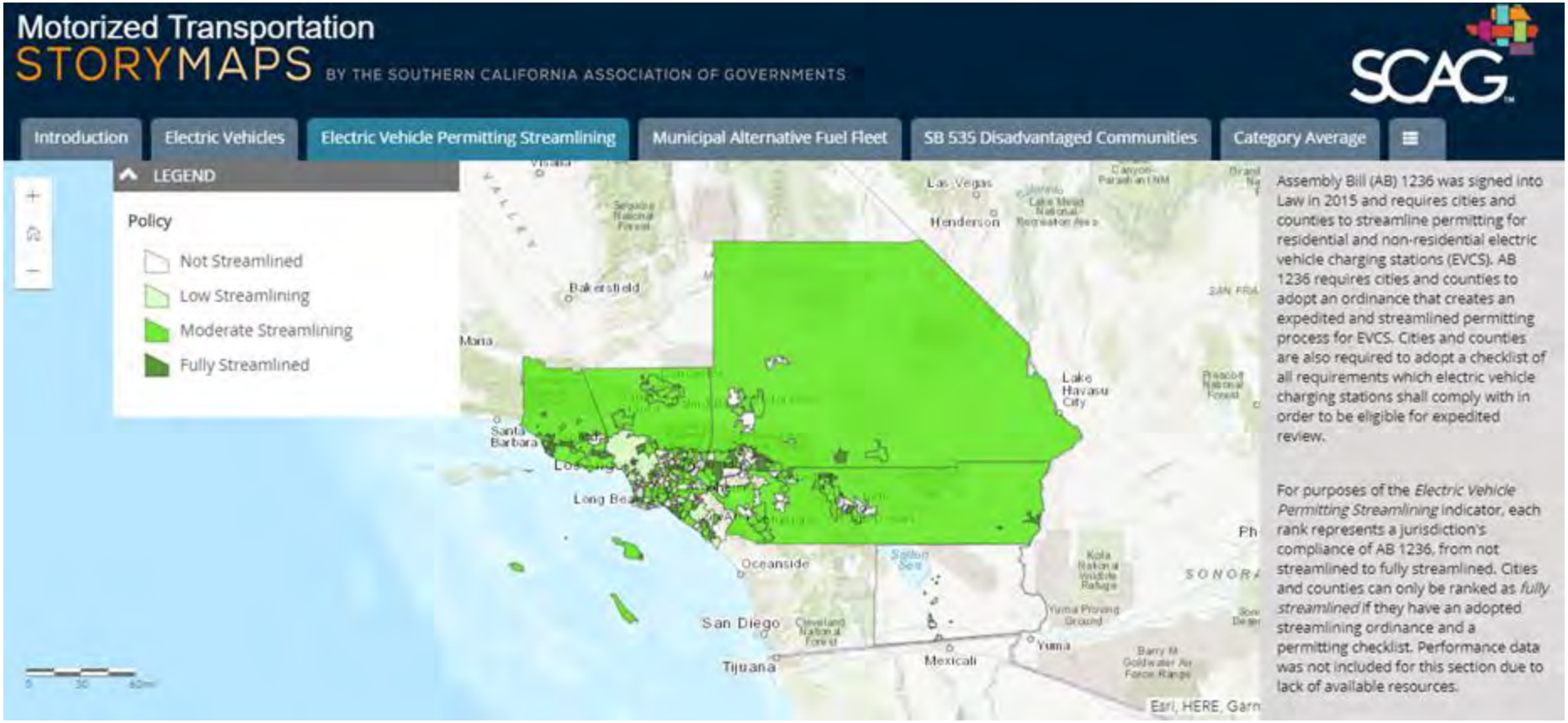
Climate Action Planning



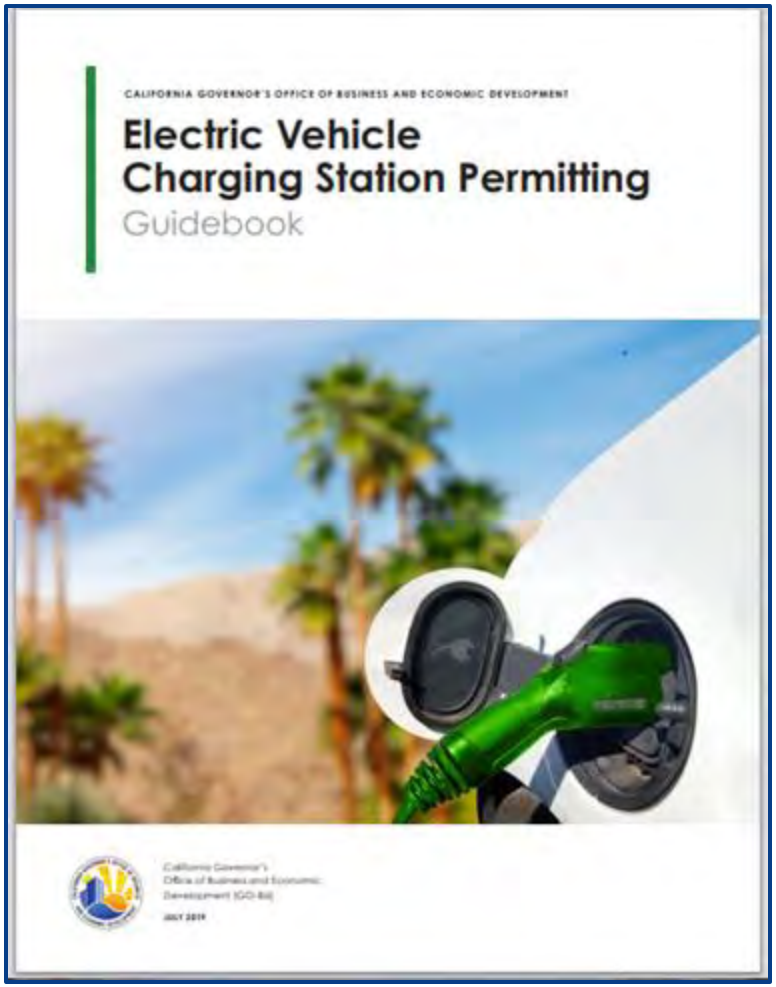
Streamlining Electric Vehicle Permitting

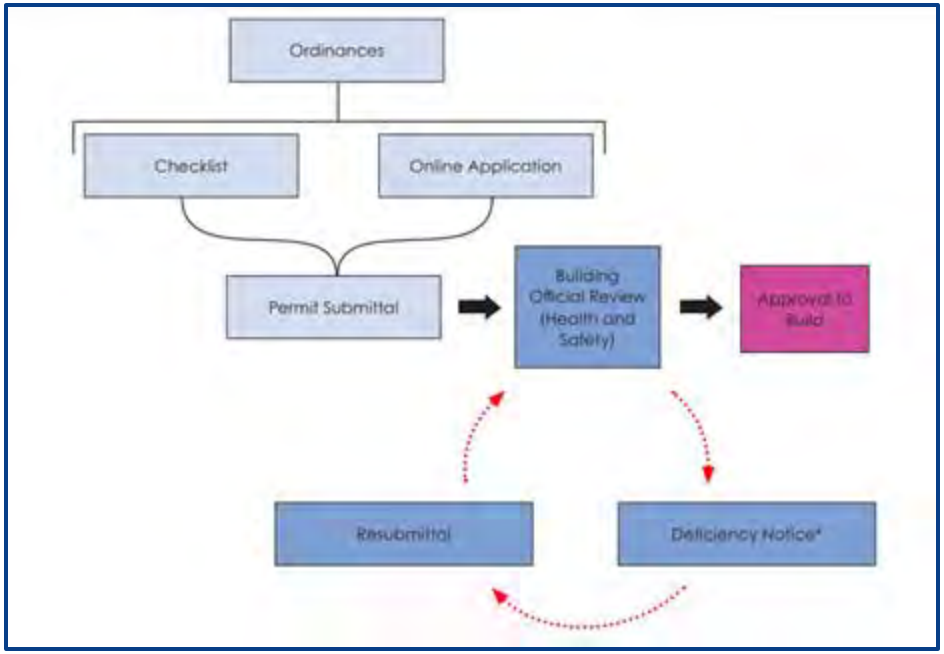
- Research conducted in partnership with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- Companion to the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permitting Guidebook
- Purpose is to
  - Create a shared visual understanding of EV charging station permit streamlining across the state
  - Track compliance with AB 1236
  - Allow communities to use this tool to replicate success

Electric Vehicle Permitting Streamlining



EVCS Permitting Guidebook

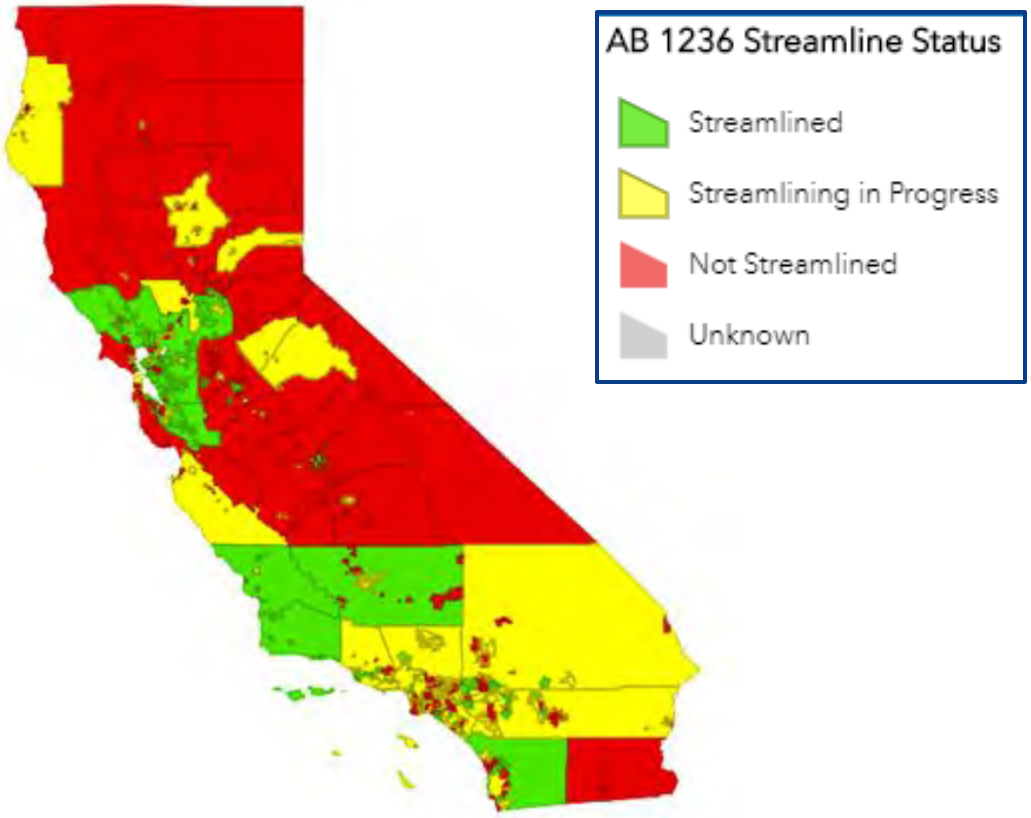




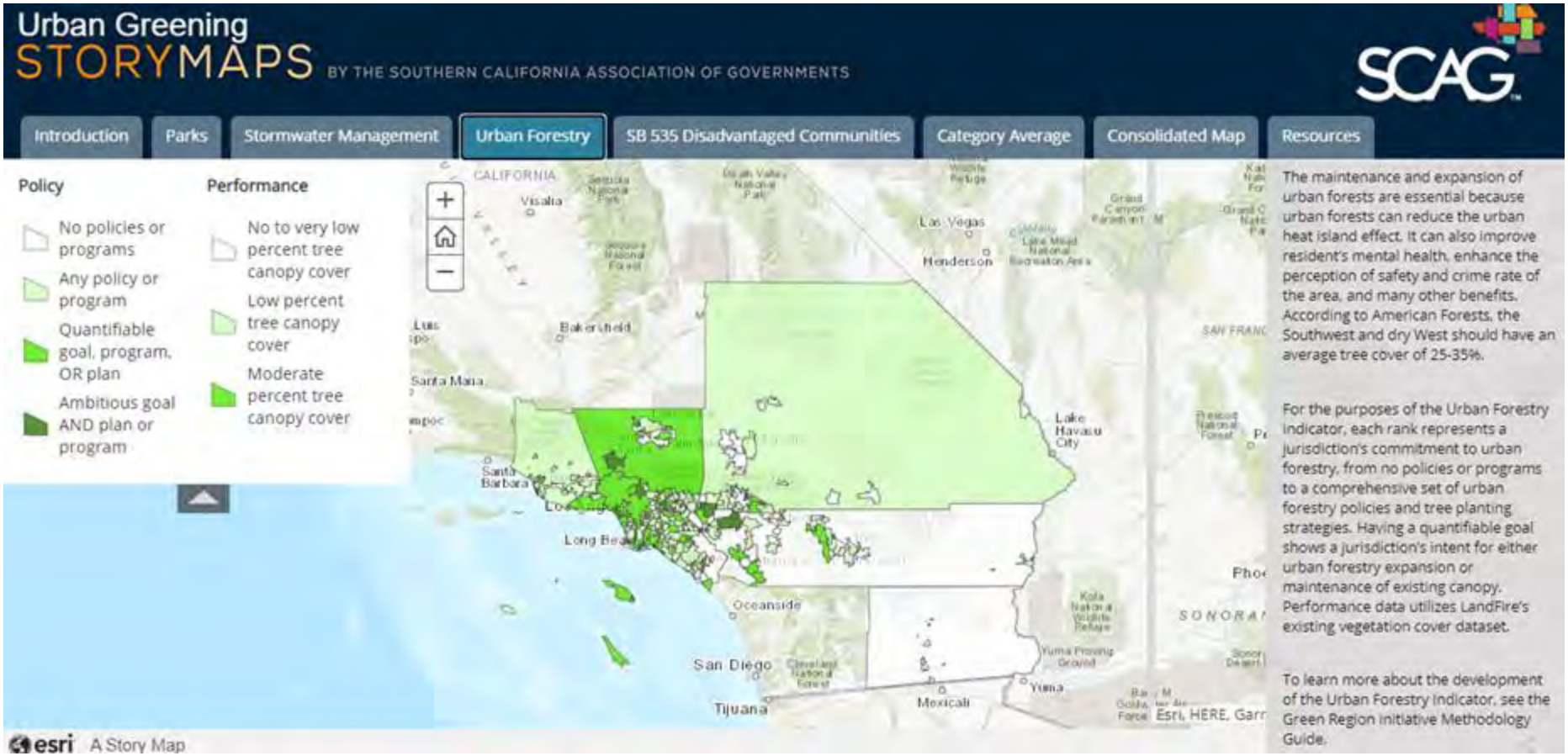
ZEV Readiness Scorecard

☐	**1. Streamlining Ordinance** Ordinance creating an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) including level 2 and direct current fast chargers (DCFC) has been adopted.
☐	**2. Permitting checklists covering L2 and DCFC** Checklist of all requirements needed for expedited review posted on city or county website.
☐	**3. Administrative approval of EVCS** EVCS projects that meet expedited checklist are administratively approved through building or similar non-discretionary permit.
☐	**4. Approval limited to health and safety review** EVCS project review limited to health and safety requirements found under local, state, and federal law.
☐	**5. Electric signatures accepted** AHJ accepts electronic signatures on permit applications.**
☐	**6. EVCS not subject to association approval** EVCS permit approval not subject to approval of an association (as defined in Section 4080 of the Civil Code).
☐	**7. One complete deficiency notice** AHJ commits to issuing one complete written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in an incomplete application and any additional information needed to be eligible for expedited permit issuance.
☐	**8. Bonus: Expedited timeline for approval** Consistent with the intent of AB 1236, AHJ establishes expedited timelines for EVSE permit approval compared to standard project approval procedures.

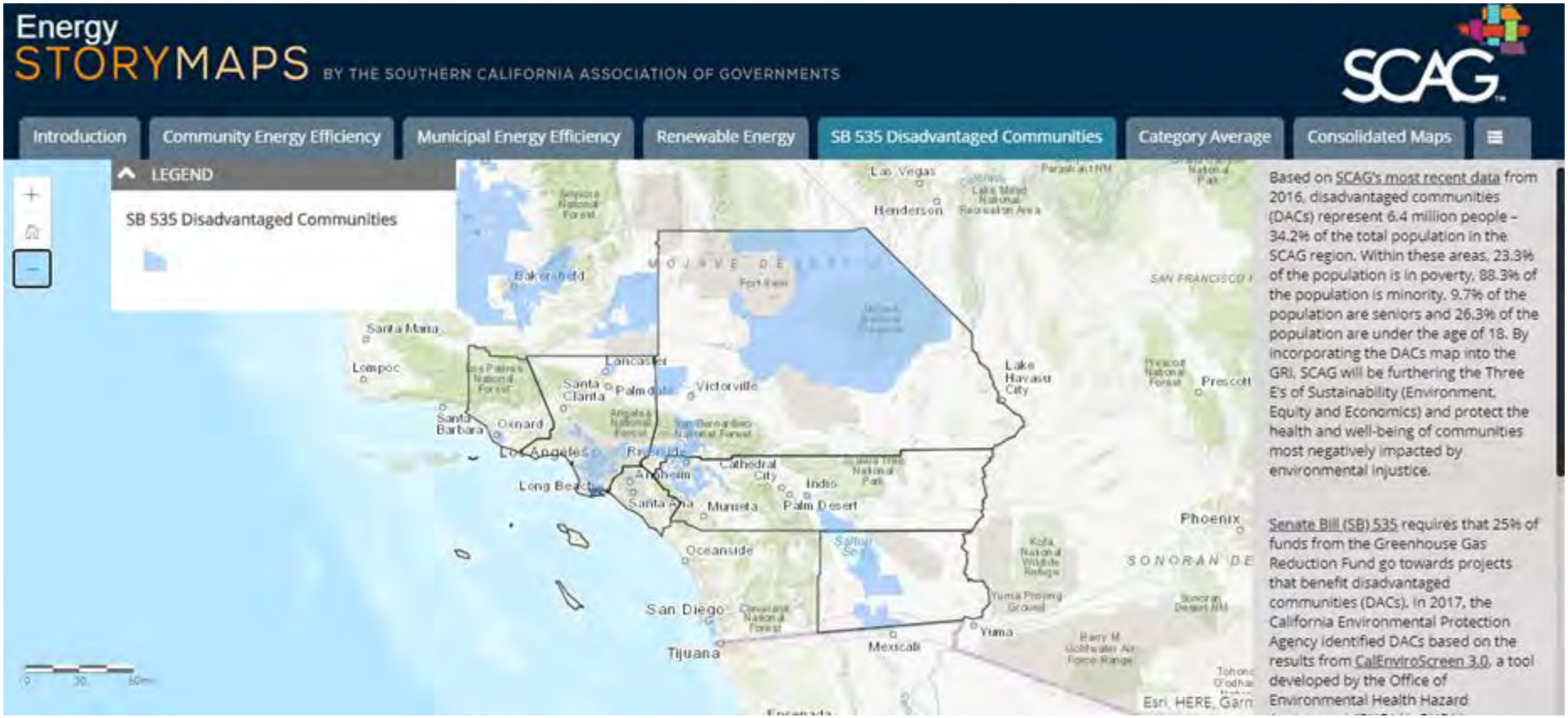
CA Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permit Streamlining Map



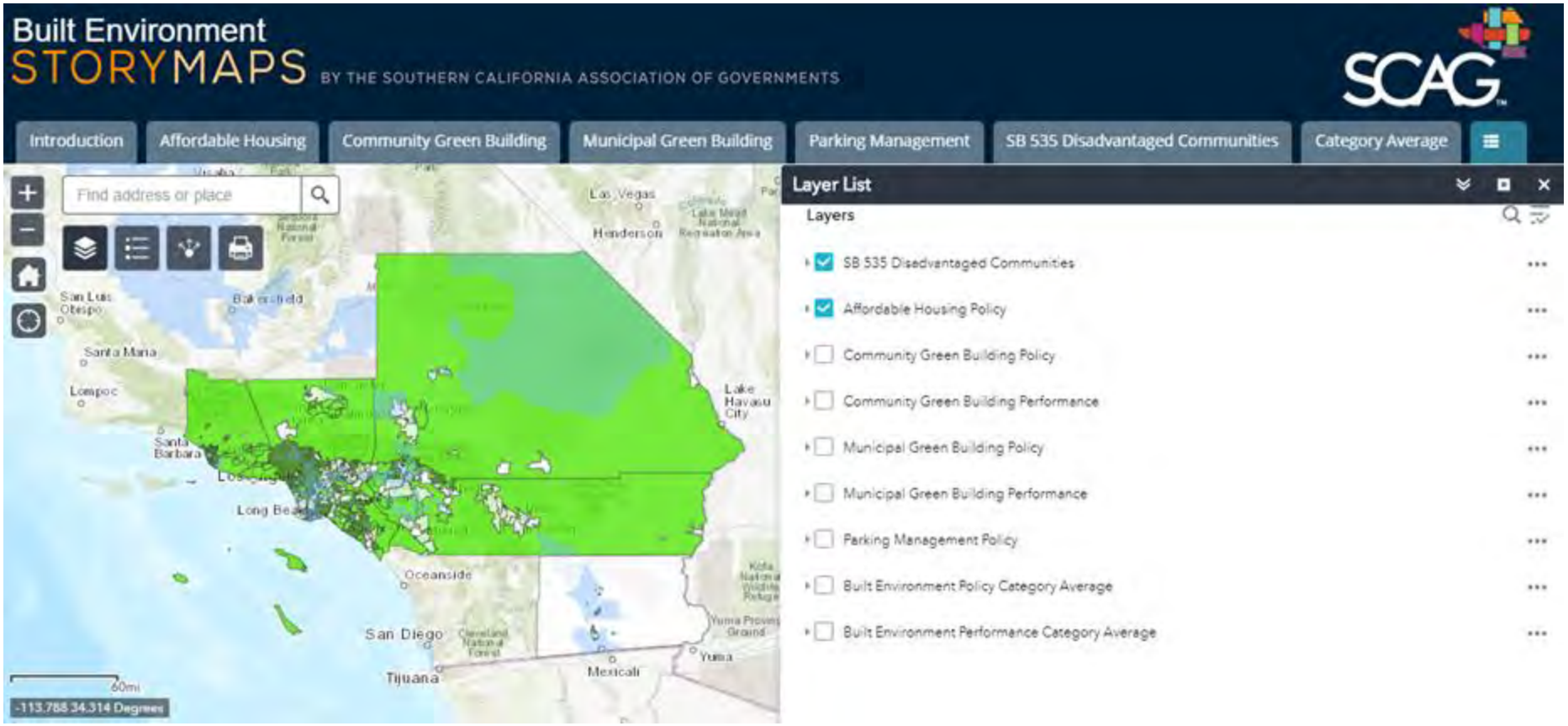
Urban Greening



Senate Bill (SB) 535 Disadvantaged Communities Map



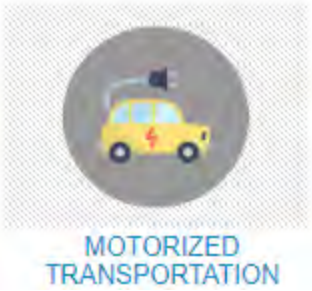
Consolidated Map



Demo - v4.0 updates

Exploring v4.0 Updates

http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Sustainability%20Topics/SustainabilityTopics.aspx

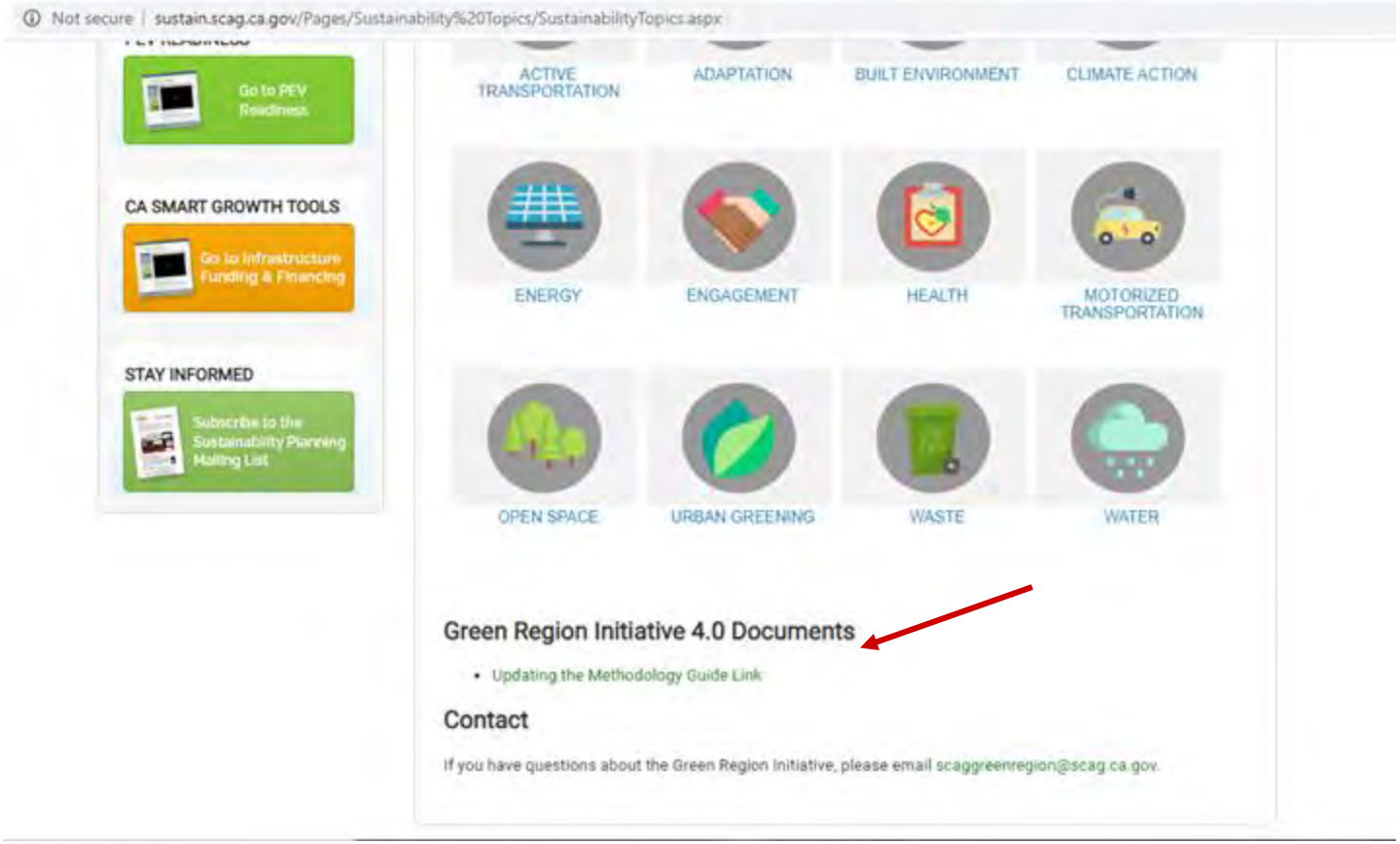


Next Steps

- Expand Health data
  - Replace HDI (Health Disadvantage Index) with HPI (Healthy Places Index) data
  - Incorporate a Safety Indicator
    - Safe Routes
  - Cool Streets and Cooling Center locations
- Expand Urban Greening data
  - Include Community/Urban Gardens
  - Update Urban Forestry data

Methodology Guide

To learn more



Any Questions?
Thank you!

SCAGgreenregion@scag.ca.gov