Emily Potter greatly appreciates the diversity of her CivicSpark work as it has taught her that one can excel as a generalist. While she has no exact plans yet, she hopes to continue on the path her two projects have set; interacting between government, planners, non-profits and other stakeholders to serve our environment and build a sustainable future for the state. In other words, she is happy to consider any opportunities that come her way. For the immediate future, she considers taking a brief break to spend some time in the great outdoors whether it be spent traveling, working as a Park Ranger interpreter, or as a ski instructor.

Yolo County Climate Action Plan
An Assessment of Progress So Far

Project Description

This project has entailed working with Yolo County to provide an assessment of where they stand in the implementation of their Climate Action Plan. CivicSpark members have interviewed County staff, planners, researchers, and other experts to collect information on each CAP measure in respect to its level of implementation, the status of monitoring, current roadblocks, and recommendations for its success moving forward. This project has also served as an opportunity to learn about other actions going on across the County that are leading to GHG emission reductions and take their impact into consideration. CivicSpark members have provided recommendations for the next CAP update and for the County in respect to adjustments they can make to ensure that their plan achieves GHG emission reduction goals. CivicSpark members will share their report with the County Board of Supervisors next month.

Project Benefits for Yolo County

- Heightened awareness of the CAP and more attention dedicated towards it
- Provides the information necessary to guide County priorities
- Receive updated information on GHG reduction activities in the County
- Recommendations provided by stakeholders and CivicSpark members
- Exploration of collaborations to achieve CAP measures
- Receive a thorough investigation with limited investment of staff time
- The capacity to perform a thorough update to their CAP next year!

“Sneak Peek” of Findings

Top 5 Reduction Measures
- Pursue a CCA Program
- Reduce VMT in new development
- Reduce Energy Consumption in new units
- Increase on-site renewable energy generation
- Reduce confined livestock manure methane emissions

Highlights
- The County’s exploration of CCA options is in underway
- The next budget proposes the addition of a staff member to work on the CAP
- Some measures have already been met
  - The investigation has brought additional attention to the review of energy codes
  - New ideas for collaboration on measures and projects have emerged

Challenges for the CAP
- Limited bandwidth of staff to implement some measures
- Limited funding available to support measures
- Going from implementation to monitoring and tracking
- Limited capacity to go above and beyond already low GHG emissions