

2017 Annual Planning Survey Results



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

DECEMBER 2017

Annual Planning Survey Results 2017

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Letter from the Director

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is pleased to announce the release of the 2017 Annual Planning Survey Results. OPR's Annual Planning Survey is distributed to all cities and counties in the State and provides the latest information on local planning activities, the status of city and county General Plans, and an important local perspective on issues of statewide concern.

OPR conducts The Annual Planning Survey each year to gain perspective on policies and planning at the local level and to evaluate trends over time. Responses to the survey aid OPR and state agencies in the development of tools and guidance for local government. The survey highlights areas of progress, challenges to implementation of specific policies, and helps to identify areas of local leadership.

This year, in addition to posting the full results of the survey, we are again providing an overview of climate policies at the local level, including transportation, land use, and climate action planning, water conservation, in-fill, and open space. These local policies and programs are a critical piece in the State's efforts to address climate change. We also include information on how local governments track progress on general plan policies.

We appreciate the time and effort of all the cities and counties in completing the Annual Planning Survey – this year with responses from 64 percent of all cities and counties in the state. We hope that the Survey is useful, and welcome comments and suggestions on how it can be most effective and informative.

Sincerely,

Ken Alex

Introduction to the Survey

Each year the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) distributes a survey to the planning department of every city and county in the state. The survey asks for basic information on the status of each jurisdiction's planning efforts, such as the year of the most recent comprehensive update to required and optional General Plan elements. The survey also explores in greater depth the policies and programs that jurisdictions are implementing, including the issues prioritized and tracked, incentives developed and taken advantage of, planning tools deployed, resources and documents generated, and more.

The survey was distributed electronically in summer of 2017 and could be completed online or in hard copy format. Survey responses were accepted by OPR through September 2017. Follow up calls and emails were made to both respondents and non-respondents through January 2018 to maximize the response and quality of the responses. The responses to the survey are used to help inform the work of OPR and other state agencies as they develop guidance and tools for local governments. Academic institutions also use the survey responses to inform a variety of research initiatives. The results are made available each year on OPR's website in PDF with further detail in a companion Excel document.

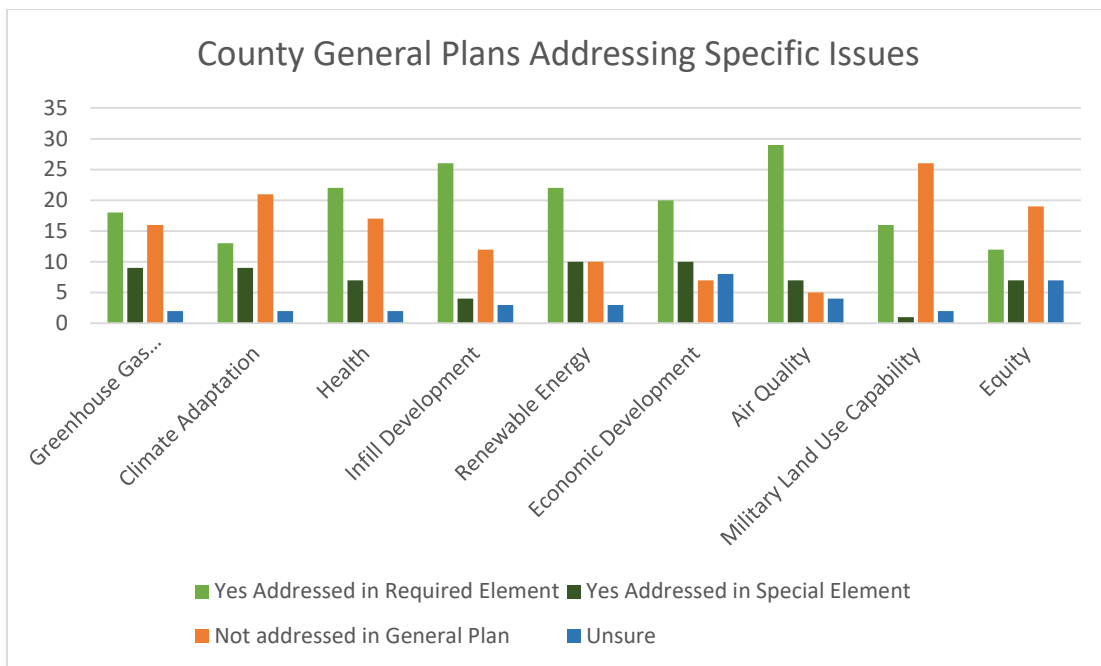
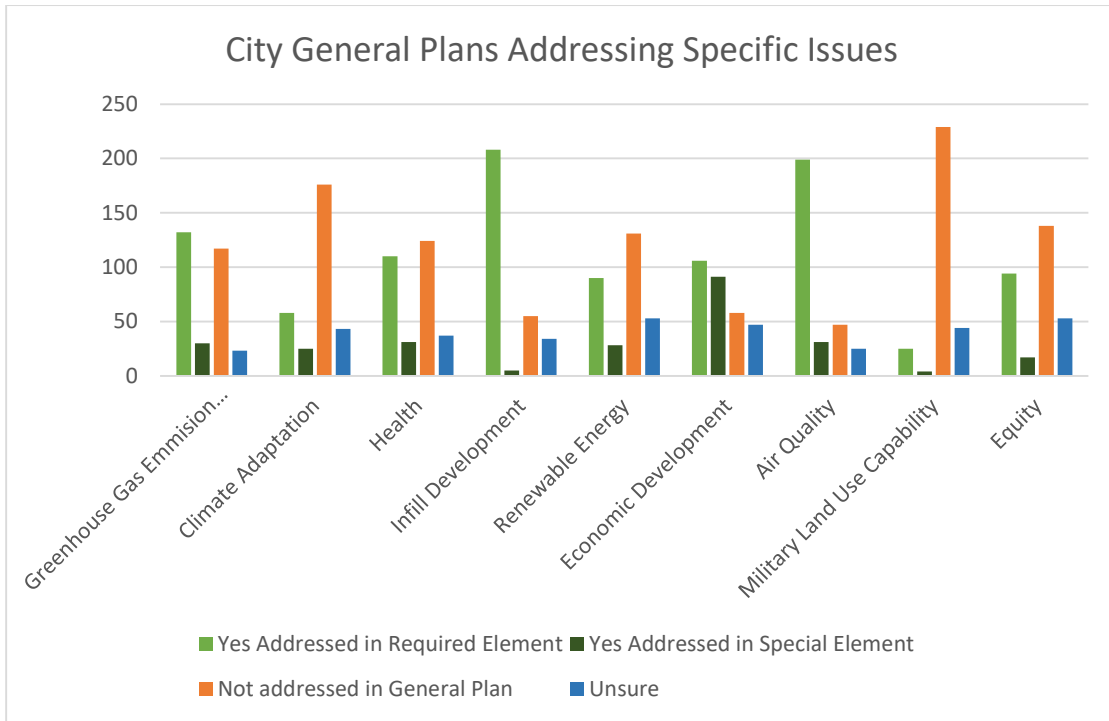
2017 Results

In 2017, a total of 348 of the 540 cities and counties (64%) in California completed the Annual Planning Survey. This includes 302 of the 482 cities (62.6%) and 45 of the 58 counties (77.5%). The results were provided by each individual jurisdiction and represent the jurisdiction's current adopted policies and/or programs as of January 2017. Please contact the individual jurisdictions for more detailed information.

The following graphs and tables give an overview of selected themes from the 2017 Annual Planning Survey results. Questions not indicated below are general information questions that are used to update the Directory of Planning Agencies. The details for each of the questions below and answers to questions not represented in this overview may be found in Excel format [APS Results \(2017\)](#).

Question 8. Does your General plan address the following issues?

This question is framed to understand the issue areas addressed in city or county general plans. These issues were selected due to their current prominence in local policy discussions. This question serves as an important baseline for understanding how many local governments prioritize these issues in local planning documents and the change in general plans addressing these specific issues over time.



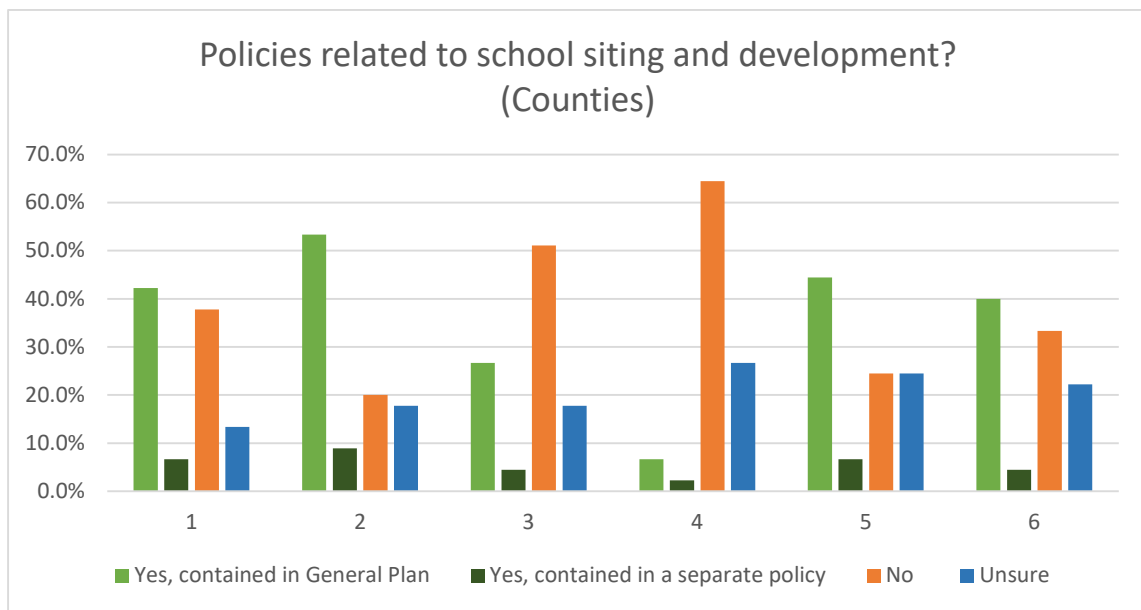
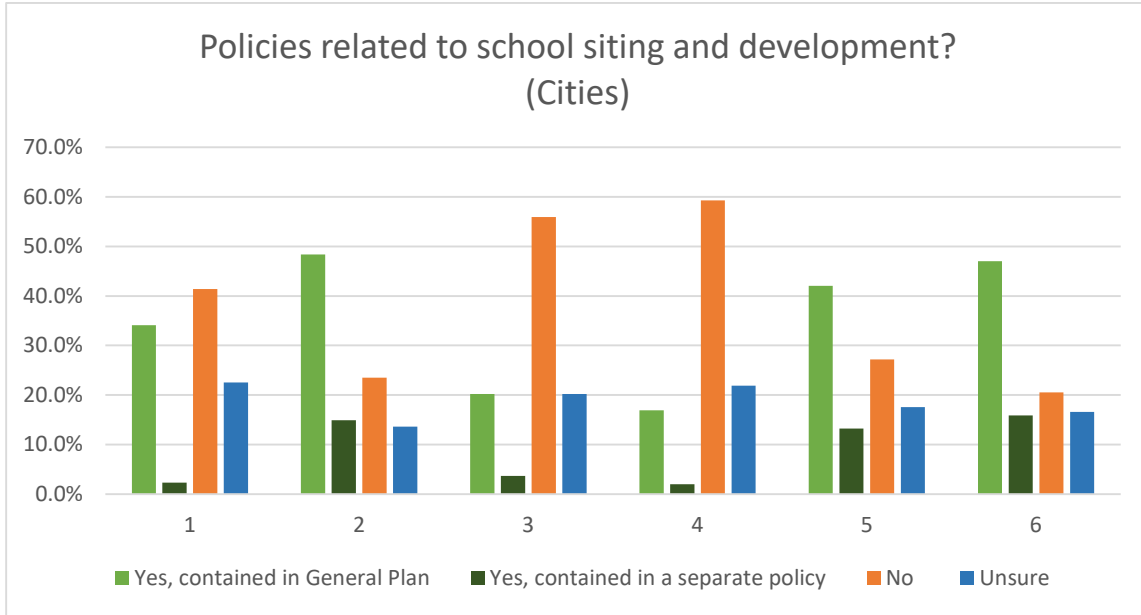
Question 9. Does your General Plan include any of the following health-related policies?

Results from this survey question show that numerous jurisdictions are including health in their general plans in a broad variety of ways.

	Cities				Counties			
	In General Plan	Not in General Plan	No Such Policies Are in Place	Unsure	In General Plan	Not in General Plan	No Such Policies Are in Place	Unsure
Policies that explicitly promote health equity (e.g. policies that ensure all groups have access to grocery stores, park space, etc.)	33.1%	9.3%	43.7%	13.9%	44.4%	15.6%	28.9%	11.1%
Policies to support lifecycle housing or aging-in-place	37.4%	9.3%	36.1%	17.2%	37.8%	13.3%	35.6%	13.3%
Policies that help to mitigate the urban heat island	19.5%	14.2%	49.7%	16.6%	20.0%	6.7%	62.2%	11.1%
Zoning that ensures grocery stores and/or fruit and vegetable vendors are accessible across your jurisdiction	20.5%	12.9%	51.7%	14.9%	24.4%	26.7%	37.8%	11.1%
Zoning that facilitates opportunities for local food production including urban or front/backyard farming and community gardens	18.2%	18.9%	47.0%	15.9%	40.0%	24.4%	22.2%	13.3%
Policies to promote active living (e.g., planning to integrate physical activity into daily routines)	39.1%	12.6%	33.4%	14.9%	51.1%	13.3%	28.9%	6.7%

Question 10. Does your jurisdiction have any of the following policies related to school siting and development?

The results from this question show how school siting considerations are included in city or county general plans. The results show that many jurisdictions include consideration of school siting, multimodal access, and complete streets but have, for the most part, not considered infill development or rehabilitating existing schools.



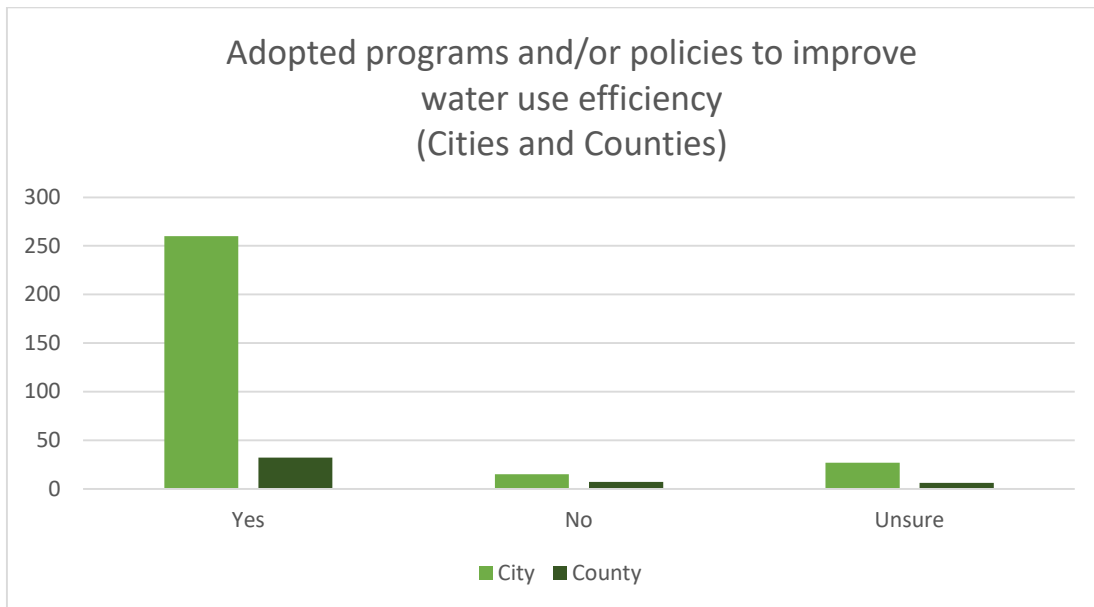
- KEY**
1. Policies that encourage neighborhood schools (i.e. schools where the majority of students live in the immediate geographic area of the school)
 2. Policies that support schools in areas with safe pedestrian or bicycle access
 3. Policies that support schools in infill or priority development areas
 4. Policies that support rehabilitation of existing school facilities
 5. Policies that support the joint use of school facilities
 6. Policies that align with goals for complete streets

Question 11. Has your Agency employed any of the following tools to promote infill development?

Responses to this questions show that infill development is being considered in many general plans and that density bonuses, reduced parking, and CEQA related considerations are the primary mechanisms jurisdictions are using to promote infill development.

	Cities				Counties			
	Yes, implemented	Yes, under consideration	No	Unsure	Yes, implemented	Yes, under consideration	No	Unsure
Implementation of Form-Based Zoning Codes	18.48%	9.90%	63.04%	8.25%	13.33%	15.56%	62.22%	8.89%
Density bonuses	76.24%	3.96%	13.86%	5.61%	75.56%	6.67%	8.89%	8.89%
Reduced parking requirements	57.10%	10.23%	26.40%	5.94%	53.33%	20.00%	17.78%	8.89%
Expedited permit processing	46.86%	9.24%	37.62%	5.94%	53.33%	8.89%	31.11%	8.89%
Improvements of infrastructure and/or utilities in infill areas	37.62%	15.18%	34.32%	12.54%	31.11%	17.78%	33.33%	17.78%
Financial incentives for development costs, particularly for infrastructure	17.82%	9.57%	56.11%	15.84%	13.33%	2.22%	62.22%	24.44%
Financial incentives for pre-development costs (fee reductions, waivers, deferrals)	22.77%	10.23%	55.12%	11.55%	20.00%	2.22%	53.33%	24.44%
Coordination of CEQA analysis and review (tiering, etc.)	56.44%	6.93%	22.77%	12.87%	55.56%	15.56%	15.56%	13.33%
Development of partnerships with school districts	33.33%	10.56%	38.94%	16.50%	40.00%	15.56%	42.22%	24.44%

Question 12. Has your jurisdiction adopted programs and/or policies to improve water use efficiency?

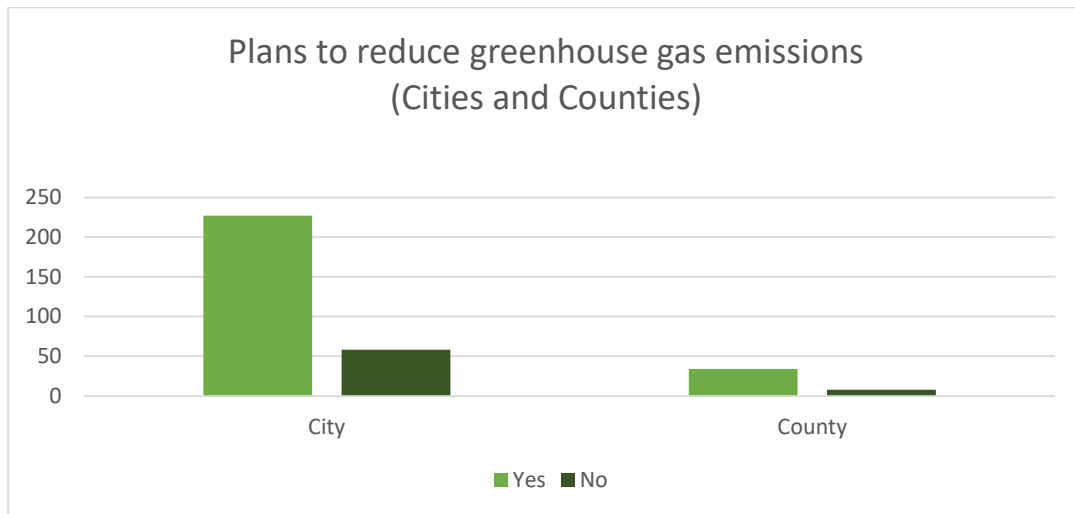


(To view the list of potential program and policies taken, please view [the Excel format of the 2017 Annual Planning Survey Responses.](#))

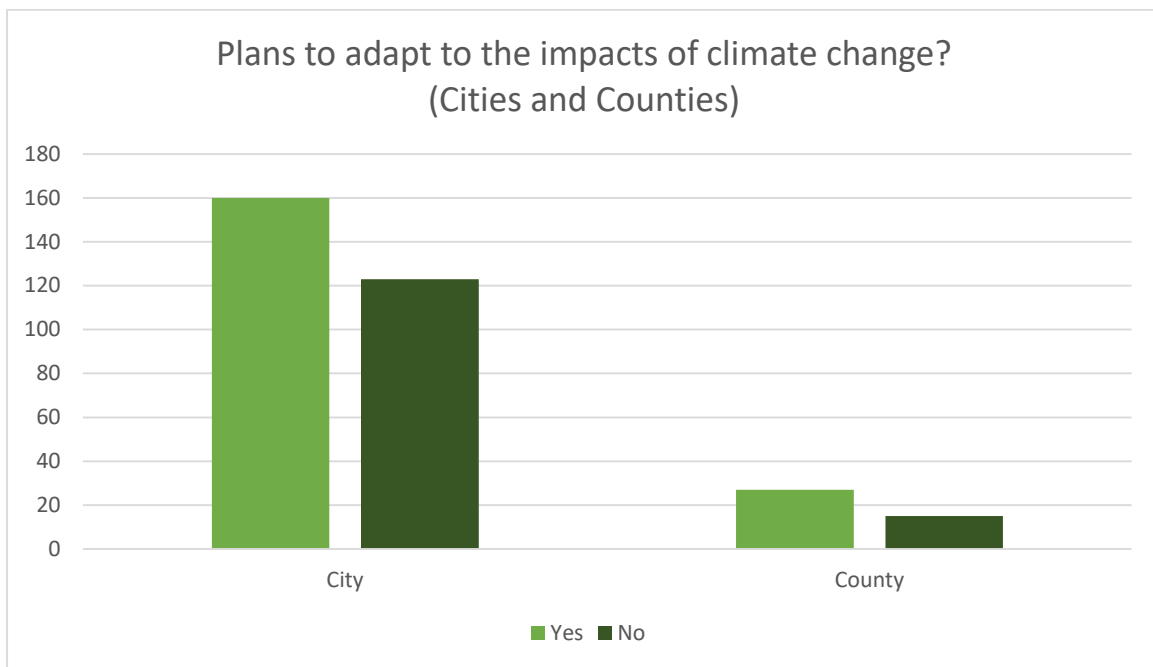
For Questions 15 and 16 please refer to the following definitions:

- **Adaptation or Resilience Plan:** A plan focused on addressing the city's, region's or community's vulnerability to climate change impacts. This document may also include discussions on vulnerability.
- **Vulnerability Assessment:** A document that analyzes how a community, city, or region and/or its infrastructure may be impacted by climate change.
- **Climate Action Plan:** A plan that combines discussions focused around climate change that include, but are not limited to, vulnerability, emissions, adaptation and mitigation. Climate Action Plans also outline policies and measures that a local jurisdiction will enact to address climate change overall.
- **Codes/Ordinances:** These documents serve as implementation tools for the above documents. They create the connection between policy and implementation and work to specify how climate change policies will work on the ground.
- **Energy Action Plan:** A plan focused on creating renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.
- **General Plan Implementation Measures:** Typically these measures are an implementation of a Climate Action Plan or General Plan that creates policies and programs to address climate change.
- **General Plan Policies:** When climate change considerations are incorporated into a jurisdiction's General Plan - can refer to both greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts and adaptation.
- **GHG Reduction Plan:** This plan is focused on greenhouse gas emissions and outlines consistency with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.
- **GHG Emissions Inventory:** An overview of greenhouse gases and courses of emissions. These studies are often completed as a part of General Plan, Climate Action Plan and GHG emissions reduction plan but may be completed separately.
- **Local Coastal Programs:** Planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone consistent with the Coastal Act.
- **Sustainability Plan:** This type of plan is typically focused on a more holistic vision of a community that includes considerations of climate change as one component. These plans are often seen as "visioning" documents.

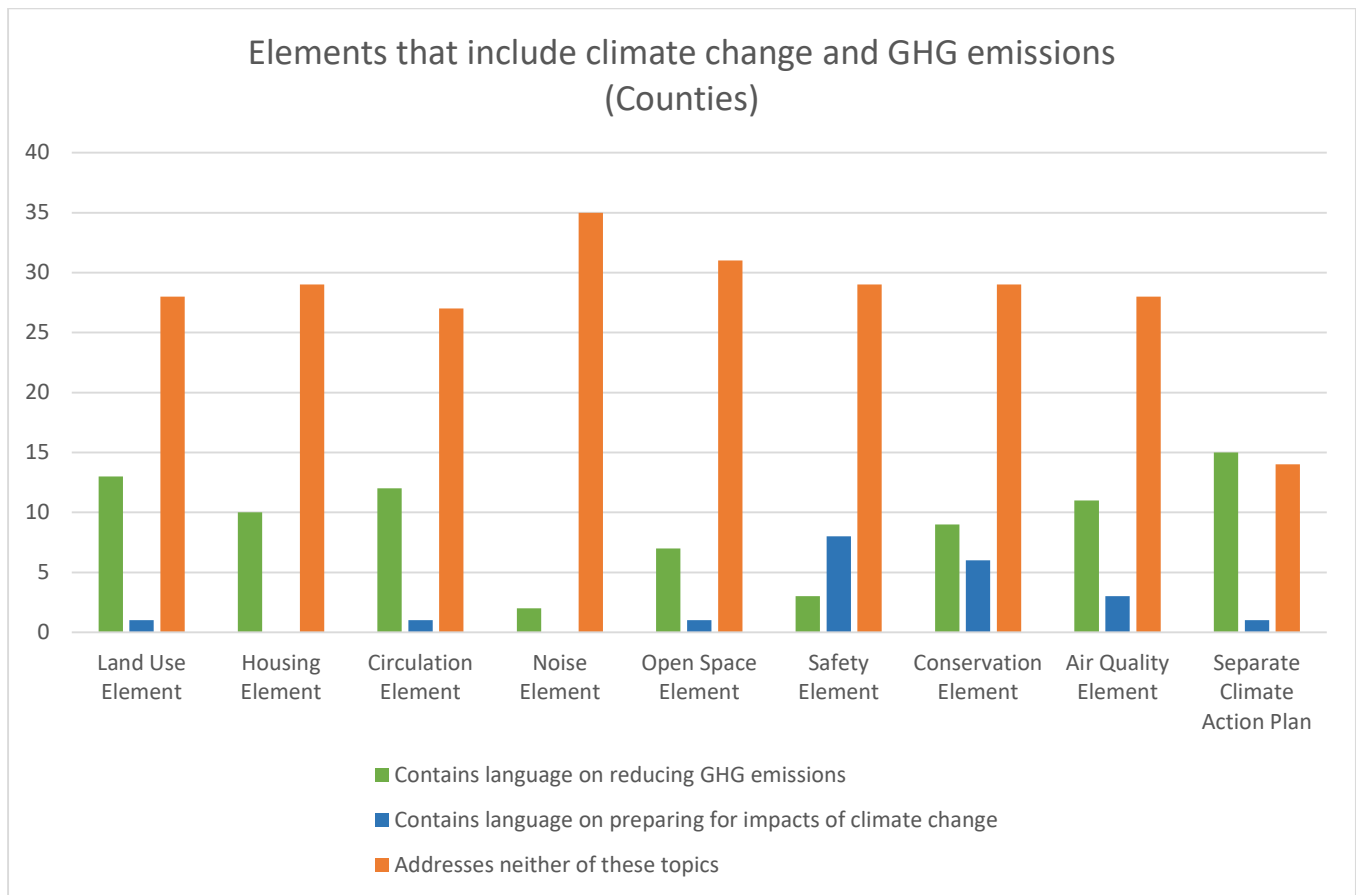
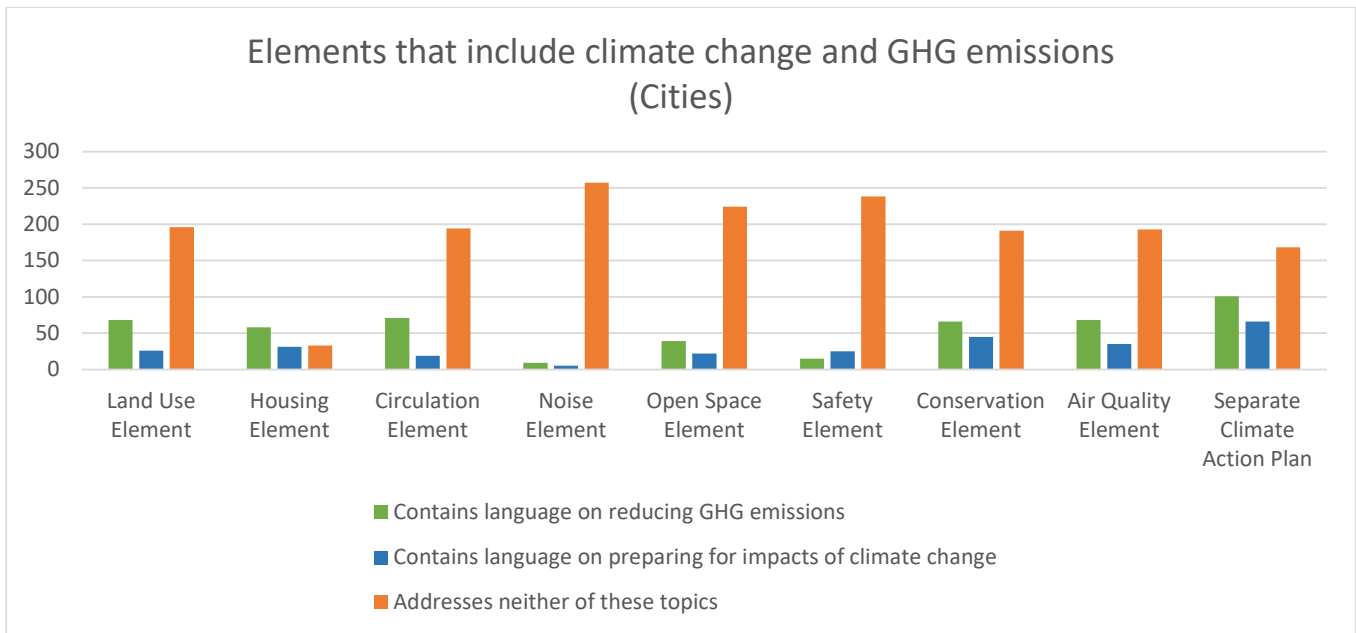
Question 15. Does your jurisdiction have plans to *reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation)*?



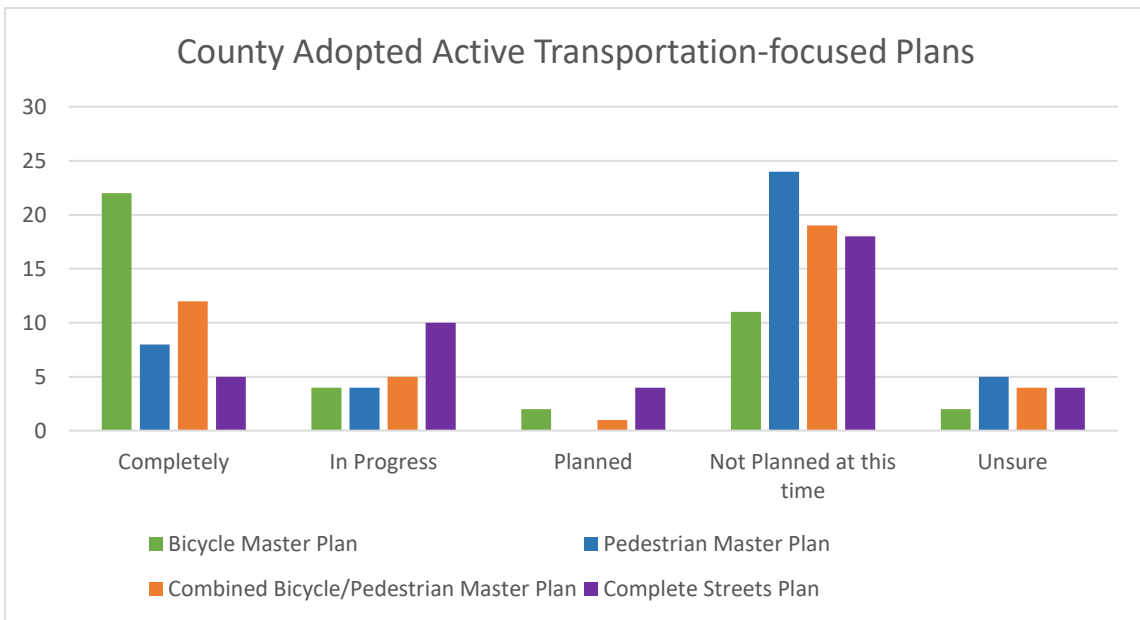
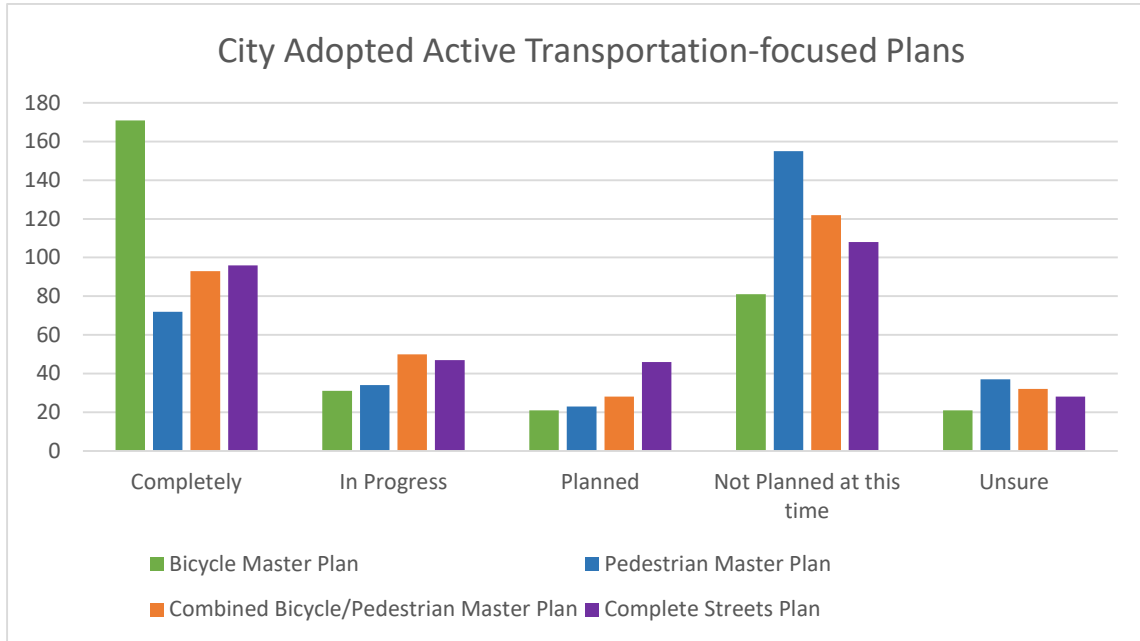
Question 16. Does your jurisdiction have plans to *adapt to the impacts of climate change (adaptation)*?



Question 18. If language related to climate change and GHG emissions is included in your General Plan, please identify which elements discuss these issues and what topic(s) the language addresses. (Select all that apply)



Question 19. Has your jurisdiction adopted any of the following active transportation-focused plans?



Question 19 Does your jurisdiction have Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) standards/metrics in your General Plan?

